

MEETING MINUTES
Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln
Metropolitan Planning Organization (GCLMPO) Board
December 1, 2021
Virtual Meeting

The scheduled Board meeting of the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization was held on Wednesday, December 1, 2021 from 6:30 pm – 7:07 pm virtually, via Zoom.

Members Present

Stan Anthony	City of Shelby, Mayor
Richard Atkinson	Town of Cramerton, Commissioner
H. L. Beam	City of Cherryville, Mayor
Cathy Davis	Lincoln County, Commissioner
Martin Eaddy	City of Lincolnton, Council Member
Ken Ervin	City of Lowell, Council Member
Allen Fraley	Gaston County, Commissioner
Jamie Fowler	Town of Ranlo, Commissioner
Tommy Greene	Town of Boiling Springs, Council Member
Leigh Anna Helms	Town of Stanley, Council Member
Johnny Hutchins	Cleveland County, Commissioner
Brad Lail	NCDOT Div. 12, BOT Member
Keith Miller	City of Kings Mountain, Council Member
Scott Neisler	City of Kings Mountain, Mayor, MPO Board Vice-Chair
Jill Puett	City of Cherryville, Mayor Pro Tem
Jennifer Stepp	City of Gastonia, Council Member
Richard Turner	City of Belmont, Council Member, MPO Board Chair
Ronnie Whetstine	Cleveland County, Commissioner

Staff Present

Arthur Cashwell	GCLMPO, Senior Planner
Randi Gates	GCLMPO, Principal Transportation Planner
Julio Paredes	GCLMPO, Planner
Kristen Wheeler	GCLMPO, Administrative Assistant

Guests Present

Loretta Barren	FHWA, Planner
Andrew Bryant	Lincoln County, Dir. Of Development Services, <i>TCC Chair</i>
Juan Garcia	Gaston County, Planner
Jason Lawrence	CATS, Senior Transportation Planner
Anil Panicker	NCDOT Division 12, Planning Engineer
Mark Stafford	NCDOT Division 12, Division Engineer
Jason Wager	Centralina Regional Council, Principal Planner
Jim Walker	Citizen

Absences (x = Absent) / Not In Good Standing

Member	Sept	Dec	2021 Jan	Mar	May	July	Sept	Dec
City of Belmont	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
City of Bessemer City	X	X	-----	X	-----	-----	X	X
Town of Boiling Springs	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
City of Cherryville	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Town of Cramerton	-----	X	-----	-----	-----	-----	X	-----
Town of Dallas	X	-----	X	-----	X	-----	-----	X
City of Gastonia (1/2)	-----	-----	-----	-----	X	-----	X	X
City of Gastonia (2/2)	X	X	-----	-----	X	-----	X	-----
City of Kings Mountain	X	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
City of Lincolnton	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
City of Lowell	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
City of Mount Holly	-----	X	-----	-----	X	-----	-----	X
Town of Ranlo	X	X	X	X	-----	-----	-----	-----
City of Shelby	-----	X	-----	-----	-----	X	-----	-----
Town of Stanley	X	X	X	X	X	X	-----	-----
Cleveland County	X	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Gaston County	-----	-----	X	-----	X	X	-----	-----
Lincoln County	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
NCDOT – Board of Transportation	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	X	-----

1. Introduction of Members & Guests

Presenter: Richard Turner, MPO Board Chair

Mr. Turner welcomed all members and guests. Mrs. Gates conducted a roll call.

2. Determination of Quorum and Good Standing

Presenter: Richard Turner, MPO Board Chair

Mrs. Gates determined that a quorum had been met.

3. Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Reminder

Presenter: Richard Turner, MPO Board Chair

Mr. Turner read the ethics awareness and conflict of interest reminder.

4. Set Agenda

Presenter: Richard Turner, MPO Board Chair

Mr. Turner stated that it was time to set the agenda.

Mr. Ervin motioned to set the agenda as presented. Mrs. Stepp seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes

Presenter: Richard Turner, MPO Board Chair

Mr. Turner asked for a motion to approve the September 23, 2021 meeting minutes as presented.

Mr. Fraley motioned to approve the September 23, 2021 minutes as presented. Mr. Ervin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Public Comment

Presenter: Richard Turner, MPO Board Chair

Mr. Walker thanked the Board for the opportunity to participate in the meeting and noted that he is looking forward to a successful year in 2022.

CONSENT AGENDA

7. 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Administrative Modifications

All projects receiving federal funding must be in the GCLMPO's TIP and the NCDOT's State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The federal regulations also require that project schedules and funding amounts be consistent between the TIP and the STIP.

Mr. Eaddy motioned to approve the 2020-2029 TIP Administrative Modifications as presented. Mrs. Stepp seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

8. 2020-2029 TIP / 2045 MTP Amendments

Presenter: Randi Gates, Principal Transportation Planner

The GCLMPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) need to be amended to reflect modifications that have been made to the 2020-2029 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). These amendments were before the TCC and Board at the September meetings and went out for a 30-day public comment period. No comments were received for these amendments.

Mr. Ervin asked if it is possible to include a Spencer Mountain Rd. extension in the future, to accommodate new development in that area. Mrs. Gates said that they will address that project when identifying projects for P7.0.

Mr. Greene motioned to approve the 2020-2029 TIP and 2045 MTP Amendments as presented. Mr. Anthony seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

9. CONNECT Beyond Regional Mobility Plan - Resolution of Endorsement

Presenter: Randi Gates, Principal Transportation Planner

CONNECT Beyond is a bold regional mobility plan that sets the vision for how to better connect the rural, suburban, and urban communities in our 12-county region. The Plan includes key recommendations paired with specific strategies and implementation steps to create a network that transforms the way residents and visitors travel throughout our region. The plan has been adopted by Centralina's Board and the CATS MTC. The next steps for the GCLMPO will be coordination with regional partners and incorporating the recommendations into the MTP and CTP as appropriate. Additionally, the MPO will ensure that, if necessary, the current UPWP is updated to include appropriate CONNECT Beyond components and work on implementation steps for the FY 2023 UPWP. Mrs. Gates noted that in the Resolution of Endorsement there is a portion that states that the MPO Board will appoint a representative to participate in the CONNECT Beyond Funding and Partnership Working Group. This step does not need to be completed immediately, but Mrs. Gates stated the staff will be looking for someone to participate in the future.

Mrs. Stepp motioned to approve the Resolution to endorse the CONNECT Beyond Regional Mobility Plan. Mr. Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

10. 2022 Meeting Calendar

Presenter: Randi Gates, Principal Transportation Planner

The GCLMPO Meeting Calendar shall be endorsed by the MPO Board as its schedule for meetings. As it has been historically, the Board meets the fourth Thursday of every other month with the exception of November as it coincides with Thanksgiving. Mrs. Gates asked if there were any comments regarding meeting in-person versus virtually in January. Mrs. Davis, Mr. Miller and Mr. Eaddy stated that they preferred to continue with virtual meetings in January but a final decision will be made after the holidays.

Mr. Hutchins motioned to approve the 2022 meeting calendar as presented. Mr. Beam seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

11. Election of Officers for 2022

Presenter: Randi Gates, Principal Transportation Planner

The MPO Bylaws state that officers shall be elected annually from the members of the MPO Board. Mr. Turner has served both of the terms for which he's eligible and a new Chair needs to be nominated. The Chair and Vice Chair need to represent different counties of the MPO.

Mr. Greene nominated Mayor Scott Neisler for Chair. Mr. Hutchins seconded and the nomination passed unanimously. Mr. Anthony motioned to close the nominations and approve Mr. Neisler by acclamation. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Fraley nominated Mayor H.L. Beam for Vice-Chair. Mr. Ervin seconded and the nomination passed unanimously.

12. Other Business

a. P6 Update - Mrs. Gates noted that P6.0 is halted due to the 2020 STIP being over programmed. As a member of the P6.0 statewide workgroup that meets monthly to determine the next steps for programming the 2024-2033 STIP. Mrs. Gates stated that the goals of the workgroup are to develop a trustworthy, independent STIP, that is fiscally constrained, to produce a 2024-2033 STIP using the current STIP project list with transparency, have an opportunity to fund new projects in P7.0 in all 22 categories and to ensure the process is grounded in state and federal requirements. For projects in the Statewide Tier in the current STIP that are considered committed there are cost overages of more than \$4.7 billion. The Regional Impact Tier, Region F, is currently \$578.5 million over programmed and Division 12 in the Division Needs Tier, is \$253.2 million dollars over programmed. Due to this over programming, not only will no new projects be funded, some projects are going have to come off of the committed list. The work group is currently working to determine what will be considered a delivery project in the next STIP. The workgroup has made a recommendation to the NCDOT Board of Transportation that any projects let in FY 26 or before and/or with Federal grants or anything with ROW acquisition underway should remain committed. Any projects not meeting these criteria will lose committed status. Additionally, even some of the projects remaining committed may have to be reevaluated for costs. Mrs. Gates is working on getting a list of projects that will be affected in the MPO area. As more information becomes available Mrs. Gates will keep everyone informed.

Mr. Lail noted that the Board will consider the recommendation of the workgroup which would mean splitting the STIP into Delivery Projects and Development Projects. In each of the buckets, once a line is drawn at 2026 there would still be a small amount of money left to apply to other projects though there is no clear plan for how that money would be allocated. Additionally, the infrastructure bill, which passed recently, is expected to provide about 1.5 billion dollars in additional funds. Not all of that money would go toward highway projects, but a large portion could.

Lastly, Mr. Lail, along with NCDOT and Representative Torbett, was able to present to the family of Tyler Herndon a resolution passed in April which names a portion of NC 273 from south of I-85 to Morning Side Dr. the Tyler Herndon Highway.

b. NCDOT Update – Board Member, Division 12 Staff and TPD MPO Coordinator – There was an attachment included in the agenda with updates on active projects in the MPO area.

Mr. Stafford also stated that the Roseboro Bridge (#329) is now open to traffic and NCDOT is hopeful that the Lavender Road Bridge will also be open to traffic by the beginning of 2022.

c. Transit Systems Ridership – For information only.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business Mrs. Stepp motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Davis seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm.