

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE GASTON-CLEVELAND-LINCOLN**  
**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (GCLMPO)**  
**TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TCC)**  
**March 13, 2019**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) was held on **Wednesday, March 13, 2019**, from 10:00 am until 10:38 am at the Gaston County Administration Building, Room 3A, which is located at 128 W. Main Avenue, Gastonia, NC.

**Members Present**

Scott Attaway	City of Lowell, Planning Director
Rusty Bost	City of Gastonia, Dir. of Development Services, <b>TCC Chair</b>
Dominique Boyd	NCDOT-TPD, Transportation Engineer
Kara Brown	Lincoln Economic Dev. Association, Account Services Manager
Andrew Bryant	Lincoln County, Planning Director, <b>TCC Vice-Chair</b>
Jeff Cash	City of Cherryville, City Manager
Kristy Crisp	City of Gastonia, Director of Economic Development
Bob Davis	Transportation Administration of Cleveland County, Director
Brian DuPont	City of Mt. Holly, Assistant Planning Director
Karen Floyd	Bessemer City, Planner
Kristal Ford	Transportation Lincoln County, Transportation Manager
Juan Garcia	Gaston County, GIS Data/Transportation Planning Analyst
Chris Martin	Cleveland County, Planning Director
Gregory Moyer	City of Gastonia, Civil Engineer III
Anil Panicker	NCDOT (Div-12), Planning Engineer
Kristin Reese	Cleveland County Economic Dev. Partnership, Executive Vice President
Alex Robinson	City of Belmont, Senior Planner
Walter Scharer	City of Shelby, Planning Director
Lucas Shires	Town of Boiling Springs, Town Manager
Tracey Smith	Town of Ranlo, Town Clerk
Alisha Sheets Summey	Gaston County Economic Dev. Commission, Economic Dev. Specialist
Cheree Wilson	Gaston County ACCESS, Transportation Coordinator
Vincent Wong	City of Gastonia, Director of Community Development and Innovation

**Staff Present**

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

**Guests Present**

Loretta Barren	FHWA, Transportation Planner
Steve Blakely	Kimley-Horn, Principal/Sr. Vice President
Calvin Clifton	Mattern & Craig, Business Development Manager
Brandon Goldner	NBC, Reporter
Blake Guffey	NCDOT, District Engineer
Leah Hames	Town of Ranlo, Recreation Director
Willie King Jr.	Gaston County, Long Range Planning Manager
Travis Jordan	NCDOT District 3, District Engineer
Billy Packer	Citizen
Barbara Thompson	Citizen
James Walker	Citizen

**Absences (x = Absent) / Not in Good Standing**

Member	June 2018	July 2018	Sept 2018	Oct 2018	Nov 2018	Jan 2019	Mar 2019
City of Belmont	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
City of Bessemer City	X	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Town of Boiling Springs	X	X	-----	X	X	X	-----
City of Cherryville	X	-----	X	X	-----	-----	-----
Town of Cramerton	X	-----	-----	X	-----	-----	X
Town of Dallas	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	X
City of Gastonia (Planning)	-----	-----	X	-----	-----	-----	X
City of Gastonia (Engineering)	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
City of Gastonia (Econ. Dev.)	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
City of Kings Mountain	X	X	-----	-----	-----	-----	X
City of Lincolnton	-----	-----	-----	X	-----	-----	X
City of Lowell	X	-----	-----	-----	X	-----	-----
City of Mount Holly	-----	-----	X	-----	-----	-----	-----
Town of Ranlo	X	X	X	X	X	-----	-----
City of Shelby	-----	-----	-----	X	-----	-----	-----
Town of Stanley	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	X	X
Cleveland County	-----	X	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Gaston County	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Lincoln County	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Gastonia Transit	-----	-----	-----	X	-----	-----	-----
Gaston County ACCESS	-----	X	X	-----	-----	X	-----
Transportation Administration of Cleveland County	-----	X	X	X	X	-----	-----
Transportation Lincoln County	-----	-----	X	-----	-----	-----	-----
Cleveland County Economic Development Partnership	X	-----	X	-----	-----	X	-----
Gaston County Economic Development Commission	-----	X	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Lincoln County Economic Development Association	X	X	-----	X	-----	X	-----
NCDOT Division 12	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
NCDOT Public Transportation Division	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
NCDOT Transportation Planning Division	-----	X	X	X	-----	-----	-----

1. **Set Agenda**

*Presenter: Rusty Bost, TCC Chair*

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

Mr. DuPont motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Bryant seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2. **Determination of Quorum and Good Standing**

*Presenter: Rusty Bost, TCC Chair*

Mrs. Randi Gates determined that a quorum had been met.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

*Presenter: Rusty Bost, TCC Chair*

Mr. Bost asked for a motion to approve the January 19, 2019 meeting minutes as presented.

Mr. Bryant motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. DuPont seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

4. **Introduction of Members & Guests**

**Presenter: Rusty Bost, TCC Chair**

Mr. Bost asked that all members and guests introduce themselves.

**5. Public Comment**

**Presenter: Rusty Bost, TCC Chair**

Mr. Jim Walker read the following statement:

"Thank you for the opportunity to participate in and comment on your TCC and TAC meetings as a concerned citizen. My letter today is in that capacity. These comments and opinions are my own and are not endorsed or approved by any public, private or governmental entity. I am solely responsible for the content contained herein.

I attended my first GCLMPO TCC meeting on September 11, 2013. Since then, I have regularly attended almost all TCC and TAC meetings with only a couple of misses. I have steadfastly asked for your consideration to widen I-85 and to prioritize Belmont's revitalization plan for US 74 Wilkinson Blvd., "BBB" or "Build a Better Boulevard" (the plan won National Recognition). When I-85 widening was being discussed back in 2013, due to fiscal constraints another large project (the original Garden Parkway) had to be removed from all fiscally constrained lists for I-85 widening to move forward. You did so and now I-85 widening is funded. Thank you. And with logical justification; the relative STI scores between the two were dramatic with the Garden Parkway's being abysmally low. Nothing has changed in the data to alter this result.

The Federal lawsuit filed against it also made the likelihood of the project ever being programmed speculative at best. At a relatively recent CRTPO meeting in Charlotte, the same group that filed a Federal law suit on the original Garden Parkway - and won - publicly announced at that meeting another law suit would be filed if an environmental permit is sought for the Catawba Crossings.

In my capacity as a concerned citizen who lived in Gaston County from 1962 to 1985, I've submitted dozens of written comments to GCLMPO and Division 12 - mostly regarding widening of I-85 and BBB. I've spoken during the public comment period at dozens of TAC and TCC meetings as well. I've been supportive of GCLMPO and Division 12 projects in all three of our members' counties where ever and when ever I could - and will continue to do so, such as the Shelby Bypass on US 74. I asked members of the General Assembly to defeat legislation that would have crippled the effectiveness of the Division Engineers in the STI process and spent weeks of total time in that effort.

All of these efforts center on the reality of what can be done in the here and now rather than tie up fiscally constrained lists with speculative projects that may never get built. If a speculative project is on a fiscally constrained list, it necessarily means that a viable project that actually can be programmed probably was excluded. Most, but not all, projects put on fiscally constrained lists are pulled from the non fiscally constrained CTP.

I respectfully disagree with a recommendation made by GCLMPO set forth in TCC Agenda Item 10, attached to this email. Under current discussion is whether to keep the original Garden Parkway on the CTP. As a policy consideration, please consider removing it from the CTP and waiting until I-85 widening has been completed and the US 74 corridor improvements implemented to see where we are for our long range planning needs. There are many differences between the period 10 years ago and now. Take the prospect of CATS light rail coming to Gaston County, for example. It was never seriously considered in any planning document from that era. Our world is different now than it was when these original planning documents were made. A new bridge is planned for US 74 Wilkinson Blvd that will replace the old one. Let's give the I-85 widening, US 74 Wilkinson Blvd corridor improvement projects and light rail a chance and see them through. If in the future a Garden Parkway needs to be added to the CTP, address it then. But for now, it's good policy to remove it from the CTP.

Thank you for considering my response."

Mr. Billy Packer noted that he believes the greatest responsibility of planning is to be flexible and recited the Attorney General definition of planning as a "continuing, cooperating and comprehensive process that is always changing." Mr. Packer then referred to several maps from various years that showed, or did not show, the Garden Parkway in Mecklenburg and Gaston counties noting that CRTPO eliminated the crossing in

December 2018. Mr. Packer stated that he purchased the land in question in 2007 and completed the first phase of development before the recession. In 2017, after Mr. Packer entered into a contract with a developer for the second phase the contract was terminated due to disclosure of the proposed Garden Parkway. Mr. Packer said he appreciates the project being removed from Gaston County GIS system but feels that the rebuttal for removal provided by GCLMPO staff does not address the “overwhelming” reasons against keeping the project in the CTP. Mr. Packer closed by requesting that the GCLMPO take time to discuss the reasons for removing the project.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**6. 2018-2027 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Modifications**

Mr. Bost opened the floor for motions to approve the consent agenda.

R-5712	LINCOLN COUNTY	NC 16 BUSINESS, INTERSECTION OF NC 16 BUSINESS AND SR 1439 (UNITY CHURCH ROAD)/SR 1387 (TRIANGLE CIRCLE). ADD TURN LANES. <b>TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME FOR DESIGN, DELAY CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 19 TO FY 20.</b>	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 2019 - \$ 180,000 (T) CONSTRUCTION FY 2020 - \$ 120,000 (T) FY 2021 - <u>\$2,280,000 (T)</u> \$2,580,000
U-5819	GASTON COUNTY	NC 27 (WEST CHARLOTTE AVENUE), INTERSECTION OF NC 27 (WEST CHARLOTTE AVENUE) AND SR 2534 (HAWTHORNE STREET). CONSTRUCT INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS. <b>TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME FOR PLANNING AND DESIGN, DELAY ROW FROM FY 19 TO FY 20 AND CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 20 TO FY 21.</b>	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 2020 - \$ 450,000 (T) CONSTRUCTION FY 2021 - \$ 950,000 (T) FY 2022 - <u>\$ 950,000 (T)</u> \$2,350,000
U-5821	GASTON COUNTY	NC 279 (NEW HOPE ROAD), SR 2478 (TITMAN ROAD) TO SR 2435 (UNION-NEW HOPE ROAD). WIDEN TO 4-LANES. <b>TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME FOR PLANNING AND DESIGN, DELAY ROW FROM FY 19 TO FY 20 AND CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 21 TO FY 22.</b>	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 2020 - \$ 9,100,000 (T) FY 2021 - \$ 13,650,000 (T) FY 2022 - \$ 13,650,000 (T) UTILITIES FY 2020 - \$ 1,950,000 (T) FY 2021 - \$ 1,950,000 (T) CONSTRUCTION FY 2022 - \$ 8,033,000 (T) FY 2023 - \$ 8,033,000 (T) FY 2024 - <u>\$ 8,034,000 (T)</u> \$ 64,400,000
W-5712DIV	DIVISION	VARIOUS, SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS. <b>ADD ROW AND CONSTRUCTION IN FY 19 NOT PREVIOUSLY PROGRAMMED AT REQUEST OF TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY AND SAFETY DIVISION</b>	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 2019 - \$ 30,000 (HSIP) CONSTRUCTION FY 2019 - <u>\$ 180,000 (HSIP)</u> \$ 210,000
W-5712REG	REGIONAL	VARIOUS, SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS. <b>ADD ROW AND CONSTRUCTION IN FY 19 NOT PREVIOUSLY PROGRAMMED AT REQUEST OF TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY AND SAFETY DIVISION</b>	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 2019 - \$ 30,000 (HSIP) CONSTRUCTION FY 2019 - <u>\$ 180,000 (HSIP)</u> \$ 210,000
W-5712SW	STATEWIDE	VARIOUS, SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS. <b>ADD ROW AND CONSTRUCTION IN FY 19 NOT PREVIOUSLY PROGRAMMED AT REQUEST OF TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY AND SAFETY DIVISION</b>	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 2019 - \$ 40,000 (HSIP) CONSTRUCTION FY 2019 - <u>\$ 240,000 (HSIP)</u> \$ 280,000

Mr. Scharer motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mrs. Crisp seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**7. DRAFT FY 2019-2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

*Presenter: Randi Gates, Principal Transportation Planner*

The proposed FY 2019-2020 GCLMPO UPWP outlines MPO work to be completed by task code category. It also includes the dollar amount budgeted for each task code for the year and the funding source for these tasks by agency. The total proposed UPWP budget is \$530,975 and is comprised of \$398,225 in Transportation Planning (PL) grant funds, \$93,750.00 in State Planning and Research (SPR) funds, and \$39,000.00 in Transit Planning (Section 5303) grant funds. The MPO member governments will be responsible for providing 20% local match for PL funds and SPR funds, and Gastonia will be responsible for the 10% local match for 5303 transit planning grant funds, an additional 10% match comes from the state. The invoices for local match will continue to be sent out quarterly. Cost share allocation tables were included in the agenda packet. As required by the GCLMPO's Public Participation Process, a 30-day public comment period was held from February 1 – March 2, 2019. In addition, three public meetings were held. No public comments were received regarding the Draft FY 2019-2020 UWPW. There have been no changes to the Draft FY 2019-2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) since it was first brought before the TCC in January 2019.

Mr. Cash motioned to approve the Draft FY 2019-2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) as presented. Mr. DuPont seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**8. 2018-2027 MTIP Formal/Major Amendments**

*Presenter: Randi Gates, Principal Transportation Planner*

The GCLMPO's Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) needs to be amended to reflect the following modifications that have been made to the 2018-2027 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Since the projects on the table below meet certain criteria they cannot be voted on in the consent agenda and require a 30-day public comment period which was completed February 1 – March 2, 2019. In addition, three (3) public meetings were held. Two (2) comments were received regarding the 2018-2027 MTIP Amendments.

EB-5701	GASTON COUNTY	US 29/74 (E FRANKLIN BLVD), SR 2200 (COX RD) TO CITY LIMITS. CONSTRUCT MISSING SIDEWALK ON NORTH SIDE. <b>TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME FOR PLANNING AND DESIGN DELAY ROW FROM FY 18 TO FY 19 AND CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 18 TO FY 21</b>	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 19 - \$116,000 (TA5200) FY 19 - \$29,000 (L) CONSTRUCTION FY 21 - \$875,000 (TA5200) FY 22 - <del>\$219,000</del> (L) \$1,239,000
I-5713	GASTON COUNTY	I-85, SR 2200 (COX RD) INTERCHANGE. CONSTRUCT INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS. (COORDINATE WITH I-5719) <b>DELETE AT THE REQUEST OF THE MPO</b>	
R-2707G	CLEVELAND COUNTY	US 74 SHELBY BYPASS, WEST OF NC 226 TO WEST OF NC 150. PAVING <b>DELETE SEGMENT. WORK ACCOMPLISHED UNDER R-2707C. PER PROJECT MANAGEMENT</b>	PAVING FY 20 - <del>\$18,500,000</del> (T) \$18,500,000
U-2221C	CLEVELAND COUNTY	NC 180, SR 2052 TO NC 150. <b>COST INCREASE EXCEEDING \$2 MILLION AND 25% THRESHOLDS</b>	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 23 - \$7,600,000 (T) UTILITIES FY 23 - \$900,000 (T) CONSTRUCTION FY 25 - <del>\$14,800,000</del> (T)

			\$23,300,000
U-2567	CLEVELAND COUNTY	US 74 (DIXON BLVD), NC 150 (DEKALB STREET) INTERSECTION. CONSTRUCT INTERCHANGE. <b>COST INCREASE EXCEEDING \$2 MILLION AND 25% THRESHOLDS</b>	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 21 - \$2,200,000 (T) UTILITIES FY 21 - \$500,000 (T) CONSTRUCTION FY 24 - \$6,367,000 (T) FY 25 - \$6,366,000 (T) FY 26 - <u>\$6,367,000</u> (T) \$21,800,000
U-5778	GASTON COUNTY	NC 279 (LOWER DALLAS HWY), INTERSECTION OF NC 279 (LOWER DALLAS HWY) AND NC 275 (DALLAS STANLEY HWY). INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS <b>DELETE. WORK TO BE ACCOMPLISHED UNDER PROJECT U-2523</b>	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 20 - \$500,000 (T) UTILITIES FY 20 - \$100,000 (T) CONSTRUCTION FY 21 - \$1,200,000 (T) FY 22 - <u>\$1,200,000</u> (T) \$3,000,000
U-5800	GASTON COUNTY	NC 7, INTERSECTION OF NC7/US 74 AND NC7/US 29. CONSTRUCT NORTHBOUND THROUGH LANE AND INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS. <b>COST INCREASE EXCEEDING \$2 MILLION AND 25% THRESHOLDS</b>	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 19 - \$90,000 (T) CONSTRUCTION FY 21 - <u>\$4,000,000</u> (T) \$4,090,000

The GCLMPO's MTIP also needs to be amended to include projects being submitted to NCDOT by Gastonia Transit.

Each year, the City of Gastonia is allocated an apportionment from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) under Section 5307 (Transit Operating and Capital assistance in urbanized areas). This grant supports the services provided by Gastonia Transit. The allocation of these funds are required to be approved in the local transportation plan, as well as the state transportation plan.

The table below illustrates the project allocation that is being requested by Gastonia Transit. This was approved by the Gastonia City Council on January 22, 2019. The MTIP & STIP will need to be amended to correspond with the Council's action. The funding levels below represent funding being requested for FY 2019.

<b>GCLMPO Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) - Gastonia Transit Section 5307 Funds FY 2019</b>				
<b>FY 2019</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>Federal</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Total</b>
Operating Expenses	\$805,000	\$805,000	\$0	\$1,610,000
ADA Paratransit Service	\$25,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$125,000
Preventative Maintenance	\$38,000	\$150,000	\$0	\$188,000
Bradley Station Addition	\$42,000	\$126,000	\$0	\$168,000
Transit App	\$13,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$63,000
Payment Kiosk	\$44,000	\$175,000	0	\$219,000
Transit Enhancements - Pedestrian Walkways	\$75,000	\$344,000	\$0	\$419,000
Transit Enhancements - Shelters	\$116,000	\$467,000	\$0	\$583,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,158,000</b>	<b>\$2,217,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,375,000</b>

Mr. Anil Panicker asked if any of the projects require a conformity determination and Mrs. Gates stated that the projects requiring a conformity determination are not included in the current table but will be amended later in the year with the adoption of the 2020-2029 STIP.

Two (2) comments were received regarding the 2018-2027 MTIP amendments.

**Mr. DuPont motioned to approve the responses to public comment and to approve the MTIP amendments as presented. Mr. Cash seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **9. CTP Map Amendments**

**Presenter: Julio Paredes, Planner**

The City of Mount Holly has submitted a request to amend the adopted Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) to include a recommended boulevard with a multi-use path from Tuckasee Road to Caldwell Drive. In addition, GCLMPO staff is requesting to amend the adopted CTP to include a recommended fixed guideway along US 29/74 from the Catawba River to Downtown Gastonia. This is a response from an MPO Board action to approve a resolution of support of the CATS West Corridor extending into Downtown Gastonia. This also helps validate the US 29/74 corridor as being selected as a locally preferred alternative. As required by the MPO Public Participation Plan a 30-day public comment period was held from February 1 – March 2, 2019. Additionally, three (3) public meetings were held.

One (1) comment was received regarding the CTP map amendments.

**Mr. Bryant motioned to approve the responses to public comment and to approve the CTP map amendments as presented. Mr. Scharer seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **Garden Parkway – CTP**

**Presenter: Randi Gates, Principal Transportation Planner**

Mr. Billy Packer made a presentation to the MPO Board on September 27, 2018 regarding the Garden Parkway and the Stagecoach Property. Mr. Packer's presentation raised questions as to whether or not the Garden Parkway should remain on the GCLMPO's adopted Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP). Mrs. Randi Gates, after reviewing Mr. Packer's presentation, prepared a comprehensive list of counterpoints so that all information is correct and in context.

Mrs. Gates' first point was regarding the Map Act. The Garden Parkway never fell under the Map Act while it was in effect. Additionally, the Map Act was rescinded in July of 2016.

Mrs. Gates then noted that, while Mr. Packer referenced a reduced number of lots and the cost to redo site plans, there is a site plan and a conditional use permit that has already been approved by the City of Gastonia with no reservation of right of way required. Additionally, although Mr. Packer stated that a developer backed out of the deal over the Garden Parkway being on the map, the City of Gastonia is currently working with a new developer who is moving forward with the number of lots shown on the original site plan.

Mr. Packer stated that the Garden Parkway was being proposed as a 2-lane facility west of US 321 so less right of way should be required. Again, there is no right of way being required at this time but Mrs. Gates researched the proposed Garden Parkway and found, in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that the North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA) was planning to upgrade the section from I-85 to US 321 to 4-lanes by 2035.

Mr. Packer referenced a postcard that was sent out to all property owners along the Garden Parkway corridor saying that "the road will never be built" in his presentation. Mrs. Gates found that postcard and found that it stated the immediate planning for the project had been halted but the postcard did not state that the project would be removed from any long-range plans. The project had lost funding in the STIP and, in order for the GCLMPO's MTIP to match the STIP, it was removed from the GCLMPO's MTIP.

Mrs. Gates also noted that she, on behalf of the GCLMPO and Chair Scott Neisler, submitted a request to the

Gaston County Manager on January 3, 2019 requesting that the Garden Parkway layers be removed from the County's Online GIS Map. The presence of the Garden Parkway Centerline and right of way area that was shown on the County's GIS Map was misleading, as it represented what was a funded project and the proposed thoroughfare. Should it ever be re-established as a funded project, the Garden Parkway would go back through the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) process with a new centerline defined. The Garden Parkway layers were removed from the County's Online GIS Map on January 22, 2019.

Finally, the GCLMPO maintains that there is a continued need for a southern, east-west transportation corridor. The Garden Parkway remains on the GCLMPO and CRTPO CTPs and staff from both MPOs have recently submitted a joint request for SPR Funding to NCDOT-TPD to complete a feasibility study for the Catawba Crossings project (I-485 to NC 279). One of the tasks included in the draft scope of work is to determine the appropriate timeframe to extend the project further west from its current anticipated terminus at NC 279 to I-85 and further north to US 321. It is the belief of GCLMPO staff that the best way to gain valuable data for the need for the Garden Parkway is to tie it into the feasibility study for the Catawba Crossings project.

In closing, Mrs. Gates stated that the Garden Parkway, in its entirety, is not included in the fiscally-constrained 2045 MTP; the only section included is the Catawba Crossings project. The process for prioritizing projects was transparent including a number of rounds of public meetings and methodology for prioritization, and the only section included in the 2045 MTP is the first section due to the rest not scoring well enough in the internal process to be included in the fiscally-constrained MTP. GCLMPO staff recommends that the Garden Parkway remain on the CTP to allow staff to follow the process that's been set forth with STI Law.

Mr. Andrew Bryant went on record as stating that the Conditional Use Permit for the property was issued in 1998, well after the time that southern corridors through Gaston County were identified for the Garden Parkway. Additionally, the permit is still valid and there are builders currently working on the site whose counsel have stated that they are not concerned about the project that has no right of way being required. Mr. Bryant stated that the Garden Parkway has been a valid CTP project for many years and remains so. Mr. Bryant then noted that there is a continued need for the southern corridor as southern Gaston County continues to grow in order to absorb the traffic from residential developments including the one being proposed by Mr. Packer. Lastly, Mr. Bryant pointed out that other Environmental Impact Studies have shown that proposed and/or planned improvements to I-85 will still not meet the capacity needs of I-85.

Mr. Anil Panicker read the following statement from NCDOT:

"The CTP for the Gaston Cleveland Lincoln MPO has been mutually approved by the North Carolina Board of Transportation and the GCLMPO. The Garden Parkway is part of that approved document. As Ms. Gates mentioned the CTP contains many recommendations including a number of roadways on new location in addition to widening of existing roads. The Division does not see a need nor does it want to set a precedence by calling out individual projects in the CTP for reaffirmation of earlier approvals. The Division is recusing itself from this vote and would like to see that reflected in the minutes."

**Mr. Bryant motioned to approve the Garden Parkway remaining on the CTP as presented. Mr. DuPont seconded.**

**Following the vote Mr. Juan Garcia went on record to say that Gaston County does not support keeping the road on the CTP.**

**The motion passed with one dissenting vote.**

## **10. Other Business**

### **a. CATS West Corridor Study Update – MTC Approval**

Mrs. Randi Gates noted that the Metropolitan Transit Commission, the governing body for CATS, did approve recommendations for the West Corridor. Some of the things approved include:

- i. Light rail to replace streetcar as the West Corridor transit mode
- ii. Wilkinson Boulevard as the light rail alignment including planning for a rail trail along side
- iii. West Corridor to be included in the Lynx Silver Line Project
- iv. Extend light rail across Catawba River to the City of Belmont



- v. Evaluate light rail to Downtown Gastonia
- vi. Implement enhanced bus services and bus stop capital improvements along West Boulevard and Freedom Drive
- b. **Save the Date: 2020 Transportation Summit – January 8-9, 2020 (Raleigh)** – For information only.
- c. **NCDOT Update – Division 12 Staff and TPD MPO Coordinator**  
Mr. Anil Panicker had the following updates:
  - i. Lincoln County
    - 1. Project R-5712 ROW is ongoing. Letting construction will begin soon.
    - 2. NC 16 Business is letting for construction in March. ROW issues have caused a 2-3 month delay on the project.
    - 3. Design/Build bridge projects:
      - a. Laboratory Road is under construction, 2-3 months until re-open.
      - b. Howard Creek Mill expected completion date is September.
  - ii. Cleveland County
    - 1. Shelby Bypass C Section (NC 226 to NC 150) – ROW acquisition is complete. Still having issues with utilities relocation
    - 2. Shelby Bypass D and E Sections (NC 150 to Stoney Point Rd.) – ROW plans have been approved and ROW acquisition is underway.
    - 3. US 74 from US 74 Business to US 226 is on schedule.
  - iii. Gaston County
    - 1. I-5000 – Project is 45% complete and on schedule.
    - 2. NC 279 Widening – 30% behind schedule – having issues with signal plans.
    - 3. NC 279 Passing Lanes – Project has been awarded.
- d. **Transit Systems Ridership** – For information only.

## 11. Adjournment

There being no further business Mr. Bost adjourned the meeting.