

Comments by C. Bruce Rose, Mayor, City of Wilson

Board of Transportation members and Department of Transportation staff, it is with pleasure that I submit the official Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for the City and County of Wilson. This proposed TIP is very similar to the previous year and requests very little additional funding.

I would like to talk to you for just a minute about the Northern Loop. This is a continuation of Airport Boulevard around the northwestern part of the city. As you know, Airport Boulevard is five lanes, beginning at NC 42 and continuing around the city to NC 58, better known as West Nash Street. This portion of the Northern Loop would begin at NC 58 (West Nash Street) and continue to US 301 North near the Bridgestone/Firestone interchange. As you know, there are congressional appropriations that have been set aside for this project and we ask that the Department of Transportation assist in moving this project forward with at least the proper studies and delineation. We believe this is one of the most critical needs of the Wilson community.

Chairman Frank Emory will be talking to you about the Interchange at US 264/Old Stantonsburg Road and the funding needed for that project. The City of Wilson supports this project and requests that you move forward with funding.

The Chamber of Commerce will also identify the Lamm Road project as important. Again, the City of Wilson also supports the Lamm Road request. In fact, the entire TIP submitted by Wilson has been carefully thought out and we encourage additional funding be made available for at least some of these projects.

Let me conclude by thanking you for your past support of Wilson and request that we continue to move forward in partnership in the future.

Comments by Frank Emory, Chairman, Wilson County Commissioners

Board of Transportation members, TIP staff, and Division 4 – Department of Transportation staff, I wish to express on behalf of the County of Wilson, our appreciation for all the road needs we have received in the past and will encourage you to continue with that support in the future. As Wilson County continues to grow, roads become an integral part of that growth. Like the Mayor, I will keep my comments short; however, I assure you that the County of Wilson supports the entire TIP document for Wilson.

I encourage you to continue moving forward with the Interchange at US 264 and Old Stantonsburg Road. As you are aware, there is a direct appropriation from Congress for this project and the City has requested that \$2 million be transferred from the Northern Loop project to this interchange. It is our understanding that this transfer is waiting for Congressional approval which should be just a matter of time. We ask that this project be included in the TIP as a Funded Project so that work can proceed. Considering one of our high schools, as well as a successful industrial park is located near the interchange, this project is imperative to the growth of Wilson. It would be a tremendous asset to the Wilson community and we encourage you to move the project along.

Let me conclude by emphasizing again, the County gives total support for all of the projects in the TIP document and encourage that you consider these projects for approval.

Comments Wilson Chamber of Commerce

Board of Transportation, TIP staff, and Division 4 personnel, the business community of Wilson wishes to express our appreciation to you for all the road projects that have been accomplished over the last several years. Our needs are great, and as you know, the business community relies very heavily on addressing our TIP projects.

I would like to speak specifically regarding the Lamm Road project. This project is extremely important to the business community because it serves as another connector for the Wilson Corporate Park to US 264 and I-95. As you know, to manufacturing facilities, transportation is everything. I encourage you to provide funding to complete this project.

There are many other important projects listed in our TIP, and I encourage you to consider them as you plan our roadway needs. I recognize this is to give input for the Draft TIP, but I assume it is not too late to make changes that are important to our community. Again, you have heard our Mayor and Chairman of the County

Commissioners address two specific projects and now the business community has addressed the Lamm Road project. Please strongly consider these three projects for funding as well as several others. If you need any additional information, just let us know.

I will conclude by simply saying “thank you” for your support.