

City Manager's Weekly Report

raleighnc.gov



Issue 2020-38

October 9, 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

Loan and Grant Programs Available to Small, Minority, and Women-owned Businesses
New Bern Station Area Planning: Initial Community Survey

Council Follow Up

Sunnybrook Road Elevated Reuse Water Tank - Update
Disparity Study - Options for Collaborating with Other Units of Government
Neighborhood Traffic Management Program Pilot Project Installation

INFORMATION:

Work Session - Tuesday, October 13 - 4:00 P.M.

The regularly scheduled monthly second **Tuesday work session** will be held in remote, electronic format beginning at **4:00 P.M.**

The agenda for the work session was posted to the electronic agenda management system Thursday.

You will be receiving information on joining the WebEx Events session; staff will be available to assist with log ins and joining the virtual City Council work session.

Please Note: There will be a **closed session** immediately following the work session on Tuesday.

Loan and Grant Programs Available to Small, Minority, and Women-owned Businesses

Staff Resource: Mark Weldon, Office of Econ. Dev. and Innovation, 996-3139, mark.weldon@raleighnc.gov

The Office of Economic Development and Innovation has recently fielded questions about available financial resources for the small business community. There are several funding resources available to small businesses experiencing financial hardship; listed below are various resources available to small businesses seeking assistance.

Mortgage, Utility, and Rent Relief Program

The NC Department of Commerce has a new Mortgage, Utility and Rent Relief (MURR) Program which will be available to qualifying businesses to help with some fixed costs. To qualify, an organization must meet certain eligibility criteria. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The program is now accepting applications. [Learn more](#).

Wake Forward Loan Program

Wake Forward provides loans to small business owners struggling financially due to COVID-19. Wake Forward allocates \$5 million in total to support small businesses in Wake County, with \$1 million of that funding set aside for sole proprietor businesses. Administered by the [NC Rural Economic Development Center Inc.](#), the program enables small businesses to apply for two months of lost revenues, up to \$50,000. Applicants must meet the required criteria outlined by the Wake Forward program and NC Rapid Recovery. Loan terms apply. Now accepting applications. [Learn more](#).

Thread Capital Rapid Recovery Loan Program

The Thread Capital COVID-19 Rapid Recovery Loan is available to North Carolina small businesses and family farms to support their recovery from the economic impact of COVID-19. This rapid recovery loan helps small businesses bridge the gap between when crisis strikes and when federal loans, insurance payouts, and other relief funds are approved, or businesses have time to recover. Eligibility requirements apply. Now accepting applications (application deadline is October 15). [Learn more](#).

NC Rural Center, Truist Launch CornerSquare Community Capital

To support minority entrepreneurs and low-to-moderate income communities and individuals, the NC Rural Center and Truist Bank announced a new \$40 million nonprofit fund called CornerSquare Community Capital. The fund is the first of its kind. [Learn more](#).

Wake County Seeds COVID-19 Relief Fund for Local Arts Organizations

Wake County has created the Wake County Nonprofit Arts Relief Fund with an allocation of \$1 million of federal funds to the United Arts Council. The Fund allows local arts and culture nonprofits to apply for up to \$50,000 to replace 10% of revenue lost due to COVID-19, based on their average operating budgets from the past three years. [Learn more](#).

NC IDEA Black Entrepreneurship Grant

NC IDEA, a private foundation committed to supporting entrepreneurial ambition and economic empowerment in North Carolina, with their newly formed North Carolina Black Entrepreneurship Council (NC BEC), announced that applications will be accepted from October 5 through November 2 for grants up to \$50,000 for eligible businesses. [Learn more](#).

Additional business support resources can be found on the [ED&I webpage](#). Also of interest to many businesses and entrepreneurs is the [Raleigh Business Resource Guide](#).

(No attachment)

New Bern Station Area Planning: Initial Community Survey

Staff Resource: Jason Hardin, Planning and Development, 996-2657, jason.hardin@raleighnc.gov

The Planning and Development Department is [gathering community input](#) on the key topics to be included in the upcoming work to plan around bus rapid transit stations on New Bern Avenue.

This project will build on the Equitable Development Around Transit (EDAT) planning process, which focused on housing affordability, sustainability, and equity issues along all four bus rapid transit (BRT) corridors. The New Bern process will begin in 2021 and build on that work to deliver specific recommendations for zoning changes and pedestrian improvements in BRT station areas.

Staff is working to finalize a scope for the planning work, with a continuing focus on equity and on addressing displacement. The survey input will be used to refine that scope and generate questions for respondents to a request for qualifications (RFQ), which is anticipated for release in November.

(No Attachment)

Council Member Follow Up Items

General Follow Up Item

Sunnybrook Road Elevated Reuse Water Tank - Update

Staff Resource: TJ Lynch, Raleigh Water, 996-2316, tj.lynch@raleighnc.gov

As previously reported to City Council, Raleigh Water implemented a project to address stormwater drainage concerns from the Reuse Water Tank Site on Sunnybrook Road. The project also included additional visual screening from the rear of the property where it borders residents of the Worthdale Community. Raleigh Water is happy to report that the project has been completed. Below are before and after pictures of the site.

Before

After

The above “after” picture shows a swale that has been constructed to direct sheet flow from the site to a catch basin, which drains through a pipe to the front of the site along Sunnybrook Road. The additional vegetative plantings are planted along the swale to provide additional visual screening and soften the view for the neighbors.

(No attachment)

Follow Up from the September 8 Work Session**Disparity Study - Options for Collaborating with Other Units of Government**

Staff Resource: Audrea Caesar, Office of Equity & Inclusion, 996-5698, audrea.caesar@raleighnc.gov

As requested by Council during the work session, staff has initiated the process of exploring a possible collaboration with Wake County to complete a disparity study. The City Manager submitted letters to Wake County and the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) to gauge interest regarding a potential partnership for a comprehensive RFP for a joint Disparity Study.

Both the county and the school system have indicated interest in learning more about the potential partnership and collaborative work effort. City staff has met with several county staff members for initial discussions, and is working with the school system to schedule a meeting. Staff expects to provide Council a recommendation in late November based on any outcomes from these discussions.

(No attachment)

Follow Up from the October 6 City Council Meeting

Neighborhood Traffic Management Program Pilot Project Installation

Staff Resource: Will Shumaker, RDOT, 996-4175, william.shumaker@raleighnc.gov

During the meeting Council authorized revisions to the Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) policy. With the policy changes, a pilot program was created to allow staff to initiate pilots as a way to evaluate new traffic calming techniques & tools, set the criteria for a street to qualify to be part of the pilot program, and provide a path to permanency for successful pilot projects.

Staff is currently evaluating a traffic calming device that is new to the Raleigh area called a speed cushion (pictured below). Speed cushions have a potential benefit of lessening the impact to city and emergency services by allowing vehicles such as fire engines or buses to straddle the speed cushion with little to no impact as they pass over it. Cyclists will also benefit by having the ability to easily avoid the speed cushion by riding between them. If the pilot program is successful, there could be opportunities to better align with the BikeRaleigh Plan to increase bicycle rider safety and satisfaction. Speed cushions are designed so that a single occupancy vehicle is the main mode of transportation impacted since they cannot straddle the treatments. This vehicle type must drive over the treatment, causing the driver to reduce their speed. The proposed speed cushions are of similar size and profile as the current asphalt speed humps used in Raleigh which are designed to achieve consistent vehicle speeds of approximately 25 mph.

The speed cushions being used are made of compressed rubber from recycled materials. The recycled rubber is more resistant to contaminants such as fuel spills and the rubber acts as a noise absorber as vehicles drive over them and can decrease noise pollution. Speed cushions are manufactured in a facility as opposed to individually on site, thus eliminating any variation from location to location for increased consistency. The product installation utilizes bolts, allowing for quicker deployment, lessen impacts to streets, and having the ability to relocate if needed with minimal effort when compared to conventional asphalt treatments.



South State Street between East Lenoir Street and Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard has been identified as the highest-ranking street that meets all the requirements listed in Section 10 - Pilot Program of the revised NTMP policy. Two locations have been identified on South State Street for speed cushion installation. The first

cushion will be placed approximately at the mid-point of South State Street between East Lenoir Street and Tipton Street and the second will be placed approximately at the mid-point of South State Street between Tipton Street and Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard (See map of the proposed locations). An existing multiway stop is in place at the intersection of South State Street and Tipton Street).



Mailers have been sent to all the affected properties along South State Street notifying them of the upcoming pilot project and staff is currently fielding any comments and questions from the community. Staff is also coordinating with internal stakeholders such as the Raleigh Fire Department and RDOT – Transit to gather any feedback on potential impacts to city services once the installation is complete. The pilot installation is scheduled to occur during the week of October 26th, 2020 and construction impacts will be limited to 1-2 days. A traffic control plan will be in place to ensure residents are able to access their properties and the continuation of city services. This pilot project will remain active through October 31, 2021. After the one-year mark, staff will evaluate project effectiveness, coordinate a meeting with the residents along this portion of South State Street to gather feedback, and determine if the residents desire is to have the pilot project remain as a permanent installation along their street.

(No attachment)