

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln**  
**Metropolitan Planning Organization (GCLMPO) Board**  
**May 28, 2020**  
**Virtual Meeting**

The scheduled Board meeting of the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization was held on Thursday, May 28, 2020 from 6:30 pm – 7:50 pm via GoToMeeting and conference call.

**Members Present**

Richard Atkinson	Town of Cramerton, Commissioner
Rick Coleman	Town of Dallas, Mayor
Robin Conner	Town of Ranlo, Commissioner
Martin Eaddy	City of Lincolnton, Council Member
Ken Ervin	City of Lowell, Council Member
Tommy Greene	Town of Boiling Springs, Council Member
Charles McCorkle	City of Mount Holly, Council Member
Keith Miller	City of Kings Mtn., Council Member
Scott Neisler	City of Kings Mtn., Mayor, <b>MPO Vice-Chair</b>
Charles Odom	City of Gastonia, Council Member
Richard Permenter	Lincoln County, Commissioner
John Pope	NCDOT, Board of Transportation Member
Jill Puett	City of Cherryville, Mayor Pro Tem
Milton Sigmon	Lincoln County, Commissioner
Becky Smith	Bessemer City, Mayor
Jennifer Stepp	City of Gastonia, Council Member
Martha Stowe	City of Belmont, Council Member
Richard Turner	City of Belmont, Council Member, <b>MPO Chair</b>
Reid Washam	Town of McAdenville, Council Member

**Staff Present**

Randi Gates	GCLMPO, Principal Transportation Planner
Jane Love	GCLMPO, Senior Transportation Planner
Julio Paredes	GCLMPO, Planner

**Guests Present**

Loretta Barren	FHWA, Planner
Dominique Boyd	NCDOT-TPD, GCLMPO Coordinator
Blake Guffey	NCDOT, District Engineer
Dean Ledbetter	NCDOT – Program Dev. Branch, Corridor Dev. Engineer
Anil Panicker	NCDOT Division 12 Planner
Quentin McPhatter	City of Gastonia, Assistant City Manager
Mark Stafford	NCDOT Division 12 Engineer

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

Member	May	July	Sept	Dec	2020 Jan	Mar	May
City of Belmont	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	X	-----
City of Bessemer City	-----	X	X	X	-----	-----	-----
Town of Boiling Springs	X	X	X	X	-----	-----	-----
City of Cherryville	-----	-----	X	-----	-----	-----	-----
Town of Cramerton	X	-----	-----	X	X	-----	-----
Town of Dallas	X	-----	-----	X	X	-----	-----
City of Gastonia (1/2)	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
City of Gastonia (2/2)	-----	-----	X	X	-----	-----	-----
City of Kings Mountain	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
City of Lincolnton	-----	-----	X	X	X	-----	-----
City of Lowell	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
City of Mount Holly	-----	-----	X	X	-----	-----	-----
Town of Ranlo	-----	-----	X	-----	-----	-----	-----
City of Shelby	X	X	-----	-----	-----	X	X
Town of Stanley	-----	-----	-----	X	X	X	X
Cleveland County	-----	-----	-----	-----	X	-----	X
Gaston County	X	-----	-----	-----	X	-----	X
Lincoln County	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
NCDOT – Board of Transportation	-----	-----	X	X	X	X	-----

**1. Introduction of Members & Guests**

*Presenter: Richard Turner, MPO Board Chair*

Mr. Turner asked that all members and guests introduce themselves. Mrs. Randi Gates conducted a roll call.

**2. Set Agenda**

*Presenter: Richard Turner, MPO Board Chair*

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

Mr. Eaddy motioned to set the agenda. Mr. Ervin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

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

*Presenter: Richard Turner, MPO Board Chair*

Mrs. Gates determined that a quorum had been met.

**4. Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Reminder**

*Presenter: Richard Turner, MPO Board Chair*

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

**5. Approval of Minutes**

*Presenter: Richard Turner, MPO Board Chair*

Mr. Turner asked for a motion to approve the March 26, 2020 meeting minutes as presented.

Mr. McCorkle motioned to approve the March 26, 2020 minutes as presented. Mr. Greene seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**6. Public Comment**

*Presenter: Richard Turner, MPO Board Chair*

There were no public comments at this time.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**7. 2020-2029 MTIP Modifications**

AV-5753	LINCOLN COUNTY	LINCOLN-TON-LINCOLN COUNTY AIRPORT (IPJ), OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL IN RUNWAY 5 APPROACH. <b>TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME FOR PLANNING, DELAY RIGHT-OF-WAY FROM FY 20 TO FY 21.</b>	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 2021 - <u>\$295,000 (T)</u> \$295,000
AV-5755	LINCOLN COUNTY	LINCOLN-TON-LINCOLN COUNTY AIRPORT (IPJ), LAND ACQUISITION FOR RUNWAY 5 APPROACH. <b>TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME FOR PLANNING, DELAY RIGHT-OF-WAY FROM FY 20 TO FY 21.</b>	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 2021 - <u>\$176,000 (T)</u> \$176,000
B-5961	GASTON COUNTY	SR 1421 (MARYS GROVE ROAD), REPLACE BRIDGE 350097 OVER UT OF MUDDY FORK CREEK. <b>TO ASSIST IN BALANCING FUNDS, DELAY RIGHT-OF-WAY FROM FY 20 TO FY 21 AND CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 21 TO FY 22.</b>	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 2021 - \$ 67,000 (BGOFF) CONSTRUCTION FY 2022 - <u>\$675,000 (BGOFF)</u> \$742,000
C-5703	GASTON COUNTY	GASTONIA, GASTONIA SIGNAL SYSTEM. UPGRADE CITYWIDE SIGNAL SYSTEM. <b>TO ASSIST IN BALANCING FUNDS, DELAY RIGHT-OF-WAY FROM FY 20 TO FY 21 AND CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 21 TO FY 22.</b>	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 2021 - \$ 600,000 (CMAQ) FY 2021 - \$ 11,000 (L) FY 2021 - \$ 139,000 (S(M)) CONSTRUCTION FY 2022 - \$6,784,000 (CMAQ) FY 2022 - \$ 127,000 (L) FY 2022 - <u>\$1,569,000 (S(M))</u> \$9,230,000
EB-5701	GASTON COUNTY	US 29/74 (EAST FRANKLIN BOULEVARD), SR 2200 (COX ROAD) TO CITY LIMITS. CONSTRUCT MISSING SIDEWALK ON NORTH SIDE. <b>TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME FOR PLANNING AND DESIGN, DELAY RIGHT-OF-WAY FROM FY 20 TO FY 21 AND CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 21 TO FY 22.</b>	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 2021 - \$ 640,000 (TA5200) FY 2021 - \$ 160,000 (L) CONSTRUCTION FY 2022 - \$ 640,000 (TA5200) FY 2021 - <u>\$ 160,000 (L)</u> \$1,600,000
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 ASSIST IN BALANCING FUNDS, DELAY CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 21 TO FY 22.</b>	CONSTRUCTION FY 2022 \$ 120,000 (T) FY 2023 - <u>\$ 2,280,000 (T)</u> \$ 2,400,000
R-5713	CLEVELAND COUNTY	US 74, US 74 BUSINESS TO NC 226. CONSTRUCT ACCESS MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS. <b>TO ASSIST IN BALANCING FUNDS, DELAY CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 21 TO FY 22.</b>	CONSTRUCTION FY 2022 - <u>\$ 3,000,000 (T)</u> \$ 3,000,000
U-5775	CLEVELAND COUNTY	US 74 BUSINESS (MARION STREET), INTERSECTION OF US 74 BUSINESS (MARION STREET) AND NC 150 (CHERRYVILLE ROAD). REALIGN INTERSECTION. <b>TO ASSIST IN BALANCING FUNDS, DELAY CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 21 TO FY 22.</b>	CONSTRUCTION FY 2022 \$ 100,000 (T) FY 2022 \$ 300,000 (L) FY 2023 - <u>\$ 1,600,000 (T)</u> \$ 2,000,000

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 ASSIST IN BALANCING FUNDS, DELAY RIGHT-OF-WAY FROM FY 20 TO FY 21 AND CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 21 TO FY 22.</b>	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 2021 \$ 450,000 (T) CONSTRUCTION FY 2022 \$ 950,000 (T) FY 2023 - \$ 950,000 (T) \$ 2,350,000
U-5959	GASTON COUNTY	US 74 (WILKINSON BOULEVARD), US 74 (WILKINSON BOULEVARD) AT NC 273 (PARK STREET). CONSTRUCT INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS. <b>TO ASSIST IN BALANCING FUNDS, DELAY RIGHT-OF-WAY FROM FY 20 TO FY 21 AND CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 21 TO FY 22.</b>	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 2021 \$ 100,000 (T) UTILITIES FY 2021 \$ 100,000 (T) CONSTRUCTION FY 2022 - \$ 500,000 (T) \$ 700,000
U-5965	GASTON COUNTY	US 29 (FRANKLIN BOULEVARD), US 29 (FRANKLIN BOULEVARD) AND NC 274. CONSTRUCT INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS. <b>TO ASSIST IN BALANCING FUNDS, DELAY RIGHT-OF-WAY FROM FY 20 TO FY 21 AND CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 21 TO FY 22.</b>	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 2021 \$ 500,000 (T) UTILITIES FY 2021 \$ 100,000 (T) CONSTRUCTION FY 2022 \$ 1,200,000 (T) FY 2023 - \$ 1,200,000 (T) \$ 3,000,000

Mr. Permenter explained that project R-5712 was initially created by NCDOT Division 12 to improve the intersection on which it sits. Since that time, the project has been postponed twice. This intersection is the most highly visible and congested in East Lincoln County. As of this meeting, Lincoln County Board of Commissioners has already disapproved rezonings and other projects due to the failure of this intersection. It is imperative to Lincoln County that this project continue on schedule. Due to the development pressures of this area, the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners has unanimously stated their opposition to any further delay, noting the availability of developer-contributed funds specifically allocated for this project, and wish to see this project completed on its original schedule, without delay.

Mr. Turner asked if this delay was a result of lack of funds due to COVID-19. Randi said that, to her knowledge, this amendment was added to assist in balancing NCDOT funds. Additionally, in talking to NCDOT, Randi was told that the Board would be required to approve this change to match the STIP before the project could enter into construction.

**Mr. Permenter motioned to remove project R-5712 from the consent agenda. Mr. Eaddy seconded and the motion passed with dissenting votes from Mr. Coleman and Mr. Ervin.**

**Mr. Permenter motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with R-5712 removed. Mr. Neisler seconded and the motion passed with a dissenting vote from Mr. Coleman.**

**7a. MTIP Amendment – R-5712 – To assist in balancing funds, delay Construction from FY 21 to FY 22**

Mrs. Gates reiterated that GCLMPO is looking to amend the local MTIP and to assist in balancing funds by delaying Construction of project R-5712 from FY 21 to FY 22.

Mr. Permenter thanked everyone for hearing his concerns. Mr. Sigmon noted that Lincoln County has been told for several years that this intersection is going to be improved stating that property has been obtained but no actual work has been completed and that the County has money from a developer set aside for this project and is in a bad position while this project continues to be delayed.

Mark Stafford stated that NCDOT has had a cash balance issue for quite some time, as early as last year, which has been further exacerbated by economic blowback from COVID-19. At this time, NCDOT is below their required cash balance and cannot enter into any new contracts. Unfortunately, this causes projects that were advancing to stop with no realistic expectation of getting them back on track as originally

scheduled. Short of additional funding being put back into NCDOT there is very little that can be done to avoid delays. Depending on Federal guidelines, 300 million dollars may be available to NCDOT and potentially more options from the NC General Assembly. Mr. Stafford noted that hopefully in the near future the situation will improve but there is nothing to be done at this time.

**Mr. Permenter motioned that the GCLMPO request that NCDOT adjust plans to continue on existing schedule. Mr. Eaddy seconded and the motion passed with dissenting votes from Mr. Coleman, Mr. Ervin, Mr. Neisler and Mr. Greene.**

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**8. 2020-2029 MTIP Amendments, 2045 MTP Amendments, and AQ Conformity Determination**

***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 2020-2029 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

U-2523B	GASTON COUNTY	NC 279, NORTH OF SR 2275 (ROBINSON-CLEMMER ROAD) TO WEST OF NC 275 IN DALLAS. <b>COST INCREASE EXCEEDING \$2 MILLION AND 25% THRESHOLDS</b>	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 20 - \$5,625,000 (T) FY 21 - \$5,625,000 (T) UTILITIES FY 20 - \$500,000 (T) CONSTRUCTION FY 22 - \$5,233,000 (T) FY 23 - \$5,234,000 (T) FY 24 - <u>\$5,233,000</u> (T) \$27,450,000
EB-6037A	CLEVELAND COUNTY	SHELBY RAIL TRAIL, SOUTH CAROLINA STATE LINE TO WEST OF GROVER STREET IN SHELBY. CONSTRUCT MULTIUSE PATH. <b>NEW PROJECT ADDED TO STIP WITH PROJECT BREAK TO FACILITATE PROCESSING OF MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT AT REQUEST OF MPO.</b>	RIGHT-OF-WAY FY 21 - \$4,160,000 (TAANY) FY 21 - <u>\$1,040,000</u> (L) \$5,200,000

In addition to the MTIP amendments, the GCLMPO’s 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) needs to be amended to reflect the cost increases to project U-2523B and the addition of project EB-6037A.

A conformity determination report is also required due to the Clean Air Act’s requirement that an MPO’s plans and programs conform to the purpose of the state implementation plan (SIP) for achieving air quality standards. A regional emissions analysis is required because project U-2523B is classified as “regionally significant” in the 2045 MTP.

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 April 7, 2020. The MTIP & STIP need to be amended to correspond with the Council’s action. The funding levels represent funding being requested for FY 2020.

**GCLMPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

**Section 5307 Funds FY 2020**

<b>STIP #</b>	<b>FY 2020</b>	<b>Local</b>	<b>Federal</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Total</b>
TO-6061	Operating Expenses	\$845,787	\$845,787	\$0	\$1,691,574
TG-6183A	ADA Paratransit Service	\$67,500	\$270,000	\$0	\$337,500
TG-6184B	Preventative Maintenance	\$125,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$625,000
TG-6804	Transit App	\$12,500	\$50,000	\$0	\$62,500
TG-6792	Transit Enhancements - Pedestrian Walkways	\$82,500	\$330,000	\$0	\$412,500
TL-0004	Transit Enhancements - Benches at Bradley Station	\$25,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$125,000
TG-6793	Transit Enhancements - Shelters	\$50,000	\$200,000	\$0	\$250,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,208,287</b>	<b>\$2,295,787</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,504,074</b>

In adherence to the Public Participation Process for the GCLMPO, a 30-day public comment period was held April 3<sup>rd</sup> – May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and a public comment opportunity for this item was included in the TCC meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup> and was also included in this MPO Board meeting. All public comments received were in support of the Shelby Rail Trail.

**Mr. Neisler recommended approval of responses to public comments received. Mr. Ervin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Ervin recommended approval of a Resolution Finding the GCLMPO Amended 2045 MTP and Amended 2020-2024 MTIP in Compliance with the Clean Air Act and FAST Act. Ms. Puett seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Mr. Permenter recommended approval of a Resolution Adopting Amendments to the 2045 MTP and Amended 2020-2024 MTIP. Mr. Greene seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

**9. NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative – GCLMPO Support**

**Presenter: Jane Love, Senior Transportation Planner**

The NC Department of Transportation is accepting applications from communities for the 2020 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative until June 30<sup>th</sup>. This program provides funding for municipalities across the state to develop comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plans but cannot be used on construction of any kind. The pool of funding comes from both Federal and State sources and requires a local match.

The City of Belmont plans to submit an application to update their pedestrian plan. One (1) of the requirements for the application is MPO support in the form of a Resolution. MPO staff is asking for approval of the Resolution of Support to include in Belmont’s application.

**Mr. Ervin recommended approval of a Resolution of Support for the grant application. Ms. Puett seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

**10. USDOT BUILD Grant – GCLMPO Support**

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

The U.S. Department of Transportation has issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Department of Transportation’s Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants. The MPO has always submitted letters of support for any applications coming from its three (3) county area. This year there are three (3) applications coming from the MPO area including the City of Gastonia, the

City of Shelby and Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG). More information on each project is included in the Letters of Support. MPO staff is asking for Letters of Support for each of these BUILD applications.

Mr. Sigmon asked Mrs. Gates to break down the amounts for each project being submitted. The City of Gastonia is seeking roughly \$18,410,000 which is about 60% of the total project cost. Mrs. Gates did not have immediate access to the other two (2) project budgets. If the CCOG application is selected, then the MPO would have to look to local communities to help provide local funding in the total amount of \$25,000 for the GCLMPO's local match.

**Mr. Coleman recommended approval of Letters of Support for BUILD applications within the GCLMPO planning area. Mr. Ervin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **11. Other Business**

##### **a. NCDOT Update – Division 12 Staff and TPD MPO Coordinator**

Mr. Mark Stafford had the following updates in addition to the updates included in the agenda packet:

NCDOT is below the cash floor for spending. One (1) of the obvious ramifications for this is that projects are being suspended but ongoing capital projects, including resurfacings, are still under construction. Mowing will also begin June 1, 2020.

Martin Eaddy asked about the timeline for the I-85/321 Interchange project. Mr. Stafford stated that that project is scheduled to be complete by December 2020.

Mr. Neisler asked if maintenance is still proceeding regularly and Mr. Stafford explained that NCDOT is on a reduced maintenance budget but is still addressing critical safety items strategically.

Mr. Sigmon asked whether the temporary stoplight at Optimist Club Road and Highway 16 is still on schedule for Fall 2020. Mr. Stafford noted that NCDOT does not have authorization to move forward but that stoplight is on the list of projects that are ready to begin if those funds become available.

##### **b. Transit Systems Ridership – For information only.**

#### **12. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.