



CITY OF RALEIGH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

News Release

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Pedestrian Safety and Convenience a Priority in Transportation Bond

The 2013 City of Raleigh Transportation Bond does not just include funding for the expansion and construction of streets. The construction and improvements of sidewalks throughout Raleigh also is a major priority.

The bond package includes \$1.7 million for streetscape improvements. The City undertakes streetscape projects in areas where existing infrastructure needs refurbishing or improving to support pedestrian demand or support economic development. These projects typically include retrofitting existing streets to improve sidewalks, upgrade street lighting, underground utilities, and install new street furniture. The City's previous work along Glenwood South is a good example of a City streetscape project. The City has more than 30 proposed streetscape projects identified throughout the City.

Another \$1.5 million is included for the installation of new sidewalks throughout Raleigh on existing streets. This allocation continues the annual funding standard established under the 2011 transportation bond, which dedicated \$4.75 million to new sidewalk construction for the next four years.

Also, the package includes \$10 million for local matches to North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) projects. The City of Raleigh routinely participates in the cost of NCDOT projects for elements such as sidewalks, upgraded bridge elements, and aesthetic noise walls. These funds will be available to participate in upcoming NCDOT projects such as the propose widening of I-440 in southwest Raleigh, the proposed widening of Glenwood Avenue in northwest Raleigh, and the planned replacement of bridges along Capital Boulevard at Peace Street and at Wade Avenue.

In the last 29 years, Raleigh voters have approved six major transportation referenda totaling \$250 million. These approved referenda were held in 1984, 1987, 1998, 2000, 2005 and 2011. The improvements in these bond issues, like the projects proposed in the Oct. 8 transportation bond referendum, are scattered throughout Raleigh.

For more information about the 2013 transportation bond issue, including specific projects, contact Eric Lamb, manager of the City of Raleigh's Office of Transportation Planning, at 919-996-2161, or visit the City's website at www.raleighnc.gov

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