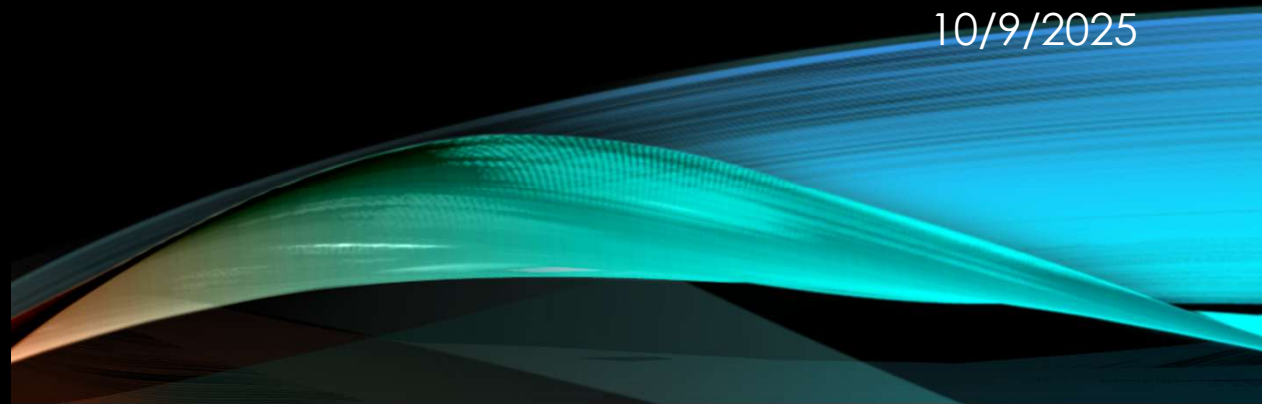




EASTERN CAROLINA COUNCIL

Rural Planning Organizations Update

10/9/2025



REMINDER – RPOS AND DUTIES

Down East RPO

- Carteret, Craven, Jones, Pamlico

Eastern Carolina RPO

- Duplin, Greene, Lenoir, Wayne

GS 136-212

- *“Developing, in cooperation with (NCDOT), long-range local and regional multimodal transportation plans*
- *Developing and prioritizing suggestions for transportation projects the organization believes should be included in the State’s Transportation Improvement Program*
- *Providing transportation-related information to local governments and other interested organizations and persons”*

COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANS - 1

What is a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)?

- Typically county-wide
- 25–30-year planning level document
- Typically updated every ten years
- Does **NOT** indicate NCDOT's intent to deliver
- Does **NOT** contain engineering level reports
- **ONLY** a statement of identified need

Greene County

Carteret County

COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANS - 2

Greene County CTP

- Last updated in 2013
- Currently seeking Public Comment on Draft CTP

Carteret County CTP

- Last updated in 2014
- Currently seeking local adoptions from each municipality in CC

PRIORITIZATION AND THE STIP – A REVIEW

Prioritization

- The process by which all MPOs, RPOs, and NCDOT Divisions submit projects and compete for funding in the STIP

STIP

- State Transportation Improvement Program
- Ten-year, all-encompassing, planning document for NCDOT
- *Typically* updated every two years
- Requirement of FHWA to receive State Planning and Research funds
 - SPR funds are used by the department to fund MPOs, RPOs, and various NCDOT divisions

PRIORITIZATION AND THE STIP – WHERE WE ARE

Prioritization 8.0 (*Eighth round of Prioritization since STI Law*)

Submittal Phase

- Each MPO, RPO, and NCDOT Division is given a fixed number of project submittals **per-mode** for each Prioritization cycle
- Down East RPO – 12 per
 - Submitted 53 projects
- Eastern Carolina RPO – 15 per
 - Submitted 45 projects
- Proposed projects were approved by both TAC's after a 30-day public comment Period
- Submittal deadline closed September 30th

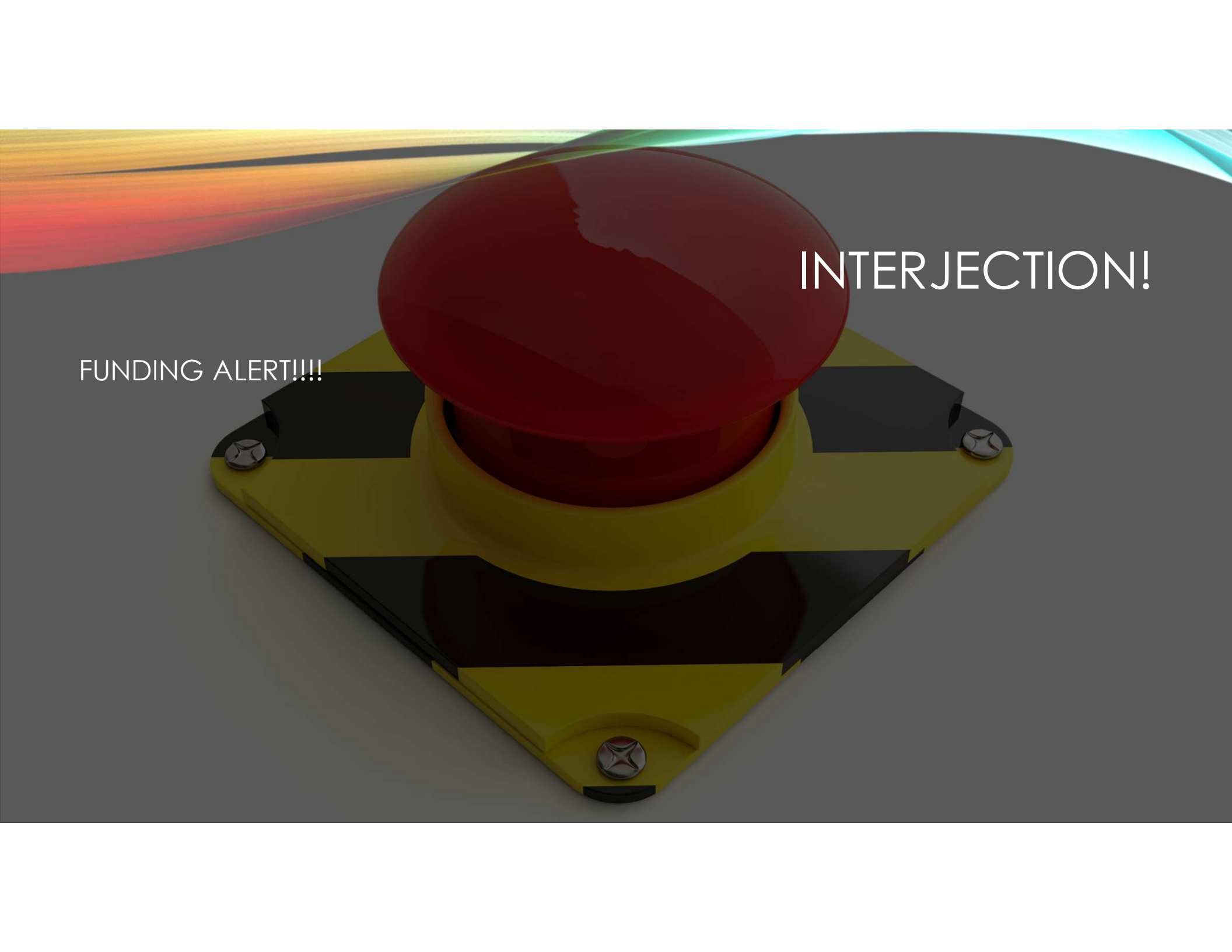
PRIORITIZATION AND THE STIP – WHAT'S NEXT?

Data Review Period

- After submittals, NCDOT and PO partners enter the data review period
- All data used to score projects (population, traffic volumes, safety metrics, estimated project costs, etc.) is reviewed to insure accurate scoring

Scoring

- Projects compete in 3 “buckets” of funding (\$\$ as of July 9th, 2025)
 - Statewide Mobility - \$1.665**B**
 - Regional Impact (A and B) - \$145**M** (A), \$104**M** (B)
 - Division Needs (2, 3, and 4) - \$152**M** (2), \$112**M** (3), \$35**M** (4)



INTERJECTION!

FUNDING ALERT!!!!

FUNDING ISSUES

Overcommitment issues

- Projects from P3 still in development and using future STIP \$\$\$

Poor Cost Estimates

- Projects from P5 have seen upwards of 300% increases in the delivery cost

Decreasing NCDOT revenues

- DOT does **not** have access to the State's General Fund, instead, they use Highway Trust Fund to apply funding to projects
- HTF historically funded through gas-tax (80%)

PRIORITIZATION AND THE STIP – WHAT'S NEXT?

Statewide Mobility Programing

Regional Impact Draft Scores Released

- POs to apply Local Input Points
- 70% Data Scores + 30% Local Input Points = 100% Total Score

Regional Impact Programing and Division Needs Draft Scores

- POs apply Local Input Points
- 50% Data Scores + 50% Local Input Points = 100% Total Score

Division Needs Programing and the Draft STIP

PRIORITIZATION AND THE STIP - FINAL

Draft STIP is
open for public
comment for 30
days

Approval of the
Draft STIP by the
State Board of
Transportation

Approval by
FHWA

Final STIP
Released

Next round of
Prioritization
begins

MOVING FORWARD

NCDOT is
implementing new
requirements for
Highway projects in P9

Express Designs

Higher level planning
study on a project

Used to develop
better cost estimates
and help the NEPA
process

The image features a dense field of black, three-dimensional question marks. In the center, a single, larger orange question mark stands out. The word "QUESTIONS?" is written in white, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the orange question mark.

QUESTIONS?