

MEMORANDUM

TO: DCHC MPO Technical Committee
FROM: DCHC MPO Staff
DATE: December 21, 2022
RE: **FY2024-2033 Draft STIP Swap**

Executive Summary

On April 25, 2022, NCDOT released its Draft FY2024-2033 STIP (Draft STIP). Due to fiscal constraints in the state's transportation budget, the Draft STIP did not include any new projects from the Prioritization 6 (SPOT 6) process that concluded in July 2021. Instead, the Draft STIP programmed existing projects in a manner that met with NCDOT's current fiscal situation. This resulted in the removal of many projects from the ten-year Draft STIP.

Following the protocol established by the SPOT Workgroup in winter 2022, MPOs could request to "swap" STIP projects. This would allow projects to either be moved up within the STIP, or for projects that were not included in the ten-year STIP to be moved into the STIP, provided that other projects were therefore removed. Swaps must meet certain criteria:

- The combined budget of projects being moved into the ten-year STIP must be within 10 percent of projects being moved out;
- Projects being swapped must be funded at the same tier; and
- The Division Engineer must concur with the swap.

DCHC MPO staff recommends the following swap:

Project to Swap In (to the first five years of the STIP):

STIP #	Project	From	To	Description	Funding Amount
U-6120	NC 98	Junction	Lynn	Safety Improvements, Bike/Ped Facilities, Transit Accommodations	\$18,199,000

Project to Swap Out (to the last five years of the STIP)

STIP #	Project	From	To	Description	Funding Amount
U-6021	Fayetteville	Barbee	Woodcroft	Widen to four lanes w/ bike/ped	\$26,000,000

Project Details

The DCHC MPO Board, in the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), adopted goals and objectives that prioritize safety over increased capacity on the roadway network. U-6120 is primarily a safety project and is vitally needed in an area experiencing increased traffic volumes. While there are safety benefits embedded in U-6021, this is foremost a vehicular capacity project. Though there would be bike/ped accommodations in the project, the American Tobacco Trail parallels this section of Fayetteville Street and provides a safe alternative for those users. Below is additional information about these projects:

U-6120

This project was funded in SPOT 5, and is primarily a safety project. This project would add bike/ped facilities (likely sidewalks and bike lanes, but as yet undetermined) to a residential area in East Durham. This project would also include access management and safety measures for vehicular traffic, as well as transit accommodations, such as pullouts and bus stop improvements.

U-6021

This project would widen Fayetteville Street from two to four lanes, with bike/ped accommodations, from Barbee Road to Woodcroft Parkway. While this project would connect the two four-lane sections of Fayetteville Street, it is considered a lower priority than U-6120.

Recommendation and Next Steps

The current deadline for swaps in the Draft STIP is March 17, 2023. Board Chair Weaver has directed that any potential swaps be released to the public for a minimum 21-day public comment period. Therefore, in order to approve the swaps at its March 8 meeting, the Board needs to release the swap for public comment at its February 8 meeting.

Staff recommends releasing the proposed swap for public comment, and requests that the TC recommend the same.