

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln**  
**Metropolitan Planning Organization (GCLMPO) Board**  
**March 23, 2017**

The scheduled Board meeting of the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization was held on Thursday, March 23, 2017 from 6:33 pm – 8:31 pm at the Gastonia Police Department (Community Room) located at 200 Long Avenue in Gastonia, North Carolina.

**Members Present**

Henry L Beam III	City of Cherryville, Mayor
Jerry Bishop	City of Mount. Holly, Council Member
Robin Conner	Town of Ranlo, Commissioner
Martin Eaddy	City of Lincolnton, Council Member
Ken Ervin	City of Lowell, Council Member
Cliff Hamrick	Town of Boiling Springs, Commissioner
David Humphries	City of Gastonia, Council Member
Johnny Hutchins	Cleveland County, Commissioner
Anita McCall	Lincoln County, Commissioner
Keith Miller	City of Kings Mountain, Council Member
Scott Neisler	City of Kings Mountain, Mayor
Todd Pierceall	City of Gastonia, Mayor Pro Tem, <b>MPO Chair</b>
John Pope	NCDOT, Division 12 Board Member
Jill Puett	City of Cherryville, Council Member
Becky Smith	City of Bessemer, Mayor
Richard Turner	City of Belmont, Council Member

**Staff Present**

Randi Gates	GCLMPO, Senior Transportation Planner
Hank Graham	GCLMPO, Principal Transportation Planner
Julio Paredes	GCLMPO, Transportation Planner

**Guests Present**

Andy Bailey	NCDOT (Transportation Planning Branch), GCLMPO – Coordinator
Loretta Barren	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Transportation Planner
Brian Dupont	City of Mount Holly, Planner
Chris Martin	Cleveland County Planning, Senior Planner
Michelle Nance	Centralina Council of Governments, Planning Director
Clarence Ponder	Walmart, General Manager
Anil Panicker	NCDOT (Div. 12), Planning Engineer
Brian Dupont	City of Mount Holly, Planner
Walt Scharer	City of Shelby, Planning Director
Mark Stafford	NCDOT (Div. 12), Division Engineer
James Walker	Charlotte Citizen, Former Gaston County Citizen, Attorney
John Pope	NCDOT Board Member (Div. 12)

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

Member	Feb 2016	Mar	May	Jul	Sep	Dec	Feb 2017	Mar
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	-----	x
City of Gastonia (1/2)	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
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	x	x	-----	x	-----	-----	-----	-----
City of Shelby	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	x
Town of Stanley	-----	x	x	-----	-----	-----	-----	x
Cleveland County	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Gaston County	-----	-----	x	x	-----	-----	-----	x
Lincoln County	-----	-----	x	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
NCDOT – Board of Transportation	x	x	-----	x	x	x	x	-----

**1. Set Agenda**

**Presenter: Todd Pierceall, MPO Board Chair**

The agenda needs to be set to include adding item “E” to “new” or “Other Business” for discussion Regarding additional amendments to the bylaws.

**Mr. Humphries motioned to accept the Agenda with the addition Mr. Beam seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.**

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

**Presenter: Todd Pierceall, MPO Board Chair**

Ms. Gates verified that a quorum had been met.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**Presenter: Todd Pierceall, MPO Board Chair**

Mr. Pierceall opened for a motion to approve the February 23, 2017 meeting minutes as presented.

**There were no changes to the minutes and they were approved as presented.**

**4. Introduction of Members & Guests**

**Presenter: Todd Pierceall, MPO Board Chair**

Mr. Pierceall noted that there were some new members of the Board Present and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**5. Public Comment**

**Presenter: Todd Pierceall, MPO Board Chair**

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

Mr. Walker thanked the Board for their support of the I-85 widening project. Mr. Walker also thanked Mr. John Pope from The NCDOT Board of Transportation for coming to the meeting.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **6. 2016-2025 MTIP Additions/Modifications**

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

Ms. Gates presented the STIP amendments for the GCLMPO area that were approved by the NCDOT Board of Transportation (BOT) at its January, February, and March meetings. She explained that when the STIP is amended, the MPO must update the MTIP so that it is consistent with the STIP.

Mr. Turner asked about the timeline for the adaptive signalization project along Wilkinson Boulevard and will it mirror the accelerated phase of the I-85 widening. Ms. Gates responded by mentioning that according to the STIP, the adaptive signalization is currently scheduled after the widening.

**Mr. Turner motioned for a resolution expressing the desire of the MPO board and the communities to expedite project U-6038 ahead of the widening of I-85 as much as is feasible. Mr. Hutchins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Humphries motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Beam seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **7. FY 2017-2018 UPWP Draft**

**Presenter: Hank Graham, Principal Transportation Planner**

Mr. Graham explained that the total proposed UPWP budget is \$617,444.00 and is comprised of \$414,694.00 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 GCLMPO member governments will be responsible for providing 20% local match for PL funds and SPR funds, and Gastonia will be responsible for the 20% match for 5303 transit planning grant funds.

Mr. Graham pointed out Table 3, which lists Special Study projects that have been submitted to MPO staff for funding. These projects were submitted last year, but due to decreased funding levels, the GCLMPO needed to hold these until additional fund became available.

Mr. Graham noted that all of the MPOs across the state met to discuss giving excess funding from some MPOs that don't spend their annual allocation to those that need more funding. Excess funding currently equals \$1.5 million. Currently there is no methodology or formula to disperse these funds, but Mr. Graham feels that if these projects are include in our draft UPWP, we will have a better chance in getting some of this excess funding.

Mr. Graham called attention to the Local Match Shares, which can be found on page 31 of the agenda packet. He noted that the match for the Special Projects would only be paid by the community awarded funding. Mr. Graham stated that he would change the overall UPWP to include these Special Studies, and would amend the Local Match Shares to reflect the local matches for the Special Studies.

**Mr. Turner motioned to approve of the FY 2017-2018 UPWP Draft as presented. Mr. Hutchins seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Graham noted that the Draft UPWP does need to be released for public comment during the month of April this is a federal requirement.

**Mr. Eaddy motioned to approve the release of the FY 2017-2018 UPWP Draft for public comment in April. Mr. Neisler seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

## 8. MPO Board Bylaws Amendment

**Presenter: Julio Paredes, Transportation Planner**

Mr. Pierceall requested a modification to the bylaws to explain how a chair pro tem will be selected to precede over a board meeting in the absence of both Chair and Vice-Chair.

The amendment reads,

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

Section 2 – Duties:

The Secretary will be the recording officer and custodian of the MPO Board and its sub-committees' records. The Secretary shall provide staff services for the committee, as needed and will maintain a current copy of the Bylaws as an addendum to the *Memorandum of Understanding* to be distributed to the public on request. The Secretary shall maintain an accurate record of the membership of the MPO Board and its sub-committees, will send out the notice of all meetings, and conduct the general correspondence of the MPO Board. In the absence of the Chair ~~or and the Vice-Chair, the Secretary shall call the meeting to order and preside until the immediate election of a Chair pro tem. the Chair will appoint a Board member as Chair pro-tem.~~

**Mr. Neisler motioned to approve the amendment to the Bylaws as presented. Mr. Beam seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

## 9. Greater Charlotte Regional Freight Mobility Plan

**Presenter: Michelle Nance, Planning Director, Centralina Council of Governments**

Ms. Nance introduced Mr. Clarence Ponder, General Transportation Manager for the Walmart distribution center in Shelby and a member of the CCOG Freight Advisory Committee. He shared his experience with the CCOG Freight Advisory Committee.

Ms. Nance stated that there are three main things to take away from this presentation: 1) a lot of regional coordination went into this plan, 2) this plan includes not only transportation, but also economic development and land use, and 3) there is a lot of private sector interest in freight in our region, and the private sector participated in this planning process.

Ms. Nance explained that freight is the economy in motion and includes not only trucks, but also ships, rail, and aviation. She noted that the biggest takeaway for MPOs from this planning process is a standalone freight chapter for the GCLMPO to be included in the 2045 MTP.

Ms. Nance detailed that the freight plan development process included a lot of data and analysis, as well as stakeholder outreach, and end products including: Vision, Goals & Objectives, Performance Measures, Recommendations of Best Practices, and an Implementation Plan. Ms. Nance also described next steps, which includes presentations to all the MPO's TCCs and Boards, area-wide meetings in April/May geared toward land use planners and economic development staff, and a regional freight meeting to bring everyone that participated in the plan back together. There will also be a public service announcement produced to get this information out to the general public. CCOG will also look at Traffic Incident Management and Intelligent Transportation Systems at the June meeting.

Ms. Nance noted that the GCLMPO has provide the Executive Summary to MPO Board members at the beginning of the meeting. NCDOT is helping do a PSA about the importance of freight.

## 10. 2045 MTP Development Process Update

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

Ms. Gates presented the Draft Goals, Objectives, & Policies for the 2045 MTP update. These were drafted by utilizing the Goals, Objectives, & Policies from the current 2040 MTP, and were edited by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), MTP Subcommittee, and FHWA staff.

Ms. Gates also explained upcoming activities for the 2045 MTP Update, which includes opening a

public comment period and project solicitation in April.

**Mr. Humphries motioned to approve the Draft Goals, Objectives, & Policies as presented. Mr. Eaddy seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Turner motioned to approve the public comment period (April 1-30, 2017) for the Draft Goals, Objectives, & Policies, as well as a general project solicitation. Ms. McCall seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

## **11. Other Business**

### **a. 2017 NCAMPO Conference**

Mr. Graham noted that the statewide 2017 NCAMPO Conference will be held April 26-28 in New Bern, NC.

### **b. CommunityViz Training**

Mr. Paredes noted that the CommunityViz training will be held April 3-5 in Gastonia. The fee is \$100 and is a great opportunity to learn about the software and how it can be useful. Mr. Paredes asked that anyone interested contact him to reserve a seat.

### **c. NCDOT Update**

Mr. Panicker noted the following public meetings that have taken place:

- Wesleyan Road Bridge Replacement - March 14<sup>th</sup> – 6:30-8:30pm (McAdenville Town Hall)
- NC 16 BUS/Pilot Knob Rd Intersection Improvements – March 16<sup>th</sup> – 5:00-7:00 pm (East Lincoln Community Center)

Mr. Panicker also had the following project updates/new meetings:

- DRAFT STIP Public Meeting for Division 11 and 12 will be held on April 20<sup>th</sup> in Hickory
- Public Meeting for a proposed runabout at NC 190 and Joe's Lake will be held March 30<sup>th</sup> from 5pm to 7pm in Shelby.

Mr. Andy Bailey reported that The Comprehensive Transportation Maps have been approved by the Board of Transportation at their March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **d. Transit System Ridership**

Reports were provided as information. Mr. Pierceall stated for all to review the information in the agenda packet.

Other business discussions ensued regarding additional amendments to MPO Board Bylaws. Mr. Johnny Hutchins mentioned that he would like the Board to consider establishing term limits and appointing officers around the 3 counties.

Mr. Martin Eaddy introduced a discussion about an interchange improvement project at Generals Boulevard in Lincolnton. Mr. Eaddy express his concerns about NCDOT comments on the project's costs. Mark Stafford, Division 12 Engineer responded to Mr. Eaddy concerns.

Mr. Keith Miller had a question about costs of the 85x bus service. Mr. Graham answered Mr. Miller's question.

Mr. Todd Pierceall, MPO Chair had a discussion about getting name tags for staff and board members. Staff will look into ordering name tags.

## **12. Adjournment**

Mr. Pierceall adjourned the meeting at 8:31 pm.