

Small Project Funding Sources



Presentation to the
Mecklenburg Union Metropolitan Planning Organization

May 19, 2010

Barry Moose – NCDOT, Division 10
Lauren Blackburn – Town of Davidson, TCC

MUMPO Request

- ❑ In 2009, MUMPO members asked the TCC to research funding sources for “small projects”
- ❑ Prior to the MUMPO January 2010 Orientation Session, members submitted questions for further study and “funding” was a top priority
- ❑ In April 2010, the TCC formed a subcommittee to study small projects, prioritization criteria, and funding options

What is a small project?

- ❑ T.B.D. – The TCC recommends that the MUMPO begin by receiving information about existing funding sources
- ❑ Preliminary TCC subcommittee discussions suggested that several types of projects need a new category of funding (such as intersection improvements and enhancement projects)
- ❑ NCDOT would appreciate a ranked list of small projects from MUMPO, but warns that this objective ranking process may eliminate a jurisdiction's political influence to advance a project

MUMPO Project Funding Sources

- STP-DA (Surface Transportation Program– Direct Attributable)
 - Should be used for construction projects only
 - Typical annual STP-DA funding available - \$10 million
 - Subject to federal compliance (i.e. environmental review, reporting procedures)

MUMPO Guidelines for STP-DA

- ❑ Not to be used on stand-alone planning and design activities, but can be used for preparation as part of a construction project
- ❑ May be used for any roadway or public street project included in the LRTP
- ❑ May be used for non-roadway projects in a publicly-adopted plan (i.e. bike/ped plans)
- ❑ Not to be used to accelerate any project that would trigger a conformity analysis
- ❑ Should use at least 10% of its STP-DA funding on non-roadway projects
- ❑ Must be Title-23 (Federal Aid) eligible

Notes on State funds

- ❑ **Powell Bill funds** (Municipal Aid) are expended primarily for the purpose of maintaining, repairing, constructing, or widening local streets that are the responsibility of the municipalities as set out in the General Statutes.
- ❑ **Small Construction funds** - Requests may be received from municipalities, counties, businesses, schools, industries, or DOT staff. The request should be made in writing to Division Engineer. In FY 10, the program provides \$14 million or \$1.0 million per highway division.
- ❑ **Statewide Contingency Fund** - \$15 million for FY 2010. Requests may be received from municipalities, counties, businesses, schools, citizens, legislators, or DOT staff. Requests submitted to Secretary in writing.

Notes on State funds (continued)

- ❑ **Spot Safety Program** – This program funds relatively low-cost improvements that can be constructed quickly and provide high benefit in relation to cost, e.g. signals, guardrail, channelization, rumble strips. \$9.1 million for FY 2010. Requests may be received from municipalities, counties, businesses, schools, citizens, legislators, Board Members, or DOT staff. Requests should be submitted to Division Engineer.
- ❑ **Public Access/Service fund** – This program funds projects that help with industrial development or improve access to schools and emergency response facilities. \$2 million for FY 2010. Requests may be received from schools, volunteer fire departments, and industries. Requests submitted to Division Engineer.

Notes on State funds (continued)

- ❑ **TIP Economic Development Program** - \$20 Million allocated to program annually. Program assists in providing transportation improvements for businesses relocating or expanding. Requests should be made to Division Engineer or Program Development Branch and must include an analysis by Department of Commerce of the economic benefits from the relocating or expanding business
- ❑ **Economic Development Funds** – Program funds projects that contribute to economic growth and development. \$2 M per Division. Submit request to Division Engineer.

Notes on federal funds

- Submittal of Priority Needs List serves as a request for the majority of federal funds (Bridge Program, Surface Transportation Program, Bike Program, etc). The following are some exceptions.
- **Transportation Enhancements** – There has not been a call for projects in last two years. With new federal authorization pending do not know the future of these funds.
- **Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ)** – These projects are selected through a call process handled by the Transportation Planning Branch. You must be an Air Quality maintenance or nonattainment area to qualify for these funds.

Notes on federal funds (continued)

- ❑ **Earmarks** – These are funds that have been designated by Congress for specific projects. The funds typically displace other funds that we would have gotten anyway and do not bring additional funds to the State. Some municipalities solicit these funds directly from Congress.
- ❑ **Safe Routes to Schools** – New program in SAFETEA-LU. Funding range: \$1 M in FY 05 to \$4.9 M in FY 09. This program is intended to enhance the opportunities elementary and middle school children have to walk and bike safely to school.
- ❑ **Division Sidewalk funds** – Each Division gets \$100 K per year to construct sidewalks. Requests should be made to the Division Engineer

NCDOT Small Project Ranking

- Typically all requests come to the Division to review and process.
- We will handle appropriate reviews and approvals.
- Like to leverage dollars with local monies when possible.

NCDOT Small Project Ranking

- Prioritize based on a Cost to Benefit analysis.
- Spot Safety very specific formula, other programs are more flexible.
- These funds are to be used Divisionwide not just within MUMPO boundaries.

Next Steps

- Define small projects
- Create prioritized list of small projects
 - STP-DA eligible
 - NCDOT Division 10 discretionary funds