

Interstate and Primary Route Designation Policy for the STI Prioritization Process

July 2021

Overview:

In accordance with the Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) law, projects classified as an interstate or primary route are eligible for Statewide Mobility and/or Regional Impact funding as specified in G.S. §136-189.10 (1) and (2). While the law specifies how projects on interstates and primary routes (US or NC) are classified, additional guidance is needed for designating proposed or future primary routes for evaluation in the STI Prioritization process. If a project is proposed on an approved future interstate or primary route, it would be eligible for evaluation and funding in the Statewide Mobility and/or Regional Impact category. The process for designating future primary routes for evaluation in the STI Prioritization process is defined below.

Any designation as a future interstate or primary route must be approved by the State Traffic Engineer in accordance with the North Carolina Administration Code (NCAC) 19A:02B.0104 (b). The State Traffic Engineer must ensure any future designation is warranted and meets all applicable policies and codes. There is an expectation that the facility will be designed and constructed to meet applicable standards. If the project is approved as a future interstate or primary route and the project is funded in the Statewide Mobility or Regional Impact categories but is not designed to meet applicable standards, the project is subject to being reprioritized in a subsequent prioritization cycle.

For a route to be considered as future primary route, the following process must be completed prior to the project submittal window closing. Consideration of a future primary route does not guarantee it will be approved.

Please note that future interstate designations typically require approval from FHWA and AASHTO, unless specifically approved by Congress. AASHTO reviews future interstate designations at their spring and fall meetings; therefore, for consideration as a future interstate route for Prioritization, AASHTO must approve the designation no later than their meeting in the requested Fall year meeting.

Previously approved Interstate and Primary Route designations on projects scored through prioritization (indicated as Statewide Mobility or Regional Impact in previous Pn.0 cycle) do not have to be resubmitted for consideration. These automatically advance if the conditions/scope of the project remain unchanged.

Requests:

All requests for future interstates shall be submitted by July 1 of the requested year, and the planning organization or Division requesting the designation shall initiate this process, and have their first planning meeting, with the State Traffic Engineer's office prior to that date. Emails and voice mails are not sufficient. Future interstate route requests submitted after July 1 will not be considered for Prioritization scoring with the designation.

Requests for future primary routes (US and NC) may be submitted by the end of the Pn.0 submittal window. Future primary route requests submitted after the submittal window closes will not be considered for Prioritization scoring with the designation in that cycle.

To submit a facility for consideration as a future interstate or primary route, the requestor (MPO, RPO, or Division) must submit a **Route Change Request Form** with the associated information and mapping to the appropriate Regional Traffic Engineer (RTE) copying State Signing Engineer and SPOT staff for consideration by the State Traffic Engineer. All requests will be reviewed by the Route Numbering Committee and the State Traffic Engineer. The MPO, RPO, or Division will work with the corresponding Regional Traffic Engineer to submit the official online form.

Supplemental documentation is encouraged to accompany the **Route Change Request Form**. This additional information could include (but is not limited to) the following items:

- Map indicating proposed route to be renumbered and/or new alignment
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) that indicate primary route designation
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan that indicate primary route designation
- Prior Prioritization data that indicate primary route scoring consistency
- Feasibility Studies that indicate project intent or route continuity
- Previous STIP documentation that indicate primary route designation
- Route to be a part of Strategic Freight Corridor (or other statewide significance plan)

Please submit your completed **Route Change Request Form** and any additional reference information (as one PDF file) to the following email addresses:

TITLE: STI Prioritization Primary Route Request – (Proposed Route/Name/County/Project)
TO: **Regional Traffic Engineer**
CC: **State Signing Engineer:** Renee Roach (rroach@ncdot.gov)
CC: **SPOT Manager:** Jason Schronce (jschronce@ncdot.gov)

References:

Session Law 2013-183 (House Bill 817)
<https://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2013/Bills/House/PDF/H817v10.pdf>

19A NCAC 04A.0104
<http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2019a%20-%20transportation/chapter%2004%20-%20secretary%20of%20transportation/subchapter%20a/19a%20ncac%2004a%20.0104.pdf>

Route Changes <https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/safety/Pages/Route-Changes.aspx>

[Listing of RTE](#)