

MEETING MINUTES
Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln
Metropolitan Planning Organization (GCLMPO) Board
August 27, 2026

The scheduled Board meeting of the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization was held on Thursday, August 27, 2026, from 6:30 pm – 6:46 pm at the Gastonia MOC, located at 1300 N. Broad Street, Gastonia, NC.

Members Present

Hayley Beaty	Town of Dallas, Mayor
Dale Blythe	Town of Dallas, Alderman
Doug Bridges	Cleveland County, Commissioner
Trent Carpenter	Lincoln County, Commissioner
Tyler Fletcher	City of Kings Mountain, Council Member
Allen Hook	Bessemer City, Mayor Pro Tem
Demetrios Koutsoupas	City of Gastonia, Council Member, <i>MPO Chair Pro Tem</i>
Patrick Litton	Town of Boiling Springs, Council Member
Scott Neisler	City of Kings Mountain, Council Member
Kenneth Reeves	City of Mount Holly, Council Member
Travis Smith	City of Lowell, Council Member
Wade Stroupe	City of Cherryville, Mayor
Brendan Sweeney	Town of Stanley, Council Member

Staff Present

Tori Dellinger	GCLMPO, Principal Transportation Planner
Julio Paredes	GCLMPO, Senior Planner
Makenna Sturgis	GCLMPO, Senior Planner
Elizabeth Wilson	GCLMPO, Administrative Technician

Guests Present

Wesley Clary	NCDOT District 1, District Engineer
Juan Garcia	Gaston County, Transportation Planning
Randi Gates	City of Gastonia, Director of Transportation
John Hunter	Transportation Planning
Travis Jordan	NCDOT District 3 District Engineer
Dean Ledbetter	NCDOT Division 12, Corridor Development Engineer

Absences (x = Absent) / Not in Good Standing

Member	May	July	Sept	Dec	Jan 2026	Mar	May	July	Aug
City of Belmont	-----	x	-----	-----	-----	-----	x	x	x
City of Bessemer City	-----	x	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	x	-----
Town of Boiling Springs	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	x	-----	-----	-----
City of Cherryville	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Town of Cramerton	-----	x	-----	x	-----	x	-----	-----	x
Town of Dallas	x	-----	x	x	x	-----	-----	-----	-----
City of Gastonia (1/2)	x	-----	x	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	x
City of Gastonia (2/2)	x	-----	x	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
City of Kings Mountain	x	-----	x	x	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
City of Lincolnton	-----	x	x	x	x	-----	x	x	x
City of Lowell	x	-----	-----	-----	x	-----	x	x	-----
City of Mount Holly	-----	x	x	-----	x	-----	-----	-----	-----
Town of Ranlo	-----	-----	-----	x	x	-----	x	x	x
City of Shelby	x	-----	x	x	-----	x	-----	x	x
Town of Stanley	x	-----	x	x	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Cleveland County	-----	-----	-----	x	x	-----	x	-----	-----
Gaston County	-----	x	-----	x	x	x	-----	x	x
Lincoln County	x	-----	x	-----	-----	-----	x	-----	-----
NCDOT – Board of Transportation	x	-----	-----	x	x	x	x	x	x

1. Introduction of Members & Guests**Presenter: Demetrios Koutsoupas, MPO Board Chair Pro Tem**

All members and guests introduced themselves at this time.

2. Determination of Quorum and Good Standing**Presenter: Demetrios Koutsoupas, MPO Board Chair Pro Tem**

Mrs. Dellinger determined that a quorum had been met.

3. Ethics Awareness & Conflict of Interest Reminder**Presenter: Demetrios Koutsoupas, MPO Board Chair Pro Tem**

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

4. Set Agenda**Presenter: Demetrios Koutsoupas, MPO Board Chair Pro Tem**

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

Mr. Carpenter motioned to set the agenda as presented. Mr. Reeves seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Comment**Presenter: Demetrios Koutsoupas, MPO Board Chair Pro Tem**

There was no public comment at this time.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Presenter: Demetrios Koutsoupas, MPO Board Chair Pro Tem

- a. Approval of July 23, 2026 Board Minutes**
- b. 2026-2035 TIP / 2055 MTP Amendments**

Mr. Reeves motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Sweeney seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. SPOT P8.0 Local Point Assignment—Regional Impact Tier

Presenter: Tori Dellinger, Principal Transportation Planner

The MPO Board adopted the GCLMPO P8.0 Local Input Point Methodology on March 26, 2026. The MPO has developed this prioritization methodology to satisfy the quantitative, data-driven requirements of the STI legislation while protecting the discretion of local officials by incorporating subjective, qualitative local input where possible. This process applies to all projects that fall in the “Regional Impact” and “Division Needs” tier levels, as defined by STI.

NCDOT released the P8.0 quantitative scores and draft list of programmed Statewide Mobility projects on May 28, 2026. The Regional Impact point allocation window opened on Monday, June 1, and will close on Friday, August 28.

We have now reached the point in the P8.0 process where, as part of this round of prioritization, it is time to assign our Local Input Points to the Regional Impact Tier projects.

During the July MPO Board meeting, staff reported the draft Local Input Point recommendations, and those were released for a 15-day public comment period. The public comment period ran from July 24 through August 7. During that time, all project information, including project lists, maps, an interactive map, and the comment form was available on the GCLMPO website.

In that time frame staff received close to 50 comments. The comments and proposed responses are included in the agenda packet starting on page 33. Staff have reviewed all the comments and prepared proposed responses. Overall, the comments were supportive of the projects recommended for points and aligned well with staff’s recommendations. Staff were very pleased with the level of public participation and the feedback received throughout the process.

Mrs. Dellinger presented a couple of the projects that received multiple comments during the public comment period.

Several comments were received regarding project H230620, a highway project along NC 150 in Boiling Springs that would involve improvements at three intersections along the corridor. All the comments expressed strong support for the project, which is also one of the projects that staff had previously recommended assigning points to.

Staff also received several comments related to rail, specifically expressing support for passenger rail. As you may recall from the last meeting, staff had recommended assigning the maximum number of points to project R192651, the passenger rail project along the Norfolk Southern Main Line between Charlotte and Kings Mountain.

The MPO has 1,900 points that can be assigned to Regional Impact Tier projects, and all the recommended point

assignments are included in the agenda packet. Once assignments are approved by the MPO Board, Regional Impact point assignments will be entered into SPOT Online by the August 28 deadline.

At the end of September, NCDOT is expected to release the final Regional Impact total scores and programmed projects. In October, the process will start over for the Division Needs Tier projects, where there will be another 1,900 Local Input Points to assign.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS:

- A 15-day public comment period on the Regional Impact projects proposed for local input point assignment is scheduled to begin on Friday, July 24 and conclude on Friday, August 7.
- A press release will be issued on Friday, July 24 to announce the public comment period.
- Project lists, maps, and other information will be available on the GCLMPO's webpage.
- The results of the public comment period will be presented to the TCC and MPO Board at their August meetings. At that time the MPO Board will be asked to approve a project list and final points assignment for Regional Impact projects.

All this information was presented to TCC, the MPO's Technical Coordinating Committee, earlier this month. The TCC reviewed the proposed responses to the public comments, as well as the recommended Local Input Point assignments, and recommended approval as presented.

Mr. Koutsoupas asked Mrs. Dellinger if there was a way to determine the total number of comments received and the percentage of comments that were positive and negative. Mrs. Dellinger stated that, overall, the comments were positive and supportive. The only negative comments were regarding projects in Cleveland County that were funded at the statewide level. The same comment was copied and pasted for both projects. Mrs. Dellinger read the comment aloud. Once approved by the Board, staff will submit responses to all comments received.

Mr. Neisler motioned to approve the responses to the public comments received, as well as to approve the Local Input Point assignments for the Regional Impact Tier projects as presented.

Mr. Bridges seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

8. Other Business

a. NCDOT Updates – Mr. Jordan stated that Division 12 received 2,500 points to allocate among 27 or 28 projects. Of those projects, 17 were in Gaston, Cleveland, and Lincoln Counties. He stated that, across the six counties, with approximately half being part of this network, the projects scored well according to the North Carolina Department of Transportation's methodology. Ms. Beaty stated that the Town of Dallas has received positive feedback regarding the repaving of East Trade Street.

b. Transit Systems Ridership – For information only.

9. Adjournment.

There being no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 pm.

Ms. Beaty motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Sweeney seconded and the motion passed unanimously.