

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**Monday, July 18, 2022****5:45 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and time at 127 West Webster Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose of conducting a Regular Session Meeting.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman**
 Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**
 Chris Smith
 Giles E. Byrd
 Lavern Coleman
 Brent Watts
 Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Eddie Madden, Jr., **County Manager**
 Amanda B. Prince, **Staff Attorney**
 Jay Leatherman, **Finance Director**
 Boyd Worley, **Board Attorney**
 LaToya Williams, **Clerk to the Board**

Agenda Item #1: MEETING CALLED to ORDER:

At 5:45 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the Monday, July 18, 2022 Columbus County Board of Commissioners Regular Session Meeting to order.

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into CLOSED SESSION IN ACCORDANCE with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(A)(3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE and (6) PERSONNEL:

At 5:46 P.M., Commissioner Coleman made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into Closed Session in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(A)(3) Attorney-Client privilege and (6) Personnel, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #2: CLOSED SESSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH N.C.G.S. § 143.318.11(A)(3) ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE and (6) PERSONNEL:

No official action was taken.

READING and APPROVAL of CLOSED SESSION GENERAL ACCOUNT:

Board Attorney Boyd Worley orally stated the following Closed Session General Account: "The Board went into Closed Session and discussed pending litigation, potential litigation and one personnel matter. No action was taken by the Board."

MOTION:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to accept the general account, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

RECESS CLOSED SESSION:

At 6:19 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to recess Closed Session, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

ENTER into REGULAR SESSION:

Chairman Bullard called the Regular Session meeting to Order.

6:30 P.M.**Agenda Items #3 and #4: INVOCATION and PLEDGE of ALLEGIANCE:**

The invocation was delivered by Commissioner Brent Watts. Everyone in attendance stood and pledged Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America which was led by Commissioner Lavern Coleman.

Agenda Item #5: APPROVAL of BOARD MINUTES with CORRECTED FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS:

A. June 20, 2022

a. Budget Amendment Item #2 – Corrected amount from \$9,509.98 to \$9,510

- b. Budget Amendment Item #3 – Corrected Revenue account number: Changed from 10-3517-530171 to 10-3417-430171
- c. Budget Amendment Item #6 – Corrected Revenue account number: Changed from 70-3432-489042 to 10-3432-589042

B. June 27, 2022 Special Called Meeting

MOTION:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the Board Minutes, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #6: APPROVAL of JULY 18, 2022 AGENDA and TAX REFUNDS & RELEASES:

Tax Refunds and Releases

<i>Refunds</i>		Amount:	\$0.00
Leonard, Jamie Allen	PROPERTY: 16243	Total:	\$1,003.00
Value: \$0.00	Year: 17-21	Account: 09-05170	Bill#: 99999

Refund user fees house isn't liveable.

MOTION:

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the Agenda, Tax Refunds & Releases and the addition of Agenda Item 18c: Finance – Approval of Emergency Management Budget Amendment, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #7: PUBLIC INPUT:

Chairman Bullard opened the floor for Public Comment.

Dr. Peter Chambers, 112 E White Oak St, Lake Waccamaw NC, stated the following:

- I apologize for the casual attire, I didn't have time to go home and change from work.
- I just wanted to say something to the Board.
- I appreciate your time and commitment to everything.
- Studies come out like the EMS study and it's highly emotional and it's highly volatile.
- I've been looking at studies for years and I've seen university departments break up because of studies and fist fights break out.
- I just want to say that this study is just data.
- There's good data, there's bad data, but one shortcoming I think was in this study, and I want to emphasize it, that all these squads here in this area do their job and they do their job well.
- We need to be proud to have these people.
- There are some shortcomings with EMS in the area, there are some dead areas, not the best term to use, where people can't be reached and delays but it's not the squads fault, they do their job well.
- I think citizens in this area, in Columbus County, that are outliers who live in more rural areas, I think the county has an obligation to step up and provide some services to these areas.
- Not that these agencies can't do the job or that they're not capable, they just need some help.
- I just want to make sure, for the record, that these squads do their job and they do their job well.
- That's all I want to say.

Gary J. Graham, 97 Blacksmith Rd, Bolton NC, stated the following:

- I'm an alderman for the great city of Bolton.
- I bring you greetings from the good people of Bolton.
- We, in the past, and without any issues, at least none that I've seen, have been able to conduct our elections in our fire department.
- And, up until last week, we had always had them there.
- Last week, we were informed by the election board that our fire department has requested that we no longer have the elections there.
- We didn't understand why that was happening.
- The explanation we were given was the lack of handicap accessibility, which we offer curbside service during the election.
- We weren't sure whether or not they could request that or enforce that and I'm asking the county commissioners to help us resolve this issue.
- We don't want any confusion to happen going forward, people not knowing or understanding where they're going to be voting.
- So, we'd like to go ahead and get this resolved as soon as possible.

Chairman Bullard: The Board of Elections will be moving it to the town hall from what I found out but they haven't voted on it yet. They are the ones in charge of voting precincts, not the commissioners. So, we really have no control on where they ask to vote. The election board has control over the precincts.

Gary J. Graham: So, from my understanding, the election board is under the impression that the fire department or wherever the election is being held has jurisdiction.

Chairman Bullard: Well, they'll be talking to the two precincts probably this week.

Gary J. Graham: Because a request was put in, why would they put a request in to have it moved by our town board if they're already satisfied with where it's at.

Chairman Bullard: I can't answer that question but we do thank you for coming out.

Commissioner Byrd: We'll address it in the Commissioners' comments Mr. Gary, hang around.

Agenda Item #8: EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT – PRESTON TURNER:

County Manager Eddie Madden spotlighted Columbus County Solid Waste Operations Supervisor Mr. Preston Turner.

County Manager Eddie Madden, stated the following:

- Tonight we have the honor of recognizing Mr. Preston Turner.
- Mr. Turner is in the back of the room.
- He has been nominated by Mr. Harold Nobles.
- Preston has worked for Columbus County Solid Waste since 2015.
- Mr. Nobles has stated that Preston has shown professionalism, honesty and integrity in the field as a supervisor.
- Preston is dependable, reliable and responsible.
- He takes pride in his work and he is always eager to lend a helping hand.
- He is an exemplary employee.
- Please help me recognize tonight's recipient of the Employee Spotlight, Mr. Preston Turner.

Agenda Item #9: Trillium – Acceptance of Annual Report:

Dennis Williams, Southern Regional Director, was unable to attend. Chairman Bullard requested this item be tabled.

MOTION:

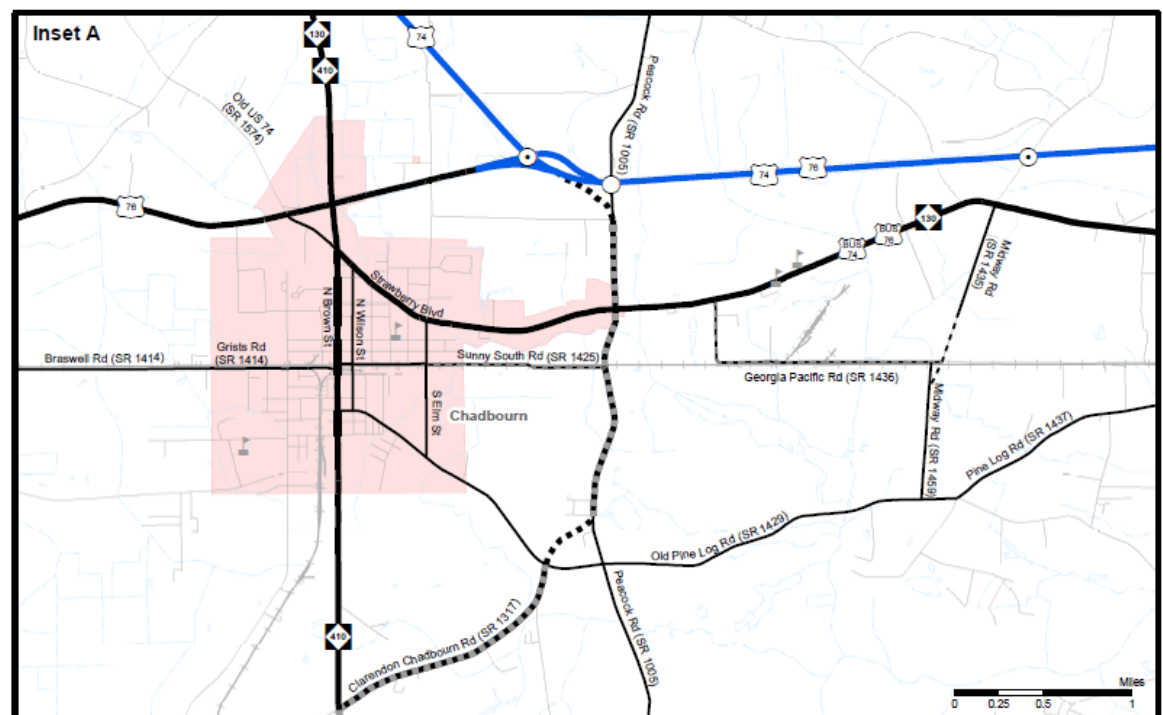
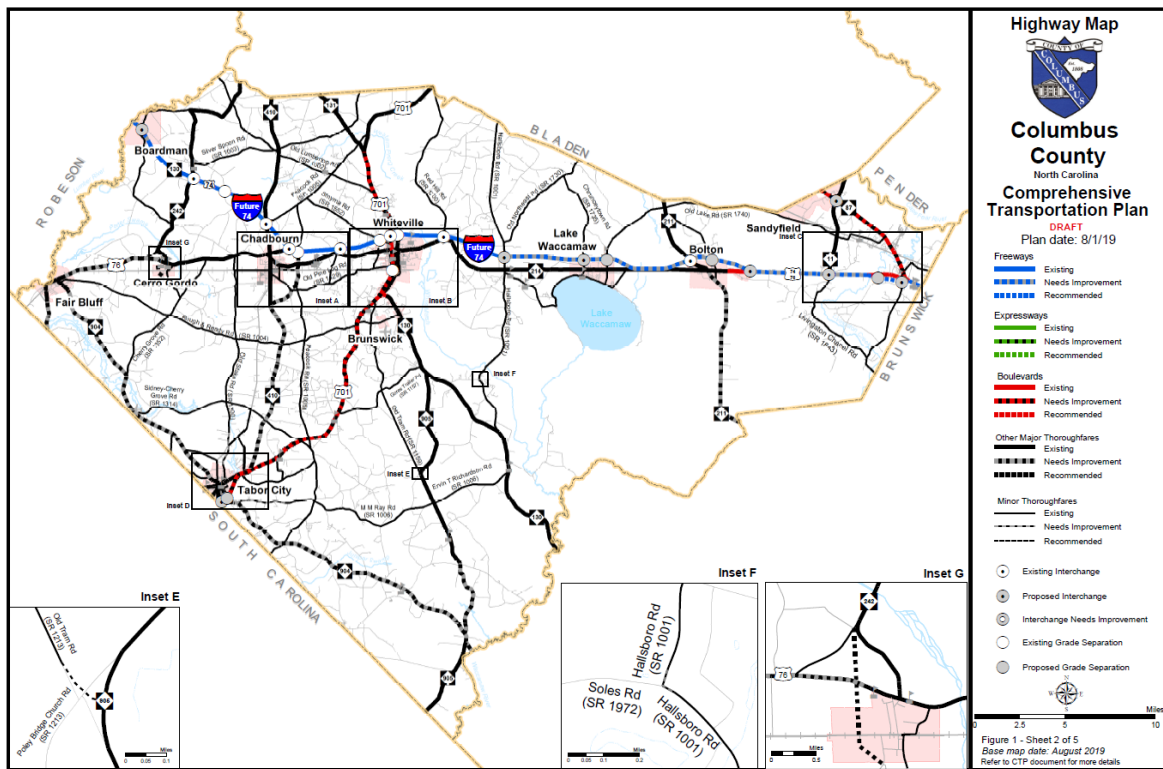
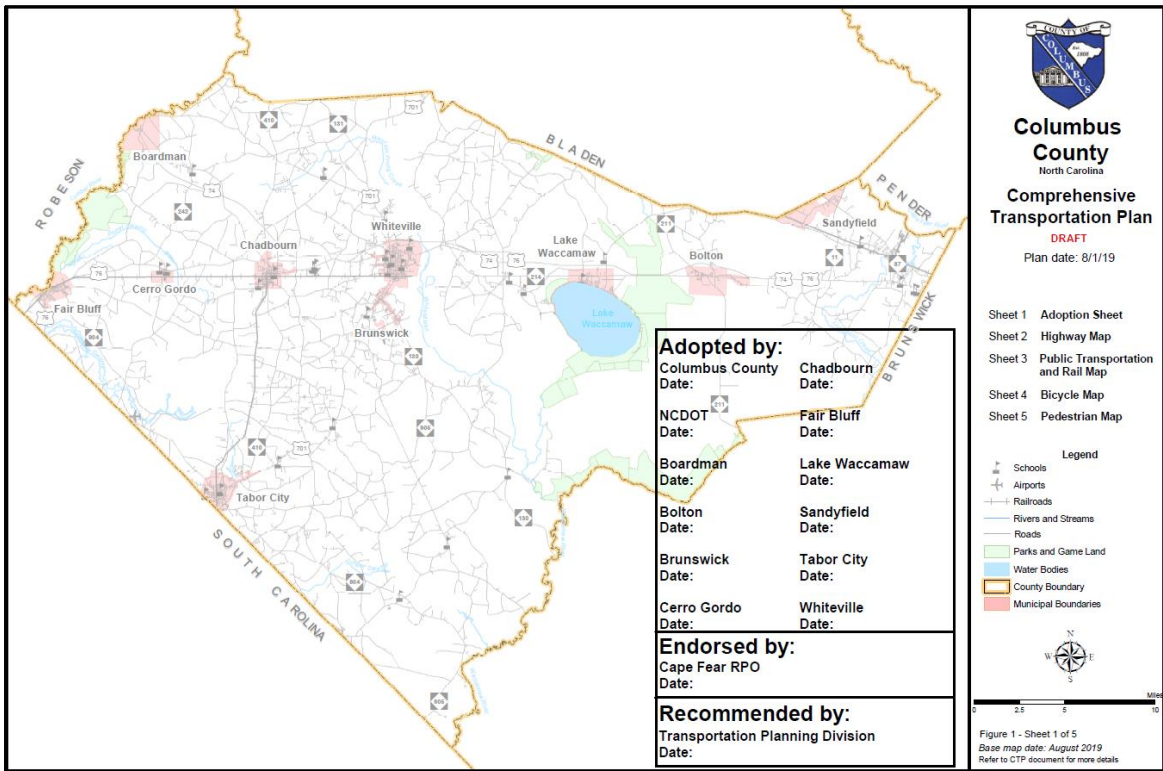
Commissioner Coleman made a motion to table this item until the September 6th meeting, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

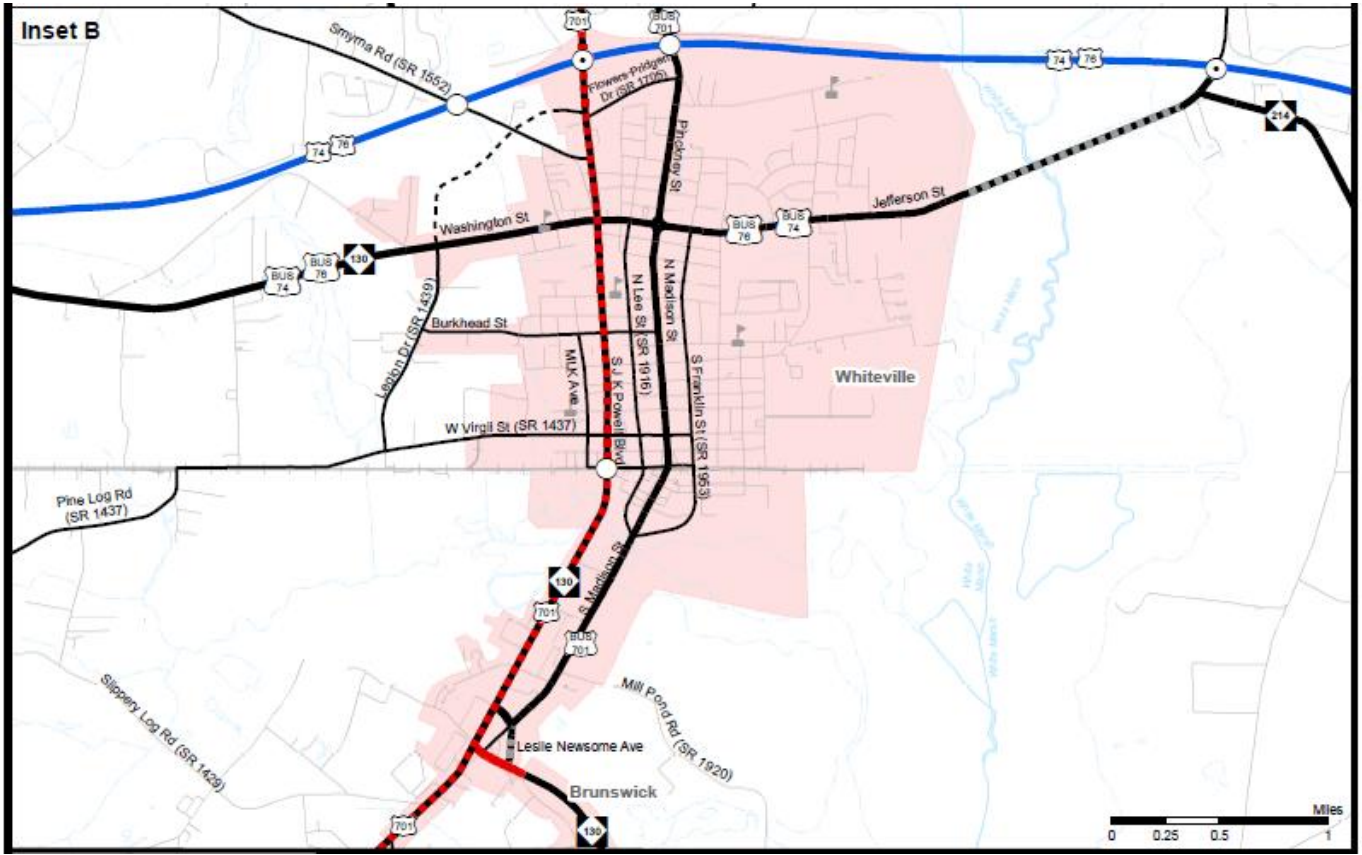
Agenda Item #10: CAPE FEAR COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS – RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR COLUMBUS COUNTY:

Patrick Flanagan, Regional Planner with the Cape Fear Council of Governments, presented recommendations from the Comprehensive Transportation Plan to the Board.

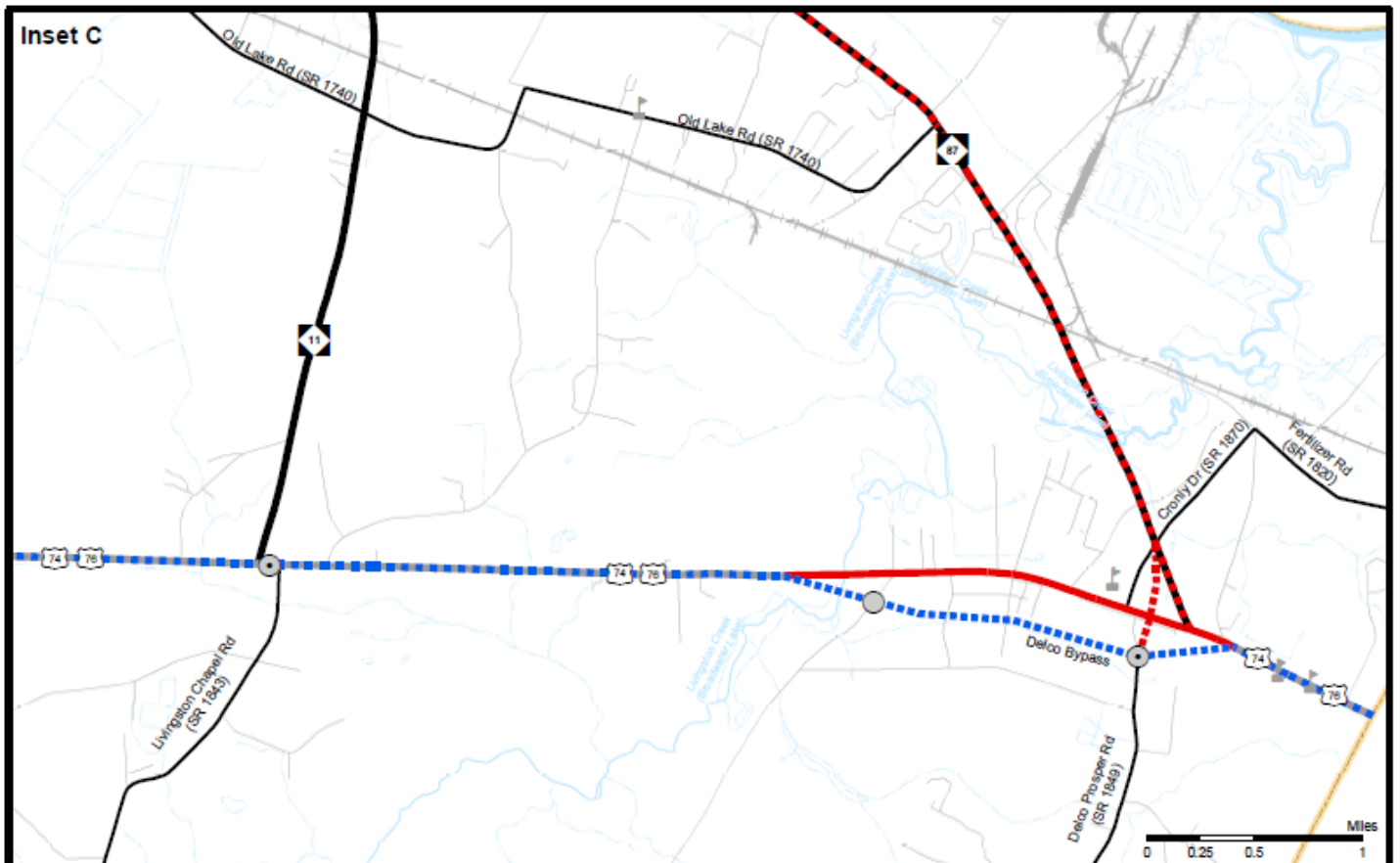
Facility	Limits (From-To)	Recommendation	Cross-Section
US 74 (Future I-74)	Robeson County Line--Brunswick County Line	Improve to Interstate standards	4A
US 701 (James B White Hwy)/US 701 Bypass	South Carolina State Line--NC 131	Widen to four-lane divided boulevard	4 (A,B,C)
NC 87 (Old Stage Rd)	Bladen County Line--US 74/76/Delco Bypass	Widen to four-lane divided boulevard	4 (A,B,C,E,F)
NC 242 (Cerro Gordo Bypass)	NC 242 (Haynes Lennon Hwy)--SR 1352 (Cedar Grove Church Rd)	Construct two-lane roadway on new location	2A
NC 410 Bypass (Peacock Rd & Clarendon Chadbourne Rd)	US 74/76--NC 410	Construct and improve to two-lane bypass	2A
NC 904 (Complex Street) and US 701 Business (Hickman Rd) Realignment	SR 1305 (Complex Street)--US 701 Business	Construct realignment with interchange	2A
SR 1439 (Legion Drive) Extension	SR 1439 (Legion Drive)--US 701	Construct roadway extension	2A
SR 1001 (Hallsboro Rd) Realignment	SR 1001 (Hallsboro Road) & SR 1924 (Soles Road)	Improve alignment	2A
SR 1213 (Old Tram Rd) Realignment	SR 1213 (Old Tram Road) & SR 1212 (Poley Bridge Church Road)	Improve alignment	2A
SR 1435/1459 (Midway Rd) Realignment	SR 1435/1459 (Midway Road) & SR 1429 (Old Pine Log Road)	Improve alignment	2A

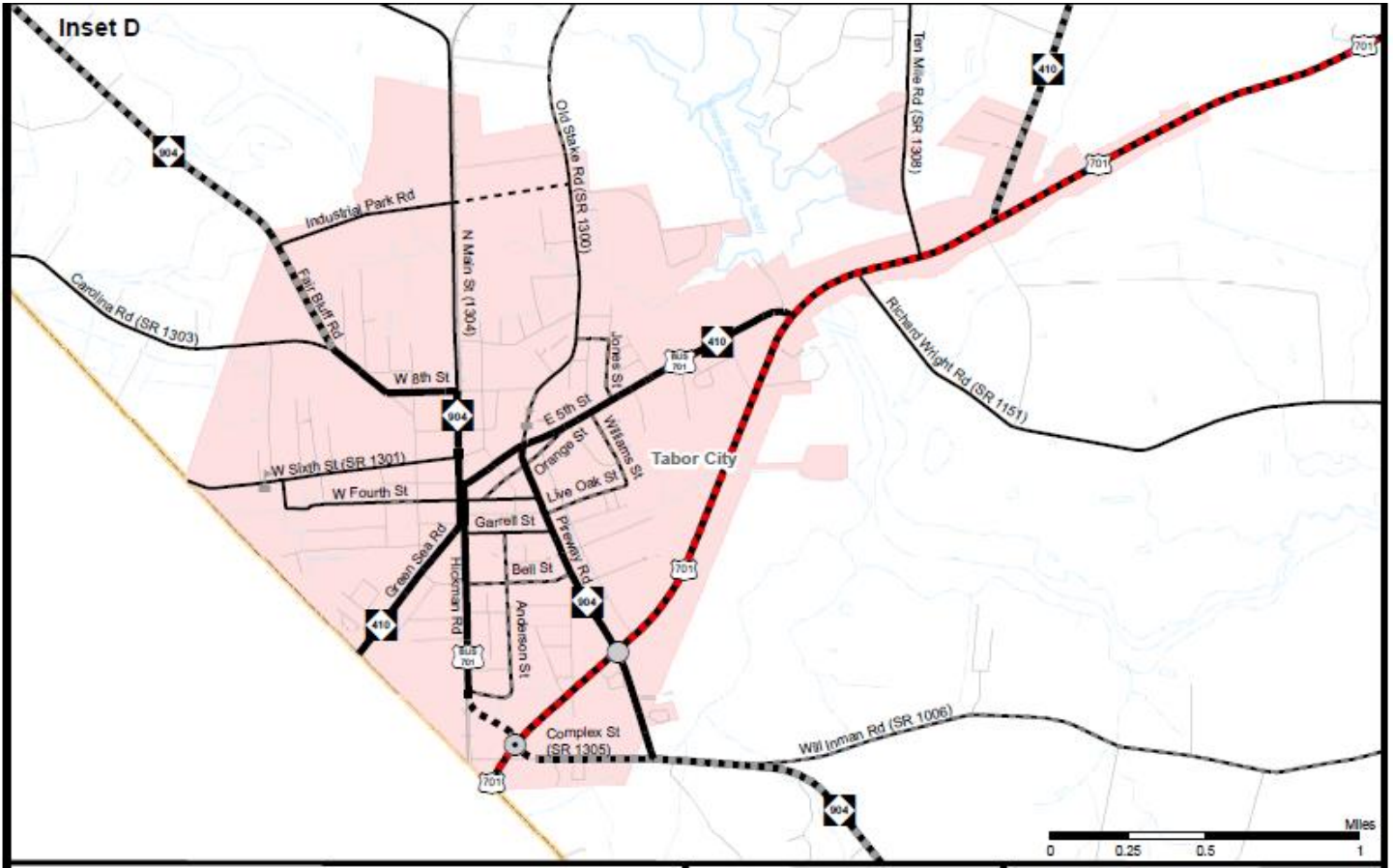
Narrow Roads			
US 76	Hamer Street--Cerro Gordo Town Limits	Upgrade to standard geometrics	2A
US 76	Fair Bluff Town Limits--South Carolina State Line	Upgrade to standard geometrics	2A
NC 410	Bladen County Line--US 74	Upgrade to standard geometrics	2A
NC 410	SR 1317 (Clarendon Chadbourne Road)--US 701	Upgrade to standard geometrics	2A
NC 904	Fair Bluff Town Limits--SR 1303 (Carolina Road)	Upgrade to standard geometrics	2A
NC 904	SR 1305 (Complex Street)--Brunswick County Line	Upgrade to standard geometrics	2A
NC 905	NC 130--South Carolina Line	Upgrade to standard geometrics	2A
SR 1006 (Will Inman Rd)	NC 904--eastern Tabor City planning boundary	Upgrade to standard geometrics	2A
SR 1300 (Old Stake Rd)	SR 1367 (Canal Street)--SR 1310 (Emerson Church Road)	Upgrade to standard geometrics	2A
SR 1308 (Ten Mile Rd)	SR 1310 (Emerson Church Road)--northern Tabor City planning boundary	Upgrade to standard geometrics	2A
SR 1310 (Emerson Church Rd)	SR 1300 (Old Stake Road)--SR 1308 (Ten Mile Road)	Upgrade to standard geometrics	2A
SR 1347 (Fronis Strickland Rd)	NC 904--South Carolina State Line	Upgrade to standard geometrics	2A
SR 1352 (Cherry Street)/Cherry Grove Rd)	SR 1004 (Rough and Ready Road)--SR 1403 (W. Railroad Street)	Upgrade to standard geometrics	2A
SR 1356 (Hinsons Crossroads)	US 76--NC 904	Upgrade to standard geometrics	2A
SR 1403 (W. Railroad Street)	SR 1352 (Cherry Street)--SR 1407 (Church Street)	Upgrade to standard geometrics	2A
SR 1407 (Church Street)	SR 1403 (W. Railroad Street)--US 76	Upgrade to standard geometrics	2A
SR 1001 (Hallsboro Road)	US 74/76--NC 130	Upgrade to standard geometrics	2A





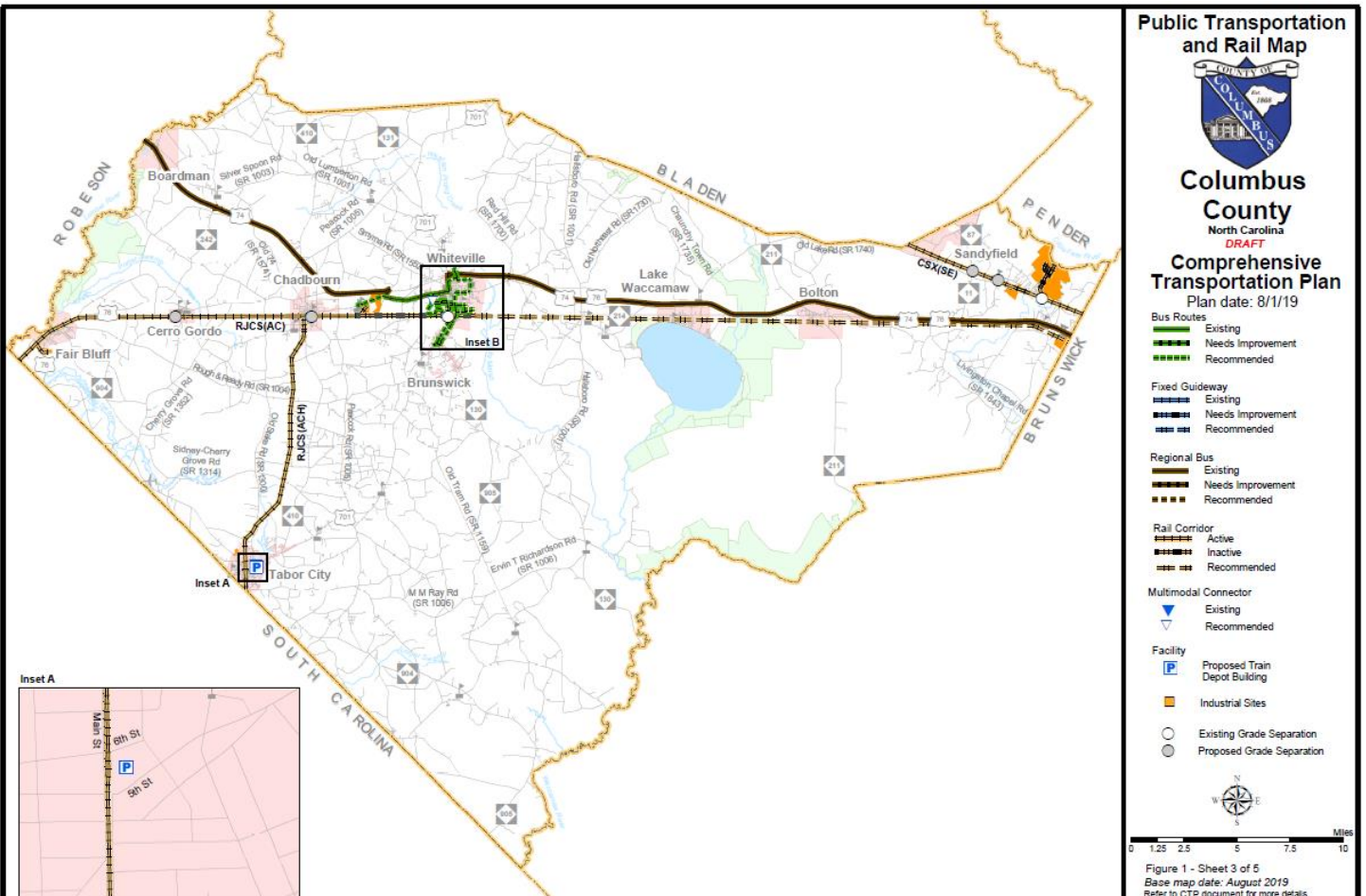
<p>Freeways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Needs Improvement Recommended <p>Expressways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Needs Improvement Recommended <p>Boulevards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Needs Improvement Recommended 	<p>Other Major Thoroughfares</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Needs Improvement Recommended <p>Minor Thoroughfares</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Needs Improvement Recommended <p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Interchange Proposed Interchange Interchange Needs Improvement Existing Grade Separation Proposed Grade Separation </p>	<p>Figure 1 - Sheet 2A of 5</p> <p>Base map date: August 2019 Refer to CTP document for more details</p>	<p>Highway Map Insets A & B</p> <p>Columbus County North Carolina DRAFT Comprehensive Transportation Plan Plan date: 8/1/19</p>
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<p>Freeways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing: Solid blue line Needs Improvement: Dashed blue line Recommended: Dotted blue line <p>Expressways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing: Solid green line Needs Improvement: Dashed green line Recommended: Dotted green line <p>Boulevards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing: Solid red line Needs Improvement: Dashed red line Recommended: Dotted red line 	<p>Other Major Thoroughfares</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing: Solid black line Needs Improvement: Dashed black line Recommended: Dotted black line <p>Minor Thoroughfares</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing: Solid thin black line Needs Improvement: Dashed thin black line Recommended: Dotted thin black line <p>Interchanges and Separations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Interchange: Circle with a dot Proposed Interchange: Circle with a dot and a dashed border Interchange Needs Improvement: Circle with a dot and a dotted border Existing Grade Separation: Circle with a horizontal line Proposed Grade Separation: Circle with a horizontal line and a dashed border 		<p>Highway Map Inset C & D</p> <p>Columbus County North Carolina DRAFT Comprehensive Transportation Plan Plan date: 8/1/19</p>
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Figure 1 - Sheet 2B of 5
Base map date: August 2019
Refer to CTP document for more details



Public Transportation and Rail Map

Columbus County
North Carolina
DRAFT
Comprehensive Transportation Plan
Plan date: 8/1/19

Bus Routes

- Existing: Solid green line
- Needs Improvement: Dashed green line
- Recommended: Dotted green line

Fixed Guideway

- Existing: Solid black line
- Needs Improvement: Dashed black line
- Recommended: Dotted black line

Regional Bus

- Existing: Solid orange line
- Needs Improvement: Dashed orange line
- Recommended: Dotted orange line

Rail Corridor

- Active: Solid black line with cross-ticks
- Inactive: Dashed black line with cross-ticks
- Recommended: Dotted black line with cross-ticks

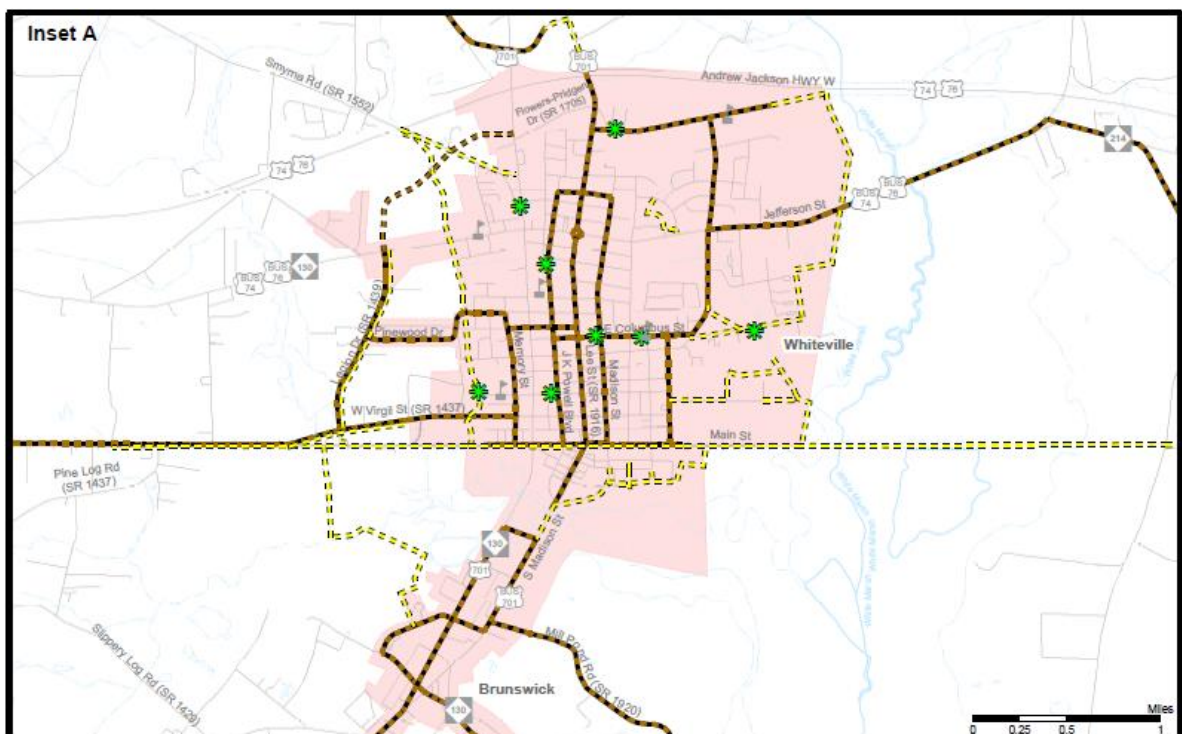
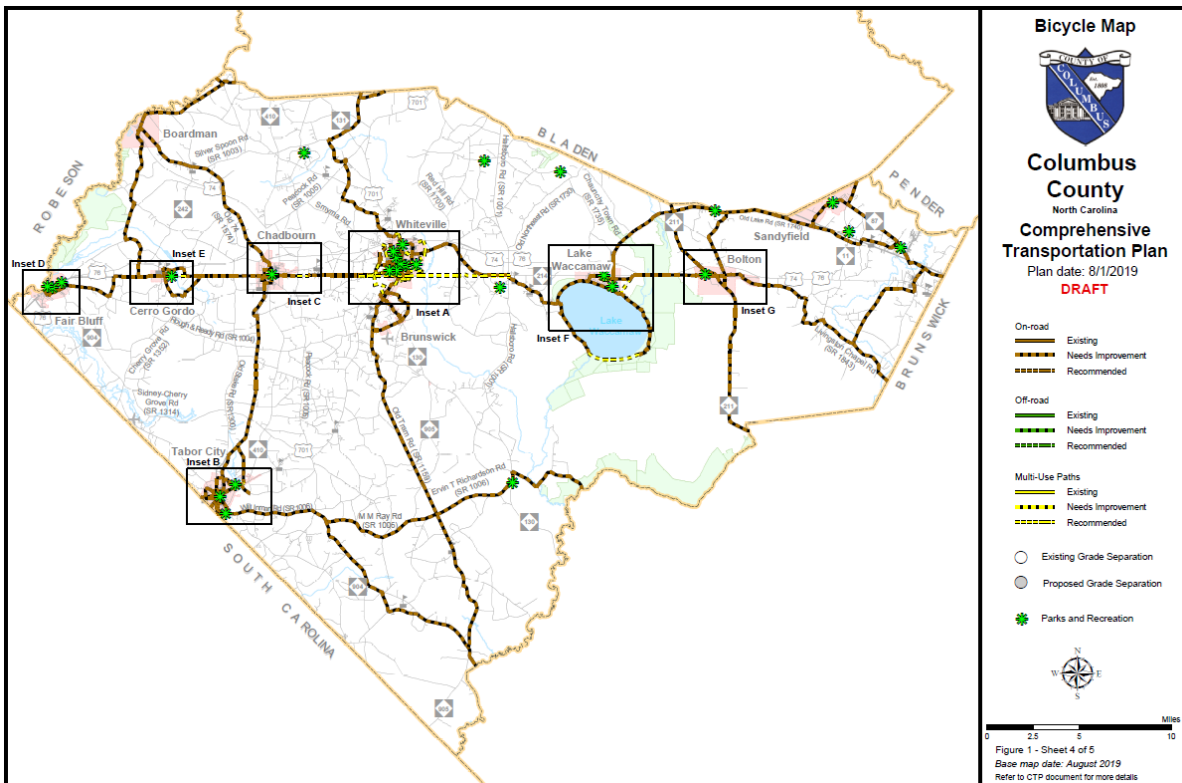
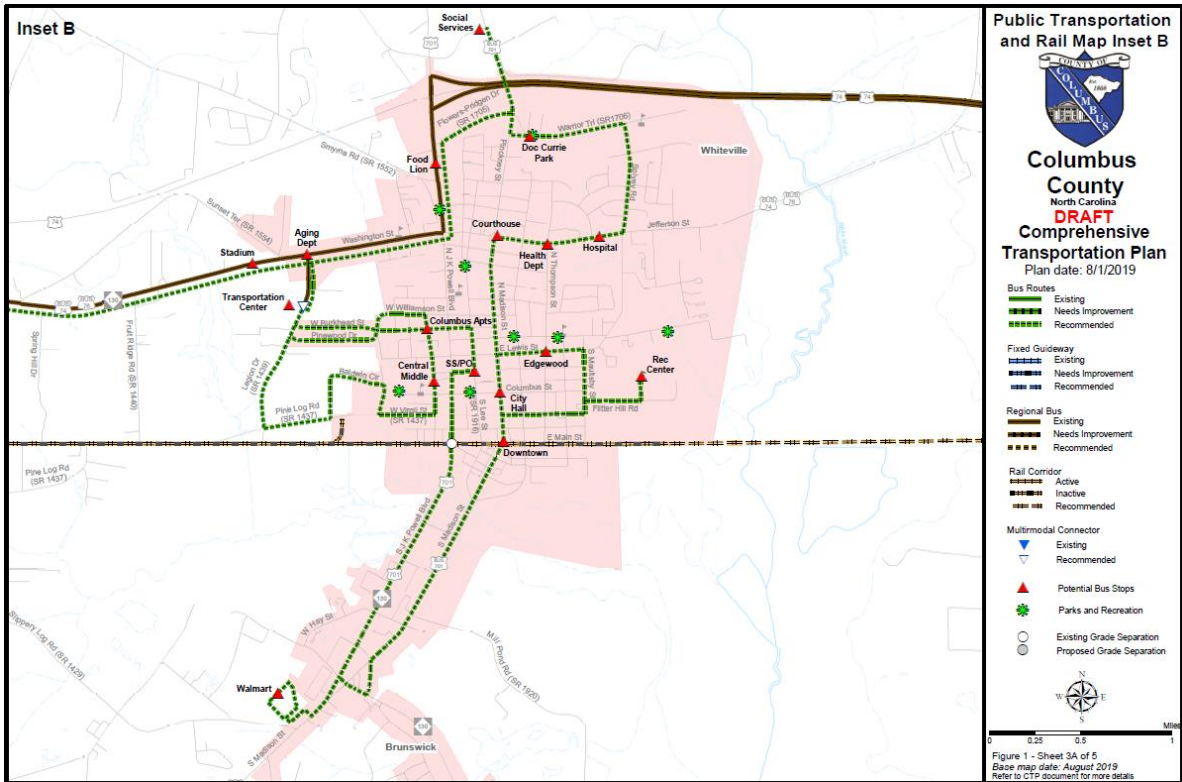
Multimodal Connector

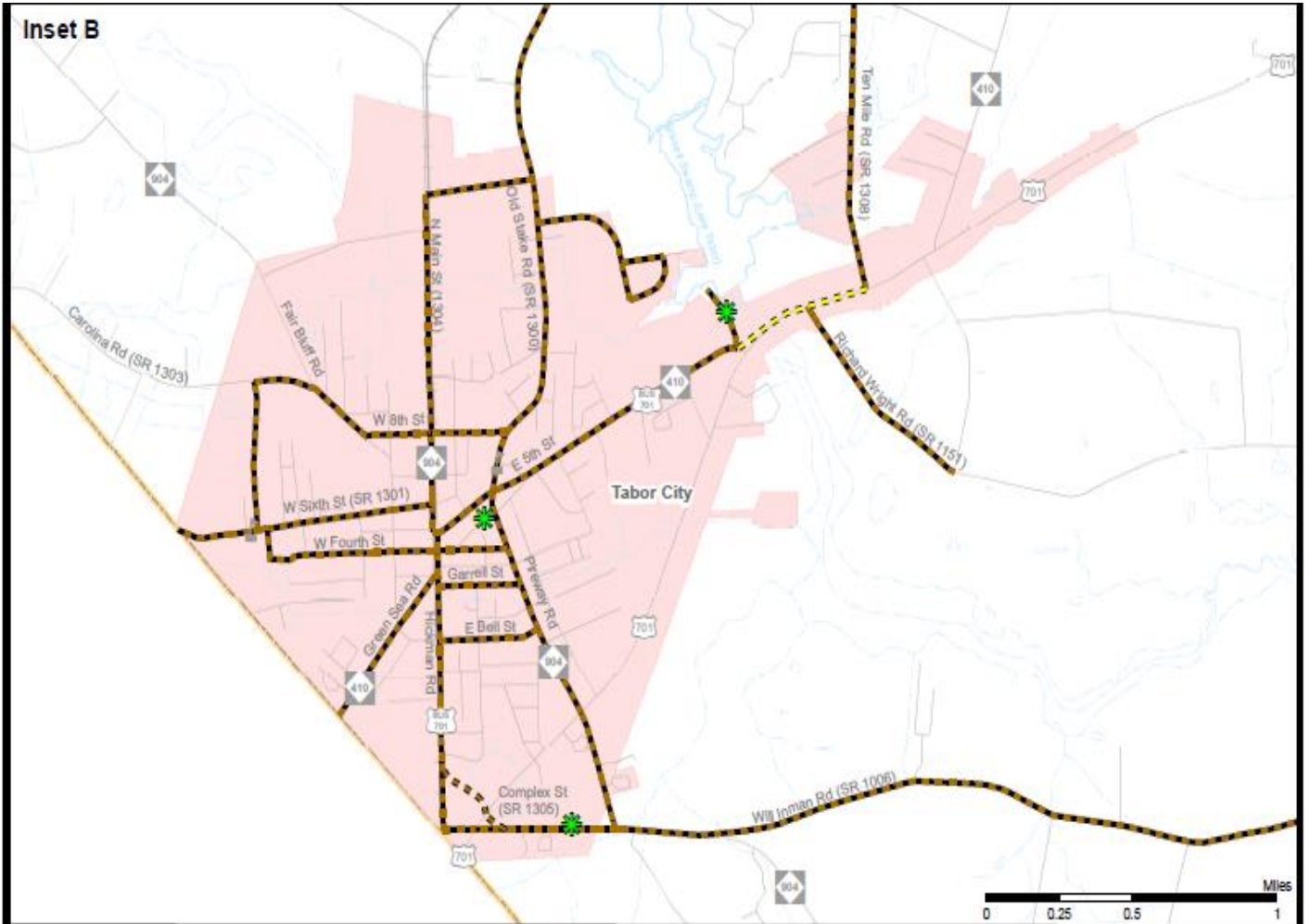
- Existing: Solid blue line with a triangle
- Recommended: Dotted blue line with a triangle

Facility

- Proposed Train Depot Building: Blue square with 'P'
- Industrial Sites: Orange square
- Existing Grade Separation: Circle with a horizontal line
- Proposed Grade Separation: Circle with a horizontal line and a dashed border

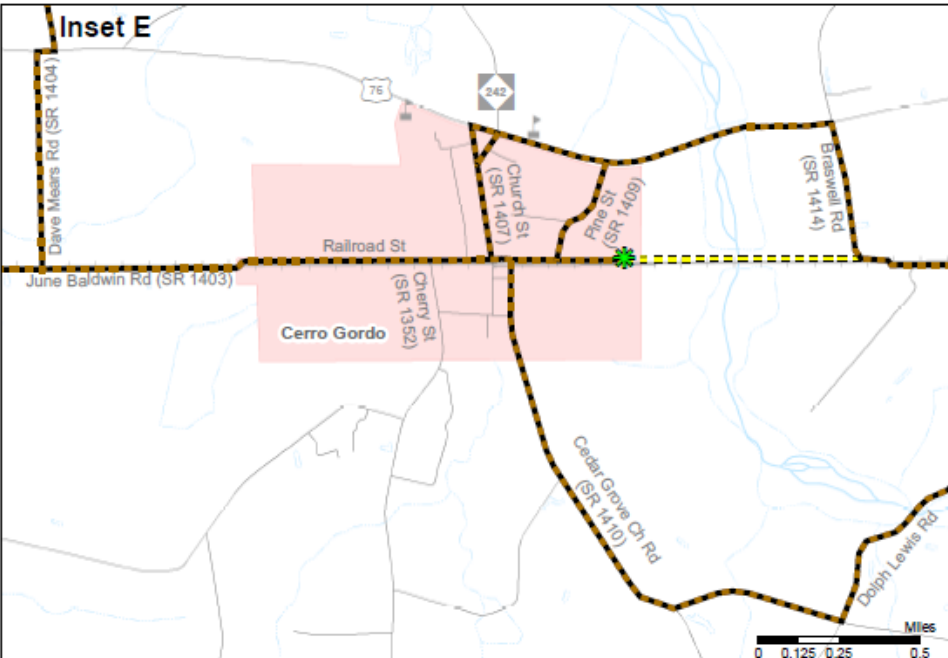
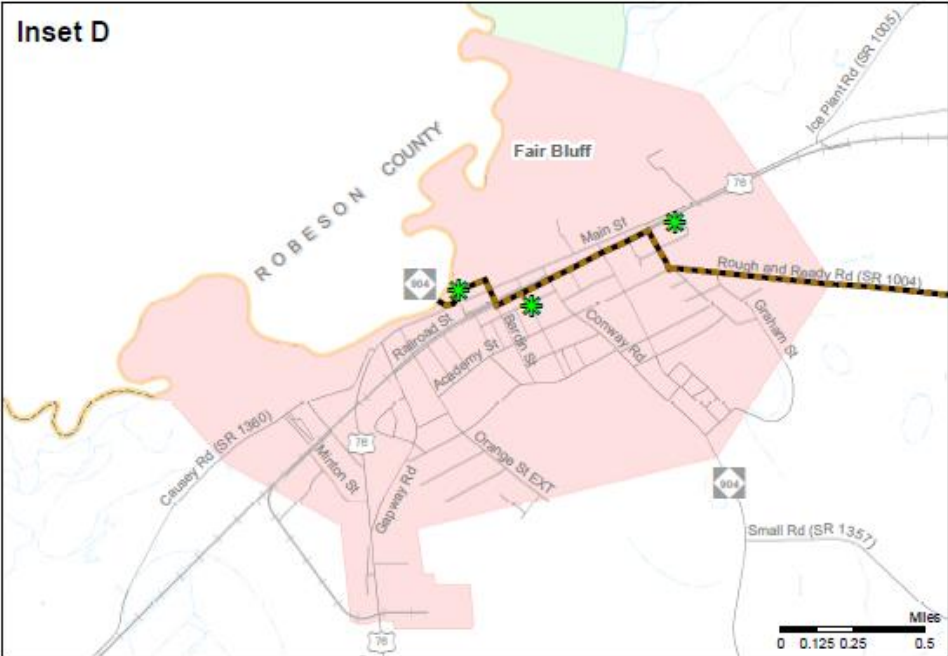
Figure 1 - Sheet 3 of 5
Base map date: August 2019
Refer to CTP document for more details





<p>On-road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing: Solid black line Needs Improvement: Dashed black line Recommended: Dotted black line <p>Off-road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing: Solid green line Needs Improvement: Dashed green line Recommended: Dotted green line 	<p>Multi-Use Paths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing: Solid yellow line Needs Improvement: Dashed yellow line Recommended: Dotted yellow line <p>Grade Separations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Grade Separation: White circle Proposed Grade Separation: Grey circle <p>Parks and Recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green star symbol 	<p>DRAFT</p> <p>Figure 1 - Sheet 4A of 5 Base map date: August 2019 Refer to CTP document for more details</p>	<p>Bicycle Map Inset A & B</p> <p>Columbus County North Carolina Comprehensive Transportation Plan Plan date: 8/1/19</p>
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<p>Inset C</p> <p>This map shows the Chadbourn area with various road conditions and multi-use paths. Key roads include Ollie St (SR 1574), Stack Turner Rd (SR 1560), Pascook Rd (SR 1005), E Strawberry Blvd, Sunny South Rd (SR 1425), E Railroad Ave (SR 1425), N Elm St (SR 1562), E Institute St (SR 1317), S Elm St, S Brown St, W Smith St (SR 1423), E Smith St, S Wilkins St (SR 1422), Enterprise St, Grist Rd (SR 1414), and Broadway Rd (SR 1422). Multi-use paths are shown as solid yellow (existing), dashed yellow (needs improvement), and dotted yellow (recommended). Parks and Recreation are marked with green star symbols. The map includes a scale bar from 0 to 0.5 miles and a north arrow.</p>	<p>Bicycle Map Inset C, D, & E</p> <p>Columbus County North Carolina Comprehensive Transportation Plan Plan date: 8/1/19 DRAFT</p>
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- Bicycle**
- Existing
 - Needs Improvement
 - Recommended
- Off-road**
- Existing
 - Needs Improvement
 - Recommended
- Multi-Use Paths**
- Existing
 - Needs Improvement
 - Recommended
- Existing Grade Separation
- Proposed Grade Separation
- Parks and Recreation



Sheet 4B of 5
 Base map date: August 2019
 Refer to CTP document for more details

**Bicycle Map
 Inset F & G**



**Columbus
 County**
 North Carolina

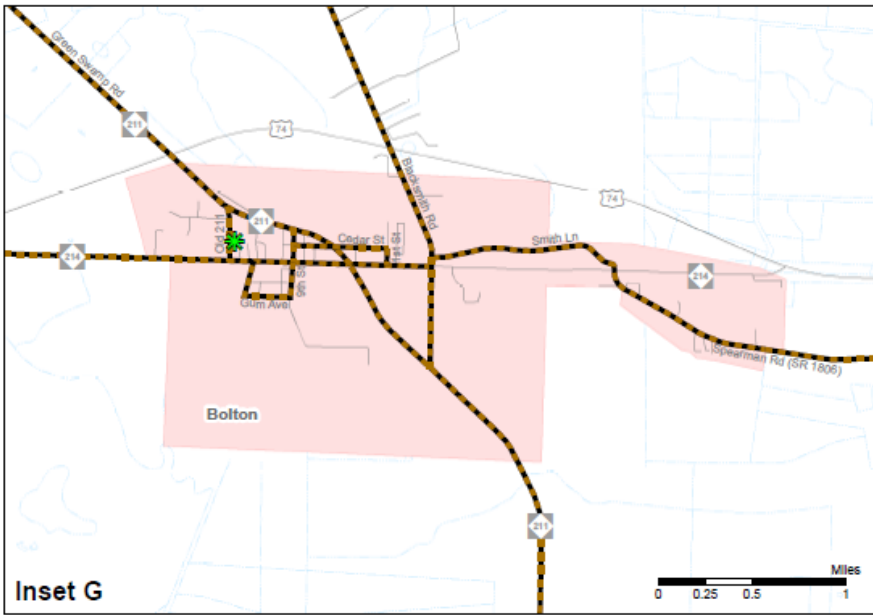
**Comprehensive
 Transportation Plan**
 Plan date: 8/1/19
DRAFT

Bicycle

- Existing
- Needs Improvement
- Recommended

Off-road

- Existing
- Needs Improvement
- Recommended

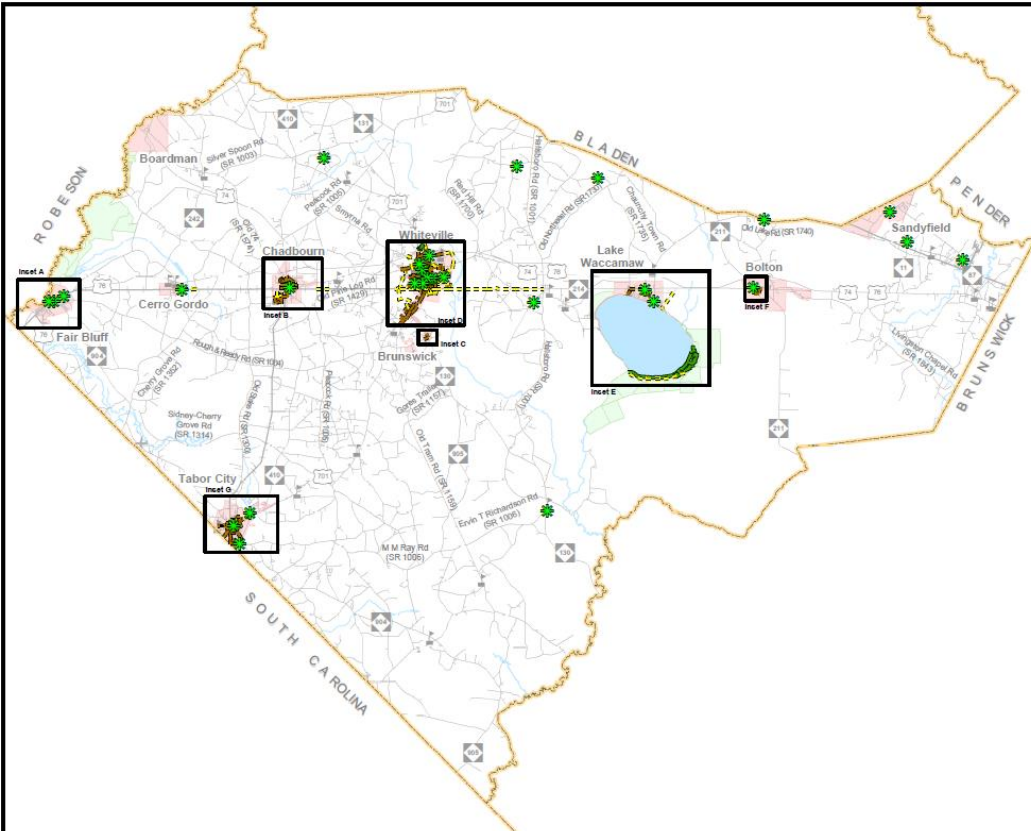


- Existing Grade Separation
- Proposed Grade Separation
- ✿ Parks and Recreation



Sheet 4C of 5

Base map date: August 2019
Refer to CTP document for more details



Pedestrian Map



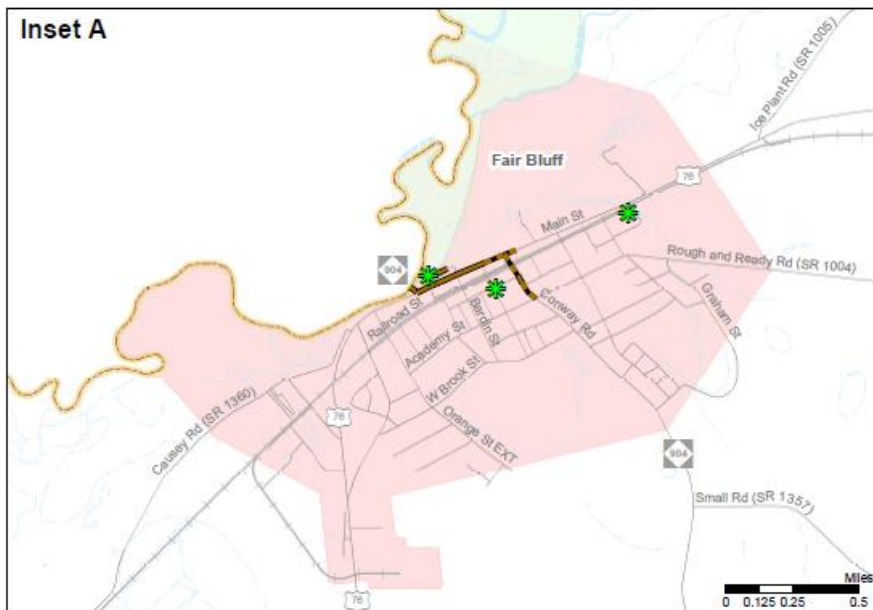
Columbus County
North Carolina
Comprehensive Transportation Plan
Plan date: 8/1/19
DRAFT

- Sidewalks**
 - Existing
 - Needs Improvement
 - Recommended
- Off-road**
 - Existing
 - Needs Improvement
 - Recommended
- Multi-Use Paths**
 - Existing
 - Needs Improvement
 - Recommended
- Existing Grade Separation
- Proposed Grade Separation
- ✿ Parks and Recreation



Sheet 5 of 5
Base map date: August 2019
Refer to CTP document for more details

Inset A

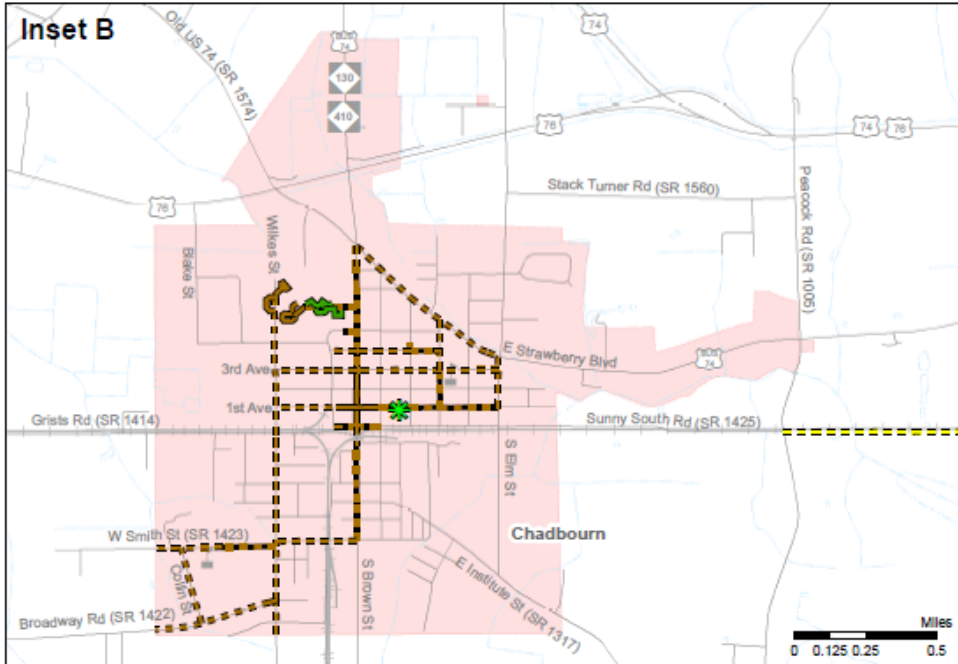


Pedestrian Map Inset A, B, & C



Columbus County
North Carolina
Comprehensive Transportation Plan
Plan date: 8/1/19
DRAFT

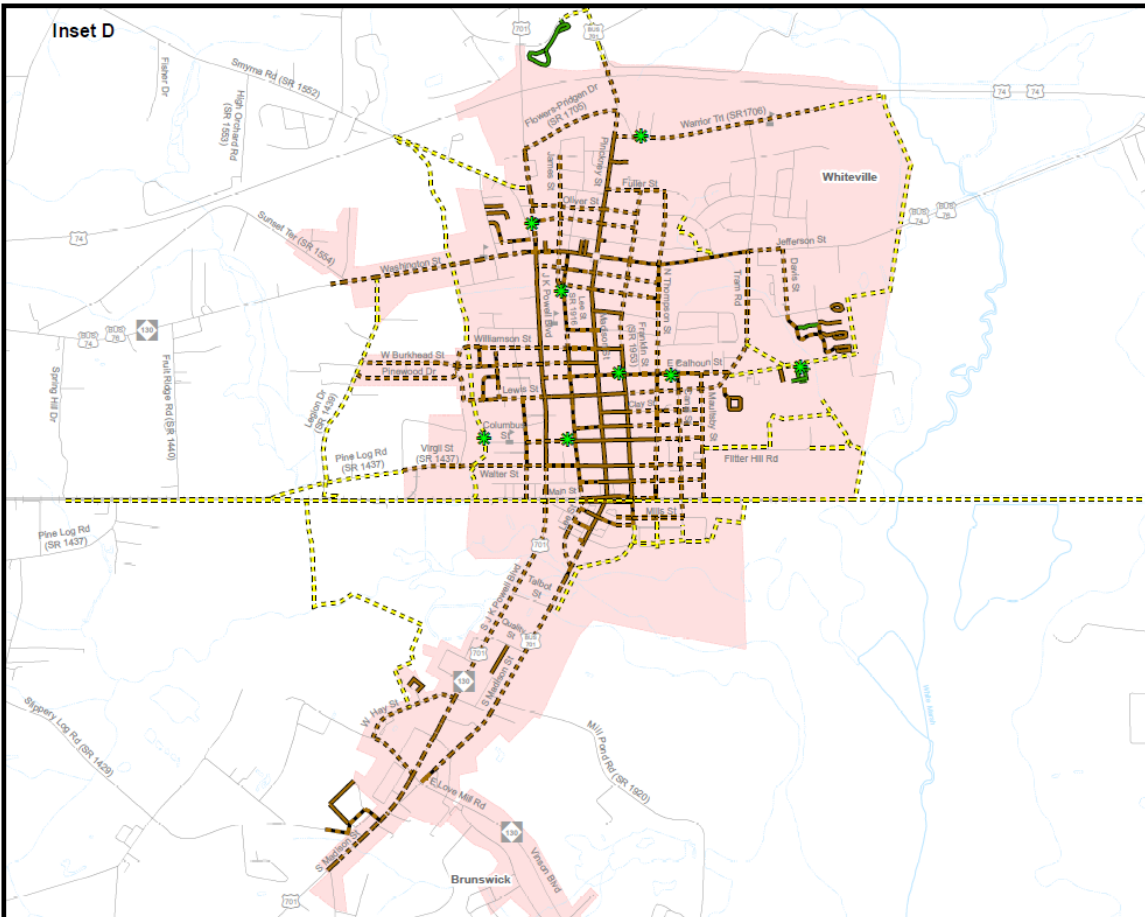
Scale bar: 0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles



- Sidewalks**
- Existing
 - Needs Improvement
 - Recommended
- Off-road**
- Existing
 - Needs Improvement
 - Recommended
- Multi-Use Paths**
- Existing
 - Needs Improvement
 - Recommended
- Existing Grade Separation
- Proposed Grade Separation
- Parks and Recreation



Figure 1 - Sheet 5A of 5
Base map date: August 2019
Refer to CTP document for more details



Pedestrian Map Inset D

Columbus County
North Carolina
Comprehensive Transportation Plan
Plan date: 8/1/19
DRAFT

Sidewalks

- Existing
- Needs Improvement
- Recommended

Off-road

- Existing
- Needs Improvement
- Recommended

Multi-Use Paths

- Existing
- Needs Improvement
- Recommended

Existing Grade Separation

Proposed Grade Separation

Parks and Recreation

Scale: 0 to 1 Miles

Figure 1 - Sheet 5B of 5
Base map date: August 2019
Refer to CTP document for more details

**Pedestrian Map
Inset E, F, & G**



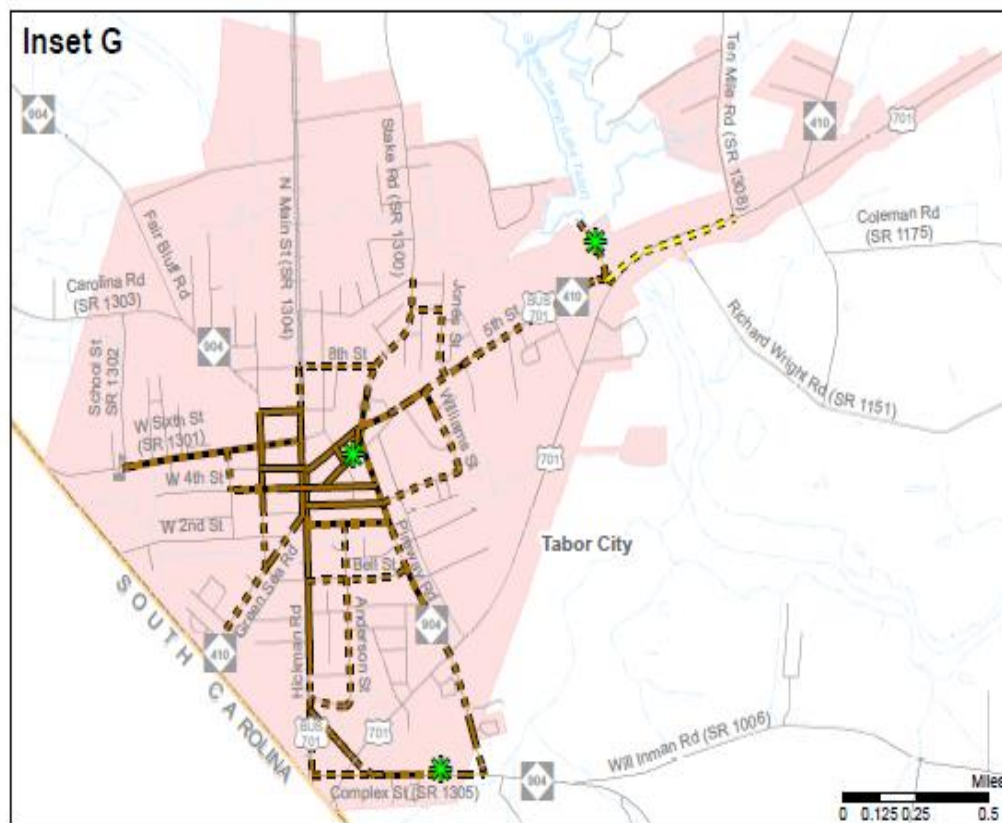
**Columbus
County**

North Carolina

**Comprehensive
Transportation Plan**

Plan date: 8/1/19

DRAFT



- Sidewalks**
 - Existing
 - Needs Improvement
 - Recommended
- Off-road**
 - Existing
 - Needs Improvement
 - Recommended
- Multi-Use Paths**
 - Existing
 - Needs Improvement
 - Recommended
- Existing Grade Separation
- Proposed Grade Separation
- Parks and Recreation



Figure 1 - Sheet 5C of 5
Base map date: August 2019
Refer to CTP document for more details

2. Recommendations

This chapter presents recommendations for each mode of transportation in the 2019 Columbus County CTP as shown in Figure 1. More detailed information on each recommendation is tabulated in Appendix C.

The complete street policy and concepts were utilized in the development of the CTP. NCDOT adopted a "Complete Streets¹" policy in July 2009. In August 2019, the NC Board of Transportation unanimously adopted a resolution in support of implementing amendments to the Complete Streets Policy, including an Implementation Guide supporting the Complete Streets Policy. The policy directs the Department to consider and incorporate other modes of transportation when building new projects or making improvements to existing infrastructure. Under this policy, the Department will collaborate with cities, towns and communities during the planning and design phases of projects. Together, they will decide how to provide context-sensitive transportation options needed to serve the community consistent with local vision. The benefits of this approach include:

- making it easier for travelers to get where they need to go;
- encouraging the use of alternative forms of transportation;
- building more sustainable communities;
- increasing connectivity between neighborhoods, streets, and transit systems;
- improving safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.

Complete streets are streets designed to be safe and comfortable for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, motorists and individuals of all ages and capabilities. These facilities generally include sidewalks, appropriate bicycle facilities, transit stops, right-sized street widths, context-based traffic speeds, and are well-integrated with surrounding land uses. The CTP recommendations include multi-modal projects as documented in the problem statements within this chapter. Refer to Appendix C for recommended cross sections for all project proposals and Appendix D for more detailed information on the typical cross sections.

2.1 Unaddressed Deficiencies

The following deficiency was identified during the development of the CTP but no reasonable solution was identified through the CTP planning process.

US 74 BUSINESS/US 76 BUSINESS (Jefferson Street)

US 74 Bus/US 76 Bus (Jefferson Street), in Whiteville, from 200 feet west of James Street to Franklin Street (SR 1953) is currently near capacity and is projected to be over capacity in 2045. It is currently a 2-lane roadway with a center turn lane west of Lee Street. This is the primary east-west corridor through Whiteville. Lack of local support and the proximity of Section 4(f) properties make widening this section of roadway impractical. This roadway segment is in the core of downtown Whiteville where the existing gridded roadway network provides alternate routes when this segment experiences congestion.

¹ For more information on Complete Streets, go to: completestreetsnc.org

2.2 Implementation

The CTP is based on the projected growth for the planning area and actual growth patterns will likely differ from those anticipated. As a result, it may be necessary to accelerate or delay the implementation of some recommendations identified in this plan.

Initiative for implementing the CTP rests predominately with the policy boards and citizens of Columbus County and its municipalities. As transportation needs throughout the state exceed available funding, it is imperative that the local governments in the planning area aggressively pursue funding for priority projects. Projects should be prioritized locally according to the Cape Fear RPO's adopted Prioritization Methodology in order to compete for State and federal funding. Refer to Appendix A for contact information on regional prioritization and funding. Local governments are encouraged to use the CTP to guide land-use development and protect corridors for the recommended projects. It is critical that NCDOT and local governments coordinate on relevant land development reviews and all transportation projects to ensure proper implementation of the CTP. Local governments and NCDOT share the responsibility for access management and the planning, design and construction of the recommended projects.

Recommended improvements shown on the CTP map represents an agreement of identified transportation deficiencies and potential solutions to address the deficiencies. While the CTP does propose recommended solutions, it may not represent the final location or cross-section associated with the improvement. All CTP recommendations are based on high level systems analyses that seek to minimize impacts to the natural and human environment. Prior to implementing projects from the CTP, additional analysis may be necessary to meet the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or the North Carolina (or State) Environmental Policy Act² (SEPA). During the NEPA/SEPA process, the specific project location and cross section will be determined based on environmental analysis and public input. This CTP may be used to support transportation decision making and provide transportation planning data in the NEPA/SEPA process.

All funded projects would go through a final design phase in the project development process. This involves the preparation of detailed plans, which includes roadway, structures, hydraulics, erosion control, traffic management, signing and pavement markings, signals, geotechnical, and pavement. After design, any necessary acquisition of right-of-way and relocation of utilities would occur, followed by construction, operation, and maintenance of the project.

2.3 Problem Statements

The following pages contain problem statements for each recommendation, organized by CTP modal element. The information provided in the problem statement is intended to help support decisions made in the project development process.

² For more information on NCEPA applicability, go to:

connect.ncdot.gov/resources/environmental/lists/environmental%20compliance%20content/dispform.aspx?ID=5

HIGHWAY

US 74, Local ID: COLU0001-H

US 74 is recommended to be updated to interstate standards from the Robeson County line to the Brunswick County line. This recommendation is consistent with the NC Statewide Multimodal Freight Plan, which recommends upgrading US 74 to Freeway (I-74) from Wilmington in New Hanover County to the Monroe Bypass just east of Charlotte in Union County. US 74 is a Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET) route, a hurricane evacuation route, and Strategic Transportation Corridors H and U. The NC Freight Plan identifies US 74 as a NC Priority Highway Freight Network route, and the portion in Columbus County is identified as part of Critical Rural Freight Corridor #7. In addition, I-74 is Congressional High Priority Corridor #5, which is designated as a Future Interstate generally following US 74 from Rockingham, North Carolina “to the South Carolina State line in Brunswick County.” The project is recommended to reduce travel times between Wilmington and Charlotte, accommodate significant projected growth in highway freight traffic to and from the Port of Wilmington, improve hurricane evacuation clearance times, and eliminate the existing at-grade intersections. NOTE: I-6011—US 74 upgrade to interstate standards from NC 41 near Lumberton to US 76 near Chadbourne—is currently programmed in the FY 2020-2029 STIP for right-of-way acquisition to begin in FY 2027. Construction is currently unfunded.

The proposed upgrade to interstate standards includes construction of a portion of the corridor known as the Delco Bypass³ partially on new location from approximately NC 11 to east of the Brunswick County line. Proposed interchanges are recommended at Old Boardman Road/Macedonia Church Road (SR 1506); Hallsboro Road (SR 1001); Chauncey Town Road (SR 1735); NC 214 (Sam Potts Highway); NC 11/Livingston Chapel Road (SR 1843), and at the proposed extension of NC 87. Proposed grade separations are recommended at Old Lake Road (SR 1740), Blacksmith Road (SR 1800), and Water Tank Road (SR 1824).

The following proposed interchanges and grade separations are all programmed and funded in the FY 2020-2029 State Transportation Improvement Program:

- R-5797 interchange at Old Boardman Road (SR 1506). Construction is scheduled to begin in FY 2021.
- R-5749 interchange at Hallsboro Road (SR 1001). This project is currently under construction with estimated completion in FY 2021.
- R-5820 interchange at Chauncey Town Road (SR 1735). Construction is scheduled to begin in FY 2022.
- R-5819 grade separation at Old Lake Road (SR 1740). Construction is scheduled to begin in FY 2022.

³ see Express Final Conceptual Design SPOT ID: H090287AE at connect.ncdot.gov/site/scoping/H090287AE

The majority of the proposed recommendations come from the following Feasibility Studies: Feasibility Study (FS) 9903A for the upgrade of the US 74 corridor to interstate standards from Whiteville to Leland, FS 1106B for the upgrade of US 74 to I-74 from Lumberton to Whiteville, FS R-3436 Reevaluation for I-74 from Lumberton to the SC state line, Express FS H090287 for the upgrade of the US 74 corridor to interstate standards from SR 1700 (Red Hill Rd) to the Brunswick County line. Resolutions of support to upgrade US 74 to interstate standards along the existing alignment have been drafted and adopted by a number of counties, municipalities and transportation planning and civic organizations along the corridor such as: Cape Fear RPO, Wilmington MPO, Brunswick County, Town of Burgaw, Town of St. James, Town of Surf City, City of Whiteville, and Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce.

US 701/US 701 Bypass Proposed Improvements from South Carolina State Line to NC 131

**Local ID: COLU0002-H
Last Updated: 8/1/18**

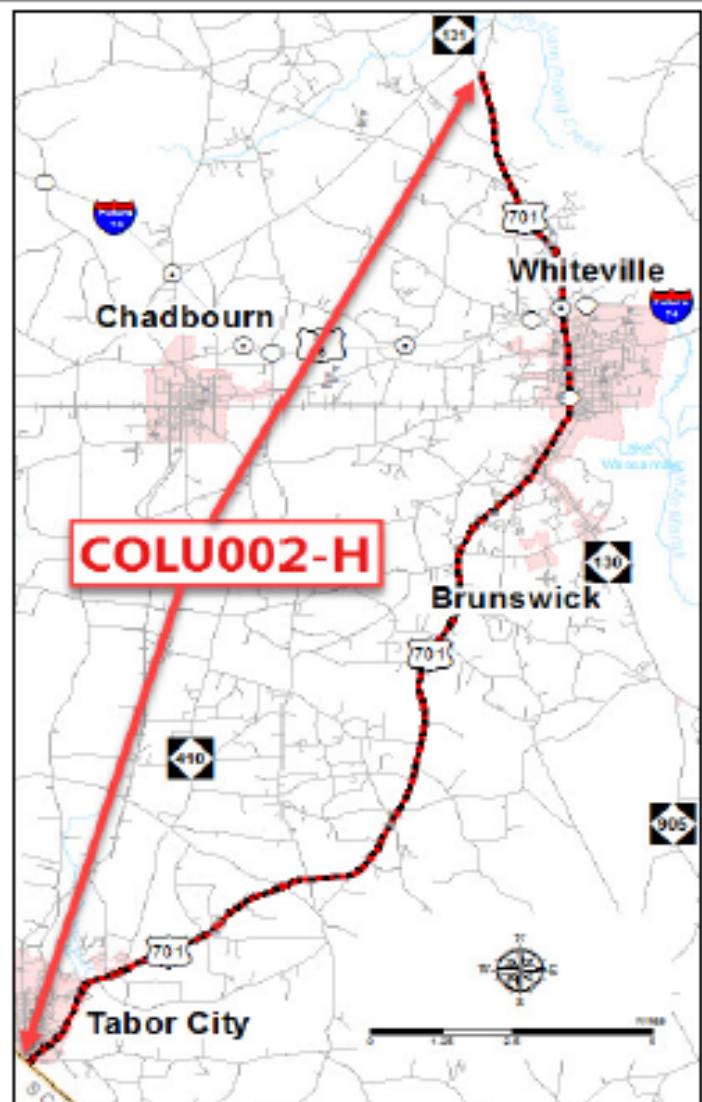
Identified Problem

US 701 is over capacity from Virgil Street (SR 1437) to Hay Street in Whiteville. The roadway experiences significant periods of peak congestion in summer months. The roadway is currently approaching capacity in the Tabor City area from Richard Wright Road (SR 1151) to the South Carolina state line and south of Whiteville from Pleasant Plains Church Road (SR 1166) to near Dogwood Avenue.

By 2045, traffic volumes on US 701 in the Tabor City area are expected to exceed roadway capacity from Vinegar Loop Road (SR 1313) to the South Carolina state line, as well as in Whiteville from Virgil Street (SR 1437) to Hay Street.

NOTE: R-5020A—Widen US 701 to multi-lanes from south of Pleasant Plains Road (SR 1166) to Virgil Avenue (SR 1437) project is programmed in the FY 2020-2029 STIP and construction is scheduled to begin in FY 2024.

R-5020B—Widen US 701 to multi-lanes from Virgil Avenue (SR 1437) to north of US 74/US 76 Bypass in Whiteville project is programmed in the FY 2020-2029 STIP and construction is scheduled to begin in FY 2021.



Justification of Need

US 701 is the primary north-south corridor connecting the County's two largest municipalities—Whiteville and Tabor City. It experiences periods of significant traffic congestion, in particular during the summer season as motorists use this route to travel to and from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. US 701 also connects to US 74/US 76, the county's primary east-west corridor connecting with I-95 to the west and to the metropolitan area of Wilmington to the east. During peak travel periods, traffic often backs up onto US 74 at the US 74-76/US 701 interchange, creating safety concerns. Also, the intersection of US 701 and US 74 Business (Washington Street) experiences the highest crash volumes in the county.

Vehicular traffic is expected to increase through the 2045 planning period. Seasonal traffic during the summer holidays and many weekends causes even more congestion on an already congested route. There is a need to improve mobility along the corridor. At the same time, there is a need for intersection improvements along the corridor to allow drivers improved access to easily get on or off US 701.

US 701 is a regionally tiered route in the NC Multimodal Investment Network (NCMIN). The NCMIN stratifies modal systems into three tiers of decreasing statewide and increasing local importance: statewide, regional, and subregional. The NCMIN reflects the state's overall development and sustainability goals.

R-5020, the widening of US 701 Bypass in Whiteville, is scheduled to begin construction in 2021. Widening is considered to be necessary to relieve current and future congestion on the roadway such that a minimum Level of Service (LOS) D can be achieved in order to help keep traffic moving and improve safety. The facility's current capacity ranges from 13,800 vehicles per day (vpd) to 17,800 vpd, and the proposed capacity is 49,000 vpd.

CTP Project Proposal

Project Description and Overview

The proposal (COLU0002-H) is to widen existing two lane segments and convert five lane segments of US 701 to a uniform, four-lane divided boulevard from NC 131 north of Whiteville to the South Carolina state line. The project would increase overall capacity and help to improve mobility and safety along the corridor.

Natural & Human Environmental Context

Since the upgrade of the roadway is predominantly on the existing right-of-way (ROW), the environmental impact would likely not jeopardize development of the project. Property would likely need to be acquired to obtain the necessary ROW.

Linkages to Other Plans

The upgrade of US 701 to a boulevard is consistent with the *2014 Tabor City CTP*.

Multi-modal Considerations

There are several existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian facilities along the corridor. Pedestrian signals and crosswalks are located at US 701 and Burkhead Street, crosswalks at Virgil Street, and a pedestrian underpass at Walter Street. Also, the city of Whiteville has agreed to fund construction of sidewalk for the entirety of R-5020, the widening of US 701 Bypass in Whiteville, where there is no existing sidewalk.

NC 87, R-2561

TIP Project R-2561 proposes to widen NC 87 from a two-lane facility to a four-lane divided facility from the Elizabethtown Bypass in Bladen County to US 74/US 76 in Columbus County. This route is a Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET) Connector on the National Highway System (NHS), a NC Priority Highway Freight Network route in the NC Statewide Multimodal Freight Plan, and Strategic Transportation Corridor K. The proposed project is approximately 30 miles in length, of which approximately 7 miles are located in Columbus County.

R-2561 is segmented into three parts. R-2561A is from Elizabethtown Bypass to Elwell Ferry Road (SR 1730) in Bladen County. R-2561B is from Elwell Ferry Road (SR 1730) in Bladen County to NC 11 in Columbus County. R-2561C is from NC 11 to US 74/US 76 in Columbus County.

R-2561C is included in the FY 2020-2029 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The purpose of the proposed project is to improve safety, mobility, and reduce travel time along the corridor. The project development process is underway and alternatives are being evaluated, including widening through Riegelwood or constructing a Riegelwood bypass on new location. The acquisition of right-of-way and utilities are currently scheduled to begin in 2029. Construction is currently unfunded.

R-2561CA is the construction of an interchange at the intersection of NC 87 and NC 11. This project is programmed in the current FY 2020-2029 State Transportation Improvement Program. Construction is scheduled to begin in FY 2021.

R-2561A and R-2561B, located mostly in Bladen County, are not funded in the current State Transportation Improvement Program.

NC 242 (Cerro Gordo Bypass), SPOT ID: H184020

This project proposes to construct a two-lane roadway on new location from NC 242 (Haynes Lennon Hwy) north of Cerro Gordo to SR 1352 (Cherry Grove Road) south of Cerro Gordo, including a grade-separated crossing of the RJ Corman rail line. The proposed bypass would be roughly 1.65 miles long with a recommended posted speed limit of 55 mph.

The primary purpose of the proposed project is to provide a north-south route between US 74/US76 and the South Carolina state line. As area roads continue to experience an increase in traffic volumes to and from the Myrtle Beach area, the proposed project will create an alternative travel route that will provide mobility, safety, connectivity and also help to ease current traffic congestion on area roads resulting from seasonal traffic.

NC 410 Bypass
from US 74/US 76 to NC 410

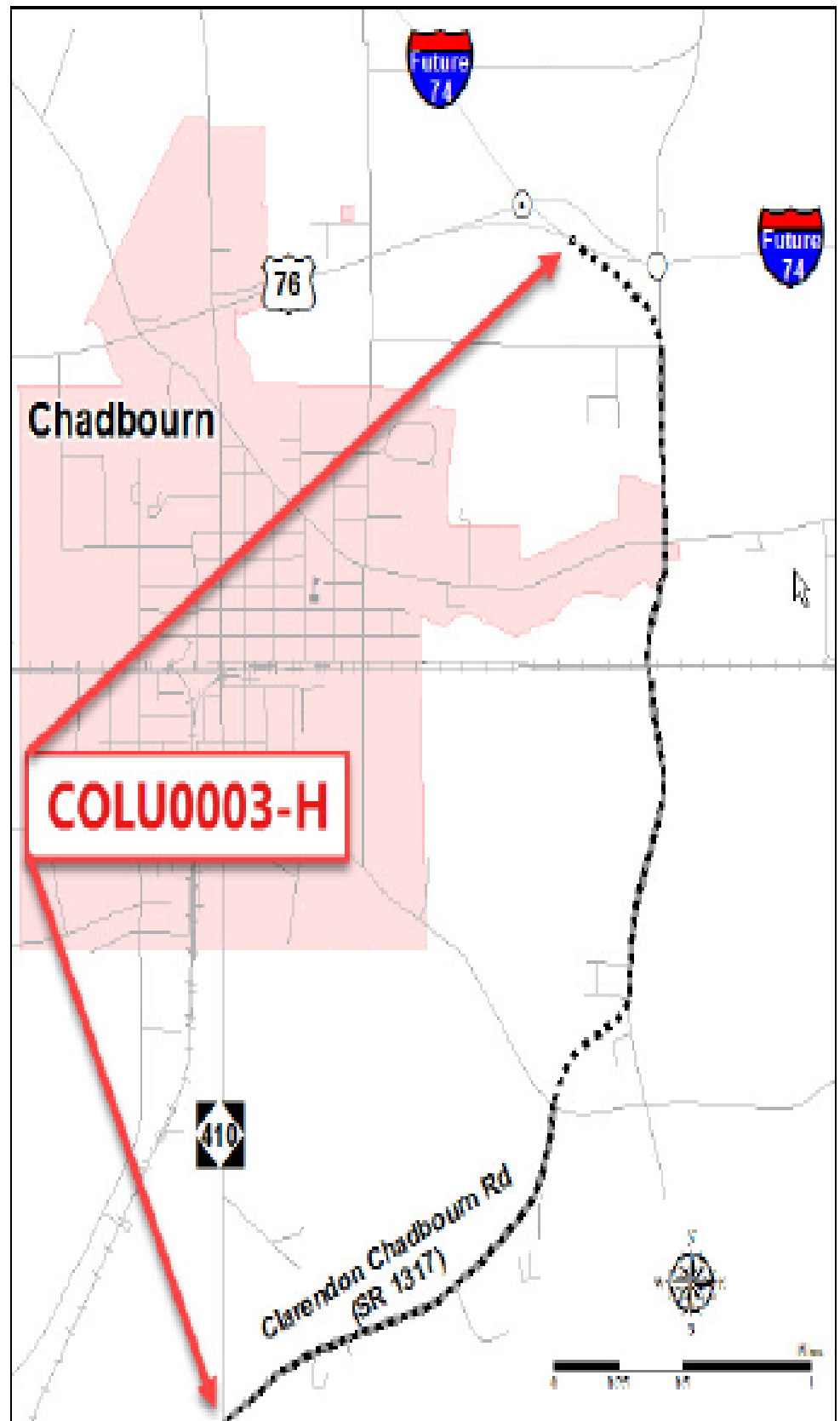
Local ID: COLU0003-H
Last Updated: 8/1/18

Identified Problem

Seasonal traffic is causing congestion on NC 410 (Joe Brown Hwy) in Chadbourn. Presently, NC 410 is approaching capacity in Chadbourn and is expected to be nearing or over capacity by 2045 from US 74/NC 130 to Institute Street (SR 1317).

Justification of Need

NC 410 is currently a two lane facility in Chadbourn from US 76 (Andrew Jackson Highway) to 3rd Avenue and three lanes from Thompson Street to Smith Street. The increase in vehicular traffic in Chadbourn will be mostly due to through traffic as drivers head to and from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and other destinations south.



Average annual daily traffic (AADT) for the base year ranges from 7,500 to 11,000. 2017 AADT was also analyzed—this validated the current recommendation proposed. Chadbourn has also expressed interest in re-establishing on-street parking on NC 410 and constructing an NC 410 Bypass would assist in this effort. Based on the historical growth, vehicular traffic is expected to increase through the 2045 planning period. In 2045, the AADT is projected to range from 11,000 to 15,000.

CTP Proposal

The CTP proposal SPOT ID: H170044 (COLU0003-H) provides a bypass route for those traveling through Chadbourn. The CTP recommendation is proposed in four segments which make up the Chadbourn Bypass. They are:

1. **US 74/76 Interchange:** Upgrade the interchange on US 74 at US 76 to enable exit ramps to Peacock Road (SR 1005)
2. **Peacock Road (SR 1005):** Utilize the existing roadway from the US 74/76 interchange to a new connector road north of Old Pine Log Road (SR 1429)
3. **New Connector Road:** A new two-lane connector road from Peacock Road (SR 1005) to Old Pine Log Road (SR 1429) at Clarendon Chadbourn Road (SR 1317)
4. **Clarendon Chadbourn Road (SR 1317):** Utilize the existing two lane facility from Old Pine Log Road (SR 1429) to NC 410

Relationship to Land Use Plans

The land use along the new facility is zoned as residential and agricultural. The interest of the Town of Chadbourn is to create a balanced, flexible, and economically viable pattern of land development within the Town of Chadbourn's planning jurisdiction. The Town of Chadbourn can mitigate any negative impacts of new travel patterns around the Central Business District by maintaining residential and agricultural zoning along the bypass corridor and minimizing commercial development outside of the Central Business District.

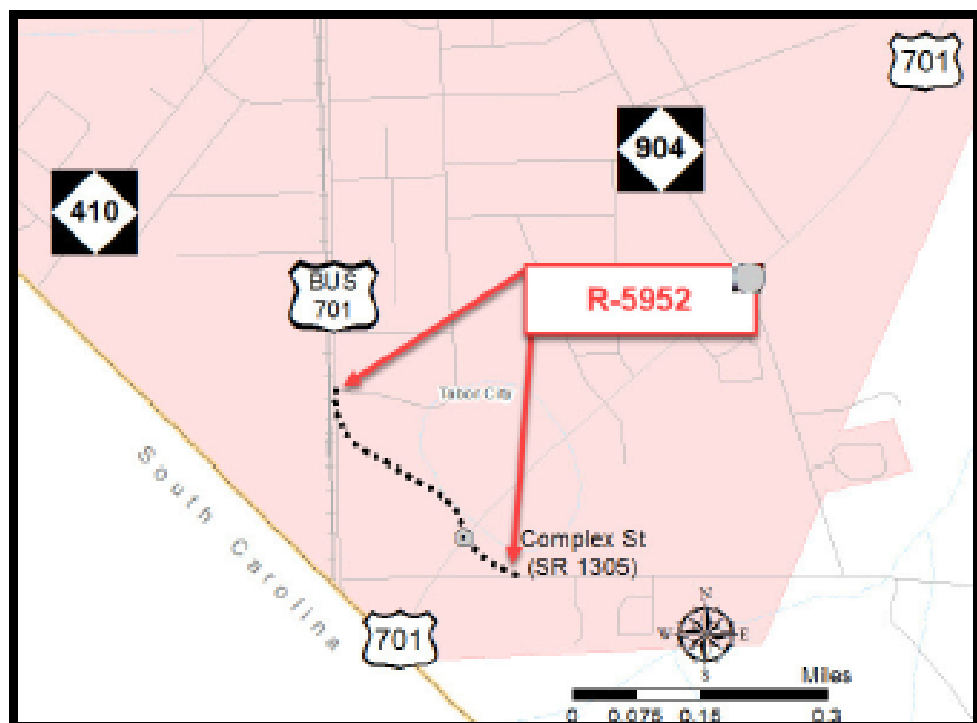
Multi-modal Considerations

No multi-modal recommendations are proposed along the project corridor; however, establishing an NC 410 Bypass is expected to enable the existing NC 410 within the Chadbourn town limits to be designated as NC 410 Business and allow Chadbourn to work with NCDOT to make the roadway more pedestrian-friendly and to potentially reintroduce on-street parking in the Central Business District.

NC 904--US 701 Business (Hickman Road)/Complex St Realignment, R-5952

US 701 Business in Tabor City begins at the intersection of US 701 Bypass at East 5th Street and continues southbound on Hickman Road through the Tabor City Central Business District to the South Carolina state line.

The proposed project relocates the portion of US 701 Business (Hickman Road) from Sandwall Street to the South Carolina state line. It is recommended to relocate this section to meet with the US 701 Bypass just north of Complex Street. Complex Street (SR 1305) is a minor thoroughfare that connects motorists to US 701 Bypass and US 701 Business (Hickman Road). It also realigns the existing intersection in order to improve the sight distance. Complex Street (SR 1305) and US 701 Bypass intersect at a skewed angle. The relocated facility would be a two-lane major thoroughfare.



The town has expressed safety concerns with the US 701 Bypass & Complex Street (SR 1305) intersection. One main concern is the northern sight distance on Complex Street (SR 1305). The other concern is the nearby US 701 Bypass and US 701 Business merge just south of the state line. The North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) Transportation, Mobility & Safety (TMS) Division has records of twenty-one crashes at the US 701 Bypass & Complex Street (SR 1305) intersection from 2014 to 2018.

Included in the project proposal is the conversion of the remaining US 701 Business (Hickman Street) to a local road, which starts at Sandwall Street and dead ends at the South Carolina border. This local road would also have bicycle and sidewalk access. The remaining portion of Complex Street (SR 1305), west of the US 701 Bypass, would become the ramps for the proposed interchange. The realignment would improve mobility and safety in the southern portion of the Tabor City planning area.

The purpose of this project is to reroute NC 904 traffic to the proposed alignment and interchange. With a proposed grade separation at US 701 and NC 904, it is anticipated that traffic operations on US 701 Bypass would improve, producing an estimated travel time savings of 73,000 hours over a 10 year period.

This project is programmed in the 2020-2029 State Transportation Improvement Program, with right-of-way acquisition scheduled for FY 2025 and construction beginning in FY 2027.

Figure 10A: US 701 BYP and US 701 BUS (Hickman Road) Merge



Figure 10B—Project proposal for Figure 10A currently under study subject to change (NOT FINAL)



**Legion Drive Extension
from Legion Drive (SR 1439) to US 701**

**Local ID: COLU0004-H
Last Updated: 8/1/18**

Identified Problem

Presently, there is limited north-south connectivity on the west side of Whiteville. The primary purpose of this proposal is to improve connectivity and increase mobility and accessibility by providing an additional north-south connection west of US 701.

Justification of Need

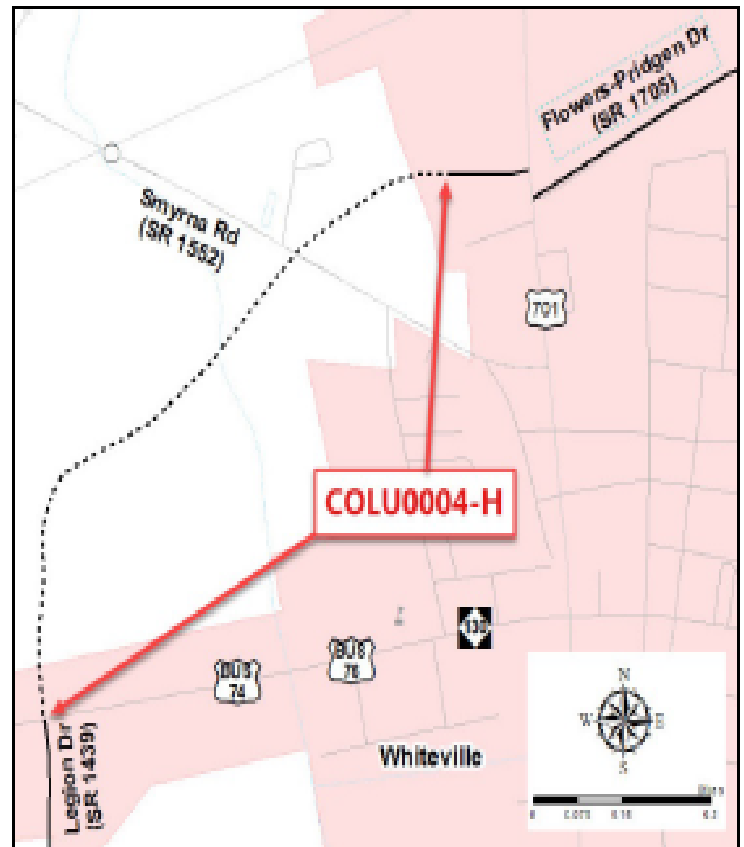
Several major public facilities are located on the west side of Whiteville, including the Columbus County Bus Garage, NCDOT Driver's License Office, Columbus County Department of Aging, Columbus County Sheriff's Office, Legion Memorial Stadium, and Columbus County Public Transportation Department. The proposed connection is intended to improve access to all of those agencies and reduce congestion and crashes at the intersection of US 701 (JK Powell Blvd) and US 74 Business (Washington/Jefferson St). The project is also intended to benefit the Columbus County Transportation On-Demand Service and Greyhound Intercity Bus Service, which stops in Whiteville twice a day.

CTP Project Proposal

The proposed project (COLU0004-H) is to construct a new two-lane extension of Legion Drive (SR 1439) from its current terminus to US 701. It is recommended that the proposed project be segmented at Smyrna Rd (SR 1552) in order to better reach the ultimate goal of completing the project. Local decision makers are strongly encouraged to explore the option of using local funds to construct the segment from Legion Drive (SR 1439) to Smyrna Road (SR 1552). Constructing the segment of Legion Drive from Smyrna Road (SR 1552) to US 701 may not be necessary until the property bisected by the corridor is developed. This segment of Legion Drive may be constructed through the subdivision and development process.

Relationship to Land Use Plans

The future land use along the corridor is classified as rural residential, office & institutional, and commercial mixed use.



Multi-modal Considerations

No recommendations for bicycle, pedestrian or fixed-route public transportation facilities are proposed along the proposed project, as it is located primarily outside of Whiteville's municipal limits.

Hallsboro Road (SR 1001) Realignment, Local ID: COLU0005-H

Hallsboro Road (SR 1001) is a minor thoroughfare that connects motorists to US 74/US 76, NC 214, and NC 130. The CTP project proposal (COLU0008-H) recommends realigning Hallsboro Road (SR 1001) and Soles Road (SR 1972) intersection in order to improve north-south connectivity and allow free flow traffic on Hallsboro Rd.

Old Tram Road (SR 1213) Realignment, Local ID: COLU0006-H

Old Tram Road (SR 1213) is a minor thoroughfare that connects motorists to NC 905. The CTP project proposal (COLU0009-H) recommends realigning Old Tram Road (SR 1213) and Poley Bridge Church Road (SR 1212) intersection in order to improve connectivity and sight distances.

Midway Road (SR 1435/SR 1459) Realignment, Local ID: COLU0007-H

Midway Road (SR 1435) is a minor thoroughfare that connects motorists to US 74/US 76/NC 130 and Old Pine Log Road (SR 1429). The CTP project proposal (COLU0007-H) recommends aligning the offset intersection at Georgia Pacific Rd (SR 1436) in order to improve connectivity and mobility for north-south travel.

Minor Improvements (Modernization)

The following facilities are considered narrow roads recommended to be upgraded to standard geometrics (See Appendix D).

US 76, Local ID: COLU0008-H: from Hamer Street to Cerro Gordo Town Limits.

US 76, Local ID: COLU0009-H: from Fair Bluff Town Limits to South Carolina line.

NC 410, Local ID: COLU00010-H: from Bladen County line to US 74.

NC 410, Local ID: COLU00011-H: from Clarendon Chadbourn Road (SR 1317) to US 701.

NC 904, Local ID: COLU00012-H: from Fair Bluff Town Limits to Carolina Road (SR 1303).

NC 904, Local ID: COLU00013-H: Complex Street (SR 1305) to Brunswick County line.

NC 905, Local ID: COLU00014-H: NC 130 to South Carolina line.

Will Inman Road (SR 1006), Local ID: COLU0015-H: from NC 904 to the eastern Tabor City planning boundary.

Old Stake Road (SR 1300), Local ID: COLU0016-H: from Canal Street (SR 1367) to Emerson Church Road (SR 1310).

Ten Mile Road (SR 1308), Local ID: COLU0017-H: from Emerson Church Road (SR 1310) to the northern Tabor City planning boundary.

Emerson Church Road (SR 1310), Local ID: COLU0018-H: from Old Stake Road (SR 1300) to Ten Mile Road (SR 1308).

Fronis Strickland Road (SR 1347), Local ID: COLU0019-H: from NC 904 to the South Carolina State line.

Cherry Street/Cherry Grove Road (SR 1352), Local ID: COLU0020-H: from Rough and Ready Road (SR 1004) to W. Railroad Street (SR 1403).

Hinsons Crossroads (SR 1356), Local ID: COLU0021-H: from US 76 to NC 904.

W. Railroad Street (SR 1403), Local ID: COLU0022-H: from Cherry Street (SR 1352) to Church Street (SR 1407).

Church Street (SR 1407), Local ID: COLU0023-H: from W. Railroad Street (SR 1403) to US 76.

Hallsboro Road (SR 1001), SPOT ID: 171624: from US 74/76 to NC 130—widen to 32' typical section (two 12' lanes with 4' paved shoulders) along SR 1001 Hallsboro Road. Work to include widening right-of-way to 100 feet, improve roadway geometrics and intersection safety improvements.

Minor Improvements- Planned Bond Referendum (Modernization)

The following facilities are curb and gutter improvements that are proposed by the town of Tabor City for modernization as growth occurs. These facilities are planned to be improved through a local bond referendum.

Anderson Street, Local ID: COLU0024-H: from Garrell Street to US 701 Business (Hickman Road).

Bell Street, Local ID: COLU0025-H: from NC 904 (Pireway Road) to US 701 Business (Hickman Road).

East Eighth Street, Local ID: COLU0026-H: from Stake Road (SR 1300) to North Main Street (SR 1304).

Heath Street, Local ID: COLU0027-H: from Jones Street to Stake Road (SR 1300).

Jones Street, Local ID: COLU0028-H: from US 701 Business/NC 410 (East 5th Street) to Heath Street.

Live Oak Street, Local ID: COLU0029-H: from NC 904 (Pireway Road) to Williams Street.

Orange Street, Local ID: COLU0030-H: from US 701 Business/NC 410 (East 5th Street) to East 4th Street.

Railroad Avenue (SR 1425), Local ID: COLU0031-H: from Elm Street to Chadbourn Town Limits.

Stake Road (SR 1300), Local ID: COLU0032-H: from US 701 Business/NC 410 (East 5th Street) to East 8th Street.

West Fourth Street, Local ID: COLU0033-H: from Lewis Street to Bay Street.

Williams Street, Local ID: COLU0034-H: from US 701 Business/NC 410 (East 5th Street) to Live Oak Street.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION & RAIL

A public transportation and rail analysis and assessment was completed during the development of the CTP. Columbus County Transportation (CCT) provides demand-response community transportation in the County. Greyhound provides intercity bus service between Charlotte and Wilmington. Greyhound's only bus stop in Columbus County is in Whiteville at the Columbus County Transportation Building on Legion Drive (SR 1439). In addition to Charlotte and Wilmington, the Greyhound route serves Lumberton, Fayetteville, Laurinburg, Rockingham, Wadesboro, and Monroe. Cities like Wilmington, Lumberton, and Fayetteville offer passengers access to additional Greyhound destinations and passengers can access Amtrak passenger rail and MegaBus from Fayetteville.

Two railroads are operating in Columbus County. RJ Corman Railroad owns and operates its Carolina Lines (RJCS) in western Columbus County. It connects from Chadbourn to Tabor City and southward to Myrtle Beach and from Chadbourn to Fair Bluff and westward to the CSX interchange in Mullins, SC. The railroad received a TIGER grant to rehabilitate the lines and is making significant progress. CSX owns and operates its SE line through the eastern part of Columbus County. That line is a Strategic Rail Corridor Network (STRACNET) route serving the Port of Wilmington and the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point (MOTSU).

Proposed Southeastern Passenger Rail, Local ID: COLU0001-R

Southeastern Passenger Rail Service is proposed for construction and implementation of service running from Raleigh to Wilmington via Selma and Fayetteville using the NS H Line, CSX A Line, and CSX SE Line. It is also a Passenger Program (#3.4 SENC Service Extension) in the State Rail Plan, planned for implementation in 2020-2035.

Proposed Whiteville to Malmo Rail Reestablishment, Local ID: COLU0002-R

An abandoned rail line from Whiteville to Malmo is proposed for reestablishment between the RJ Corman Line and CSX for delivery through the Port of Wilmington. This is a strategic economic development opportunity to complete a link in the state freight rail network. This new link could enable greater frequency and quantity of cargo shipments to the Port of Wilmington which could precipitate cost savings, enhance market access, and generate other supply chain efficiencies that would benefit North Carolina industries and the overall economy. In particular, this access could serve an industry seeking to export biomass for use in the international energy market in Whiteville. The interested firm is expected to employ 200 employees, which would correlate to approximately 500,000 tons of biomass produced annually. Several rail alternatives were studied. Please refer to NCDOT Project FS-1706A for the full report.

Proposed Tabor City Train Depot Building, Local ID: COLU0003-R

The proposed project includes the construction of a new train depot building in downtown Tabor City on a parcel of land on Main Street between 5th and 6th Street. This depot would be located on the existing RJCS (ACH) rail line.

It is part of a Master Plan to revitalize the downtown area of Tabor City to create jobs and increase tourism. The purpose of the new building will be to service trains which will depart from Conway, SC and arrive in Tabor City to bring in tourists.

The proposed train depot building will be designed in a traditional train depot style. It is estimated that the construction of the new train depot building will create approximately 17 new jobs in Tabor City and increase local revenue through tourism. The addition of this train depot is expected to increase retail spending locally and through tourism and has the potential to attract new businesses in the area.

Proposed Conway to Tabor City Passenger Rail, Local ID: COLU0004-R

This proposal is part of a Master Plan to revitalize the downtown area of Tabor City to create jobs and increase tourism. The passenger rail service would depart from Conway, SC and arrive in Tabor City to bring in tourists. As part of the Master Plan, Tabor City will also plan several street improvements, improve several parks in the area, and rehabilitate several buildings in order to attract tourism. The idea is that a train will depart from Conway, SC and arrive in Tabor City around midday with a layover of 90 minutes to two hours before returning to Conway. The train is estimated to carry approximately 12,500 adults annually a year by the fourth year of operation. There is also the potential for excursions hosted by the Tabor City community. It is estimated that a locally-operated excursion train ride, which would leave Tabor City and return to Tabor City without stopping, could carry approximately 5,000 adults annually.

Proposed Grade Separations

COLU0005-R: CSX (SE) Line at NC 11.

COLU0006-R: CSX (SE) Line at Sand Hole Rd (SR 1846).

COLU0007-R: RJCS (ACH) Line at the proposed NC 410 bypass along Peacock Rd (SR 1005).

COLU00078-R: RJCS (AC) Line at the proposed Cerro Gordo Bypass.

Proposed Fixed Bus Route, Local ID: COLU0001-T

Currently, there are no fixed route bus services within Columbus County. Whiteville is the only area expected to be feasible for fixed-route bus service within the planning period, due to costs and supply and demand. Many residents in Columbus County commute to Whiteville each day for work, shopping, county offices, medical appointments, and other purposes.

The proposed project recommends that Columbus County Transportation pursue development of a fixed route bus service in Whiteville, serving destinations like: SECC, County Courthouse, City offices, downtown, Post Office, etc. Refer to the Public Transportation & Rail CTP Map (Figure 1, Sheet 3B) for more information.

Proposed Multimodal Connector Facility, Local ID: COLU0002-T

The intermodal connector service is existing. Customers can currently drive (and park), take demand response transit, walk, bike, etc. to the CCT office, where they can catch the Greyhound to Wilmington, Lumberton, Fayetteville, or Charlotte. However, an upgrade is proposed to expand the existing building to include a waiting room, restroom, vending area, and ticket kiosk.

BICYCLE

According to the *WalkBikeNC North Carolina Statewide Pedestrian and Bike Plan*, bicycling has been part of transportation in North Carolina for more than 100 years. Bicyclists helped champion North Carolina's "Good Roads" movement in the early 1900's. Formal planning for bicycle accommodation in North Carolina began with passage of the Bicycle and Bikeway Act in 1974. The Columbus County CTP will help continue bicycling as an alternative form of transportation.

Many of the recommendations in this plan came from the 2017 Cape Fear Regional Bicycle Plan (capefearcog.org/regionalbikeplan). The recommended bicycle map includes several improvements needed to provide adequate, safe, and desirable facilities for use by bicyclists. The bicycle facilities provide connectivity and access to key destinations in and around the county and municipalities such as schools, park and recreation facilities, retail, grocery, and others.

In accordance with American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), roadways identified as bicycle routes should incorporate the following standards as roadway improvements are made and funding is available:

- Curb & gutter sections require at minimum 5 foot bike lanes or 14 foot shoulder lanes.
- Shoulder sections require at minimum 4 foot paved shoulders.
- All bridges along the roadways where bike facilities are recommended shall be equipped with 54 inch railings.

Refer to CTP mapping (Figure 1, Sheet 4) and Appendix C for more information.

PEDESTRIAN

The Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan⁵ includes North Carolina's vision statement for walking and biking: "North Carolina is a place that incorporates walking and bicycling into daily life, promoting safe access to destinations, physical activity opportunities for improved health, increased mobility for better transportation efficiency, retention and attraction of economic development, and resource conservation for better environmental stewardship of our state."

Two notable highlights are the newly built Lake Waccamaw spillway pedestrian bridge and the planned sidewalk extensions along the US 701 Bypass (JK Powell Blvd) widening project (R-5020) in Whiteville.

The recommended projects on the Columbus County CTP pedestrian map identify pedestrian improvements identified through the CTP planning process and from the 2015 Whiteville Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan, the 2015 Tabor City CTP, and the 2010 Chadbourne Safe Routes to School Action Plan. The recommended projects for Columbus County will aid in meeting North Carolina's vision for pedestrians.

Refer to CTP mapping (Figure 1, Sheet 5) and Appendix C for more information.


MULTI-USE PATH

The NCDOT envisions that all citizens of North Carolina and visitors to the state should be able to walk and bicycle safely and conveniently to their desired destinations with reasonable access to roadways. On-road bicycle facilities serve a specific purpose, as do sidewalks, but multi-use paths offer a unique combination of the two. They cater to both modes of transportation, while typically offering an off-road, safer, more recreational experience.


The purpose of the recommended multi-use paths in Columbus County is to provide an adequate, safe, and desirable facility that both pedestrians and bicyclists can use for local connectivity within the planning area.

Refer to either the Bicycle CTP map (Figure 1, sheet 4) or the Pedestrian CTP map (Figure 1, Sheet 5), and Appendix C for more information.

ncdot.gov
DRAFT Columbus County CTP



NORTH CAROLINA
Department of Transportation



Columbus County Comprehensive Transportation Plan DRAFT Maps and Recommendations

Patrick Flanagan

July 18, 2022

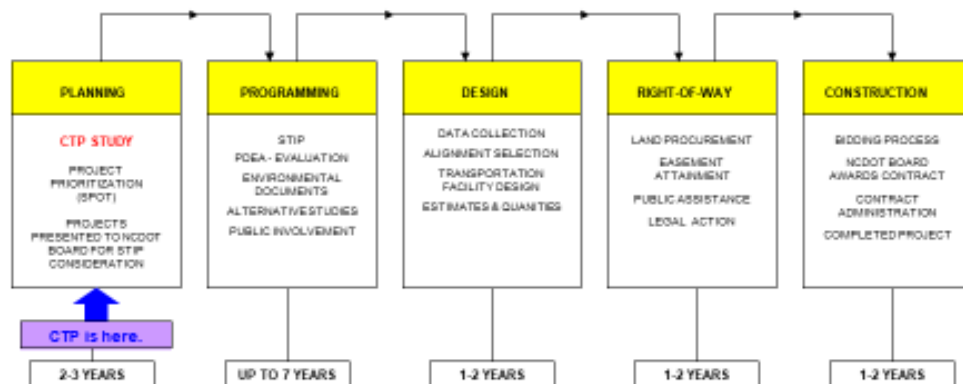
Comprehensive Transportation Plan

- Long-Range, multimodal transportation plan (highway, public transportation/rail, bicycle and pedestrian).
- Developed cooperatively with NCDOT, the RPO/MPO, County and Municipal stakeholders.
- Emphasizes the local land development plan as well as community and statewide goals such as the protection of Strategic Corridors.
- Only a **Concept Plan**
- Not fiscally constrained

*It is important to note that CTP proposals are **Concepts** and any project will go through a rigorous environmental process before final alignments or designs can be determined.*

2

Typical Stages of NCDOT Project Development



3

Highway Map



4

Highway Recommendations

- **US 74 (Future I-74)**
 - Improve to Interstate Standards
 - From Robeson County Line to Brunswick County Line
- **US 701**
 - Widen to 4 lane boulevard
 - From NC 131 to SC State Line
- **NC 242 (Cerro Gordo Bypass)**
 - Construct two-lane roadway on new location
 - From NC 242 (Haynes Lennon Hwy) to SR 1352 (Cedar Grove Church Rd)
- **NC 904 (Complex Street) and US 701 Business (Hickman Road)**
 - Construct realignment with an interchange

5

Highway Recommendations

- **NC 410 Bypass (Peacock Road and Clarendon Chadbourn Road)**
 - **US 74/76 Interchange:** Upgrade the interchange on US 74 at US 76 to enable exit ramps to Peacock Road (SR 1005) US 74/76 to NC 410
 - **Peacock Road (SR 1005):** Utilize the existing roadway from the US 74/76 interchange to a new connector road north of Old Pine Log Road (SR 1429)
 - **New Connector Road:** A new two-lane connector road from Peacock Road (SR 1005) to Old Pine Log Road (SR 1429) at Clarendon Chadbourn Road (SR 1317)
 - **Clarendon Chadbourn Road (SR 1317):** Utilize the existing two-lane facility from Old Pine Log Road (SR 1429) to NC 410
- **NC 87 (Old Stage Road)**
 - Widen to 4 lane boulevard
 - From Bladen County Line to US 74/76/Delco Bypass

6

Public Transit & Rail Map



7

Public Transportation Recommendations

- **Fixed Bus Route Service: (COLU0001-T)**
 - pursue development of a fixed route bus service in Whiteville
- **Multimodal Connector Facility (COLU0002-T)**
 - Expanding the existing building to include a waiting room, restroom, vending area, and ticket kiosk

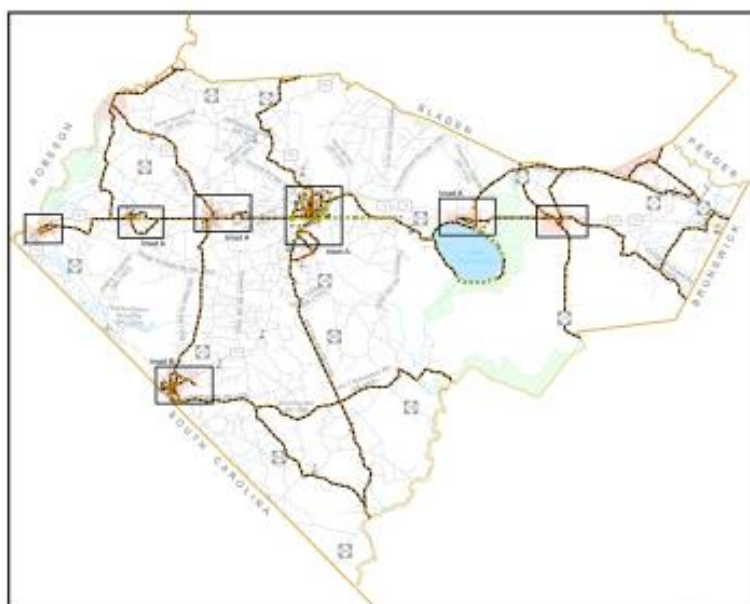
8

Rail Recommendations

- **Proposed Southeastern Passenger Rail, (COLU0001-R)**
 - service running from Raleigh to Wilmington via Selma and Fayetteville using the NS H Line, CSX A Line, and CSX SE Line
- **Proposed Whiteville to Malmo Rail Reestablishment, (COLU0002-R)**
 - Reestablish abandoned rail line from Whiteville to Malmo between the RJ Corman Line and CSX for delivery through the Port of Wilmington
- **Proposed Grade Separations**
 - **COLU0005-R:** CSX (SE) Line at NC 11
 - **COLU0006-R:** CSX (SE) Line at Sand Hole Rd (SR 1846)
 - **COLU0007-R:** RJCS (ACH) Line at the proposed NC 410 bypass along Peacock Rd (SR 1005)
 - **COLU00078-R:** RJCS (AC) Line at the proposed Cerro Gordo Bypass

9

Bicycle Map



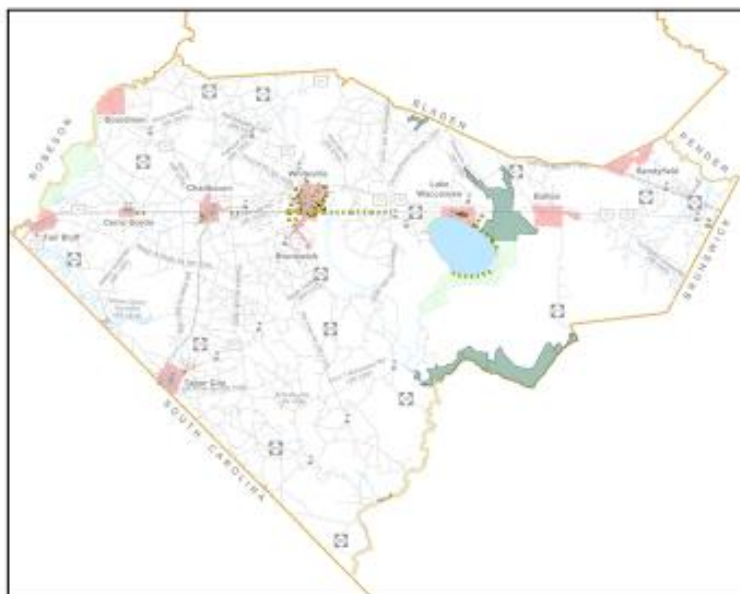
10

Bicycle Recommendations

- **On Road Bicycle Facilities**
 - Recommend Upgrade Existing Facilities
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • From Boardman to Bladen County | • From Bolton to Brunswick County |
| • From Boardman to Cerro Gordo | • From Lake Waccamaw to Sandyfield |
| • From Boardman to Chadbourn | • From Sandyfield to Bladen County |
| • From Fair Bluff to Bolton | • From Sandyfield to Brunswick County |
| • From Chadbourn to Tabor City | • From Whiteville to Bladen County |
| • From Tabor City to Brunswick County | • From Whiteville to Brunswick County |

11

Multi-Use Path Map



12

Pedestrian Recommendations

- Multi-Use Path/Greenway Facilities
 - Recommend New Facilities
- In Chadbourn
- In Tabor City
- In Whiteville
- Around Lake Waccamaw
- Along NC 214 to connect Chadbourn to Lake Waccamaw through Whiteville

13

What happens next?

- Public Comment Period, including Public Workshop Sessions
 - 4 meetings across the County
- Final Columbus County Steering Committee Meeting
- Municipal and County CTP Adoptions
- Cape Fear RPO Endorsement

14

ncdot.gov DRAFT Columbus County CTP

Questions and Contact Information

- Phil Geary, PE – Transportation Engineer III
919-707-0930
pageary@ncdot.gov
- Darius Sturdivant – Division Planning Engineer
910-364-0600
ddsturdivant@ncdot.gov
- Patrick Flanagan – Cape Fear Rural Planning Organization
910-746-8758
pflanagan@capefearcog.org

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Agenda Item #11: ADMINISTRATION – PRESENTATION ON THE NC WORKS COMMISSION WORKFORCE ALIGNMENT RECOMMENDATION & ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION:

Eddie Madden, County Manager, requested Board approval.



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

April 8, 2022

Dear Elected Official:

For several months, the NCWorks Commission, our state workforce development board, has been studying opportunities to better align our local workforce development board system with our state's economic development system. I am writing to share the recommendations from this study with you and encourage you to use this information to help guide efforts to better serve employers and jobseekers in your own area.

The NCWorks Commission is made up of private industry leaders along with partners in education and workforce development. On March 30th, the Commission voted to approve recommendations to realign the existing service areas of local workforce boards. Along with that recommendation, the Commission has provided eight guiding principles to help local leaders in considering changes to your local workforce area. **I strongly endorse this action**, and I ask that you reexamine your current workforce board alignment and encourage you to seriously consider whether your alignment can be improved to best reflect the principles outlined by these recommendations and the needs of your communities, businesses, and jobseekers.

I ask that you review the attached document and give careful consideration to the Commission's recommendations, which are enclosed. This invitation represents an opportunity to improve upon our state's overall effectiveness in delivering workforce services, responding to the needs of businesses and jobseekers in your region. We encourage you to engage in discussion with the other elected officials within your current local area workforce development board and the surrounding counties.

Despite challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic, North Carolina has enjoyed tremendous economic success attracting all kinds of jobs in recent years. As we emerge from the pandemic, it is critical that we bring economic and workforce development together even more closely than in the past. Our workforce is the key driver of economic success today, and we owe it to our business community to ensure they are able to find the trained, qualified workers they need to continue that success. If you help us in this way, we will be able to bring more jobs and investment to all corners of North

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WWW.GOVERNOR.NC.GOV

April 8, 2022
Page 2

Carolina, leaving no region behind, and this alignment initiative will help keep North Carolina competitive, prosperous and growing.

My team and I look forward to collaborating with you. I encourage you to contact Chet Mottershead, Assistant Secretary of Workforce Solutions at chet.mottershead@nccommerce.com, to discuss next steps and any questions you may have. Thank you for your leadership and service to your community.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,



Roy Cooper

Enclosure

MEMORANDUM

Note: The NCWorks Commission voted, during a special meeting on March 30, 2022, to approve this memorandum as an expression of the considered opinion of the entire Commission.

TO: Chair Tom Rabon, NCWorks Commission
FROM: NCWorks Commission Governance and System Alignment Committee
DATE: February 18, 2022
SUBJECT: Workforce Development Board System Alignment Study

Overview

On November 10, 2021, at the NCWorks Commission quarterly business meeting, Chair Tom Rabon, with the support of Governor Roy Cooper, requested that the Governance and System Alignment Committee (The Committee) conduct a study to understand the opportunities to realign the workforce system, specifically the arrangement of our local workforce development boards, to better support economic development in the state. The Committee's mission stems from goal four of the NCWorks Commission strategic plan – to *Promote System Access, Alignment, Integration, and Modernization*. North Carolina's workforce system includes multiple boards, agencies, programs, and funders. Collaboration, policy alignment, systemic communication, integration, and modernization of the workforce system will ensure a strong and healthy system that can adapt to an ever-changing economy. In addition, federal and state law acknowledge the regional alignment of workforce and economic development. Federal law requires consideration of regional economic development areas for designating new workforce development board local areas. (*see* WIOA §106(b)(1)(B)(ii) and 20 CFR § 679.240(a)(2)). State law encourages the Department of Commerce (home of the Division of Workforce Solutions, which administers the State's programs and WIOA) to align activities with Prosperity Zones to support economic development (*see e.g.*, N.C.G.S. § 143B-28.1; N.C. Sess. Law 2014-18, s. 3.1; and N.C. Sess. Law 2014-18, s. 4.2).

Over the past decade, across three gubernatorial administrations, three other studies explored opportunities to improve the existing workforce system and provided recommendations for how to realign the system. The first was conducted by the Program Evaluation Division of the General Assembly in 2012 (2012), the second by UWC Strategic Services on Unemployment and Workers' Compensation in 2014 (2014) and the third by graduate students in Duke's Master of Public Policy Program in 2020 (2020) for Tom White, Director of Economic Development Partnership at NC State University.

These reports identified similar challenges with the current workforce system, including:

- Local workforce development boards are not aligned in the most efficient manner with economic development (2012, 2014, 2020).
- Local workforce development boards have large variation in the number of counties and the number of individuals that they serve (2012, 2020).¹

- Local workforce development boards are not aligned with other workforce development programs like community colleges (2012, 2014).
- Single-county local workforce development board areas do not reflect shared commuter and economic activity (2012, 2020).²

Study Method

The Committee conducted this study between November 2021 and February 2022. The study was guided by the following questions:

1. Are there opportunities to better align the existing workforce system with economic development activity in the state?
2. If so, what guiding principles would best support this realignment?

The Committee collected data focused on commuting patterns, labor and economic trends, and stakeholder perspectives from a diversity of sources including the Department of Commerce Labor and Economic Analysis Division (LEAD) and the Division of Workforce Solutions. The Committee conducted in-depth interviews and surveys with workforce, economic development, and education leaders across the state. A full description of the study timeline, methods, and organizations who participated in interviews and surveys can be found in Attachment A.

Recommendation

Based on the evidence gathered as part of this study, the Committee recommends a realignment of the existing service areas of local workforce development boards, in order to promote alignment with economic development activities in the state. The Committee identified eight guiding principles to support local leaders in their realignment efforts.

Guiding Principles

1. **Seek to better the lives of North Carolinians through realignment:** Support changes to the workforce development board system that will prioritize access to services for jobseekers and employers, efficient use of available resources, and responsiveness to local and regional needs.
2. **Expand local workforce development board access:** Reduce the number of single-county workforce development boards to better reflect labor market and commuting patterns.
3. **Decrease redundancy among local workforce development boards within economic development areas:** Minimize the overlap of workforce development boards across multiple Prosperity Zones and, as applicable, Councils of Government, to better promote alignment with economic development activities.
4. **Better align community college and workforce development board service areas:** Minimize the overlap of workforce development boards across multiple community college service areas.
5. **Match local workforce development board outreach to area jobseeker and business customer needs:** Maximize the average percentage of individuals who live and work in the same region to be more reflective of current labor and commuter patterns.
6. **Ensure consistent service, strong visibility, and sufficient capacity among local workforce development boards:** Support policies that will strengthen the visibility and capacity of workforce development boards as well as partnerships between workforce and economic development entities to make certain that employers and jobseekers receive consistent service and response across the state.
7. **Allow flexibility for administrative entities:** Support existing administrative entities, including Councils of Government (COG), non-profits, and city/county governments, to

remain in their administrative role, even if newly redrawn workforce area boundaries are different from previous boundaries.

8. **Consider further review of the broader workforce system:** While the role of workforce boards is central in workforce development, they are part of a broader system which may benefit from additional changes to further promote alignment and efficiency.

Conclusion

As North Carolina continues to focus on an equitable recovery out of the global COVID-19 pandemic, a strong, robust workforce development board system is essential. By better aligning workforce development boards with economic development activity, North Carolina can enhance access to services for jobseekers, provide greater support for employers, and increase prosperity for all. The Committee encourages local leaders to review and act in accordance with the principles (listed above) to develop a cohesive workforce board system that supports both local and statewide goals around workforce and economic development.

Acknowledgements

The Committee would like to thank the numerous individuals from across the state who engaged in this study. The diversity of perspectives and experiences shared throughout this process were essential in shaping this recommendation. The Committee would also like to thank members of the NCWorks Commission staff for their support.

Attachments

Attachment A – Study Timeline and Data Collection

4

Attachment A. Study Timeline and Data Collection

Study Timeline

The Governance and System Alignment Committee (The Committee) met in November to identify the initial scope and develop a timeline to meet the initial charge of delivering a report to the full NCWorks Commission by the February 9, 2022, Quarterly Business Meeting. On December 23, 2021, the Committee submitted a request to NCWorks Commission Chair Tom Rabon and Governor Roy Cooper to extend the study timeline. The Committee was granted an extension and was asked to report their recommendations at a special NCWorks Commission meeting on March 30, 2022.

Data Collection

The Committee requested and subsequently reviewed data in three main areas:

- labor market and commuting patterns;
- education and training availability; and
- stakeholder perceptions of the current workforce system.

To collect the data requested by the Committee, NCWorks Commission staff worked directly with the Labor and Economic Analysis Division (LEAD) and the Division of Workforce Solutions (DWS) within the Department of Commerce to identify appropriate data related to the first two topic areas. To collect stakeholder perspectives, NCWorks Commission staff generated an initial list of stakeholders. This list was shared with the Committee, and additional members were added based on their feedback. The committee gathered stakeholder perceptions of the current workforce system and opportunities for changes through interviews, surveys, presentations, and joint meetings. All organizations with whom the committee engaged are listed in Table 1 by sector.

Table 1. Organizations Participating in Stakeholder Interviews, Surveys and Joint Meetings by Sector.

Education	Workforce	Economic Development	Government
- Department of Public Instruction	- Division of Workforce Solutions – Department of Commerce	- Economic Development Partnership of NC	- NC Association of Regional Councils of Government
- myFutureNC	- Equus Workforce Solutions	- Carolinas Gateway Partnership	
- North Carolina Association of Community College Presidents	- NC Association of Workforce Boards	- Charlotte Regional Business Alliance	
- NC Community Colleges System Office	- NC Workforce Development	- City of Charlotte Economic Development Department	
		- NC Chamber	
		- NC East Alliance	

5

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NC Independent Colleges & Universities - UNC System Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Directors (23) - Two Hawk Employment Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NC Economic Development Association - North Carolina's Southeast - Wake County Economic Development 	
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6



NORTH CAROLINA
**DEPARTMENT of
COMMERCE**

Roy Cooper
GOVERNOR

Machelle Baker Sanders
SECRETARY

Dear Local Leaders,

When CEOs and business leaders visit North Carolina to explore opportunities to relocate or expand their businesses in our state, they almost always lead with one question: Does North Carolina have the skilled workforce I need to be successful? Thanks in part to our outstanding Community College System, world-class public and private universities, and a robust network of training providers and opportunities, the answer to that question is “yes.” But we are missing opportunities to align our workforce development system with our economic development activities more closely, and to create new synergies within those systems that will benefit North Carolina, our economy, our businesses, and our job seekers.

Last month, with Governor Cooper’s encouragement and after careful study, the NCWorks Commission approved a set of [guiding principles](#) for local governments to follow in considering realigning their current workforce development area boundaries. The Governor supports those guiding principles because he knows that when our state is well-organized and in sync, we can accomplish great things. Among the guiding principles are making sure workforce boards serve more than just a single county, aligning local workforce board areas with community college service areas, and reducing redundancy while enhancing administrative efficiency. These steps will enable our local workforce boards to better leverage federal dollars while enhancing workforce development initiatives and focusing on work-based-learning opportunities like on-the-job training, apprenticeships, and credential attainment. We can expand upon the good work that is already being done in many areas, while building a workforce system that is more consistent, simplified and navigable for businesses.

We cannot wait to take advantage of this opportunity. With unemployment levels approaching historic lows and employers searching for talent, now is the time to make significant updates to our workforce board system to ensure we are mobilizing the best and brightest possible workforce for North Carolina. We need innovative approaches to engaging prospective workers, businesses, and

leaders, like those highlighted in North Carolina's "[First in Talent](#)" Strategic Economic Development Plan, to keep North Carolina moving forward.

It is important to realize that this realignment will only happen with the agreement of local elected officials at the county (and, in some areas, city) level across North Carolina. Please engage your local elected officials, education leaders and workforce development professionals, and let them know that if we want North Carolina to continue having the economic development success we've been enjoying these last several years, it is vital that they lead now, and create a system that will work for all North Carolinians.

Sincerely,



Machelle Baker Sanders
Secretary, N.C. Department of Commerce



Christopher Chung
CEO, Economic Development Partnership of NC

State of North Carolina | Department of Commerce
301 North Wilmington Street | 4301 Mail Service Center | Raleigh, NC 27699-4301
919 814 4600 T

Tom Rabon
Chair, NCWorks Commission
c/o North Carolina Department of Commerce
4301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4301

Sent via email to NCWorksCommission@commerce.nc.gov

Dear Chair Rabon:

On behalf of [NAME] County, I write to you to express our intention to transition from our current local workforce area for the purposes of the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014. We propose to join with [INSERT COUNTIES HERE], currently part of the local area known as [INSERT LOCAL WORKFORCE BOARD NAME] and form a new local workforce development board. We have consulted with leaders of [INSERT LOCAL WORKFORCE BOARD TO WHICH YOU PLAN TO ADD YOUR COUNTY, IF APPLICABLE], and they agree to this realignment. We will seek the transfer of our county and the redesignation of this area by Governor Cooper. Our goal is to make the new local area effective on July 1, 2023.

To help inform this decision, I have consulted with my fellow [county commissioners/other elected officials], and leaders involved in education, workforce and economic development in my community, including [X, Y, Z].

[Consider inserting here a description of the consensus you have found within your county on the need to realign your local area, what input/feedback you received, and why you believe this will meet the needs of your community and region.]

I have also communicated with the appropriate local elected officials and area stakeholders in the other counties involved, and there is consensus on this course of action. We believe that this new area will follow the guiding principles for alignment, established by the NCWorks Commission earlier this year, in the following ways: [...]

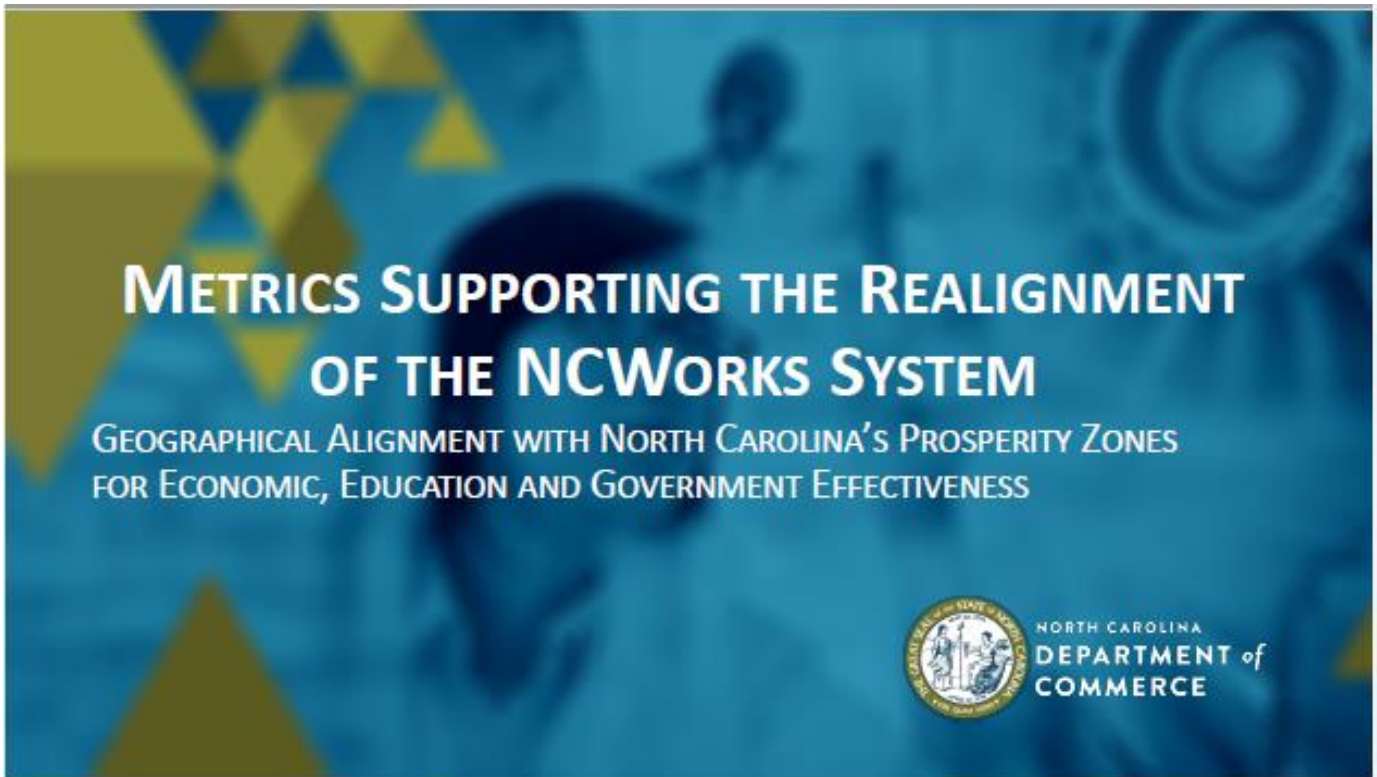
We look forward to collaborating with the [NAME OF EXISTING WORKFORCE BOARD, IF THIS INVOLVES JOINING SUCH A BOARD], the NCWorks Commission and the North Carolina Department of Commerce on the process of transitioning to a new local area, as we seek to strengthen workforce and economic development.

Thank you for your consideration and for your partnership.

Sincerely,

[name]
[title]
[county]

CC: Dr. Annie Izod, NCWorks Commission
[Name of Chief Local Elected Official of your current local area]
Chet Mottershead, N.C. Division of Workforce Solutions



State Law:
NC Prosperity Zones: Economic, Education and Government Regionalism and Collaboration

NC General Statutes § 143B-28.1
 8 Regional Prosperity Zones

- NC Dept of Commerce
- Economic Development Partnership of NC
- NC Community College System
- NC Dept of Health and Human Services
- NC Dept of Public Instruction
- NC Dept of Transportation
- NC Dept of Environmental Quality
- NCSU Industry Expansion Solutions

Source: NC General Statutes § 143B-28.1
https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/BySection/Chapter_143B/01_143B-28.1.pdf

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT of COMMERCE

CURRENT: 23 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS



- 1 – 10 Counties per board (does not promote regionalism)
- Vary in operational and procedural implementations (does not provide consistency)
- Management oversight and economic priorities differ (does not promote collaboration)
- Counties for current boards are located in as many as 3 different Prosperity Zones
- Prosperity Zones have 3-6 Workforce Boards represented with a single county or more
- 17 of the 23 Workforce Development Boards are located in a single Prosperity Zone; with 6 of those operating in a single county and 1 operating in 2 counties



Key Factors of Realignment

- The State is *not* mandating 8 Boards. Realignment does not necessarily mean one specific number of local workforce boards will be the result.
- Funding for rural counties will not be impacted by any Realignment changes. All counties receive funds based on established US DOL formulas.
- There will still be local control of all workforce boards and NCWorks Career Centers.
- We do not foresee massive layoffs with local workforce staff. There may be some administrative savings, over time.
- Following a request from local governments, the State has the statutory authority to implement realignment for individual boards. 20 CFR 679.240 allows the Governor to designate a local area, after the appropriate local elected officials make such a request.
- DWS will work with local governments to implement the NCWorks Commission's guiding principles regarding alignment.



Supporting Data

Connecting Workforce Development and Economic Development



NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT of
COMMERCE

WIOA Title I Funding Allocations

- Title I Funding Allocations are calculated at the county level using set federal formulas.
- The amounts each county receives are unaffected by realignment.

Before Realignment

County	PY 2021 Adult Funds
Brunswick	\$362,436.00
Columbus	\$124,158.00
New Hanover	\$470,079.00
Pender	\$108,966.00



After Realignment

County	PY 2021 Adult Funds
Brunswick	\$362,436.00
Columbus	\$124,158.00
New Hanover	\$470,079.00
Pender	\$108,966.00



NORTH CAROLINA
**DEPARTMENT of
COMMERCE**

Commuting Patterns for Columbus County Residents and Employees

- 68.1% (11,356) of Columbus County residents commute to another county for work
- 51.2% (5,565) of individuals employed in Columbus County commute from another county to work
- 12.30% (2,059) of Columbus County residents commute to Robeson, Cumberland, Bladen Counties for employment
- 12.20% (1,329) of individuals working in Columbus County commute from Bladen, Robeson, Cumberland Counties for employment

Outflow

County of Employment for Columbus Resident	Number Commuting	% of Columbus Residents Commuting
Robeson County, NC	856	5.10%
Cumberland County, NC	646	3.90%
Bladen County, NC	557	3.30%
Sum	2,059	12.30%

Inflow

County of Residence	Number Commuting	Share of Columbus County Employees
Bladen County, NC	572	5.30%
Robeson County, NC	482	4.40%
Cumberland County, NC	275	2.50%
Sum	1,329	12.20%



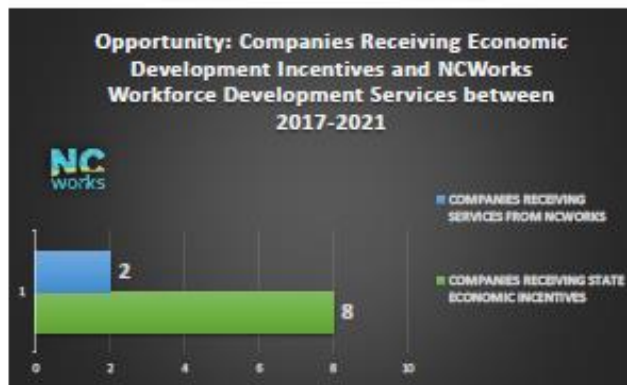
NORTH CAROLINA
**DEPARTMENT of
COMMERCE**

Source: <https://ontherap.irs.census.gov/>

Opportunity: Companies Receiving Economic Development Incentives and NCWorks Workforce Development Services between 2017-2021

8 companies received state economic incentives in Columbus County

2 of the companies (25%) have received NCWorks workforce services



NORTH CAROLINA
**DEPARTMENT of
COMMERCE**

Source: NC Department of Commerce
NCWorks

Training Mobility Patterns

<u>Community College</u>	<u>% Enrolled Outside of Service Area</u>	<u>Next Largest County Enrollment</u>	<u># of WDBs</u>	<u># of WDBs Certified as an Eligible Training Provider</u>
Southeastern Community College	23%	4% Robeson 4% Bladen	1	5



NCWorks Commission Guiding Principles

The Governance and System Alignment Committee identified 8 guiding principles to support local leaders in their realignment efforts.



10

Guiding Principles NCWorks Commission Governance and System Alignment Committee

1. Seek to better the lives of North Carolinians through realignment
2. Expand local workforce development board access
3. Decrease redundancy among local workforce development boards within economic development areas
4. Better align community college and workforce development board service areas
5. Match local workforce development board outreach to area jobseeker and business customer needs
6. Ensure consistent service, strong visibility, and sufficient capacity among local workforce development boards
7. Allow flexibility for administrative entities
8. Consider further review of the broader workforce system



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Benefits of Re-alignment of the NCWorks system

Fewer local workforce development boards will be better-resourced to support economic development, despite cuts in federal funds. As a result of realignment:

- No fewer participants served
- No fewer services provided
- No change in allocation per county methodology
- No change in control of training needed
- Greater administrative efficiencies, economies of scale
- USDOL, NC Governor's Office, Economic Development Partnership of NC, NC Community College System supportive of aligning workforce and economic development



Workforce Development Board Realignment Study Timeline

Activities	Timeframe
NCWorks Commission Chair announced that the Governance & System Alignment Committee will conduct a workforce development board system realignment study	November 2021
The Committee conducted in-depth interviews and surveys with workforce, economic development, and education leaders across the state.	November 2021 – February 2022
Governance & System Alignment Committee voted on the realignment guiding principles; Commission members and the public were then able to provide input for comment period of 14 calendar days	February - March 2022
NCWorks Commission meeting to consider/vote on realignment guiding principles	March 30, 2022
Chief Local Elected Officials may submit requests for any new Workforce Development Board Areas to the NCWorks Commission	March 30 – July 31, 2022
Department of Commerce to provide technical guidance on regional/local operations and planning. Target date for any new local areas becoming effective: July 1, 2023	April 2022-June 2023



QUESTIONS?



Economic Development: The chart below shows economic development projects *that received state economic incentives* over the last five years (2017-2021), the number of new jobs created, sum of award amounts and sum of capital investment by the individual companies. In each of the three categories, the Sandhills prosperity zone is a more prosperous region. Kudos to Gary Lanier and the Columbus county administration!

Region/County	Jobs Created	Row Labels	Sum of Award Amount	Row Labels	Sum of Investment
Sandhills	2,142	Sandhills	\$ 21,896,762.00	Sandhills	\$ 184,235,382.00
Bladen	45	Bladen	\$ 843,960.00	Bladen	\$ 8,873,500.00
Columbus	171	Columbus	\$ 4,614,271.00	Columbus	\$ 11,015,074.00
Cumberland	1,039	Cumberland	\$ 5,902,891.00	Cumberland	\$ 97,171,009.00
Robeson	887	Robeson	\$ 10,535,640.00	Robeson	\$ 67,175,799.00
Southeast	917	Southeast	\$ 4,947,400.00	Southeast	\$ 115,137,859.00
Brunswick	714	Brunswick	\$ 3,054,000.00	Brunswick	\$ 62,965,359.00
New Hanover	104	New Hanover	\$ 1,418,400.00	New Hanover	\$ 4,922,500.00
Pender	99	Pender	\$ 475,000.00	Pender	\$ 47,250,000.00

Community College service areas: The community college headcount dashboard shows Southeastern CC in Columbus county, serving 2,370 county residents, with an additional >100 residents in both Robeson and Bladen county and <100 residents in Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender counties.

<https://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/analytics/dashboards/total-headcount>

If we look at Brunswick CC, serving 2,397 Brunswick county residents, with <100 residents in Columbus county

<https://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/analytics/dashboards/total-headcount>

and at Bladen CC, serving >100 Columbus county residents

<https://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/analytics/dashboards/total-headcount>

and at Robeson CC, serving just under 100 Columbus county residents

<https://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/analytics/dashboards/total-headcount>.

There is a strong community college collaboration between the adjacent counties of Robeson, Columbus and Bladen counties!

Looking at employment projections, the Fayetteville-Lumberton labor market (which includes Columbus county in its data) shows Construction and Healthcare as the top two growth industries, while healthcare and government have the largest number of jobs, currently and projected by 2028.

https://tools.nccareers.org/employmentprojections/industry_employment_projections.html This is good news because both of those industries have livable wage jobs.

In the Wilmington labor market (does not include Columbus county in its data), Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, and Healthcare show as the top two growth industries, while Healthcare and Accommodations/Food Services have the most current and projected jobs.

https://tools.nccareers.org/employmentprojections/industry_employment_projections.html

Accommodations/Food Services is among the lowest skilled, lowest salaried industry, sometimes not meeting livable wage levels.

Commuting Patterns: Here's some interesting commuting pattern data.

https://accessnc.nccommerce.com/DemoGraphicsReports/pdfs/CommutingProfiles/LED_37047.pdf

Although the inflow and outflow of people between New Hanover, Brunswick, Robeson and Bladen counties are within 1 or 2 percentage points of each other, half of the worker inflow are aged 30-54, less than 25% of them make less than \$1,250 per month (most earn between \$1,251 and \$3,333 per month or higher), and almost 50% of them work in some form of service industry (this includes professional services).

The age of residents working outside the county are highest among those 30-54, almost 25% of them earn less than \$1,250 per month (most earn between \$1,251 and \$3,333 per month or higher), and 53% of them work in some form of service industry (this includes professional services).

With the employee profile being so similar, the county could look at strategies to keep outflow workers in. A deeper dive into specific occupations (perhaps the growth of healthcare services) might present opportunities for the education systems to set goals for career pathways that keep more residents working locally.

Of all the state and federal labor market data and tools, Columbus county is aligned with other counties within the sandhills region on statistical maps, including PZ map, MSA map, Metro/Micro County designation, and county tier designation. <https://www.nccommerce.com/data-tools-reports/labor-market-data-tools/maps>

K-12 Education: The NC Dept of Public Instruction has regional directors to help regional education administrations align strategies that meet the priorities of the region. Columbus county's DPI regional director is Dr. Kendra King, who covers the sandhills PZ <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/districts-schools-support/regional-directors#sandhills>

Transportation: The NC Dept of Transportation Division 6 oversees all highways, projects and programs for Columbus county, housed in Fayetteville, NC. <https://apps.ncdot.gov/dot/directory/authenticated/UnitPage.aspx?id=645>
All other counties of the Cape Fear COG are represented by Division 3, housed in New Hanover county.

MOTION:

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to remain aligned with the Cape Fear Region, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #12: DSS – MONTHLY ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE (MAY REPORT):

Algernon McKenzie, Director, provided the monthly update.

**Monthly Administrative Update
For June 2022
July 18, 2022 Meeting**

On June 3, 2022, we received a donation of 23 boxes of children's boots and sneakers. The gentleman that donated them didn't want to be recognized. He wanted to give back to others who maybe in need, because he remembered how his mother struggled. They were given to DSS in memory of his mother, Miss Brenda Johnson who passed away. The boots and sneakers will be given to needy families served in Child Welfare. We are very grateful for this kind and generous donation.

On June 21, 2022, we had a data consult with our child welfare representative. During this virtual meeting, she discussed policy updates with the supervisors, program manager, and I. She also pointed out areas that were on target with state requirements and some we need to work on, such as documentation. Overall child welfare is doing good with its program reviews. Staff and supervisors will continue to work on areas needing improvements and our state representative will assist as needed.

On June 22, 2022, I participated on the monthly 100 county directors call with the state. During the call we received updates on some new system and policy changes in Medicaid that the division is working on. These changes with telephone signatures and auto-new borns will help local Medicaid workers process applications a little quicker once implemented.

We also learned that local county DSS agencies will be receiving some One Time Special Links. Funds to assist youth between the ages of 14-17 who are in foster care. There will be restrictions on what these funds can be used for and they must be tracked. The state will be sending out a letter to directors with more details about these funds soon as they are time limited and must be used by September 2022.

Lastly, we were told by the state fiscal representative that the federal government is questioning what is allowable to be reimbursed to counties for Medicaid functions. Currently counties are reimbursed 75% of the cost associated with

Medicaid application processing. We were told that the Feds could change what is allowable, therefore decreasing the amount of reimbursement that local counties receive. The state will be gathering information from DSS agencies and will keep us informed.

During the month of June, I participated and attended 11 zoom and in-person meetings.

June 2022
Human Services

Adult Services (APS)

APS Reports Accepted: 2
County Wards: 29
Number of Payee Cases: 13
Adults Served APS: 0
Number of Medicaid Transportation Trips: 1,101
Amount Requested for Reimbursement: \$17,708.00

Children's Protective Services (CPS)

Reports Accepted: 16
Reports Screened out: 23
Families Receiving In-Home Services: 38
Children Served: 80
Contacts with Families Monthly: 471
Assessments: 10

Foster Care

Foster Children in Foster Homes: 125
 Children Placed Outside County: 30
 Agency Adoptions: 4
 Pending Adoptions: 2
 Total Foster Homes Licensed: 6
 Total Children in Foster Care: 127

Work First Employment (TANF)

Applications Taken: 9
 Applications Approved: 4
 Individuals Receiving Benefits: 185
 Entered Employments: 2
 Number in Non-Paid Work Experience: 0

Program Integrity

Collections for Fraud: \$648.00
 New Referrals: 4
 Cases Established: 1

Day Care

Children Receiving Day Care Assistance: 480
 Children on the Waiting List: 93
 Amount Spent on Day Care Services: \$207,130.00

June 2022
Economic Services

Food & Nutrition

Applications Taken: 190
 Applications Approved: 190
 Active Cases: 6,370
 Benefits Issued: \$3,005,722.00
 Participants Served: 12,509

Adult Medicaid

Applications Taken: 68
 Cases Terminated: 24
 Redeterminations: 253
 Applications Processed: 117

Family & Children's Medicaid

Applications Taken: 97
 Applications Processed: 244
 Redeterminations: 898
 Total Medicaid Cases: 14,986
 Total Individuals Receiving: 22,774

Child Support

Absent Parents Located: 60
 Orders Enforced: 641
 Active Cases: 3,825
 Collections: \$459,787.00

Respectfully submitted,
Algernon McKenzie

HUMAN SERVICES BOARD REPORT
Dwella M. Hall, Program Manager
Vacancies/Updates/News for June 2022

Intake/Investigation/Assessment:

The Intake/Investigation/Assessment Unit is fully staffed at this time. This Unit continues to be very busy with referrals involving substance abuse, domestic violence, and mental health issues, among other things. The Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) continues to make monthly contacts to review agency data, policy updates, and casework.

In-Home Services:

The In-Home Services Unit continues to be short staffed with 1-vacancy, the position has been posted. Total contacts and children served continue to increase indicating more intensive involvement with current caseloads. The Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) continues to make monthly contacts to review agency data, policy updates, and casework.

Foster Care/Permanency Planning:

The Foster Care Unit continues to have 3 vacancies. Interviews have been conducted with possible recommendations for hirer. There are currently 127 children in care. We continue to work towards reunifying children back with families and giving them permanency. The DSS attorney continues to make diligent efforts to help decrease the number of children coming into care. The consultant completed an on-site record review this month for children services to ensure quality control and that all policy and procedures are being followed.

Transitional Unit:

The Transitional unit continues to be fully staffed. Staff continue to work caseloads while assisting the other Child Welfare Units as needed, particularly in the areas of courtesy requests from other counties, assisting with supervising visits and transporting children in custody. In addition, the Transitional Unit continues to have an influx in home studies and home assessments from other counties and within CCDSS Child Welfare. This Unit is helping particularly in the area of making monthly contacts with the large amount of children in foster care. Foster Home Licensing continues to work on completing more licensures to help increase the number of foster home available for the large amount of foster children. Increasing foster care rates are projected to cause a bigger financial burden on counties that already have difficulty finding appropriate placements for children, especially those with behavior issues. From the recent MAPP Class, 4 new foster homes will be licensed for the county and staff is beginning the recruitment process for the next class to be held in the fall. The Regional Child Welfare Consultant (RCWC) continues to make monthly contacts to review agency data, policy updates, and casework.

Adult Services:

The Adult Services Unit continues to have one vacancy, and three new workers. The workers are working very hard to learn their jobs and handle a case load. The number of wards (guardianship cases) continues to grow with the population becoming younger due to severe mental illness. Trillium continues to work closely with us to try and assist with appropriate placements; The State of NC has requested that various forms be sent via encrypted email and we are currently working towards implementing ways to meet the new requirements.

Work First Employment:

This Unit continues to be fully staffed. Although this unit is open for in-person applications, telephone interviews continue for Work First applications, recertification's, short-term services and benefits. Certain necessary application documentation can be mailed to individuals that wish to apply and when received back the worker can conduct telephone interviews to complete that application. Some application information is also being provided for pick-up in the foyer area of the agency. Workers are encouraged to make telephone contacts with clients at least every two weeks to offer support and resources to clients and to encourage program participation. Transitioning back to regular application and case processing is now beginning after COVID-19 waivers ended. The agency continues to have monthly meetings with the state reps by conference calls and for the month of July, the agency will have the meeting in person.

Child Day Care:

The Child Day Care Unit is now fully staffed. The Supervisor and staff continue to work the over and under payment report to ensure proper payment is being made to county daycare providers. Day Care services are continuing to be provided and the state is working with county agencies and day cares to help them stay open as much as possible while providing a safe environment for children. Day Care slots within local Day Cares are limited at this time. DSS staff continue to work with families to ensure their services stay in place while limiting contact to the telephone as much as possible. This Unit is continuing to work on its waiting list to determine the continued need for services, which is decreasing slowly. New procedures will be implemented in the coming months that will help to improve daycare procedures within the agency. Supervisor is working to ensure case transfers are received properly and sent in a timely manner.

Program Integrity:

Program Integrity is now fully staffed. Office visits are limited and telephone contact is encouraged, but office visits are possible. Repayment agreements are being relaxed to help clients during this time. Staff are working to clean up a backlog, establishing cases and repayment agreements, all while assisting with the Energy Programs.

Energy Assistance

CIP continues with the cooling season which means helping with electricity needs. Applications continue to be available on EPASS where applicants can complete and submit applications on-line, but continue to be available in our lobby for pick up and completion. One in-house staff person is currently processing applications and Program Integrity staff are assisting as needed. The county has received a one-time supplemental payment and/or automatic approval from the state for clients who received the LIEAP program assistance from Dec 2021-March-2022; payments were issued to the participating energy vendors to apply to client accounts in June 2022.

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

LIHWAP continues for all counties. This program is a federally funded program that will provide emergency assistance to low-income households to prevent disconnection or provide assistance with the reconnection of drinking and wastewater services. It will be based on a priority list: Group 1 will consist of households that have had water services disconnected. Group 2 will consist of households that are in jeopardy of water services being disconnected unless action is taken to prevent the disconnect. Group 3 will consist of households that have current water service bills and need assistance to maintain service. We continue to work this program, assisting almost all applicants that submit applications for assistance. There are funds available however the majority of this allotment has been utilized to assist clients who meet the criteria.

Economic Services Program Narrative

Family and Children's Medicaid; Adult Medicaid; Medicaid in Nursing Homes, Special Assistance (Rest Homes), Community Alternative Program (CAP); Medicaid Transportation; Food & Nutrition, Child Support and Housekeeping

**Submitted by Cyndi Hammonds, Income Maintenance Administrator
Reporting Month: June 2022**

News/Updates/Vacancies

Food and Nutrition:

Summer is here and we are seeing an influx in applications from clients and the extra benefits were continued for June. Interviews are one of the waivers that continues with the Pandemic however clients do not fill out their applications or their recertifications completely leaving questionable information and in most applications and recertification, they are having to call the client for interviews anyway. This Team is fully staffed however they are struggling with getting work completed with 4 new workers being trained by leadworkers that are not available to help with work due to staff shortage. It will take approximately 6 months for a new worker to be able to complete a caseload on this Team. Some of the Medicaid staff stopped their work to help Food & Nutrition staff complete mandatory interviews to get benefits to clients in a timelier manner. Our State Representatives continue to meet with us monthly by conference calls however they have been approved to travel for July and will be visiting the agency.

Adult and Family & Children's Medicaid:

Both Medicaid Teams continue to work thru the COVID waivers in place and work with changes in policies. Both Teams are mandated when a client request a State hearing to give the client the option of how they want the hearing held. These options are via phone, in person at the DSS or remote video using Microsoft Teams. If the client chooses in person the State hearing officer has to come to the agency; via phone, all parties are on the phone and via Microsoft Teams, the client, the county and the hearing officer are on the computer. If the client does not have access to internet, the county is mandated to provide a space and equipment so the hearing officer and the client be seen and heard throughout the hearing. The Adult Team has disability hearings monthly and lately the option the client has been choosing is via phone. The option earlier was only by phone however the State has permanently put in place the options listed above for the clients. These teams have 2 vacancies and 3 in training.

Medicaid for Long Term Care, Medicaid Transportation and Housekeeping:

- Local Auditors have pulled 45 Medicaid cases including Long Term Care for auditing in July. The State continues to move forward with bringing Tailored Plans with Managed Care. This Team still has a supervisor vacancy and has 2 new workers in training.
- Medicaid Transportation continues to be in demand with gas prices still high. Companies that were interested in becoming a vendor has not sent contracts back nor have they contacted us to let us know they were interested after receiving information concerning rules and regulations. This team is fully staffed.
- Housekeeping continues to keep our building clean with maintenance helping with housekeeping while we continue to have a vacancy on this team. We have interviewed for housekeeping and have recommended for hire and are waiting on the rest of the mandatory requirements.

Child Support and Paralegal:

Our Child Support Teams prepared 214 cases for 2 days in court in June with 244 orders prepared. Our Child Support State Representative met via phone in June and will continue to visit the agency every other month and every other month via phone conference. She always reviews 4 random cases while in the agency and reads them in ACTS when she completes her phone visit. This Team continues to have 5 vacancies and 1 new hire. We continue to have very few qualified applicants who are applying.

Agenda Item #13: DSS – APPROVAL of UPDATED ENERGY OUTREACH PLAN for 2022/2023:

Algernon McKenzie, Director, requested Board approval.



OFFICE 910-642-2800
FAX: 910-641-3970

Mr. Algernon McKenzie
Director



**COLUMBUS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
ENERGY PROGRAM OUTREACH PLAN 2022-2023**

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded block grant program that is comprised of three different programs -Crisis Intervention Program (CIP), Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP), and Weatherization. There are also non-Federal Crisis Intervention Programs- Energy Neighbor, Share the Warmth, Wake Electric Round Up, and Helping Each Member Cope.

To Maximize the success of this program, outreach to county residents through key community partner stakeholders, each county department of social services is required to develop and implement an Energy Outreach Plan (EPOP). This plan I a framework to assure that eligible households are made aware of the assistance available through these programs.

The county director and his/her designee are required to develop the EPOP, which addresses outreach and application activities related to the Energy Programs. The Outreach Plan is due to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) by July, 25th, 2022.

Each county must form an outreach planning committee that creates the opportunity fir county level collaboration to discuss and plan how to effectively reach county residents to inform them of the services provided by the energy programs. The committee should meet at least twice yearly; September for outreach planning related to LIEAP and April to review the outcomes related to LIEAP and to plan for outreach activities for the summer weather.

Committee Membership:

The Director of Social Services should engage a number of various community partners such as Vendors, Housing Authority, Public Libraries, Public School Systems/Local Colleges/Head Start, Legal Services, Meals on Wheels, Media, Public Health/Health Centers, Churches, Food Banks, Councils on Aging/Senior Centers, Community bases Indian organizations, Volunteer Programs, Vocational Rehabilitation Offices, Transportation Services, etc. The following agencies or groups will be contacted to encourage their participation on an interagency committee for CIP (Crisis Intervention Program) and LIEAP (Low Income Energy Assistance Program):

- 1) The following are a list of tentative agencies that will serve as community partners:

Bureau of Indian Affairs/Waccamaw Siouan Tribe, Columbus County Transportation, Columbus County Health Department, Columbus County Department of Aging, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Southeastern Community and Family, Inc., Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation, The News Reporter

- 2) Committee Meetings will tentatively be scheduled for the following:

- September 2022 - Conference call/meeting - will discuss outreach methods, vulnerable populations, problems related to COVID-19 restrictions.

- April 2023 - Conference call/meeting - will discuss outcomes from LIEAP season, possible changes, etc.

Committee Collaboration and Outreach:

Columbus County is a low-income, rural community with limited technology. Community Partners must collaborate to reach the citizens through forms of communication that are readily available. Partners will work together to provide outreach services via local radio stations, newspapers, and churches to provide information regarding eligibility, criteria, the current application process, timeframes, etc. – Considering COVID-19 limitations. Informational flyers, mailing, and in-service training will be provided to any agency and community organization that request additional information.

- 1) Columbus County DSS and Community Partners will collaborate to ensure customers are aware of eligibility criteria and the current application process. Information will be provided through flyers, mailing, radio, newspapers, churches, and in-services so that customers will be aware of the process to apply, possible benefits, contact persons. County agencies will be provided informational flyers along with instructions on the application process.
- 2) Collaborative efforts will continue with community partners through at least twice a year meetings, along with individual one-on-one meetings on a more regular basis to update community partners on outreach activities targeting potential eligible households.
- 3) Columbus County DSS will conduct activities to target households with vulnerable members, children under 5, adults age 60 and older, and the disabled, by targeting specifically those agencies and communities that provide services to those populations, such as daycares, apartment complexes, Senior Centers, and Head Starts. We will utilize media, newspaper, social media, and radio, along with targeted informational meetings and in-services with flyers.

Media:

Columbus County is a low-income, rural community with limited technology. Local news and information is best distributed through local radio, social media, and the local newspapers. Television stations provide good information, but the biggest way to distribute information in Columbus County is through word of mouth, which is how most citizens receive news and information. Most citizens in Columbus County do not rely on television stations that are not based in this county as much as smaller forms of media.

- 1) Media outlets in Columbus County are usually provided information regarding Energy Programs each year in the early part of the fiscal year, but particularly right before the heating season.

The News Reporter	Tabor City Tribune	
WENC-Radio Whiteville	WVOE-Radio Chadbourn	WTXY-Radio Whiteville
WTAB-Radio Tabor City	NRColumbus.com	Columbus County Facebook

Organizational Structure:

1. Columbus County DSS utilizes in-house staff along with temporary staff to complete applications on site:
Columbus County Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 397/40 Government Complex Road
Whiteville, NC 28472
9:00 am-4:30 pm (although hours vary depending on applicants waiting to be seen)

Best Practices:

Although CIP is a year round program, Columbus County utilizes these funds during the more critical months of the year (i.e. late fall, winter) when county citizens appear to have a greater and more varied need for energy assistance. However, CIP and other Energy Programs will be available to assist during other times of the year. Staff with the Department of Aging, Cypress Village Apartment, and Madison Hills Apartments assist with the applications of their elderly/disabled clients/residents as needed. Although CIP and LIEAP are available during particular times of the fiscal year, funds are utilized according to policy until they are exhausted. LIEAP funds are targeted specifically towards the elderly and disabled during the month of December. Outposts have been utilized in the past at county Senior Centers, however, a lack of available staff and limited administrative funds prohibit utilizing outpost on a regular basis. Meetings are conducted with local vendors to review Energy Provider Agreements and other issues as needed. In past years Columbus County DSS has attempted to work with crowd control through informational sessions at the beginning of each day along with screenings to help expedite the application process. With COVID-19 being a major contributing factor this year, our process of notifying the community that applications are available on-line and in our agency foyer with instructions as to the application process has worked well thus far.

Contact Information:

Name: Dwella M. Hal

Address: Columbus County Department of Social Services
 P.O. Box 397/40 Government Complex Road
 Whiteville, NC 28472

Telephone: 910-641-3205

Email: dhall@columbusco.org

- LIEAP
- CIP

This plan must be approved by the local Board of Social Services or local agency governing body prior to submission.

Director’s Signature

Date

County Commissioner Chairman’s Signature

Date

MOTION:

Commissioner Coleman made a motion to approve the updated energy outreach plan, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #14: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – APPROVAL of REQUEST for MATCHING FUNDS for PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT GRANTS from NORTH CAROLINA’S SOUTHEAST:

Dr. Gary Lanier, Director, requested Board approval.

EDC Director Dr. Gary Lanier requested the Columbus County Board of Commissioners approve \$49,050 in local match funding for \$262,000 in Product Development Funds from North Carolina’s Southeast. Grant applications have been submitted through their Product Development Initiative. Two Grant applications have been submitted: 1) To create a “Pad Ready” site in the Southeast Regional Park. The site will be maintained as part of the entrance mowing being performed by the Columbus Jobs Foundation until the site is built upon, and 2) To begin initial Environmental, Wetlands, Topographic, and Geotechnical investigations at the site of a proposed new industrial park in the Chadbourn area. Dr. Lanier will be present to answer any questions.

Approval of \$49,050 in Article 44 Economic Development Funds to be expended as the local match for the NCSE Product Development Grant Applications.

MOTION:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the \$49,050 in local match funding, seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #15: SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT – APPROVAL of NC GOVERNOR’S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL RESOLUTION:

Sheriff Jody Greene requested Board approval.

**North Carolina Governor’s Highway Safety Program
 LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL RESOLUTION**

Rev. 7/11

WHEREAS, the Columbus County Sheriff’s Office (herein called the “Agency”) has completed an application contract for traffic safety funding; and that Columbus County Board of Commissioners (herein called the “Governing Body”) has thoroughly considered the problem identified and has reviewed the project as described in the contract;

THEREFORE, NOW BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD of COMMISSIONERS IN OPEN MEETING ASSEMBLED IN THE CITY OF WHITEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA, THIS 18TH DAY OF JULY, 2022, AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the project referenced above is in the best interest of the Governing Body and the general public; and
2. That Sheriff Jody Greene is authorized to file, on behalf of the Governing Body, an application contract in the form prescribed by the Governor’s Highway Safety Program for federal funding in the amount of \$62,665.00 to be made to the Governing Body to assist in defraying the cost of the project described in the contract application; and
3. That the Governing Body has formally appropriated the cash contribution of \$62,664.00 as required by the project contract; and
4. That the Project Director designated in the application contract shall furnish or make arrangement for other appropriate persons to furnish such information, data, documents and reports as required by the contract, if approved, or as may be required by the Governor’s Highway Safety Program; and

5. That certified copies of this resolution be included as part of the contract referenced above; and
6. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DONE AND ORDERED in open meeting by Ricky Bullard, Chairman

ATTESTED BY LaToya Williams, Clerk to the Board

DATE July 18, 2022

SEAL

MOTION:

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item# 16: LEGAL – APPROVAL of THE LAB ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER ADVISORY BOARD BYLAWS:

Jonathan Medford requested Board approval.



Launching and Accelerating Business in Columbus County.™

ADVISORY BOARD BYLAWS

PROPOSED

ESTABLISHMENT

The Columbus County Board of Commissioners does hereby create and establish The LAB Entrepreneurship Center Advisory Board, hereinafter “Board”.

The Board shall consist of eleven (11) voting members and seven (7) ex officio. In so far as possible, members of the Board shall be appointed from different areas within the County's jurisdiction. The voting members shall be appointed by motion and majority vote of the Columbus County Board of Commissioners.

PURPOSE

(a) THE MISSION OF THE LAB Entrepreneurship Center:

The LAB Entrepreneurship Center (The LAB) recognizes the correlation between economic development and entrepreneurship and therefore is committed to entrepreneurship education and to entrepreneurial development. Its ambition is to stimulate entrepreneurship throughout Columbus County, as well as, assist and support entrepreneurs and new ventures in Columbus County. As a consequence, the mission of The LAB is launching and accelerating business in Columbus County.

The LAB was enabled by a grant from the Golden Leaf Foundation and the collaborative efforts by the Columbus Jobs Foundation, Columbus County Economic Development, Southeastern Community College and its Small Business Center, and the Columbus County Board of Commissioners.

The LAB includes a mentorship program where business consultants reach out and support the entrepreneurship community by providing one-on-one mentoring and evaluation services for local entrepreneurs.

The LAB provides affordable shared desks, dedicated desks and offices through memberships and also implements entrepreneurship education through an official curriculum and series of seminars.

(b) THE GOALS OF THE ADVISORY BOARD IS TO:

- Assist The LAB in setting its policies and strategies for providing consulting and evaluation services for local entrepreneurs;
- Build positive working relationships between the Southeastern Community College Small Business Center and the entrepreneurship community it serves;
- Give leadership to the development of resources for programs not funded by the County or State.

MEMBERSHIP

The Board shall consist of the following voting members: two (2) representatives for Southeastern Community College, two (2) representatives for the Columbus County Jobs Foundation, one (1) representative for the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, one (1) representative for the Tabor City Chamber of Commerce, one (1) representative for the Fair Bluff Chamber of Commerce, and four (4) members at large from Columbus County.

The board shall include seven (7) ex officio member consisting of the following: Columbus County Manager, Columbus County Economic Development Director, Whiteville Economic Development Director, Tabor City Economic Development Director, Southeastern Community College Small Business Center Director, Thomas Entrepreneurship HUB and UNCP Incubator Executive Director, and The LAB Director.

TERM

The initial appointment of the voting members of Board shall have terms of appointment as follows: four (4) members for a term of three (3) years, four (4) members for a term of two (2) years and three (3) members for a term of one (1) year. Following the expiration of terms of the first appointed Board members, the successors to the regular members shall be appointed for three (3) year terms.

Each voting member shall be limited to three (3) consecutive terms. After the third consecutive term, a member must remain off the Board for a period of one calendar year to become eligible for reappointment. A regular term for voting members begins and ends with the fiscal year (July 1 - June 30) unless otherwise specified.

The ex officio members shall have a term that runs with their respective employment.

Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term only. The Board of Commissioners may, in its discretion, appoint alternate members to serve on the Board in the absence or temporary disqualification of any regular member or to fill a vacancy pending appointment of a member

OFFICERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As early as possible in each new year, the voting members shall elect by motion and majority vote a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary. The responsibilities of the officers are as follows:

Chairperson

The Chairperson shall, in general, supervise the operation of the Board, subject to the direction of the Board. He or she shall preside at all meetings of the Board. The Chairperson shall perform all duties incident to the Office of Chairperson and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board, from time to time.

Vice Chairperson

In the absence of the Chairperson or in the event of the Chairperson's inability or refusal to act, the Vice Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all restrictions incumbent upon the Chairperson. The Vice Chairperson shall perform such duties as from time to time may be assigned by the Chairperson or the Board.

Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for the creation, establishment, and maintenance of the Board Agenda and minutes. The minutes of the Board shall be kept in such detail as necessary, and do not reflect official action of the Board until adoption of same. Minutes shall be filed in the office of the Director of The LAB, as a public record.

REGULAR MEETING

There shall be four (4) regular meetings of the full Board each year. These meetings shall be held in the months of January, April, July and October or on such other dates as the Board may determine. The Board or Director may provide for the time and place to hold additional meetings of the Board by written notice to all Board members.

PLACE OF MEETING

The Chairperson may designate the time and place for the regular meetings or for any special meeting. If no designation is made or if a special meeting is otherwise called, the place of the meeting shall be at The LAB.

QUORUM

A majority of the board membership present, via electronic participation or acting by proxy shall constitute a quorum at any regular meeting or special meeting of the Board. If a quorum is not present at any meeting of the Board, a majority of the present members may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice. Any such adjourned meeting at which a quorum exists shall constitute the meeting as originally scheduled.

ABSENCES

Any member, who fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the Board, without excuse from the Chairperson for cause considered to be justifiable by the Chairperson and Board, shall forfeit their board seat.

COMPENSATION

The Board Members shall receive no salary or other compensation for their services.

INSURANCE

The Board Members shall receive no insurance for their services.

AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

These Bylaws may be altered, amended or repealed and new Bylaws may be adopted by the Columbus County Board of Commissioners.

MOTION:

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the bylaws, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item# 17: FINANCE – ACCEPTANCE of the MONTHLY FINANCE REPORT:

Jay Leatherman, Director, provided the Board with the monthly finance report.

COUNTY OF COLUMBUS FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT June 30, 2022		Percent of Year Complete: 100.0 %			
FUND 10 - OPERATIONS	FY 21/22	ACTUAL YTD	BALANCE	% Expensed	
REVENUES	BUDGET	TOTALS	REMAINING	YTD	
AD VALOREM TAXES	\$ 34,147,267	\$ 34,120,829	\$ 26,438	99.92%	
COURT	\$ 90,000	\$ 88,086	\$ 1,914	97.87%	
SALES TAX	\$ 12,251,105	\$ 12,638,297	\$ (387,192)	103.16%	
NC JCPC PROGRAM - TEEN COURT	\$ 80,696	\$ 72,147	\$ 8,549	89.41%	
ELECTION FEES	\$ 31,700	\$ 28,057	\$ 3,643	88.51%	
COLLECTION FEES	\$ 34,400	\$ 47,901	\$ (13,501)	139.25%	
REGISTER OF DEEDS	\$ 727,000	\$ 830,093	\$ (103,093)	114.18%	
SHERIFF	\$ 2,075,956	\$ 1,489,349	\$ 586,607	71.74%	
DETENTION CENTER	\$ 1,551,000	\$ 728,376	\$ 822,624	46.96%	
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$ 56,101	\$ 64,872	\$ (8,771)	115.63%	
FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$ 22,500	\$ 17,502	\$ 4,998	77.79%	
INSPECTION	\$ 379,000	\$ 350,022	\$ 28,978	92.35%	
ANIMAL CONTROL	\$ 149,398	\$ 152,529	\$ (3,131)	102.10%	
AIRPORT	\$ 538,500	\$ 404,217	\$ 134,283	75.06%	
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$ 240,500	\$ 175,000	\$ 65,500	72.77%	
PLANNING	\$ 9,800	\$ 12,160	\$ (2,360)	124.08%	
SOIL CONSERVATION	\$ 37,180	\$ 7,158	\$ 30,022	19.25%	
DEPARTMENT OF AGING REVENUES	\$ 2,160,658	\$ 1,655,271	\$ 505,387	76.61%	
HEALTH DEPARTMENT	\$ 3,193,470	\$ 2,382,730	\$ 810,740	74.61%	
SOCIAL SERVICE	\$ 6,971,896	\$ 5,425,712	\$ 1,546,184	77.82%	
VETERANS SERVICE	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,109	\$ (109)	105.45%	
PUBLIC SCHOOLS	\$ 108,000	\$ 16,942	\$ 91,058	15.69%	
LIBRARY	\$ 171,000	\$ 126,691	\$ 44,309	74.09%	
RECREATION	\$ 24,500	\$ 16,691	\$ 7,809	68.13%	
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	\$ 443,576	\$ 291,819	\$ 151,757	65.79%	
INVESTMENT EARNINGS	\$ 600,000	\$ (14,849)	\$ 614,849	-2.47%	
AMERICAN RECOVERY FUNDS	\$ 3,265,239	\$ -	\$ 3,265,239	0.00%	
FUND BALANCE APPROPRIATED	\$ 104,201	\$ -	\$ 104,201	0.00%	
Total General Fund Revenues	\$ 69,466,643	\$ 61,129,711	\$ 8,336,932	88.00%	

COUNTY OF COLUMBUS
FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT
June 30, 2022

Percent of Year Complete: 100.0 %

FUND 10 - OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES	FY 21/22	YTD	BALANCE	% EXPENSED
	BUDGET	TOTALS	REMAINING	YTD
GOVERNING BODY	\$ 342,490	\$ 308,037	\$ 34,453	89.94%
ADMINISTRATION	\$ 468,497	\$ 467,780	\$ 717	99.85%
PERSONNEL	\$ 199,583	\$ 178,604	\$ 20,979	89.49%
FINANCE	\$ 671,517	\$ 592,912	\$ 78,605	88.29%
TAX DEPARTMENT	\$ 1,819,057	\$ 1,739,745	\$ 79,312	95.64%
LEGAL DEPARTMENT	\$ 338,006	\$ 337,577	\$ 429	99.87%
NC JCPC PROGRAM - TEEN COURT	\$ 80,696	\$ 78,588	\$ 2,108	97.39%
FACILITY SERVICES	\$ 2,793,253	\$ 2,418,054	\$ 375,199	86.57%
ELECTIONS	\$ 555,932	\$ 543,281	\$ 12,651	97.72%
REGISTER OF DEEDS	\$ 619,395	\$ 538,724	\$ 80,671	86.98%
SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$ 1,196,618	\$ 926,589	\$ 270,029	77.43%
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM	\$ 462,982	\$ 459,846	\$ 3,136	99.32%
CENTRAL GARAGE	\$ 83,219	\$ 72,360	\$ 10,859	86.95%
PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WATER	\$ 58,924	\$ 58,252	\$ 672	98.86%
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT	\$ 8,860,996	\$ 8,265,663	\$ 595,333	93.28%
LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER	\$ 4,897,114	\$ 4,462,089	\$ 435,025	91.12%
EMS	\$ 18,850	\$ 18,798	\$ 52	99.72%
EMERGENCY SERVICES	\$ 1,522,904	\$ 1,480,950	\$ 41,954	97.25%
FIRE MARSHALL	\$ 134,521	\$ 126,483	\$ 8,038	94.02%
CORONER MEDICAL EXAMINER	\$ 72,000	\$ 38,080	\$ 33,920	52.89%
ANIMAL CONTROL	\$ 829,454	\$ 744,704	\$ 84,750	89.78%
AIRPORT	\$ 550,728	\$ 439,427	\$ 111,301	79.79%
INSPECTIONS	\$ 308,599	\$ 298,226	\$ 10,373	96.64%
PLANNING	\$ 157,807	\$ 148,445	\$ 9,362	94.07%
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$ 1,141,654	\$ 1,115,312	\$ 26,342	97.69%
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION	\$ 525,472	\$ 439,500	\$ 85,972	83.64%
SOIL CONSERVATION	\$ 250,297	\$ 239,901	\$ 10,396	95.85%
DEPARTMENT OF AGING	\$ 2,758,634	\$ 2,618,828	\$ 139,806	94.93%
HEALTH DEPARTMENT	\$ 5,795,202	\$ 4,158,206	\$ 1,636,996	71.75%
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION	\$ 8,358,762	\$ 8,187,917	\$ 170,845	97.96%
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS	\$ 3,690,617	\$ 3,489,212	\$ 201,405	94.54%
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER	\$ 148,489	\$ 144,161	\$ 4,328	97.09%
EDUCATION	\$ 14,231,689	\$ 13,368,144	\$ 863,545	93.93%
LIBRARY	\$ 1,507,919	\$ 1,461,456	\$ 46,463	96.92%
RECREATION	\$ 564,194	\$ 514,141	\$ 50,053	91.13%
TRANSFER TO	\$ 2,772,235	\$ 2,377,557	\$ 394,678	85.76%
NON DEPARTMENTAL	\$ 678,337	\$ 651,438	\$ 26,899	96.03%
Total General Fund Expenditures	\$ 69,466,643	\$ 63,508,987	\$ 5,957,656	91.42%

Total Revenue over/(under) Expenditures

\$0 \$ (2,379,276)

Revenues earned (not received)

Detention Center	\$ 100,000
Department of Aging	\$ 120,000
Health Department	\$ 130,000
Social Services Administration	\$ 2,200,000

Total Revenue over/(under) Expenditures

\$ 170,724

COUNTY OF COLUMBUS
FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT
June 30, 2022

Percent of Year Complete: 100.0 %

TAX REVALUATION FUND	FY 21/22	YTD	BALANCE	% Collected
	BUDGET	TOTALS	REMAINING	YTD
REVENUES				
REVALUATION FUND	\$ 20,000	\$20,000	\$ -	100.00%
EXPENDITURES				
REVALUATION FUND	\$ 20,000	\$0	\$ 20,000	0.00%
HUD SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE	FY 21/22	YTD	BALANCE	% Collected
	BUDGET	TOTALS	REMAINING	YTD
HUD SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE				
ANNUAL CONTRA EARNED	\$ 1,516,256	\$1,411,917	\$ 104,339	93.12%
OTHER REVENUES	\$ 276,572	\$ 226,919	\$ 49,653	82.05%
TOTAL HUD REVENUES	\$ 1,792,828	\$ 1,638,836	\$ 153,992	91.41%
EXPENDITURES				
HUD Expenditures	\$ 1,792,828	\$ 1,780,269	\$ 12,559	99.30%
Excess revenue over/(under) expenditures	\$0	\$ (141,433)		

TRANSPORTATION	FY 21/22	YTD	BALANCE	% Collected
	BUDGET	TOTALS	REMAINING	YTD
REVENUES	\$ 1,127,068	\$ 334,677	\$ 792,391	29.69%
EXPENDITURES	\$ 1,127,068	\$ 446,201	\$ 680,867	39.59%
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM	FY 21/22	YTD	BALANCE	% Collected
	BUDGET	TOTALS	REMAINING	YTD
REVENUES	\$ 318,748	\$ 184,497	\$ 134,251	57.88%
EXPENDITURES	\$ 318,748	\$ 134,304	\$ 184,444	42.13%
DEBT SERVICE	FY 21/22	YTD	BALANCE	% Collected
	BUDGET	TOTALS	REMAINING	YTD
REVENUES	\$ 3,800,197	\$3,800,197	\$ -	100.00%
EXPENDITURES	\$ 3,800,197	\$ 3,112,401	\$ 687,796	81.90%
WATER DISTRICTS I-V	FY 21/22	YTD	BALANCE	% Collected
	BUDGET	TOTALS	REMAINING	YTD
REVENUES	\$ 3,916,009	\$ 4,010,717	\$ (94,708)	102.42%
EXPENDITURES	\$ 3,916,009	\$ 2,795,401	\$ 1,120,608	71.38%
Excess revenue over/(under) expenditures	\$0	\$ 1,215,316		
SOLID WASTE	FY 21/22	YTD	BALANCE	% Collected
	BUDGET	TOTALS	REMAINING	YTD
REVENUES	\$ 5,567,405	\$ 5,333,995	\$ 233,410	95.81%
EXPENDITURES	\$ 5,567,405	\$ 4,414,593	\$ 1,152,812	79.29%
Excess revenue over/(under) expenditures	\$0	\$ 919,402		
FIRE DEPARTMENTS	FY 21/22	YTD	BALANCE	% Collected
	BUDGET	TOTALS	REMAINING	YTD
REVENUES	\$ 2,248,845	\$1,926,526	\$ 322,319	85.67%
EXPENDITURES				
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 1,990,536	\$2,013,368	\$ (22,832)	101.15%
Special Appropriations	\$ 258,309	\$167,814	\$ 90,495	64.97%
	\$ 2,248,845	\$2,181,182	\$ 67,663	96.99%
AMBULANCE AND RESCUE	FY 21/22	YTD	BALANCE	% Collected
	BUDGET	TOTALS	REMAINING	YTD
REVENUES	\$ 993,618	\$932,162	\$ 41,456	95.83%
EXPENDITURES				
Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 768,618	\$ 625,902	\$ 142,716	81.43%
Special Appropriation	\$ 225,000	\$ 225,000	\$ -	100.00%
	\$ 993,618	\$ 850,902	\$ 142,716	85.64%

**COUNTY OF COLUMBUS
FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT
June 30, 2022**

CASH & INVESTMENTS

Cash:

General Fund - checking account	\$ 4,255,222
General Fund - NCCMT	\$ 17,022,468
Water Districts	8,976,540
Solid Waste	7,289,757
Total Cash Available	<u>\$ 37,543,987</u>

Investments:

BB&T Investments	5,749,996
BB&T Savings	5,022,151
First Community Bank - CD	338,585
Dana Investments	1,238,389
Multi Bank Securities	568,779
First Bank - CD	2,080,209
Total Investments	<u>\$ 14,998,109</u>

FUND BALANCE

General Fund:

Unavailable Fund Balance (per auditors)	\$ 7,223,150
Committed and Assigned Fund Balance	\$ 11,898,242
Unassigned Fund Balance	\$ 12,768,717
Unassigned fund balance as % of Gen. Fd. Expend.	20.1%

Water Districts Fund Balance	\$ 9,819,025
Solid Waste Fund Balance	\$ 8,213,508

MOTION:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to accept the Finance Report, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item# 18: FINANCE – APPROVAL of BUDGET AMENDMENT and CAPITAL PROJECT BUDGET:

A. Sheriff's Office Budget Amendment for School SRO's

Columbus County, North Carolina

BUDGET AMENDMENT FY 22/23

Name of Department: FINANCE

Agency Head Signature: *Jay Leatherman*

Date Prepare / Submitted to Admin: July 11, 2022 Date Received in Admin: _____

Budget Code			EXPENDITURES	Requested
Fund	Dept	Category	Classification	Increase or (Decrease)
10	4310	512100	SALARIES & WAGES - REGULAR	\$70,538
10	4310	518100	FICA	\$5,397
10	4310	518200	RETIREMENT	\$18,361
10	4310	518300	INSURANCE	\$18,346
10	4310	518400	401K	\$3,527
10	4310	539200	UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT	\$1,000
10	4310	820000	LEASE - VEHICLES	\$9,000
10	4310	519909	SPECIAL SERVICES	(\$29,749.00)
			Total Net Expense	\$96,420

Budget Code			REVENUES	Requested
Fund	Dept	Category	Classification	Increase or (Decrease)
10	3431	441009	RESOURCE OFFICER	\$96,420
			Total Net Revenue	\$96,420

This budget revision has been approved by the Columbus County Finance Office:

This budget revision has been approved by the Columbus County County Manager:

This budget revision has been approved by the Board of Columbus County Commissioners on: _____

Signature Date

Explanation of Increase or Decrease:

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER REQUEST FROM WHITEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS & THOMAS ACADEMY. INCREASE OF 2 LEO IN STAFF. SCHOOL SYSTEM WILL REIMBURSE 83% (10 MONTHS) OF SALARIES. BALANCE COMES FROM A REDUCTION ON SPECIAL SERVICES FUNDS PER CHIEF HERRING.

B. Soil & Water Conservation Capital Project Budget for Farmland Preservation

COLUMBUS COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
Ordinance making appropriations to the Farmland
Preservation Grant Capital Project Fund
for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2022

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County, North Carolina as follows:

Section 1: The following amounts are hereby made to the Farmland Preservation Grant Capital Project pursuant to G.S. 159 -13.2 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022.

Source of Revenue

53-3981-422035 Farmland Preservation Grant - PL \$ 499,992

Total Estimated Revenues – Farmland Preservation Grant \$ 499,992

Project Appropriations

53-4967-519001 Contracted Services - PL \$ 499,992

Total Project Appropriations – Farmland Preservation Grant \$ 499,992

Description: The purpose of this Budget Ordinance is establish a revenue and expenditure line item for the Farmland Preservation Contract. The purpose of the contract is to encourage the preservation of qualifying farmland and to foster the growth, development, and sustainability of family farms. The Grantee's Project is a Perpetual Conservation Easement. This Contract is funded by State appropriations to the landowner of the Conservation Easement. The total amount of appropriations will be used to; pay the landowner for the easement amount, and complete a Land Survey, Baseline Documentation, and Environmental Assessment, and other fees associated to the Conservation Easement.

Section 2: The project undertaken pursuant to this ordinance is in accordance with the Recommended Budget and any changes made during the County Commissioners' budget work sessions.

Section 3: The Finance Director is hereby directed to maintain within the Capital Project Fund sufficient specific detailed accounting records to satisfy all applicable regulations. The terms of any financing agreement also shall be met.

Section 4: The County desires to expend its own funds for the purpose of paying certain costs of various projects, for which expenditures the County reasonably expects to reimburse itself from the proceeds of debt to be incurred by the County.

Section 5: All expenditures relating to obtaining any bond referendum and or installment purchase will be reimbursed from bond proceeds and installment purchase proceeds in accordance with the requirements of the United States Treasury Regulations Section 1.150 -2.

Section 6: This declaration of official intent is made pursuant to Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations to expressly declare the official intent of the County to reimburse itself from the proceeds of debt to be hereinafter incurred by the County for certain expenditures paid by the County on or after the date which is sixty (60) days prior to the date hereof.

Section 7: The County intends to seek Federal, State, and/or other grant funding to reduce the amount of loan proceeds. The adoption of this ordinance authorizes the County Manager and/or his representative to apply for and accept such funding if awarded.

Section 8: This project ordinance shall be entered in the minutes of the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County. Within five days hereof, copies of this ordinance shall be filed with the finance office in Columbus County, and with the Clerk to the Board of Commissioners of Columbus County. Copies of the Capital Project Ordinance shall be made available to the Budget Officer, the Project Manager, and the Finance Officer for direction in carrying out this project.

This Capital Project shall become effective on July 16, 2022.
ADOPTED, this 18th day of July, 2022

Ricky Bullard, Chairman
Columbus County Board of Commissioners

Clerk to the Board

MOTION:

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve agenda items 18A & B, and agenda item 18C with the request that EMS contracts be reviewed and those contracts brought before the Board for approval, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Commissioner Byrd: And, Mr. Chairman we still don't need to forget about our Fire Departments. We need to look at that also.

County Manager Eddie Madden: Yes, sir. I think we'll be bringing a recommendation back to you shortly.

Agenda Item# 19: INTRODUCTION of INTERIM FINANCE DIRECTOR MELANIE HESTER and APPROVAL of SIGNATORY AUTHORITY:

Jay Leatherman, Director, requested Board approval.

Columbus County

ADMINISTRATION

TELEPHONE
910-640-6630



TELEFAX
910-640-1654

July 18, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Mrs. Melanie Hester has been named as the Columbus County Interim Finance Director effective July 19, 2022. Mr. Jay Leatherman will also continue to have signatory authority on all Columbus County accounts until further notice.

Please feel free to contact me at 910-640-7910 should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Ricky Bullard, Chairman
Columbus County Commissioners

MOTION:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve signatory authority for Ms. Melanie Hester, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item# 20: APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS/REPLACEMENTS:

Legend: EB = Entire Board
Listed Zone # = Individual Commissioner

Zone I: Jerome McMillian **Zone V:** Brent Watts
Zone II: Chris Smith **Zone VI:** Ricky Bullard
Zone III: Giles E. Byrd **Zone VII:** Charles T. McDowell
Zone IV: Lavern Coleman

COMMITTEE	ZONE/ EB	PERSON(S)	EXP. DATE	BOARD ACTION
Chadbourn Planning & Zoning Board M=McDowell S=Smith	EB	Jennifer Caines (recommended by Chadbourn to serve as the ETJ Alternate)	02/2024	Appoint
COG – Aging Advisory Council Region O	EB EB	Robert Adams (deceased) Judy Ward (resigning)	06/30/2022 06/30/2022	Veronica Beaver Hold

Department of Aging Advisory Council	II V	Robert Adams (deceased) Wilbur Chestnut (resigning)	06/30/2022 06/30/2022	Hold Hold
Home & Community Care Block Grant Committee	I II II IV V V VII VII	Barbara Williams Anita Adams (resigning) Karen Thurman Robert Adams (deceased) Henry Milligan Tommy Spivey J.D. Gore (resigning) Judy Ward (resigning)	06/30/2022 06/30/2022 06/30/2022 06/30/2022 06/30/2022 06/30/2022 06/30/2022 06/30/2022	Hold Hold Hold Veronica Beaver Hold Hold Hold Hold
Housing Advisory Committee	I II III	Sherica Powell Michael Clemmons David Solomon	06/30/2022 06/30/2022 06/30/2022	Hold Reappoint Hold
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council	II	Mitch Nance	06/30/2022	Reappoint
Water & Sewer Advisory Commission	II	Clarence Matthew Smith	06/02/2022	Reappoint

RECESS REGULAR SESSION and enter into COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V BOARD MEETING

At 7:25 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to recess Regular Session and enter into a **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV, and V Board Meeting, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #21: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V – APPROVAL of MINUTES:

A. June 20, 2022

MOTION:

Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURN COMBINATION MEETING of COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV and V BOARD MEETING:

At 7:30 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn the combination meeting of Columbus County Water and Sewer Districts I, II, III, IV and V Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Watts. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #22: COMMENTS:

Chairman Bullard opened the floor for comments. The following spoke:

A. Board of Commissioners:

1. **Commissioner Watts** stated the following:
 - I don't have much to say.
 - I do want to commend Dr. Chambers.
 - Saturday, I received a lot of calls, because all the county fire and sheriff's department were working, and come to find out it was Dr. Chambers training everybody on water rescue.
 - That's something that we've talked about and I just want to say thank you and to all the departments and everybody who took part.
 - It was a really good thing.
 - Let's also remember the President of the Boys & Girls Home.
2. **Commissioner Byrd** stated the following:
 - I would like to revisit the voting issue that was previously mentioned in the meeting.
 - Over the years the Board of Commissioners had gotten involved, because we were involved in Cerro Gordo one time before about where they were going to vote and how they were going to vote; and also in Bolton.
 - The town building of Bolton is totally controlled by the Board of Bolton and if they say they don't want the election to be held in their building, they have that right.

-But, when it comes to the Fire Department building, we have levied taxes for it, and the Town of Bolton has budgeted \$2,000/yr to give to them.

-And, there is a law, because we dealt with it several years ago, that says the fire chief cannot deny that building being used for a community event, like elections, and this is a federal election, we have congress members running.

-And, if the Town of Bolton says, and they hold, that they don't want it in the town hall, we have no other alternative but to come back and ask that something be worked out between the Fire Department and the Board of Elections.

-We have done it in the past, and I just feel strongly, it's totally up to the Town, the majority of the Board has contacted me since Thursday.

-I've had numerous conversations with these individuals and I just feel like it's up to them to make the decision as to what they want to do.

-I'm just here to speak on what they have conveyed to me.

Chairman Bullard: This afternoon I called Mr. Mack Ward and there's a letter he's sending out.

Commissioner Byrd: He doesn't have the authority to take over the Town of Bolton's building.

Chairman Bullard: It says, *"I am writing this letter today to request to move an election site from the Bolton Fire Department to the Bolton Town Hall. The reason for the change is the Bolton Fire Department is not well-suited for people who are handicap. Bolton Fire has a 3 inch step up to the access. The poling site is very hard for a wheelchair or anybody on a walker. Another reason for the change is Bolton Fire Department does not use AT&T phone service, but the Town of Bolton still uses AT&T phone service. This will solve a lot of problems. Pam Maynor is the Clerk with the Town of Bolton and she will give the Columbus County Board of Elections access to the Bolton town hall on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. On election days the Bolton Town Hall will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thank you, Chief Chris Smith."*

Commissioner Byrd: I'm just saying the Town of Bolton has control over their building, period. Am I right Mr. Worley.

Board Attorney Worley: I don't disagree with that Mr. Byrd.

Commissioner Byrd: So, it's totally up to the Town of Bolton. Mack Ward and the Board of Elections cannot force them to use that building. I want you to be aware of that Mr. Gary, they cannot force you to do it. Now they can force the fire department because of tax money being used and I'll rest my case on that.

Commissioner Byrd:

-On SR 1001 and Whitehall Road Mr. Madden, I would like, if you would, to please address the state, I've had several calls of a tree limb blocking the view.

-It's kind of a long straight road there with kind of a curve on the northern side.

-So, if you would, please address that.

-One more thing, I was asked, is there anywhere a community could get a study done, they are considering building a community building, but they called me to ask is there any help available to help them get a community study where they can see if they could afford it.

-Do you know of anything?

County Manager Eddie Madden: Like a recreation center of some type?

Commissioner Byrd: Yes, sir.

County Manager Eddie Madden: Typically, that would be a funding opportunity for parks and recreation trust fund. I guess it would depend on whether there was land acquisition involved or if there's an existing facility involved. There are funding opportunities for those types of things. Now we've gone through our recreation master planning process recently and...

Commissioner Byrd: They're not asking for money, they just want to know if there is a program out there where they could get someone to come in and just do a feasibility study, that's all they're asking.

County Manager Eddie Madden: It could be under the contract we have with WithersRavenel.

Commissioner Byrd: Okay, contact me tomorrow and that will be fine.

County Manager Eddie Madden: Yes, sir.

3. **Vice Chairman McMillian** stated the following:

-Ms. Edwards, is there a deadline on the NC Rebuild program from the hurricane?

Assistant County Manager Gail Edwards: The deadline on Hurricane Matthew has passed but not on Florence. If you have someone that's interested in submitting an application, they need to go to ncrebuild.com.

Vice Chairman McMillian:

-Thank you, that's all I have.

4. **Commissioner Smith** stated the following:

- I have a couple of things.
- I've just had a lot of complaints lately about driveways caving in where they put waterlines in.
- I'm just wondering is it more feasible to bore.
- Is it more expensive to bore? A lot more?

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities/Solid Waste Director: Yes, sir.

Commissioner Smith:

- Because it might not be in the long run, but I just think that's something we need to look into, instead of cutting every driveway with concrete and then repaving it and then we get down the road the liability is the county.
- And again, I want to reiterate, we need to help our Volunteer Fire Departments.
- We have to get volunteers involved and it's going to take some money, compensation, because \$8 a call, that won't even pay your gas.
- And, we're suffering across the entire county with volunteers and Mr. Guyton will tell you that, I'm sure.
- It's terrible and the days of volunteer work is gone; we've got to come up with something supplemental to get young people involved and to volunteer.

Chairman Bullard: Piggybacking off of Commissioner Smith's comments, Mr. Harold, are we inspecting these driveways after they're cut and whatever is done that the work is finished for compaction to make sure that they're done correctly?

Harold Nobles, Public Utilities/Solid Waste Director: Yes, sir.

Commissioner Smith:

- Mr. Nobles, on Mrs. Tates Road, I don't know which side the water line is on but for Carucci Drive, I think we've made arrangements where Ms. Epps can get water but if we have to bore under there we need to put a big enough line to accommodate that whole park.
- Because, she may be the 1st, but I think a lot of people will sign up to hook onto it.
- If it's on that side Harold, I don't know which side Mrs. Tates Road is on.
- I would just say carry a big enough line to accommodate that whole park in the future.

5. **Commissioner McDowell** stated the following:

- Only two things Mr. Chairman.
- One, I would like to thank the members of the Planning Board and Board of Adjustments that met with us on last week at our workshop for our planned development study and our ordinance that will hopefully soon come about.
- It's coming, folks are going to move into the southern part of Columbus County and also the Eastern part and then eventually, as infrastructure is added, the whole county.
- We are very attractive to development.
- COVID convinced a lot of folks that lived in apartment buildings and suburbs that this might be a norm and not the exception and they want to get out, and they are looking for places that have greenery.
- Obviously we do and evidently Brunswick County and Horry County are running out of it.
- I thank those folks for giving their time and for serving on the Board.
- I also, want us to remember the family of Mr. Bill Ashley.
- I knew Mr. Ashley when I was at Southeastern in the Choir and Ms. Geneva was our pianist.
- I rode with them, at that time I and my future wife, from Southeastern Community College to Hollywood, Florida.
- Some of us rode in cars, some in buses, but they were a very, very, civic-oriented family.
- They have done a lot of things in our community that no one ever really knows about and I'm sure it will be continued because that's a family owned business, they're on the 3rd generation.
- So, I want us to remember that family and if you see them, please let them know that he will be missed.
- Because, he did a lot of good things in Whiteville specifically, but in Columbus County also in general.

6. **Commissioner Coleman** stated the following:

- I wanted to take a minute, folks at the Eastern end of the county, wanted to express a thank you to the Sheriff and the County for the substation that they have down there.
- It's being used, people are getting a bit more used to it and they feel more comfortable with it knowing it's that close.
- I've heard great comments about it and folks wanted me to thank the Sheriff and the County for allowing it to happen.
- I'd also like to thank the county employees for what they're doing, we have a lot of employees out there going above and beyond the call of duty.
- I've seen it, just driving around.

- I got stopped at a license check the other day, it was kind of funny in a way, but I didn't have my license, I had left my wallet at home.
- And, the young deputy, I thought everybody knew Lavern Coleman, County Commissioner, but he said our Sheriff don't care who you are, we treat everybody the same.
- But I appreciate that, I really do, that's the kind of commitment we need from law enforcement, it doesn't matter who you are, and he let me know that.
- And again, ADR Fire and Rescue, I want to thank them for the job they're doing at our end of the county, and Steve Camlin, a very dedicated Rescue Chief.
- I think a lot of times they get a lot of publicity they don't deserve and are slack on a lot of publicity they do deserve.
- I want to give a big thank you to the volunteers at ADR for all the work that they're doing, but, also to all the volunteers because as I've said before if it wasn't for volunteers in this county, we would be in terrible trouble.
- I would encourage people who are willing to volunteer, to volunteer, especially young people, it would be an eye-opening experience if they would volunteer and see what it's really like out there.
- I just thank everybody for what they do.

7. **Chairman Bullard** stated the following:

- I'd like to say I thank the county for stepping up to the plate and going ahead and working some financial money to the rescue squads to get them started and help out their paid employees.
- It may not seem like much, but it's a start, and hopefully we can add to it each year and keep that going strong.
- I appreciate what you all have done.

B. **County Manager Eddie Madden** stated the following:

- I know we've been together for a couple of hours now so I'll try to keep my comments brief.
- I did want to recognize Ms. Jenni Harris, who is here this evening from the Department of Commerce.
- Ms. Harris has been down a couple of times to meet with us to discuss the workforce development realignment.
- She came down again this evening and I did want to acknowledge her and her willingness to hear us out and provide good information for the Board to consider.
- You noticed that the elevator is not working, and, unfortunately, because of supply chain issues, that are beyond our control, the elevator may be out for another four to six weeks.
- And so, our staff is having to adjust a bit and take the stairs a little more often, but for those that cannot take the stairs, it has been a challenge.
- Our staff has provided some office space downstairs for those who are not able to take the stairs.
- In addition to those who may have come this evening to watch the meeting live or in person and could not make that trek up the stairs, this past week, we installed a very large monitor in the lobby for the meeting to be livestreamed.
- In future meetings Madam Clerk, and at her suggestion, we will make provisions for us to retrieve any public input comments that may be made from anyone downstairs.
- We apologize for the inconvenience, we are making accommodations as best we can, and trying to get the repairs made as quickly as possible.
- I want to also say thank you for everyone that participated in two very important studies, the EMS strategic plan, as well as, the planning board process with our Commissioners, and the future growth committee that helped develop those recommended ordinances that will be coming to you all very soon.
- We've received good input from our consultant, the Council of Governments, the planning board, and from you.
- The revisions based on those comments and observations are being drafted this week.
- They will be presented to the planning board later this month and assuming it moves forward out of the planning board, it would come to this board for a 1st reading on August 1st and the public hearing on August 15th.
- We're also involved in a very intensive opioid task force process right now and the funding for the settlement has started dropping into our accounts.
- We received the first batch a few months ago and the second batch is pending and forthcoming.
- The task force has the responsibility of deciding where those monies should be spent.
- The process right now includes the development of the request for proposals (RFP) from anyone who would be interested in applying for funding.
- Our consultant Ms. Syd Wiford is developing that now and will be presented very soon back to the task force.
- So, all that is in process and it's very important that we work diligently with our consultant on this.
- In keeping with the timeline and knowing the importance of trying to distribute these funds as quickly as possible, Ms. Wiford and I visited the new Healing Hands facility in Wilmington that will be opening later this year, as early as December.

- It's a facility that was developed in cooperation with Trillium and New Hanover County.
- We will have an opportunity, as part of our settlement funds, to secure bed space in that facility and we have asked the director of Healing Hands to provide us with a draft contract to provide to the task force and eventually this Board; so that when the facility opens in December we have the bed space secured to send our citizens.
- Work has begun on the county garage at the north campus and we're pleased about that.
- We have also received architectural plans for the historic courthouse.
- Those have been circulated and a copy is available here in my office if you would like to drop by and take a look at those.
- We've asked for input from both Mr. Jess Hill, Clerk of Court, and Superior Court Judge Sasser, so that we can relay those comments to the architect before going out for bids.
- Tomorrow, this room will get converted into a meeting space for Southeastern Community College's Board of Trustees budget retreat.
- I've been asked to sit in on a portion of that, one is to hear their facilities master plan and then at noon I will be presenting what they are referring to as the vision for Columbus County, which means they want to hear from us, so we will be participating in that.
- Thursday, Columbus Regional Hospital is holding a blood drive.
- There's a significant depletion of available blood in the area and we are in critical levels, so they are asking all of us to participate in that blood drive this coming Thursday at the hospital.
- Dr. Gary Lanier, Gail Edwards and some others attended a walk thru of the incubator building down at the International Logistics Park last week; so they got an opportunity to tour that facility and there's already talk of expansion.
- And, finally, Ms. LaToya Williams has served in her capacity as Deputy Clerk for nearly a year.
- Just a few days ago I sat down with Ms. LaToya and we discussed her position with the county and as a result of that and her commitment to not only her job but to Columbus County, she has been elevated to Clerk to the Board.
- So we want to congratulate her on that promotion.
- You all know and attest to her ability to keep you informed and to stay on top of these agendas.
- These are complex documents to have to put together in a very short period of time and she does a phenomenal job.
- I also, want to again, recognize Ms. Melanie Hester for her willingness to serve as the Interim Finance Director.
- We know she will do an excellent job there.
- The last promotion I want to announce, we've been anticipating for some time, I've coerced and twisted the arm of Ms. Gail Edwards for some time now to consider a position as an Assistant County Manager and last year she turned me down.
- This year I went back to her and asked her if she would reconsider, and of course, you all know Ms. Edwards oversees not only me, but she has the responsibility, like Mr. West, in overseeing various functions of county government.
- Just to mention a few of them is Public Utilities, Aging and Housing.
- She's intimately involved in every detail of day to day discussions that go on those departments and she is a very hands-on person and a trusted advisor, not only to the department managers she works with so closely but to the staff and especially the Board.
- Not to mention the citizens that have come to rely on her for many, many things; we gave her a title last year that seemed to suggest a promotion but this year we made it an actual one.
- So, she, July 1, became the Assistant County Manager over those various departments that I mentioned and a few other things that she does as well.
- So, let us congratulate Ms. Gail Edwards.
- We have a phenomenal team and great things are happening.
- But with the team that we've assembled and all of the things that are going on in the community, great things are to come, and I am excited about the future here in Columbus County.
- Thank you for allowing me to be a part of it and to work alongside these great folks.
- That concludes my report.

MOTION:

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn closed session, seconded by Vice Chairman McMillian. The motion unanimously passed.

Agenda Item #22: ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:07 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Smith. The motion unanimously passed. These minutes were recorded and typed by LaToya Williams.

**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV, and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING
Monday, July 18, 2022
7:25 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and time at 127 West Webster Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose of acting as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman**
Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**
Chris Smith
Giles E. Byrd
Lavern Coleman
Brent Watts
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Eddie Madden, Jr., **County Manager**
Amanda B. Prince, **Staff Attorney**
Jay Leatherman, **Finance Director**
LaToya Williams, **Clerk to the Board**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:25 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #21: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT I BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

A. June 20, 2022 Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting

MOTION:

Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to approve the June 20, 2022 Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:30 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Watts. The motion unanimously passed.

LATOYA WILLIAMS, Clerk to the Board

RICKY BULLARD, Chairman

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**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV, and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING**

**Monday, July 18, 2022
7:25 P.M.**

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and time at 127 West Webster Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose of acting as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman**
Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**
Chris Smith
Giles E. Byrd
Lavern Coleman
Brent Watts
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Eddie Madden, Jr., **County Manager**
Amanda B. Prince, **Staff Attorney**
Jay Leatherman, **Finance Director**
LaToya Williams, **Clerk to the Board**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:25 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #21: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT II BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

A. June 20, 2022 Columbus County Water and Sewer District II Board Meeting

MOTION:

Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to approve the June 20, 2022 Columbus County Water and Sewer District I Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:30 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Watts. The motion unanimously passed.

LATOYA WILLIAMS, Clerk to the Board

RICKY BULLARD, Chairman

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**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV, and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING**

Monday, July 18, 2022

7:25 P.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and time at 127 West Webster Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose of acting as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman**
Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**
Chris Smith
Giles E. Byrd
Lavern Coleman
Brent Watts
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Eddie Madden, Jr., **County Manager**
Amanda B. Prince, **Staff Attorney**
Jay Leatherman, **Finance Director**
LaToya Williams, **Clerk to the Board**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:25 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #23: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT III BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

A. June 20, 2022 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting

MOTION:

Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to approve the June 20, 2022 Columbus County Water and Sewer District III Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:30 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Watts. The motion unanimously passed.

LATOYA WILLIAMS, Clerk to the Board

RICKY BULLARD, Chairman

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**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV, and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING**

Monday, July 18, 2022

7:25 P.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and time at 127 West Webster Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose of acting as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman**
Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**
Chris Smith
Giles E. Byrd
Lavern Coleman
Brent Watts
Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Eddie Madden, Jr., **County Manager**
Amanda B. Prince, **Staff Attorney**
Jay Leatherman, **Finance Director**
LaToya Williams, **Clerk to the Board**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:25 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #21: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT IV BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

A. June 20, 2022 Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting

MOTION:

Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to approve the June 20, 2022 Columbus County Water and Sewer District IV Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:30 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Watts. The motion unanimously passed.

LATOYA WILLIAMS, Clerk to the Board

RICKY BULLARD, Chairman

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**COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICTS I, II, III, IV, and V
COMBINATION BOARD MEETING**

Monday, July 18, 2022

7:25 P.M.

The Honorable Columbus County Commissioners met on the above stated date and time at 127 West Webster Street, Whiteville, North Carolina 28472, for the purpose of acting as the Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Ricky Bullard, **Chairman**

Jerome McMillian, **Vice Chairman**

Chris Smith

Giles E. Byrd

Lavern Coleman

Brent Watts

Charles T. McDowell

APPOINTEES PRESENT:

Eddie Madden, Jr., **County Manager**

Amanda B. Prince, **Staff Attorney**

Jay Leatherman, **Finance Director**

LaToya Williams, **Clerk to the Board**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

At 7:25 P.M., Chairman Ricky Bullard called the **combination meeting** of Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting to order.

Agenda Item #21: COLUMBUS COUNTY WATER and SEWER DISTRICT V BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

A. June 20, 2022 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting

MOTION:

Vice Chairman McMillian made a motion to approve the June 20, 2022 Columbus County Water and Sewer District V Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Coleman. The motion unanimously passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:30 P.M., Commissioner McDowell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Watts. The motion unanimously passed.

LATOYA WILLIAMS, Clerk to the Board

RICKY BULLARD, Chairman

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