



Durham – Chapel Hill – Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization

Member Organizations: Town of Carrboro, Town of Chapel Hill, Chatham County, City of Durham, Durham County, Town of Hillsborough, NC Department of Transportation, Orange County, GoTriangle

April 10, 2019

To: DCHC MPO Board
From: Aaron Cain, MPO Staff
Re: Landscaping and Lighting of Roundabouts

On December 12, 2018, the Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro Metropolitan Planning Organization (DCHC MPO) Board directed staff to investigate policies and procedures regarding the maintenance of landscaping and lighting for roundabouts. The details are slightly different in each North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Division; however, there are some basic similarities between how each Division handles these issues.

Landscaping

For a project that is in the STIP and has not completed the construction process, one percent of the cost of the project is used to calculate the landscaping budget, which is in addition to the overall cost of the project should the local government want landscaping. NCDOT will then arrange for contractors to install the landscaping and manage the installment. After a one-year warranty period responsibility for maintenance of the landscaping then falls to the local government.

If a project is not a standard STIP project (for example, is funded through safety funds), there is no landscaping budget and NCDOT will not participate in the planting of landscaping materials. Any landscaping to be installed, and the maintenance thereof, is the responsibility of the local government.

Lighting

Per its policy, NCDOT only constructs and maintains lighting on freeways. Since there are no roundabouts on freeways, NCDOT would not install or maintain lighting for any roundabouts. Lighting for surface streets is the responsibility of local governments. Since municipalities are more familiar with the installation and maintenance of roadway lighting than are counties, roundabouts that are not in municipal jurisdictions do not tend to have lighting. However, if lack of lighting is a demonstrated safety issue at a non-municipal roundabout, the Division can consider installing lighting. This would only be done on a case-by-case basis, and would be dependent on demonstrated need and funding availability.