

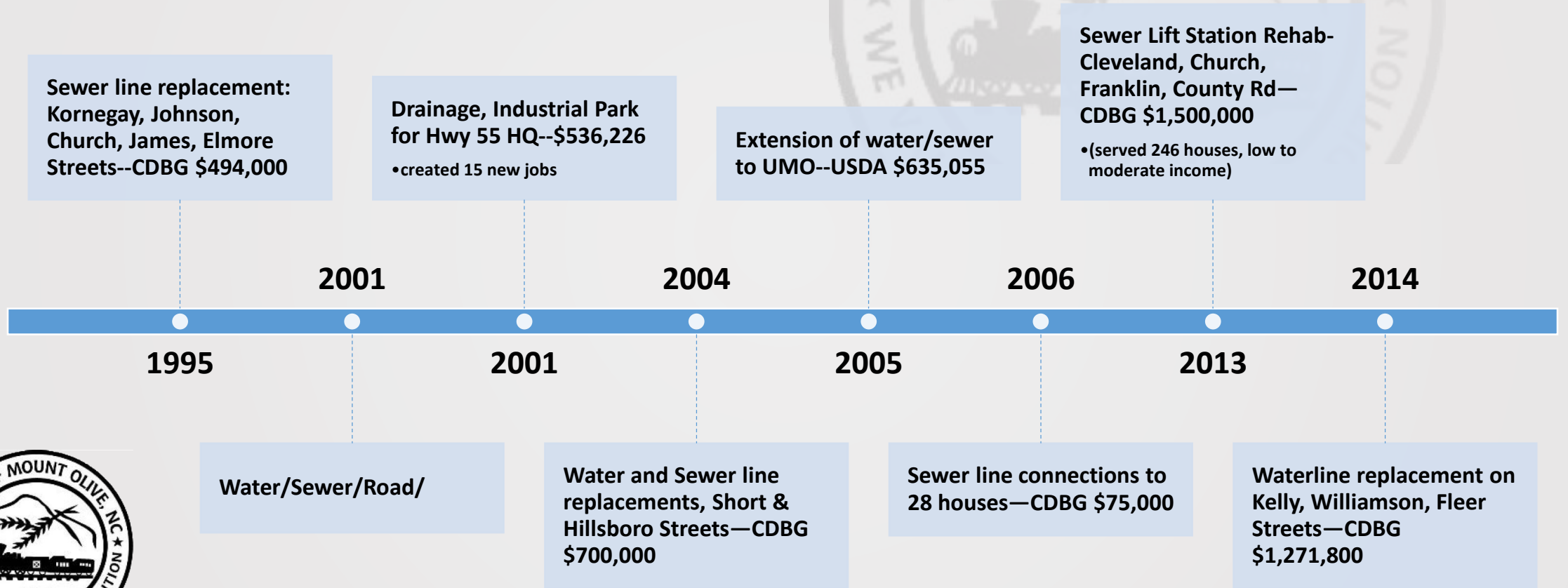


Moratorium History and Status Report

Town of Mount Olive
North Carolina

Mount Olive Grants and Loans Summary

Pre-Moratorium: 1995-2014



Hurricanes and climate change affected pre-moratorium efforts

- Prior to the 2015 moratorium, efforts were made to improve the town's wastewater treatment system; however, since 1998, hurricanes took their toll on eastern NC, especially in small towns where wastewater systems were already in a weakened state.
- Mount Olive was significantly affected by Hurricanes Bonnie in 1998, Floyd in 1999, Isobel in 2003, Irene in 2011, Matthew in 2016, Florence in 2018, and Isais in 2020.
- These storms, in combination with other climate changes, caused the TOMO to spend funds on system repairs rather than overall improvements.
- Grant funds between 1995 and 2014 did provide some relief from flooding and other storm related issues.





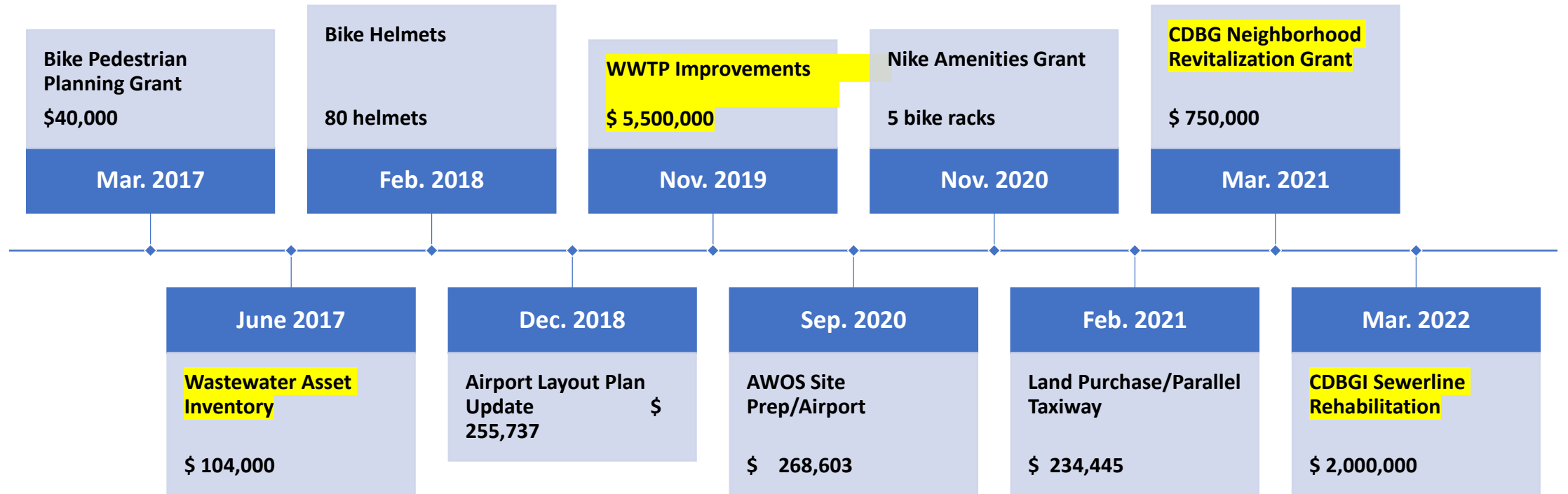
Moratorium History and Definitions

- The Town of Mount Olive was first hit by a sewer moratorium on May 15, 2015, due to limited sewer capacity. The moratorium prohibits the town from taking on any new commercial or residential development. Mount Olive was among 32 towns hit with moratoriums between 2003 and February 2019 by the NC Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ).
- There are many towns in North Carolina with similar issues.
- Many of the municipal water and sewer systems in North Carolina are old and deteriorating.
- In 2017, the Division of Water Infrastructure Authority drafted a master plan that said North Carolina would need as much as \$26 billion over 20 years to resurrect or replace failing water and sewer systems, mostly those in small communities. Those small communities are hit hardest partly because some of them struggle to make water and sewer services pay for themselves through their customers.
- The town of Mount Olive is one of those small towns, working very hard to improve its wastewater treatment system.
- What is a sewer moratorium? [A sewer moratorium is a temporary ban on new or expanded sewer connections to a municipal sewer system](#) .It is usually imposed when the capacity of the system is at or near its limit, and there is no more room for additional connections. [A moratorium can be imposed by a municipality or a state agency](#) . The moratorium can affect both water and sewer systems.





Mount Olive Grants and Loans 2015-2022





Special Order of Consent: 2015

In 2015, the Town of Mount Olive was placed on a sewer moratorium by the NC Department of Environmental Quality.

The most recent Special Order of Consent (SOC) states:

- 1. “the town continues to be in noncompliance with permit conditions and limits for flow of their NPDES Permit..**
- 2. The town seeks to discharge an average of 2.4 million gallons to the NE Cape Fear River while repairs and enhancements to the spray irrigation facility permitted in WQ0029169 are completed....**
- 3. The persistent inflow and infiltration (I and I) issues within the collection system are further contributing to flows beyond the current capacity of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).**
- 4. Compliance will require preparation of plans...for construction of additional treatment works and influent pump station improvements.”**





Conditions of the Special Order of Consent (SOC) and what the town has done

- **The Town of Mount Olive (TOMO) was given deadlines by which certain tasks must be completed.**
- **These tasks include(d) submission of plans by 9/3/2020**
- **Begin construction by 3/31/2021**
- **Adopt a short-term monitoring plan for analysis by 12/31/2021**
- **Update and submit map of collection system which includes pipe descriptions, locations, and pump station identification along with a Capital Improvement Plan by 4/31/2022. This required smoke detection and other measures.**
- **Adopt a sewer use ordinance by 4/30/2022**
- **Submit soil evaluation by 4/30/2022**
- **Other action deadlines through 1/31/2026 along with quarterly reports and payment of fines owed for past overfills.**





Mount Olive Grants for Wastewater Improvements: 2022-2023

- 1. June 16, 2022: NC Department of Public Safety and Emergency Management awarded \$964,100 for flood mitigation for Maple and Center Streets, and a culvert under CSX Railroad.**
- 2. July, 2022: Office of State Management and Budget awarded \$1,000,000 for wastewater treatment improvements.**
- 3. March 23, 2023: NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) awarded \$220,000 for development of a townwide stormwater master plan; includes survey of current assets and capacity, design of engineering solutions for future plan with completion date Nov. 15, 2023.**
- 4. July 11, 2023: NC DEQ awarded TOMO \$8,000,000 for Collections System Rehabilitation and Replacement Project; includes engineering, admin, testing, fees, and construction.**
- 5. July 11, 2023: NC DEQ awarded TOMO \$6,000,000 for Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements; includes engineering, admin, testing, fees and construction.**



- *The Moratorium History and Status Report* for the Town of Mount Olive was researched and written by
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