

MEETING MINUTES
Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln
Metropolitan Planning Organization (GCLMPO) Board
January 25, 2018

The scheduled Board meeting of the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization was held on Thursday January 25, 2018 from 6:30 pm – 7:46 pm at the Gastonia Police Department (Community Room) located at 200 Long Avenue in Gastonia, North Carolina.

Members Present

Dicky Amaya	City of Shelby, Council Member
Henry L. Beam III	City of Cherryville, Mayor
Phil Bonham	City of Lowell, Council Member
Rick Coleman	Town of Dallas, Mayor
Robin Conner	Town of Ranlo, Commissioner
Ken Ervin	City of Lowell, Council Member
Cliff Hamrick	Town of Boiling Springs, Council Member
David Humphries	City of Gastonia, Council Member
Keith Miller	City of Kings Mtn., Council Member
Scott Neisler	City of Kings Mtn., Mayor, MPO Chair
Richard Permenter	Lincoln County, Commissioner
Jill Puett	City of Cherryville, Council Member
Donald Rice	Town of Cramerton, Commissioner
Becky Smith	Bessemer City, Mayor
Danny Sparrow	Town of Stanley, Mayor Pro Tem
Perry Toomey	City of Mount Holly, Council Member
Richard Turner	City of Belmont, Council Member, MPO Vice-Chair
Ronnie Whetstine	Cleveland County Commissioner
Ronnie Worley	Gaston County Commissioner

Staff Present

Randi Gates	GCLMPO, Principal Transportation Planner
Julio Paredes	GCLMPO, Planner
Kristen Wheeler	GCLMPO, Administrative Assistant II

Guests Present

Andy Bailey	NCDOT TPD, GCLMPO Coordinator
Rusty Bost	City of Gastonia, Director of Dev. Services, TCC Vice-Chair
Dana Bumgardner	Representative, North Carolina House
Brian DuPont	City of Mount Holly, Planner
Chris Martin	Cleveland County, Senior Planner
Anil Panicker	NCDOT Div. 12, Planning Engineer
Michael Poe	NCDOT Div. 12, Div. Project Development Engineer
Walter Sharer	City of Shelby, Planning Director, TCC Chair
Mark Stafford	NCDOT Div. 12, Div. Engineer
James Walker	Charlotte Citizen, Former Gaston County Citizen, Attorney
Brian Wert	NCDOT TPD, Metrolina Group Supervisor

DRAFT

Absences (x = Absent) / Not In Good Standing

Member	Feb 2017	Mar	May	July	Sept	Dec	Jan
City of Belmont	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
City of Bessemer City	X	X	-----	X	-----	X	-----
Town of Boiling Springs	-----	X	-----	X	-----	X	-----
City of Cherryville	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Town of Cramerton	-----	-----	X	X	-----	-----	-----
Town of Dallas	X	-----	X	-----	-----	X	-----
City of Gastonia (1/2)	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	X
City of Gastonia (2/2)	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
City of Kings Mountain	-----	-----	-----	X	-----	-----	-----
City of Lincolnton	-----	X	-----	-----	-----	-----	X
City of Lowell	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
City of Mount Holly	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Town of Ranlo	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
City of Shelby	-----	-----	X	-----	-----	-----	-----
Town of Stanley	-----	-----	X	X	-----	-----	-----
Cleveland County	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Gaston County	-----	-----	X	X	-----	-----	-----
Lincoln County	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
NCDOT – Board of Transportation	X	-----	-----	X	X	X	X

1. Set Agenda

Mr. Scott Neisler, MPO Board Chair stated that the agenda needed to be amended to include adding an item to agenda item number eleven (11) and turned over the explanation to Mrs. Randi Gates.

Ms. Gates explained that item “Resolution of Support for a Statewide CMAQ Application” needed to be added to agenda item eleven (11) “CMAQ FY 19 Project Ranking”.

Mr. Neisler asked for a motion to set the agenda with the recommended agenda modification.

Mr. Sparrow motioned to approve the Agenda with the additions. Mr. Worley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Determination of Quorum and Good Standing

Mrs. Gates stated that a quorum had been met.

3. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Neisler opened for a motion to approve the December 6, 2017 meeting minutes as presented.

Mr. Toomey motioned to approve the minutes from December 6, 2017. Mr. Beam seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

4. Introduction of Members & Guests

Mr. Neisler asked everyone to introduce themselves.

5. **Public Comment**

Mr. Neisler opened the floor to public comments and the following comments were received:

- Mr. James Walker thanked the Board for their hard work and welcomed the new members. Mr. Walker also thanked Randi Gates for her service. He thanked the board for the support of upcoming projects; mentioning the Board’s support of the I-85 widening and projects along US 29-74. Mr. Walker thanked the Board for the opportunity to be present at the meeting.
- Rep. Dana Bumgardner thanked the Board for their hard work and noted that the work the Board is doing is important. He mentioned that the State of North Carolina is about to spend a lot of money in Gaston County with the widening of I-85 through the county and the work being done on US 29-74. He spoke of the connectivity to the airport that will be afforded with the bridge being built. Rep. Bumgardner closed by thanking the Board for their service.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. **2016-2025 and 2018-2027 MTIP Modifications/Deletions**

C-5505	BELMONT	RAIL TRAIL, WOODLAWN AVE TO BELMONT ABBEY COLLEGE AND DOWNTOWN. CONVERT ABANDONED NCDOT RAILROAD LINE TO A PEDESTRIAN TRAIL TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME FOR PLANNING AND DESIGN DELAY CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 17 TO FY 18	CONSTRUCTION FY 18 - <u>\$1,040,000</u> (CMAQ) \$1,040,000
C-5508	DALLAS	DALLAS-HIGH SHOALS RD (OLD US 321), DALLAS CHERRYVILLE HWY TO PARK RD AND EAST ON PARK RD TO SAM RHYME CT. CONSTRUCT SIDEWALKS DELETE PROJECT. IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDED IN C-5606D	CONSTRUCTION FY 18 - \$190,000 (CMAQ) FY 18 - <u>\$47,000</u> (L) \$237,000
C-5566	GASTONIA	GPS AUTOMATIC VEHICLE LOCATOR PROGRAM FOR FLEET VEHICLES TO ALLOW TIME FOR PLANNING AND DESIGN DELAY CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 17 TO FY 18	IMPLEMENTATION FY 18 - \$64,000 (CMAQ) FY 18 - <u>\$16,000</u> (L) \$80,000
C-5623	CRAMERTON	CRAMER MOUNTAIN RD, BALTIMORE DR TO S NEW HOPE RD, CONSTRUCT SIDEWALK TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME FOR PLANNING AND DESIGN DELAY ROW FROM FY 17 TO FY 18 AND CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 18 TO FY 19	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 18 - \$5,000 (CMAQ) FY 18 - \$2,000 (L) CONSTRUCTION FY 19 - \$360,000 (CMAQ) FY 19 - <u>\$110,000</u> (L) \$477,000
EB-5531	BESSEMER CITY	PH I: 12 TH ST, CHADWICK CT TO KAISER RD. PH II: YELLOW JACKET LN/BESS TOWN RD, 12 TH ST TO 14 TH ST (NC 274). CONSTRUCT SIDEWALKS TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME FOR PLANNING AND DESIGN DELAY CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 17 TO FY 18	CONSTRUCTION FY 18 - <u>\$300,000</u> (STPEB) \$300,000

EB-5701	GASTONIA	US 29/74 (EAST FRANKLIN BLVD), COX RD TO CITY LIMITS. CONSTRUCT MISSING SIDEWALK ON NORTH SIDE TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME FOR PLANNING AND DESIGN DELAY ROW FROM FY 17 TO FY 18 AND CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 17 TO FY 18	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 18 - \$ 116,000 (TAP) FY 18 - \$ 29,000 (L) CONSTRUCTION FY 18 - \$ 875,000 (TAP) <u>FY 18 - \$ 219,000 (L)</u> \$1,239,000
EB-5713	CRAMERTON MCADENVILLE	CONSTRUCT PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF WILKINSON BLVD AND LAKEWOOD RD, WILKINSON BLVD AND MARKET STREET, AND EIGHTH AVE AND MARKET STREET TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME FOR PLANNING AND DESIGN DELAY CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 17 TO FY 18	CONSTRUCTION <u>FY 18 - \$ 139,000 (SRTS)</u> \$139,000
P-5200D	BELMONT	P&N CORRIDOR REACTIVATION, BELMONT SPUR TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME FOR PLANNING DELAY ROW FROM FY 17 TO FY 18	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 18 - \$ 50,000 (STPE) CONSTRUCTION <u>FY 18 - \$ 850,000 (TAP)</u> \$ 900,000
R-5792	NCDOT DIVISION 12	DIV 12 PROGRAM TO UPGRADE INTERSECTIONS TO COMPLY WITH ADA USING TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES (TA) FUNDS ADD CONSTRUCTION IN FY 18 NOT PREVIOUSLY PROGRAMMED	CONSTRUCTION FY 18 - \$800,000 (TAP) <u>FY 18 - \$200,000 (S(E))</u> \$1,000,000
U-5775	SHELBY	US 74 BUS (MARION ST), INTERSECTION OF US 74 BUS (MARION ST) AND NC 150 (CHERRYVILLE RD). REALIGN INTERSECTION. ADD UTILITY FUNDING NOT PREVIOUSLY PROGRAMMED	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 18 - \$2,775,000 (T) UTILITIES FY 18 - \$ 780,000 (T) CONSTRUCTION FY 19 - \$1,700,000 (T) <u>FY 19 - \$ 300,000 (L)</u> \$5,555,000
R-5710	LINCOLN COUNTY	INTERSECTION OF NC 73 AND NC 16 BUS. INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS. DELETE, WORK TO BE ACCOMPLISHED UNDER PROJECT R-5721	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 20 - \$180,000 (T) UTILITIES FY 20 - \$100,000 (T) CONSTRUCTION <u>FY 22 - \$950,000 (T)</u> \$1,230,000
TA-6693	GASTONIA TRANSIT	BUS REPLACEMENT	FY 17 - \$1,080,000 (5307) FY 17 - \$ 135,000 (S) FY 17 - \$ 135,000 (L)
TA-6694	GASTONIA TRANSIT	TRANSPORTER VAN REPLACEMENT	FY 17 - \$32,000 (5307) FY 17 - \$ 4,000 (S) FY 17 - \$ 4,000 (L)

Mr. Humphries motioned to approve the 2016-2025 and 2018-2027 MTIP Modifications/Deletions as presented. Mr. Amaya seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. DRAFT FY 2018-2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mrs. Gates stated that it is the time of the year to begin working on the draft UPWP for FY 18-19. Mrs. Gates explained that the draft UPWP is the budget for FY 18-19 and includes funds that are anticipated will come from the 104(d) planning grant and SPR funds that were received following the incorporation of Lincoln and Cleveland counties as well as Transit Planning funding from the Section 5303 Grant, as well as the local match for each. The budget is then made to include what is feasible to complete during FY 18-19.

The draft, once approved by the Board, is required to be released for a 30-day public comment period. The draft UPWP will also be submitted to NCDOT Transportation Planning Division for review. The draft UPWP will then be returned to the Board for approval of the final UPWP in March 2018.

Mrs. Gates stated that she expected 104(d) allocation to be roughly \$235,000.00 but received confirmation from the Transportation Planning branch that the actual amount would be closer to \$239,000.00. That difference will not be included in the packet for public comment but will be amended prior to the March Board meeting. The draft UPWP being presented is based on the \$235,000.00 from the 104(d) funds, \$75,000.00 SPR allocation plus 20% local match with an estimated \$20,000.00 of unobligated funds carrying over from FY 17-18 into FY 18-19. The amount of unobligated funds may change which would require a UPWP amendment. PL funds are currently projected to be roughly \$412,500.00 plus the Transit Planning Grant (Section 5303 fund) that must be applied for. If received, that grant would be an additional \$31,200.00 plus a 10% state match as well as a 10% local match from the City of Gastonia. Total funding for FY 18-19 is expected to be \$451,500.00.

Mrs. Gates noted that the FY 18-19 UPWP Draft is in alignment with past allocations regarding each line item but noted that there is nothing allocated for the Special Studies line item except for the Metrolina Regional Model which is a standard special study completed every year. Depending upon whether the GCLMPO is granted access to funds from the unobligated Statewide PL Funding, the UPWP will be revisited and amended to include any Special Studies at that time.

Mrs. Gates noted that the expected 20% local matches are broken down by the percentage of total population in the MPO area. The local populations are based on the 2010 census and will not be changed until the next census. Mrs. Gates noted that though the 20% local match amount is based on population, the MPO will only invoice for the amount actually submitted to NCDOT for reimbursement.

Mr. Humphries questioned whether there was any planning and analysis that is routinely contracted out and not completed by the MPO staff. Mrs. Gates explained that the only existing, standing contract is the Metrolina Regional Model. The only other consulting work being done is to format the MTP but that is going to be completed and the budgeting for that work will not be included in the draft UPWP that is being presented.

Mr. Hamrick motioned to approve the Draft FY 2018-2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and release it for a 30-day public comment period. Mr. Humphries seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

8. MPO Board Meeting Meals – FY 2018-2019

Mrs. Gates explained that in the past, the City of Gastonia has paid for all MPO Board Meeting meals. Food is not an eligible expense for the MPO's 104(d) or SPR grants, and therefore cannot be reimbursed. As has been discussed in the past, the City of Gastonia is requesting that the cost of meals be divided equally among the 17 member jurisdictions. After reviewing the past few years the average cost per meal is less than \$400.00. Estimating 8 meetings for the next fiscal year, rounding and dividing by 17 member jurisdictions it appears that if each member jurisdiction agrees to pay up to \$200.00 each that would cover all MPO Board meeting meals for FY 18-19. This will be invoiced quarterly along with the local match amounts for the grant.

Mr. Toomey motioned to approve the MPO Board Meeting Meals cost sharing as presented. Mr. Beam seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

9. Performance-Based Planning: Safety Targets

Mrs. Gates stated that federal transportation legislation now requires that State DOTs and MPOs adopt performance-based planning as a component of the metropolitan planning process. The first targets that the State released were Safety Targets in late 2017; MPOs have 180 days to either adopt State targets or to adopt their own set of targets. The deadline for adopting Safety Targets is February 27, 2018.

At this time, MPOs across the state are adopting the targets the NCDOT has created due to this being the first time that targets are mandatory. In addition, the MPO does not feel that, within the 3-county area, there is much that can be done to adjust the state targets. Therefore it is the recommendation of the MPO staff to adopt the state targets. Upon adoption, these targets will become part of the 2045 MTP.

Mrs. Gates clarified that supporting the target numbers set forth by the state does not hold the MPO responsible for achieving it. Since the target is statewide it may be achieved anywhere in the State and may not require any MPO to meet their overall percentage or a target number. Loretta Barren also noted in the TCC meeting that there are no repercussions, currently, for not meeting a target; MPOs may revisit targets and adjust plans to attempt to meet targets.

Mr. Sparrow asked if all the targets were reasonable and seem to be achievable and Mrs. Gates stated that the only concern she had was why the GCLMPO target number for rate of serious injury per million VMT would be higher than the NCDOT target. Upon asking NCDOT Mrs. Gates was told that the GCLMPO area may have a higher rate of serious injury than the state so when the calculations were done the GCLMPO area had a higher number. GCLMPO targets are for informational purposes only.

Mr. Miller asked what the target date is and Mrs. Gates noted that the date is each year by December 31st and the targets will be reviewed annually.

Mrs. Gates then noted that this is first of multiple targets that will be coming out. Following each new target release and approval, the GCLMPO 2045 MTP will need to be amended.

Mr. Neisler asked if attempts to meet targets will reflect well on the MPO and Mrs. Gates explained that the rates are statewide and not MPO-specific.

Mr. Amaya noted that there are a great deal of distracted drivers which he feels are the cause of many of these problems. He stated that distracted drivers are one of the main killers at this point in time.

Mr. Worley asked why the MPO would not set a higher goal than the NCDOT targets since there is no penalty for setting a goal and not achieving it. Mr. Bailey explained that, since this is the first year, the goal is to get a baseline on which to build future goals.

Mr. Sparrow motioned to approve the Performance-Based Planning: Safety Targets as presented. Mr. Humphries seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

10. DRAFT 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Air Quality Determination Report

Mrs. Gates noted that after working on the MTP for roughly one (1) year, the draft of the 2045 MTP and Air Quality Determination Report are ready to go out for 30-day public comment period. The documents were not printed for the meeting due to their length.

Mrs. Gates pointed out that the Board has already approved several of the individual components of the document and efforts over the last few months have been on formatting the narrative to make it more easily understood. Previously approved portions include Goals and Objectives, Financial Assumptions and the Fiscally Constrained Project List, all of which went out for public comment in August 2017. There were three (3) public meetings as well as a 30-day public comment period for these portions. The project lists were adopted in September of 2017.

At the last meeting the Board approved hiring RS&H Consulting to help compile and format the document and they have been working on the document over the last few months.

Mrs. Gates noted that it is now time to take the draft 2045 MTP and the Air Quality Determination Report to the public. These documents will go out at the same time as the FY 18-19 UPWP with the public comment period running January 29, 2018 through February 28, 2018 and three (3) public meetings will be held, one in each of the three (3) MPO counties. Press releases will go out to all news outlets and flyers will be sent to multiple local government agencies. The entire documents will be available online on the GCLMPO website with physical copies at the City of Gastonia Garland Municipal Building in the Transportation Planning Department. Comments can be submitted directly to Mrs. Randi Gates. Responses to any public comments received will be compiled and taken to the March Board meeting where adoption of the documents will be requested.

Mr. Amaya motioned to approve the Draft 2045 MTP and the Air Quality Determination Report to be released for public comment and to approve a 30-day public comment period. Mr. Humphries seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

11. CMAQ FY 19 Project Ranking

Mrs. Gates stated that the GCLMPO has received \$1.49 million in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for FY 19 to help fund projects in Gaston and Lincoln Counties designed to reduce congestion and improve air quality without adding single occupant vehicle capacity. GCLMPO Staff issues a call for projects every year and received four (4) applications for FY 19.

The CMAQ subcommittee spent time reviewing the applications, ran the applications through the approved ranking methodology and created a ranked project list. Three (3) of the initial

applications came from Gaston County for the addition of sidewalks on various roadways and one (1) came from the Town of Cramerton to add sidewalks along Lakewood Rd. and Eagle Rd.

The total application funding requested was around \$4 million. Since the allocation was roughly \$1.49 million, the approved ranking methodology was applied to each application. Mrs. Gates noted that the top ranked application was the construction of sidewalks along S. New Hope Rd. to connect into Cramerton Middle School but, upon discussion with NCDOT Div. 12 staff and Gaston County, it was decided that the construction of the sidewalks can be rolled into a road widening project of S. New Hope Rd. from Titman Rd. to Union New Hope Rd. that is already funded in the STIP.

Taking into consideration the ability to use alternate funding for the construction of the sidewalks along S. New Hope Rd., the CMAQ subcommittee recommends awarding the entire \$1.49 million in funding to the construction of sidewalks along Neal Hawkins Rd. The scope of work includes adding sidewalks along the south side out of the vicinity of Martha Rivers Park up to Village at Parkside neighborhood, completing an un-signalized midblock crossing which will require the speed limit to be lowered to 35 mph. The crosswalk will then move to the north side of Neal Hawkins Rd. and tie in to the Payton Downs subdivision.

The cost estimate for the Neal Hawkins Rd. project was around \$300,000.00 less than the \$1.49 million total allocation but the subcommittee felt that since the leftover amount did not leave enough money to complete another project the entire amount should be awarded to the Neal Hawkins Rd. sidewalk project to allow for construction overages. The CMAQ funding requires a 20% local match that Gaston County will be responsible for contributing.

Once approved the application will be brought before the Gaston County Board of Commissioners to seek local support and, finally, uploaded for State review to continue through the approval process.

Mr. Humphries motioned to approve the CMAQ FY 19 Project Ranking as presented. Mr. Worley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Gates stated that the City of Gastonia has been in contact with the State NCDOT and local NCDOT Division 12 regarding submitting a project for a Statewide CMAQ application to upgrade the signal system in the City of Gastonia. Statewide CMAQ funding is outside of the GCLMPO local funding but does require a 20% match. The total project cost is estimated at \$9.6 million dollars so the City of Gastonia has been working with Division 12 to figure out where the local match funds can come from. In an attempt to mitigate some of that cost the City of Gastonia is looking at what percentage of the signals are State signals versus what percentage are local signals and breaking down the local match amount to be shared between NCDOT Div. 12 and the City of Gastonia.

Speaking with NCDOT Div. 12, they are highly supportive of the project and willing to attempt to find the funds in order to contribute to part of the local match so that the application can be submitted by the March 15, 2018 deadline. Mr. Mark Stafford stated that the biggest issue faced by NCDOT Div. 12 is finding the match funding since the majority of the signals would fall under the "state" responsibility causing their portion of the match to be so high that it would absorb most of their available funds. However, Mr. Stafford stated that they are prepared to

support submitting the application to be ranked by the State.

Mr. Humphries asked what signals would be upgraded and Mr. Bost explained that the entire system inside the city limits would be replaced. He further stated that the existing system is twelve (12) years old and the technology is becoming outdated. The new signals are an IPS-based system that offers more control and fluidity in the day-to-day management. Furthermore, the new signals would have the capability to tie into MTOP, Charlotte's "brain" of their traffic system, which will set Gastonia up to be more of a regional traffic system. Mr. Bost then explained that the statewide CMAQ application, and possible funding, would help the MPO avoid having to set aside the funds themselves during the next STI round.

Mr. Amaya questioned whether the new signal system would aid in bettering the air quality in Gastonia and Mr. Bost explained that it would. He stated that if the signals are more coordinated traffic would flow better.

Mr. Humphries motioned to support the City of Gastonia FY 19 Statewide CMAQ Application as presented. Mr. Worley seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

12. P5.0 Local Input Point Methodology

Mrs. Gates explained that the GCLMPO is required by state law to develop a local input point methodology for prioritizing all transportation projects (aviation, bicycle and pedestrian, highway, public transportation and rail) within the MPO boundary that compete for state and federal funding. The MPO has a total of 1800 points to assign to regional projects as well as an additional 1800 points to assign to division projects. The GCLMPO submitted 26 projects per mode and needs a way to rank those projects once the scores come back.

Mrs. Gates stated that since such a great deal of time was spent on the ranking methodology for the MTP, and it was approved, the P5.0 subcommittee used the general methodology for the MTP as the template for the P5.0 Local Input Methodology. Adjustments have been made per mode, as necessary, such as removing highly subjective criteria like "Economic Development". In addition, guidance from NCDOT was that there be least two (2) criteria; one (1) of which was qualitative. Though separate criteria per mode was not required the subcommittee felt that it was necessary and used that same methodology from the MTP.

The methodology being presented is coming as a recommendation from the MTP/P5.0 Subcommittee as well as a subcommittee with NCDOT who recommended certain changes that have been incorporated. With those changes the P5.0 methodology has been approved at the State level and now needs to be approved the local level by the February deadline.

Mrs. Gates noted that she had received a question about why the MPO reserves the right to rank "cascading projects" and explained that the MPO has made that decision in order to avoid using up all of the funding at the lower tier on a project that has cascaded down from a higher tier.

Mrs. Gates explained that there is also a deviation clause, as recommended by NCDOT, which can be used for projects which have scored well in local ranking methodology but score poorly within the state methodology in order to re-address and re-rank projects as needed. As long as the MPO can explain why a project was lowered in the ranking and have made the information available to the public there should be no problem using the clause.

Upon receiving scores for regional tier projects and then assigning points using the P5.0 ranking the MPO will send those out for a 15-day public comment period. Following the public comment period the rankings will be brought back to the Board for approval. The division project will be handled the same way as the regional with a 15-day public comment period following ranking the projects and then being submitted for Board approval. The two (2) 15-day public comment periods will fulfill the requirements of the Public Participation Plan.

Mr. Neisler asked if the 1800 points was decided based on population or if it was just a standard number. In addition Mr. Neisler asked if the P5.0 methodology is a generic model used by most MPOs. Mr. Stafford explained that the 1800 points are based on population so that number will vary across the State. Mr. Bailey noted that the P5.0 scoring criteria is modeled to mirror statewide project criteria as closely as possible to increase the likelihood of project advancement.

Mr. Turner motioned to approve the P5.0 Local Input Point Methodology as presented. Mr. Amaya seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

14. MTIP Amendment – Bradley Station Addition

Mrs. Gates noted that this item had come before the Board previously to be released for public comment and explained that the reason this is separate from the items on the consent agenda is that the MPO's public participation plan states that any new project added to the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) has to go through a 30-day public comment period. Gastonia Transit has requested an amendment to the 2018-2027 MTIP for design and construction of an addition at the Bradley Station.

Mrs. Gates noted that this will be funded through the 5307 Grant but must still be included in the STIP to utilize those funds.

The public comment period ran from December 11, 2017 until January 9, 2018. The public meeting was held in the City Chamber room of Gastonia City Hall on January 3, 2018. There were no public comments received during the 30-day public comment period or during the 2-hour public meeting.

Once the MTIP is amended to include the Bradley Station Addition, the project will be submitted to the state for a STIP amendment.

Mr. Humphries motioned to approve the MTIP Amendment – Bradley Station Addition as presented. Mr. Amaya seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

15. Other Business

a. CRAFT Update

- i. Mrs. Gates noted that this is a standing agenda item. The CRAFT group meets roughly every other month to discuss regional transportation issues as well as performance measures and is trying to coordinate UPWPs. The GCLMPO will be hosting the next CRAFT meeting on January 30, 2018 at 9:30am at the Gaston County Administrative Building.
- ii. Mrs. Gates stated that CRAFT is currently working on a Memorandum of Agreement to clarify what CRAFT will be working on going forward. One of the main issues is establishing an executive committee comprised of the Chair of each of the MPOs and RPOs in the region who would serve as the

voting membership of CRAFT. Mr. Neisler expressed interest in this idea which Mrs. Gates plans to relay to the CRAFT group at the next meeting.

b. NCDOT Update – Division 12 Staff and TPD MPO Coordinator

Mr. Anil Panicker had the following updates:

- i. Division 12 will be holding two (2) public meetings regarding the widening of NC-73 on the following dates:
 1. February 5, 2018 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm at Meadowlake Church located at 6501 Gilead Rd. Huntersville, NC 28078.
 2. February 6, 2018 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm at the East Lincoln Community Center located at 8160 Optimist Club Rd. Denver, NC 28037.
- ii. Division 12 will be holding a public meeting regarding the next section of the 74 Bypass at Elizabeth Baptist Church on Thursday February 8, 2018 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm.
- iii. NC-279 Widening from Titman Rd. to Union New Hope Rd. has been approved for four (4) lanes, two (2) lanes in each direction that travel through and turning lanes at each intersection. The request has not gone to the Board of Transportation but is moving ahead.
- iv. NC-7 Resurfacings in Lowell – The polyurethane markings have been poor statewide but DOT is working on a solution.

Mr. Andy Bailey had the following updates:

- i. US-74 Statewide Study between I-26 in Polk County and the Port of Wilmington is being conducted to see what can be done to improve that corridor.
- ii. Vision Zero – This is an initiative to reduce highway deaths and to introduce new approaches to reach the goal of zero deaths. More information is available at www.ncvisionzero.org.
- iii. City of Gastonia CMAQ Funding Statewide Application – For information purposes; Winston Salem was awarded roughly \$20 million of CMAQ funding to redo their traffic signals several years ago. The estimated number of \$9.6 million for City of Gastonia traffic signal replacement seems reasonable considering Gastonia’s size versus Winston Salem’s size.

c. Transit Systems Ridership

- i. For informational purposes only – no update at this time.

16. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Neisler adjourned the meeting at 7:46pm.