

February 2026

Highlights from February 12, 2026, RTCC & RTAC Meetings

At the February 12th meeting, the RTCC and RTAC discussed the following:

- Preparation for FY 2027 Planning Work Program
- Pittsboro CMAQ Application
- STIP Update - 2026-2035 STIP
- Prioritization 8.0 Update – Discuss Draft Local Input Point Methodology
- Prioritization 9.0 Start- Review Projects to be submitted for Express Designs (Second Batch)

The RTCC unanimously adopted its Consent Agenda, and the RTAC adopted its Consent Agenda with one nay vote (member unavailable).

The items were:

- Approve October 9, 2025 Minutes
- Approve Pittsboro's CMAQ Request
- Approve the TCC's Recommended Projects to be submitted for Express Designs (Second Batch)

For more information on these items and other topics discussed at the meetings, please click on these links for the meeting slides:

[RTCC](#)
[RTAC](#)



Funding Opportunities

Funding Available for Bicycle, Pedestrian and Multimodal Planning -

The N.C. Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the 2026 [Multimodal Planning Grant Program](#), which provides state planning funds for identifying bike and walking paths and transit connections.

Multimodal planning helps communities grow with transportation systems that are safer, more connected and accessible for all users – whether driving, walking, biking or using transit.

For this reason, NCDOT encourages municipalities to develop comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian transportation plans with matching grants that turn local priorities into data-driven, fundable projects. The grant program helps municipalities:

- Develop a framework for a robust bike/pedestrian environment
- Identify projects to submit for prioritization and funding in the State Transportation Improvement Program
- Strengthen ability to secure funding from outside sources
- Develop an internal approach for implementation
- Promote bike/pedestrian education and safety in municipalities
- Develop local policy supportive of bike/pedestrian infrastructure development

State grants require local matching funds commensurate with population. Watch [this webinar](#) for more information on match funding and general program information.

Plans funded through this program provide a comprehensive strategy for expanding bicycle and pedestrian opportunities in a community, rather than support a single project. They may also address facilities, programs, policies and design guidelines that promote safe walking and biking. Eligible applicants include:

- Municipalities of any size and counties with populations under 100,000 seeking to update an existing bicycle or pedestrian plan that is at least five years old.
- Municipalities with populations of less than 10,000 seeking an abbreviated plan focused on prioritizing project identification and implementation for small towns.
- North Carolina colleges and universities.

Applications must be [submitted online](#) by April 13 at 5 p.m. Award recipients will be notified by June.

For more information, reach out to Karyl or contact Bryan Lopez at 919-707-2606 or balopez@ncdot.gov.

As a Reminder: CMAQ - Rolling Call

CPRPO can submit projects for funding each year through the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program. This program provides funding for projects that will positively impact air quality in areas designated as non-attainment for national air quality standards or areas previously in non-attainment. Our area's eligibility [extends to Orange County and the four northeastern townships \(Baldwin, Center, New Hope, and Williams\) of Chatham County, including the Town of Pittsboro.](#)

The call for CMAQ projects is rolling, and our target annual funding amount is **\$158,845**. This is Federal funding and requires a **20%** match by the implementing local government or local agency. There are several eligible project types, but typically in our area, the funding has been used in the past for sidewalks and transit projects.

Please reach out to Karyl if you have questions or a project idea!



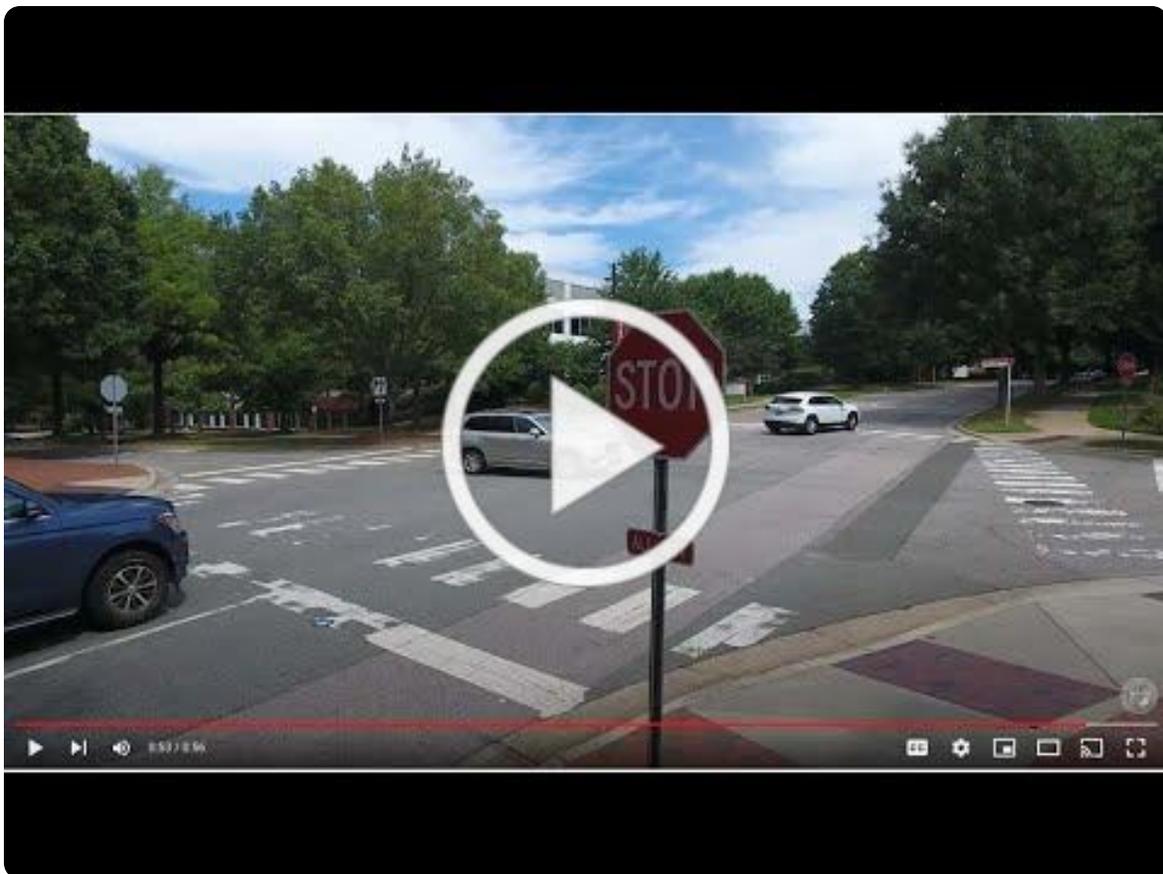
Grant Funding Opportunities

- [CPRC's Funding & Grant Support Page](#)
- [US DOT Navigator](#)

Education Wednesdays

CPRPO is posting monthly transportation education content on its website. It will range from brief reminders of current and recently updated laws to longer educational pieces about new innovative intersections and more.

Staff plans to highlight one here as well. See below for February's on **All-Way Stops**



An all-way stop is an effective and cost-efficient way to improve the safety of an intersection and reduce the risk of serious crashes. Converting intersections into all-way stops has been shown to reduce fatalities and injuries by **77 percent!**

The N.C. Department of Transportation recommends an all-way stop only after a thorough evaluation of the intersection. That evaluation includes an analysis of the traffic volumes, crash history, sight distance and a field investigation.

Benefits of an All-Way Stop

- **Improves safety** while causing a minimal increase in travel time.
- Reduces the need for drivers to wait until there is a safe gap in opposing traffic.
- Are more predictable compared to traffic signals.

- Can serve as a temporary solution until a permanent improvement, such as a roundabout, can be funded and constructed.
- Are more cost-effective than other types of safety projects.

Crash Reductions

Converting an intersection into an all-way stop has shown the following crash reductions on average:

68 percent in total crashes

77 percent in fatal and injury crashes

75 percent in frontal-impact crashes

Source: A 2010 NCDOT study of 53 locations

FYI

Did you know that Rural Planning Organizations or RPOs, represent

- 25.9% of North Carolina's population
- 72.3% of the state's land area
- and 60.7% of its municipalities!

Upcoming Events

CPRPO RTCC Meeting - April 9, 2026 at 10:30 AM - Sanford

CPRPO RTAC Meeting - April 9, 2026 at 12:00 PM - Sanford

NCAMPO Conference - May 6-8 - Asheville

CPRPO RTCC Meeting - June 11, 2026 at 10:30 AM - Pittsboro

CPRPO RTAC Meeting - June 11, 2026 at 12:00 PM - Pittsboro

Recent STIP Amendments

Staff updates a database of STIP projects to include recent changes. Several views are available: recent changes and also, a listing of all projects sorted by county. See [here](#).

New Briefs

Public Comment Period on Central Pines Rural Planning Organization's Draft Transportation Project Prioritization Process - February 16, 2026

FY 2027 Planning Work Program (PWP) Posted for Public Input - February 16, 2026

North Carolina Alliance for Traffic Safety Newsletter - February 6, 2026

Partner Newsletters

NCDOT Divisions 7 & 8 – **Latest**

National Center for Rural Road Safety – **February 19, 2026**

TPD's Newsletter - **February**

Contact Us

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