



**Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
2025-2030**

**Public Hearing
Monday, June 2, 2025**

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May 12, 2025

Camden County Board of Commissioners

Re: Capital Improvement Program (CIP) 2025-2030

Chair White and Members of the Board:

The provision of adequate public infrastructure remains a top priority for the County. Being the 21st year having a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process, the Board of Commissioners have undertaken significant thought, discussion and consideration to estimate critical facility needs and the costs therein for the County.

Financial policy specific to how the County governs the issues of debt, fees & user charges, fund balances, competitive employment, and the ad valorem tax rate are shown in the attached Resolution No. 2007-06-04. This Resolution puts in place measures to ensure the financial strength of the County government as well as protecting the taxpayer. In addition, the Board of Commissioners created a Capital Reserve Fund as a mechanism with which to fund critical, non-school, county infrastructure projects.

With Camden County being a recipient of significant grant awards in furtherance of the Board of Commissioners capital improvement policy goals, key infrastructure projects are moving forward. Over the past five years the County has been fortunate to receive grants to assist with placing critical infrastructure where it is needed.

A significant project included in the 2025-2030 CIP is the engineering and design of a new Waste Water Treatment plant in the South Mills area. The plans and studies associated with the final engineering of the plant are being funded with grants allocated to the County by the State for water and sewer infrastructure. Another portion of this money is being earmarked for the design of a new clear well at the Water Plant to accommodate new production capacity from new well site 4 and anticipated well site 5.

During the November 2020 election the citizens had the opportunity to vote as to whether they supported building a new high school. The question was placed as a referendum on the ballot and the citizens voted overwhelmingly in support of moving forward with a new high school. In the intervening years design, permitting and bidding have been completed with the final portion of funding secured in May of 2025. Construction is anticipated to begin in early summer of 2025 with a planned opening date of Fall 2027.

The Board of Education was awarded grant funding from the Needs Based Funding Program totaling just over \$62million to be applied toward the construction of the new school. These funds will help ensure the County builds a first-class high school that Camden students and citizens will be proud of for many years to come.

2026 will bring the completion of the Treasure Point Rural Education Center and the relocation of the Cooperative Extension Office. This project has moved up on the CIP with the award of \$452,000.00 from a PARTF grant received in Fall 2022.

Camden County has moved forward with incredible strides over the last year. It is sure with the bold work of the Board of Commissioners going forward that the citizens of the County will be well served.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Burke', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Erin Burke,
County Manager

Introduction

The Capital Improvements Program (CIP) is a community planning and fiscal management tool used to coordinate the location, timing and financing of capital improvements over a multi-year period - usually 4-6 years. Capital improvements refer to major, non-recurring physical expenditures such as land, buildings, public infrastructure and equipment. The Camden County CIP is a five-year plan that consists of capital projects for various departments/agencies of the county government. The CIP includes a description of proposed capital improvement projects ranked by priority, a year-by-year schedule of expected project funding, and an estimate of project costs and financing sources. The CIP is a working document and should be reviewed and updated annually to reflect changing community needs, priorities and funding opportunities.

Purposes of Capital Improvement Planning:

- Ensure the timely repair and replacement of aging infrastructure.
- Provide a level of certainty for residents, businesses and developers regarding the location and timing of public investments.
- Identify the most economical means of financing capital improvements.
- Provide an opportunity for public input in the budget and financing process.
- Eliminate unanticipated, poorly planned, or unnecessary capital expenditures.
- Eliminate sharp increases in tax rates, user fees and debt levels to cover unexpected capital improvements.
- Ensure that patterns of growth and development are consistent with the comprehensive plan.
- Balance desired public improvements with the community's financial resources

Planning Process

Preparation of the CIP and annual budget are closely linked. The first year of the CIP, known as the capital budget, outlines specific projects and appropriates funding for those projects. It is usually adopted in conjunction with the government's annual operating budget. Projects and financing sources outlined for subsequent years are not authorized until the annual budget for those years is legally adopted. The out years serve as a guide for future planning and are subject to further review and modification. Department heads submit to the County Manager information relating to items that will cost in excess of \$300,000 in at least one year of the CIP planning period. The County Manager will review and study all items submitted by the department heads and prepare a recommended plan that is provided to the Board of Commissioners. After review by the Board, a public hearing is set to receive citizen input. When the plan is complete the Board of Commissioners will adopt it with a resolution with the intent to include the first-year projects in the annual budget. By providing funding for strategic investments at a given time and location, the CIP helps ensure that development occurs consistent with a community's plans and vision.

Financial Policy

The following financial guidelines were adopted by the Board of Commissioners on June 4, 2007:

- Debt service should be equal to or less than 15% of General Fund expenditures.
- The county will strive to pay outstanding principal debt within 15-20 years.
- The county will strive to maintain its debt at no greater level than 2% of the assessed valuation of taxable property in the county.
- The county will strive to maintain an available fund balance equal to 25% of the General Fund

budget at the end of each fiscal year which is substantially higher than the minimum recommended by the Local Government Commission.

- General Fund balances in excess of targeted levels may be transferred to the County's Special Capital Reserve Fund.

Adoption of these policies will further ensure the county's financial strength and future success in capital planning.

For the past 17 years Camden County has embarked on a very conservative fiscal policy working to ensure growth in the fund balance and a stronger financial position for the county government. The total unreserved and undesignated general fund balance was \$15,517,144 at the end of FY2023-24. The maintenance of a healthy fund balance must be continued so the County has the ability to arrange financing for large projects that have been identified.

Project Evaluation

Beginning in FY11 through today, project evaluation was done through interaction and discussion between the County Manager and the Commissioners as well as input from the Department Heads. As noted above the CIP is a working document and should be reviewed and updated annually to reflect changing community needs, priorities and funding opportunities.

Project Evaluation Criteria

Sections	Questions Considered When Evaluating Projects
Department Ranking	➤ What is the departmental priority/ranking for project?
Legal Mandates/Safety	➤ Does the project enable the County to fulfill a new or existing state of federal mandate? ➤ Does the project eliminate an immediate safety hazard for County citizens or employees?
Demonstrated Need/Timing	➤ When does the project need to be completed? Is the project related to another priority project?

Impact on Operating & Maintenance Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Will the project save the County future operating costs? ➤ Will the project improve operating efficiency? ➤ Will maintenance cost be reduced if the project were undertaken? ➤ Will the project generate additional operating revenue or will it generate additional expense?
Impact on Quality of Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Will the project improve the quality of life of the County's citizens?
Addresses a deficiency in provision of public services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Is the County unable to provide basic services if the project is not completed? ➤ Are current services in the project area inadequate? ➤ Does the project improve County
Linkage to Board of Commissioners' Vision Statement, other Long Range Plans, or Community Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Does the project help to meet the priorities established by the Vision Statement/goals or other long-range plans? ➤ How will the project help further these priorities? ➤ Does the project have citizen or community support? ➤ Does the project service a special need of the community?
Funds/grants available from state, federal, and other sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Besides County general fund revenues, what funding sources are available to fund this project? ➤ Can fees or revenues other than taxes be raised to cover this project's cost?
Extent of secondary benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Are there intangible benefits to completing the project? ➤ Are there benefits to the project that are not otherwise considered in the evaluation?
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What comments do you have about the project that needs to be considered by the Board of

Revenue Sources & Debt Service

One of the most important factors of financing a major project is the county's ability to pay the debt service or the annual costs of the financing. There are several funding sources that will be used to fund projects in the CIP. These sources are dependent on the type of project and the financial impact on the taxpayers of the county:

1. **General Fund Revenues** - May be used to fund Pay as You Go capital projects with amounts under \$300,000.
2. **General Obligation (GO) Bonds** - The County may issue General Obligation Bonds for larger projects such as schools. These bonds are legally binding and are a pledge of the county's full faith, credit and taxing power.
3. **Installment Financing Agreements** - In exchange for bank financing, County assets are used as security for private placement of debt. This type of funding can be used for any capital projects.
4. **Certificates of Participation (COP)** - Essentially a large installment financing agreement (banks are limited on how much they can lend). COPs are usually rated a step below a GO rating.
5. **State and Federal Revenues** - Projects may be financed through low interest federal loans from USDA Rural Development such as the completed Camden Intermediate School Project. Additionally, several projects have been financed by the use of state and federal grants such as the Wastewater Treatment and Collection System.
6. **Private Contributions** - Private contributions from developers or adjoining landowners that will become a part of a larger project.

Note: There are some limited recurring revenues that are to be used for debt service purposes. Portions of the Article 40 and 42 Sales Taxes are restricted for the purpose of school-related debt service or school capital outlay. The county also receives funds from the state Public School Building Capital Fund (these funds are generated by the state corporate income taxes) that can be used for debt service; however, the status of these funds is uncertain based on the unpredictability of the NC Education Lottery proceeds and other economics.

Revenue Sources:

- Restricted portions of Article 40 & 42 Sales Tax
- Annual contributions to the Special Capital Reserve Fund per proposed policies
- Accumulated funds in the Special Capital Reserve Fund & School Capital Reserve Fund

Revenue Sources & Debt Service

Resources	Project Types	Advantages	Disadvantages
Pay As You Go	Assets with short useful lives. or where most of benefit is achieved early Assets for which matching local funds are required Assets that are not expensive to acquire and relative to the total Pay As You Go plan Projects can be phased with reasonable annual expenditures	Saves interest and other costs of Preserves financial flexibility Protects borrowing capacity Enhances credit quality	Limits funding for capital needs Creates an uneven flow of expenditures
General Obligation Bonds	Assets with long useful lives Projects that are expensive to acquire or that exceed the capacity	Permits governments to acquire assets as needed Levels out capital expenditures	Adds financial and administrative costs of procuring capital assets Limits flexibility by committing revenues for life of the bond issue Requires voter approval
Certificates of Participation	Projects that are expensive to acquire or that exceed the capacity of the Pay As You Go plan Used frequently for purchases of equipment, buildings and real property	Permits governments to acquire assets as needed No voter approval	Interest cost may be higher relative to issuing debt
Grants	Assets qualifying for grant assistance	Expands size of program with little or no cost to local taxpayers	Limited amount of unrestricted grants availability Added administrative or compliance costs
Private	Facilities adjacent to private properties	Lowers government capital and/or operating costs	Added staff time required to identify contributors and coordinate activities

Funding Method for County Capital Reserve Fund

Land Transfer Tax: The Land Transfer Tax is placed in a Capital Reserve fund to support projects in the Capital Improvement Plan and transfers from General Fund balance when it is in excess of targeted levels (Resolution No. 2007-06-04). It is projected that the Land Transfer tax will generate approximately \$750,000 in FY 2023-2024. These funds are applied to approved capital projects and debt service. Currently \$.01 of the county-wide ad valorem tax rate generates approximately \$171,332.19 in taxes collected by Camden County.

School Capital Reserve Fund

The School Capital Reserve Fund will continue to be the primary means the county uses to fund school capital projects. Currently capital projects are funded by that portion of the Article 40 & 42 sales tax that is earmarked for school construction by the state. The county also may request funds through the State Public School Building Capital Fund. Lottery proceeds are annually appropriated to this Fund and reserved for School Capital projects. Articles 40 & 42 Sales Tax will generate approximately \$675,000 annually that goes into the School Capital Reserve Fund.

Enterprise Fund

South Camden Water & Sewer District: The South Camden Water & Sewer District is an Enterprise Fund that provides water and sewer to residents of Camden County who live in the South Mills, Courthouse and Shiloh Townships. Water service is available throughout the three townships and sewer service is available only in a smaller area that is along the US158 / NC343 corridor. The County did make sewer available in the Core village of South Mills due to failing septic systems a few years back. This fund has been in operation since 1996.

A Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant was constructed and became operational in 2002 along the Pasquotank River in Camden Township near the central area of the county. This facility was built with partial funding from the NC Rural Center.

There are two Wastewater Treatments Plants constructed and in operation in South Mills township and the Courthouse township. The most recent in Courthouse which was partially funded through an EDA Grant.

County Fire Districts

There are two fire districts in the county, the South Mills Fire District and the Courthouse-Shiloh Fire District. The South Mills Fire Department station is located on Keeter Barn Road near South Mills. The South Camden Fire Department has a fire station located on Sawyers Creek Road near the Courthouse with a second station located in the Shiloh Community along NC343 South. Residents in both districts currently pay a total of .05 tax (.01 fire tax plus a .04 general fund contribution). These revenues fund the operation and capital needs of the fire departments. The county has contracts with both volunteer fire departments detailing how the fire commissions will oversee the operation of the fire departments which includes special approval of all expenditures of \$5,000 or more.

In consideration of the current revenue generated from property tax county-wide, it is expected that both districts will have adequate funds to provide for their operational needs and debt service for capital needs for the next five years.

Adoption of Unified County Government

In May of 2006 the voters of Camden County approved the adoption of Unified County Government. Effective July 1, 2006 the change was implemented granting Camden County both the powers of a county as well as those of municipal government (excluding the creation of a police department). This change in form of government restricts the creation of any other municipal governments within the county thus assuring citizens of only one layer of local government and one layer of taxation.

Utility Franchise Tax: A major benefit of the change in form of government is that it allows the County to receive a quarterly allocation of the Utility Franchise Taxes which are typically only received by municipalities. As the County grows and develops additional commercial tax base this allocation increases.

Capital Project Narrative Descriptions:

The Capital Project narratives are organized in the following categories:

- A. **Approved/Funded** - Approved and Funded by vote of the Camden County Board of Commissioners;
- B. **Recommended/Unfunded** - Recommended projects by the Camden County Manager but currently Unfunded; and
- C. **Identified/Unfunded** - Projects that have been identified by Staff but currently not funded.

Capital Project Narratives

A. Approved/Funded:

1. South Mills Waste Water Expansion and Disposal (Plant)

Project Description: The South Mills Wastewater Treatment Plant will need additional treatment capacity and disposal to handle the increased flow demands from the residential developments that are currently proposed. A PER was conducted to evaluate the options for increased wastewater treatment capacity and the cost for each. The cost to add 100,000 GPD of capacity to the existing treatment plant and disposal was approximately \$9M. This expansion would handle the first two building phases in the residential development and provide information on how much additional treatment capacity is needed.

Priority Level: 1

Define Problem: Current Treatment Plant has approximately 100,000 GPD of treatment capacity left and two large residential subdivisions are under development.

Recommend Solution: Construct a new modern plant capable of being expanded as the need arises.

Alternatives: Expand at existing wastewater plant.

Stage of the Project: A P.E.R. was completed to determine the most cost-effective alternatives for increased wastewater treatment capacity. Design and study is underway for the best location and disposal method.

Professional Design Work Detail: Presentation provided to the Board of Commissioners at the April 16, 2025 budget work session.

Operating Impact: The operating impact would likely require an increase in staffing and operational costs.

2. Administration Complex

Project Description: Construction of an Administration Complex that will serve the needs of county residents in a safe and efficient manner. This project will be built in three phases. The Library (1st Phase) was completed June 2022. The remaining development on this property will include an Administration Building and a Parks & Recreation/Senior Center.

Priority Level: 1

Define Problem: By using existing properties, the relocation of Tax, Water, & Planning will occur in 2023; and the Sheriff's Office will also assume an outbuilding in the Court House Complex to relieve some crowding issues within their office suite. The long-term goal will be to house all administrative facilities on one campus, and allow for the Sheriff's Office to absorb the entirety of the building they currently co-occupy with Parks and Recreation and the Senior Center. Phase III will include the construction of a building to house the following departments: County Manager's Office, Human Resources, Finance Office, Tax Administration, Utilities, Planning & Inspections Department Parks & Recreation, Senior Center. The Community needs a Parks & Recreation/Senior Center designed for that purpose.

Recommended Solution: Construction of a Parks & Recreation/Senior Center building on the acreage already purchased across the road from the Courthouse Complex.

Alternatives: Continue business in current structure.

Stage of Project: County purchased 7.69 acres across the road from the Courthouse Complex. A formal space-needs study was conducted by Wooten Company in March 2016. An architectural design firm will need to be secured to develop plans for a design build model of construction.

Relation to Other Projects: Completion of this project will free up space currently occupied by the Senior Center for use by the Sheriff's Office. It will also allow for the demolition of the space that is currently occupied by the Planning Department, Water and Sewer, and Tax Administration.

Professional Design Work Detail: Design services will be solicited to work on a design build model of construction.

Operating Impact: Increased efficiency in daily operations and improved services to the public.

3. New High School

Project Description: Construction of a new High School/Early College campus with capacity for 800 students. Campus will include parking and athletic facilities.

Priority Level: 1

Define Problem: The current campus does not meet the needs of a modern high school facility. Buildings are over capacity and the use of mobile classrooms to hold the early college does not allow for growth in this portion of the school. Current athletic facilities are scattered and insufficient to meet the needs of the athletic program. A bond referendum from November 2020 led to vote to add up to \$33 million to the construction costs for the school. As of July 2022 the Board of Education has secured \$50million in needs based funding grants from the State.

Recommended Solution: Construction of a new High School/Early College Campus.

Alternative: Do nothing and remain at existing campus.

Stage of the Project: M.B. Khan Construction Company Inc. has been contracted to conduct a design build of a new high school. The size and layout of the facility are being modified to ensure the site on 343N is adequate.

Relation to Other Projects: None

Professional Design Work Detail: M.B. Khan Construction Company Inc. has been contracted to conduct a design build of a new high school. The size and layout of the facility are being modified to ensure the site on 343N is adequate.

Operating Impact:

Construction will likely commence 12-18 months from May of 2023. The Construction time period will be approximately two years. The new campus should open in Fall of 2027.

4. Treasure Point Rural Education Center

Project Description: Construction of the Treasure Point Rural Education Center to house the NC State Cooperative Extension Offices, Soil & Water Conservation Officer, and 4H.

Priority Level: 1

Define Problem: The NC State Cooperative Extension Offices, Soil & Water Conservation Officer, and 4H are currently operating out of a mobile office trailer. There is inadequate storage and no public meeting space. Cooking classes have to be arranged with other facilities and summer camps are limited to fair weather days.

Recommended Solution: Construction of a facility to include offices, demonstration kitchen, and large meeting room along with ancillary storage and restroom facilities. The Campus will have new improved parking and a new septic system.

Alternatives: Make no changes

Stage of the Project: A PARTF grant was secured in 2022 in the amount of \$452,000.00 towards the construction of the new facility. An architectural firm has been selected and final design will commence in 2023 with construction slated to begin in 2024 and completion in Summer 2025.

Relation to Other Projects:

This new facility will allow for the elimination of the mobile office trailer from the future administrative campus.

Professional Design Work Detail:

Mark Kasten of Cahoon and Kasten Architecture will lead the design/build process for this project. The Board of Commissioners voted at the March 2023 meeting to secure the services of this firm.

Operating Impact:

The new facility will increase the work load of the Buildings and Grounds Division. Public use of the building is planned, and additional resources will be necessary to maintain the facility for this use.

5. South Mills Boat Ramp and Park

Project Description: Plan and Construct a small Community Park in the South Mills Township area.

Priority Level: 3

Define Problem: As the County's population grows, demand for recreation space and activities will increase. Parks are an integral element of strong communities and promote healthy living activities, especially when located in or in close proximity to residential areas. Currently all county park facilities are located in the courthouse township at Grandy Elementary School. The distance from South Mills to the one central community park is an obstacle to pursuing both organizational and independent recreation, and the existing community park has little if any room for expansion of park or parking areas.

Recommended Solution: Use the 42 acres of land adjacent to the Dismal Swamp Canal from the purchase of the South Mills Water Association to begin planning for construction of a community park with both active and passive recreation areas including baseball/soccer fields, playground equipment, and picnic shelter. Limited funding may be generated from requiring fees in lieu of land dedications for new residential subdivisions. As part of this process, the County is pursuing the construction of a boat ramp and parking area adjacent to the canal.

Alternatives: N/A

Stage of Project: Master Planning the site is proposed in the FY 25-25 budget.

Relation to Other Projects: Allows expansion of outdoor recreational offerings.

Professional Design Work Detail: None started at this time. Will need a master plan to ensure effected use of the property and community engagement to meet the needs of the citizens.

Operating Impact: The project will increase Parks and Recreation operations and maintenance budget and will likely bring on the need to add one additional staff person.

B. Recommended/Unfunded:

1. South Mills Waste Water Treatment Plant (High Rate Filtration Pond)

Project Description: Increase wastewater disposal capacity to prepare for increased flows from sanitary sewer expansions.

Priority Level: 3

Define Problem: The increased wastewater flow as a result of increased residential and commercial development will require added wastewater disposal capacity.

Recommended Solution: Study the feasibility of higher rate infiltration ponds for wastewater disposal as opposed to the current spray field acreage located near the South Mills WWTP. The benefits include using less land area and lower operations and maintenance costs together with the ability to use this technology for adequate disposal during winter months

Alternatives: Continue to utilize the existing spray fields in South Mills Township.

Stage of the Project: Eastern Carolina Engineering has prepared a preliminary soils boring test analysis at the current WWTP spray fields site. The testing shows the soils at the spray field site would support the high rate disposal system.

Professional Design Work Detail: None to date.

Operating Impact: The operating impact will be minimal with the exception of normal wear and tear.

2. New South Mills Convenience Center & Transfer Station

Project Description: A new larger convenience center and new transfer station to serve the residents of South Mills.

Priority Level: 1

Define Problem: The currently convenience center is undersized and difficult to navigate if there are multiple customers present. It is also difficult to service for the contractor. The County uses a transfer station in a neighboring jurisdiction paying fees for the service.

Recommend Solution: The County should seek land that is adequately sized to provide service to current and future development in South Mills. The site should be centrally located and easily accessible to the contractor.

Alternatives: None

Stage of the Project: Research.

Professional Design Work Detail: None to date.

Operating Impact: Maintenance of new facility and infrastructure improvements would primarily affect the Building & Grounds Division of Public Works.

3. Broadband

Project Description: Eastern Shore Communication is working with NCDOT and NCDENR (North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources) to secure county wide permits in order to continue to install fiber along Route 343 North and South. Environmental is all complete and signed off through USDA.

Priority Level: 1

Define Problem: There is a critical lack of internet and broadband infrastructure throughout the entire County. The COVID-19 pandemic has proven that internet access is paramount in communicating when in a lock down situation. There has been significant improvement with hardware acquisition and installment however there is much more to do before the County will be to a point covering 95% of the area with internet accessibility.

Recommended Solution: Continue to install fiber and wireless hardware throughout the County and provide affordable and competitive prices to the citizens. Also continue to seek out grant opportunities and enlist other outside agencies as needed to move this project along.

Alternatives: N/A

Stage of Project: Phase 1 would bring fiber from the North Water Tower to the South Water Tower via the County Office and Library (Community Center). The point of connection to MCNC (Microelectronics Center of North Carolina) will be at the Shipyard Road/343 intersection. Phase 1 would bring fiber from the North Water Tower to the South Water Tower via the County Office and Library (Community Center). The point of connection to MCNC (Microelectronics Center of North Carolina) will be at the Shipyard Road/343 intersection. ESC is also extending the fiber to the Camden Business Park and is moving forward with fiber installation in the Shiloh area of the County.

Relation to Other Projects: Broadband installation throughout the County will improve communications with other business, education, and global networks. This will also have a positive impact on emergency response times of local first responders.

Professional Design Work Detail: Eastern Shore Communications has performed a feasibility study for Camden County and is well on the way to having internet access from the Courthouse area to the Camden Commerce Park in South Mills.

Operating Impact: Increased internet coverage accessibility for 75 % of Camden County.

4. South Mills Water System Study

Project Description: The acquisition of the South Mills Water Association assets in 2024 has led to the need to conduct a full study of the system to allow the County to appropriately allocate resources for repairs and improvements to the system. Before being acquired the Association purchased bulk water from the County as well as producing their own water to provide service to the citizens of South Mills. The system is significantly older than the system serving the other two townships in the County and thusly has different needs for repairs and line replacement.

Priority Level: 1

Define Problem: The need to have a full picture of the system and prioritization of repair and replacement.

Recommend Solution: Conduct an engineering study of the system to provide a road map for repair and replacement.

Alternatives: Repair and replace lines on an as needed basis with no regard for growth or condition of the lines.

Stage of the Project: No work has been conducted.

Professional Design Work Detail: None to date.

Operating Impact: Will require staff to assist with the locating and reviewing of existing and proposed lines.

C. Identified/Unfunded:

1. Public Beach

Project Description: Provide protected shallow-water access to the public for swimming and sailing.

Priority Level: 3

Define Problem: Currently there is no protected shallow-water access for the public to swim or launch small watercraft. A public beach would allow for the access to the water and would encourage residents and visitors to enjoy the natural resources of the county.

Recommend Solution: Seek land in a suitable location to provide access, parking, and public facilities.

Alternatives: None

Stage of the Project: Research.

Professional Design Work Detail: None to date.

Operating Impact: Maintenance of new park space and infrastructure improvements would primarily affect the Parks and Recreation Department and Buildings & Grounds.

2. Dismal Swamp Trail Extension

Project Description: Complete the last section of the Dismal Swamp Trail to the Virginia state line, thus providing another off-road link in the East Coast Greenway.

Priority Level: 3

Define Problem: Significant investment was made in the early 2000s on the Dismal Swamp Trail. The trail currently terminates at the Dismal Swamp Welcome Center. The remaining portion north to the Virginia state line remains to be constructed. The completion of this link would provide safe cycling access to residents and visitors.

Recommend Solution: Prioritize state funding, seek interstate commerce grants to support the design work and construction for the project.

Alternatives: None

Stage of the Project: Research.

Professional Design Work Detail: None to date.

Operating Impact: Maintenance of new park space and infrastructure improvements would primarily affect the Parks and Recreation Department.

3. Dismal Swamp Canal Boating Amenities

Project Description: The provision of land-based facilities, such as restrooms, showers, laundry, fuel, pump-out, and a ship's store to provide service to boaters traversing the Dismal Swamp Canal.

Priority Level: 3

Define Problem: There is a lack of boater services between Elizabeth City and Chesapeake/Portsmouth Virginia. A facility that serves the Boaters would encourage visitors to stay in Camden instead of just passing through. The Welcome Center receives regular inquiries on the distance to amenities, and have to send them on to Elizabeth City or Virginia leading to potentially lost revenue.

Recommend Solution: The County could seek land adjacent to the Canal that would provide access and support the landward facilities. Solicit private investment supported through an updated Comprehensive Plan. Work would have to be closely coordinated with the Army Corp of Engineers.

Alternatives: None

Stage of the Project: Research.

Professional Design Work Detail: None to date.

Operating Impact: A privately operated facility would have a minimal operating impact to the County, but has the potential for tax revenue generation.