

Neil Burke
CRTPO
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
600 E. Fourth St., 8th floor
Charlotte, NC 28202

September 23, 2016

Sustain Charlotte
135 Brevard Court, Suite B
Charlotte, NC 28202

Dear Mr. Burke:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on local points allocation for Division Needs projects.

We are pleased to see that three bike/ped projects are proposed to receive local points within the Division Needs category. We also commend CRTPO's Complete Streets approach of providing bike/ped infrastructure whenever it is safe to do so on highway projects.

The Charlotte metro area was ranked the 5th most sprawling large metro in the nation by Smart Growth America in 2014. To ensure our projected population increase does not lead to further sprawl, transportation projects that support more compact, transit-oriented and walkable development are more important than ever. We encourage CRTPO to prioritize funding for projects that increase connectivity and safety within existing developed areas rather than projects that expand access to currently undeveloped land.

We wish to share the following comments on the draft points allocation for Division Needs projects:

1. We thank the CRTPO for recommending reallocation of local input points from highway projects with a low P 4.0 score to non-highway projects. This includes the following CRTPO P4.0 Highway Projects: Lancaster Highway widening, Monroe Northern Loop, Mills Harris Road & Monroe-Ansonville Road, and I-77 & Westmoreland Road.
2. We are pleased to see a transit project proposed for local points allocation, which is an improvement over P3.0 when there was not a Division Needs transit project proposed to receive local points. The proposed expansion of the STS fleet will help to meet the rapidly growing demand for paratransit in the CRTPO region.
3. We would like the CRTPO to note our concern that the demand for bike and pedestrian project funding far exceeds the amount of local points available. We encourage the CRTPO to continue to seek alternative funding for the 8 proposed P4.0 Bicycle & Pedestrian projects in Troutman, Charlotte, and Stallings that are not proposed to be awarded local points. These projects would all provide much needed connectivity and sustainable transportation choices.

Thank you again for your efforts to solicit public input and make the local points allocation process as transparent and comprehensible as possible.

Sincerely,

Shannon Binns, Executive Director, Sustain Charlotte

American Heart Association / American Stroke Association

Ray Atkinson, signing as individual

Martin Zimmerman, signing as individual