

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Board of Aldermen

From: Barry Webb, Interim Town Manager

Re: Weekly Report

Date: March 18, 2016

TCC MEETING

Last week, I attended the March meeting of the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), which is the staff-level meeting held prior to the meetings of the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO. Normally the Town is represented at these meetings by the Development Services Director, but I went to this particular meeting since that position was still vacant. There were two items on the TCC agenda that had elements addressing projects affecting Dallas, so I wanted to give you a brief update on those.

The first item dealt with NCDOT's Strategic Prioritization Process, which is the date-driven process the State has established for making funding decisions on major transportation projects. At this time, NCDOT is about to release its scores for project classified within its Regional Tier, and there are three previously-listed projects affecting Dallas that will be included in this round of rankings. These consist of the following, with the estimated project cost also shown:

- Widen NC 279 to multi-lanes from Robinson-Clemmer Road to NC 275 (Dallas-Stanley Highway) - \$14,200,000
- Widen NC 279 to multi-lanes from SR 1461 to NC 275 (Dallas-Bessemer City Highway) - \$14,034,000
- Improvements at intersection of NC 279 and NC 275 - \$3,000,000

Once the scores are released by NCDOT, the MPO will have until May 31 to submit its rankings and points assignments. As part of that process, the MPO will hold a public comment period from April 11-25, which will include a meeting to be held in each of the three counties covered by the MPO.

The second item concerned a safety project developed by NCDOT to add passing lanes on NC 279 at four various locations between Dallas and Cherryville. The estimated cost of this project is \$13,090,000, and right-of-way acquisition is scheduled to begin in FY 17. There will also be a public comment period on this project, running from March 28-April 26, with final action on the project to be taken by the MPO in May.

BOARD WORK SESSION

As listed on the agenda for next Tuesday's Board of Aldermen work session, which was distributed yesterday, there are two items that we know will appear on the agenda for your April 12th meeting based on materials we have already received. We will discuss these briefly on Tuesday, but I wanted to go ahead and give you a brief summary as to what these items are.

One is the Interlocal Grant Agreement with Gaston County for the \$300,000 Township Grant approved by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners for our sewer interconnect project with Gastonia. This document basically commits the County's funding for this project with the understanding that the remainder of the project costs will be covered by Dallas and Gastonia as previously agreed. It also specifies that these

funds will be made available on a reimbursement basis. While I am told that there are still a few technical issues to be worked out with Gastonia concerning the project, there does not appear to be any reason to delay us from going ahead and approving this funding agreement with the County.

The second item concerns continued participation in the Gastonia-Gaston County Consortium HOME Investment Partnership Program. The HOME program, which comes out of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), provides formula grants to states and localities to fund a wide range of activities that include building, buying, and/or rehabilitating affordable housing for rent or ownership. It can also provide direct rental assistance to qualified low-income persons. Dallas has previously participated in this consortium with all of the other municipalities in Gaston County, and it is now time to renew that participation agreement for another three years.

PROJECT UPDATES

As I noted in last week's report, I do want to try and provide regular updates on some the various projects in which the Town is involved, so I have a couple of brief updates for this week.

In regards to the intersection project on Trade Street, Tarpon Construction was pouring curbing on Thursday. Around the middle of next week, our Electrical Department will be moving was electrical conduits as part of the project once Tarpon has moved some concrete and other debris.

The milling of Lewis Street is scheduled to take place today, and the paving of the street is scheduled for next Wednesday.

As was also listed on the work session agenda, you will receive a presentation on the Town Hall Parking Lot project at that meeting by the design firm. They are essentially ready to go ahead and bid out this project, but, as there have been some modifications to the original plan, it was felt that one final presentation of the current plan needed to take place before bidding began.

ABSENCE

Prior to beginning my employment with the Town, I had provided a list of some dates that I knew I would be out due to prior commitments. One of those absences comes up next week, when I will be out Wednesday-Friday for a planned trip. Given that schedule, I will not be sending out a weekly report next week.