



MEMORANDUM

TO: Agency Board
FROM: Carl J. Stephani, Executive Director
(amended by Francis R. Pickering, Senior Planner)
DATE: March 16, 2012
FOR AGENDA: March 20, 2012
SUBJECT: Transportation Program Enhancement Funding Priorities

At your regular meeting on February 2, 2012, you approved the following priority order for our next three Transportation Enhancement Program Projects:

1. Burlington Bike Trail Reconstruction (\$279,000)
2. New Britain Complete Streets (\$400,000)
3. Berlin Scenic Vista Procurement (\$128,000)

That priority order was recommended by staff on the basis of criteria that placed the project with the greatest regional impact on top of the list, regardless of the project's readiness for construction/acquisition funding.

Since your February meeting ConnDOT has advised that they utilize the priority list to determine *when* projects are funded. What that means to us is that, unless we change the priority order of our projects, the Berlin project, which is ready for funding immediately, would have to wait until after the Burlington and New Britain projects have received Enhancement funds. That would not be good because the New Britain project cannot draw funds until preliminary engineering (PE) is complete, and waiting for PE to be completed would delay the Berlin project by a year at minimum.

Enhancement priorities can only be set by the Agency Board. We need to re-set our priorities to move the most 'shovel ready' project—the Berlin Scenic Vista Procurement—from #3 to #2 so that funds for that project can start flowing into the Region this summer, together with funds for the Burlington project. (ConnDOT has informed us that the Berlin and Burlington projects can take place simultaneously; the Burlington and New Britain ones cannot.)

*On that basis, it is my
RECOMMENDATION
that your Board*

Revise its Transportation Enhancement Project Priority list as indicated below:

1. Burlington Bike Trail Reconstruction (\$279,000)
2. Berlin Scenic Vista Procurement (\$128,000)
3. New Britain Complete Streets (\$534,000)