



# CITY MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT

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**Raleigh**  
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## INFORMATION:

**NCDOT Project Delays**

Staff Resource: Eric Lamb, RDOT, 996-2161, [eric.lamb@raleighnc.gov](mailto:eric.lamb@raleighnc.gov)

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) recently announced a number of project delays and layoffs of temporary employees due to significant decreases in revenues associated with the pandemic-related economic downturn. NCDOT revenue sources for street and highway improvements are derived from gas taxes, motor vehicle fees, and highway use taxes, all of which have taken a hit in the first quarter of 2020 as a result of the pandemic.

To deal with the loss of revenue, NCDOT has removed 88 projects statewide from their 12-month construction forecast, effectively delaying their implementation. Four of these affected projects are located within the City of Raleigh:

- U-5518 - US 70 Freeway Upgrade from I-540 to the Durham County Line;
- I-5708 - I-440/Wake Forest Road Interchange Improvements;
- P-5715 - New Hope Church Road/CSX Railroad Grade Separation; and
- P-5720 - Durant Road/CSX Railroad Grade Separation

It is anticipated that these projects would advance to construction once sufficient funding becomes available.

*(No attachment)*

### Weekly Digest of Special Events

Staff Resource: Derrick Remer, Special Events Office, 996-2200, [derrick.remer@raleighnc.gov](mailto:derrick.remer@raleighnc.gov)

All Special Events cancelled.

(No attachment)

## Council Member Follow Up Items

### General Follow Up Item

#### Project Updates: Brentwood Park, River Bend Park, & Fire Station 22 (Council Member Cox)

Staff Resource: Blair Hinkle, Engineering Services, 996-4011, [blair.hinkle@raleighnc.gov](mailto:blair.hinkle@raleighnc.gov)

Council Member Cox requested information about three projects currently underway in District B:

#### **Brentwood Park**

As referenced in last week's *Weekly Report* (Issue 2020-15), Brentwood Park is currently slated for improvements that were funded by the 2014 Parks Bond. The planned improvements are considered Phase One of the Brentwood Park Master Plan, approved by the City Council in April 2018. Brentwood Park Phase One will include a new playground with a combined comfort station/picnic shelter building, a reconfigured and resurfaced parking lot, and a sidewalk from Brentwood Road into the park.

Council Member Cox expressed concern about the parking lot reconfiguration being prioritized before the addition of a splash pad within the park. The parking lot reconfiguration is an important first step in the overall plans for Brentwood Park, as the park currently has more area devoted to parking than needed. The City's acquisition of the community pool and its parking lot – next door to Brentwood Park – provides additional parking for park visitors. By reducing the overall amount of impervious surface devoted to parking, the design can move forward without additional retention ponds and stormwater treatment that would be required; these costly features – which would only be necessary to compensate for the excess parking space – would also cut into the usable property on the park site.

Given the number of identified improvements needed at Brentwood Park, and the strategic sequence of those improvements as described above, a full "sprayground" or "splash pad" is not included in Phase One. The cost for a sprayground – with its underground pumps, drainage system, and pump house - could easily absorb the \$2 million budget for Phase One. The community's desire for a sprayground is documented in the Brentwood Park Master Plan, which will continue to guide future improvements to the park.

During the master planning process, the Brentwood Park Citizen Planning Committee did indicate that a water play feature would be one of their top priorities for the park, subject to funding availability. In line with this goal, the playground area planned for Phase One may include a misting post. This feature would require a water line but not a costly underground drainage system. When the project is bid, staff will include this feature in the bid package as an add-alternate.

At this stage in the process, changes to the parking lot layout or the addition of a sprayground would require significant redesign and additional scope (stormwater controls, plumbing, electrical, and more). Reconfiguring the project would also require the City to revise its federal, state, and local permits, adding months of delay. Additional funding would need to be identified for the new scope, design, and permit fees.

### **River Bend Park**

River Bend Park is currently under construction at 6580 Perry Creek Road, within the 5401 North community. This first phase of the park will include a playground area, comfort station (restrooms), walking trails, landscaping, a canoe/kayak launch, a new access road, parking lot, lighting, and related site and infrastructure improvements. The City Council awarded the construction contract for the first phase of construction to TCC Enterprises, Inc. on August 20, 2019. Construction is expected to conclude in the fall of 2020, pending no unforeseen construction delays.

### **Fire Station 22 (Durant Road)**

Fire Station 22 is being relocated from its original location at 9350 Durant Road to one mile west, at 10050 Durant Road. An NCDOT project (P-5720 - Durant Road/CSX Railroad Grade Separation) prompted the relocation of this station. Due to NCDOT's initial timeline for their project, RFD relocated Fire Station 22 operations to the EM Johnson Water Treatment Plant on Falls of Neuse Road. This temporary relocation has ensured continual fire and emergency response service to the Durant Road area while the new station is being built.

A separate update from the City's Transportation Department contained in this issue of the *Weekly Report* provides an update on four NCDOT projects of interest, including the Durant Road/CSX Railroad Grade Separation project. While the NCDOT project has been delayed, plans for the new Fire Station 22 are moving forward. The project is currently in the design phase, with the start of construction slated for the winter of 2021. While the construction schedule is yet to be finalized, the construction phase will likely require 12-18 months, for an estimated project completion of spring/summer 2022. Of note, this project required a number of variances from the Board of Adjustment, which have all been granted.

*(No attachment)*

## **Follow Up from the April 21 City Council Meeting**

### **COVID-19 Exposure Self-Reporting (Council Member Cox)**

*Staff Resource: Derrick Remer, Emergency Mgt. & Special Events, 996-4657, [derrick.remer@raleighnc.gov](mailto:derrick.remer@raleighnc.gov)*

During the meeting staff was asked to research Buncombe County's process of allowing individuals to self-report their potential exposure to COVID-19 so that in the event that first responders are called to respond to that individual, they can prepare accordingly. The idea is that sharing this information directly with first responders helps them achieve the best possible incident outcomes during an emergency.

The Buncombe County Fire Department uses a platform called Community Connect, which allows citizens to input personal information, including special needs or functional challenges of residents. As part of the COVID-19 response, residents now also have the option to provide COVID-19 and high-risk occupant related information.

The Raleigh-Wake 911 Emergency Communications Center (ECC) does not utilize the Community Connect platform, but early on in the COVID-19 response adopted a similar approach: loading information about callers with a possible exposure into the Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system so that first responders could be made aware prior to being dispatched. However, with the nature of community spread and the numbers of confirmed cases, it became difficult to properly manage. The number of people being added to the list and dropped off the list, together with tying each individual to a specific address became challenging as case volume continued to increase. Moreover, ECC staff cannot identify a specific address as a “CAD hazard” unless the Wake County Emergency Operations Center or Wake County Public Health staff have authorized the release of that address.

Since Community Connect is utilized on a voluntary basis, the feature is of limited usefulness and directly tied to the number of individuals who elect to participate and provide personal data to a platform that is not managed by the government. It also poses issues with reliability because of the dependency on individuals to self-report their own status and can create a false sense of security for first responders. The platform does not take into account the numerous cases of COVID-19 that go unreported, much less individuals the present as asymptomatic. Rather than relying on self-reporting, Raleigh-Wake 911 asks all callers the following questions intended to screen for COVID-19 exposure:

1. Do you (does the patient) have fever with cough, shortness of breath, runny nose, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, and/or sore throat?
2. In the past 14 days have you (has the patient) had close contact with a person confirmed to have coronavirus?
3. Have you (has the patient) been hospitalized with a lung infection with no clear diagnosis or source identified within the past 30 days?

Given the fact that COVID-19 has spread across the community, first responders now approach each call as if the patient could potentially be infected with the disease. Information gathered directly from the caller in addition to assessments done on-scene provide local responders with accurate, up-to-date information.

*(No attachment)*