

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE GASTON-CLEVELAND-LINCOLN
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (GCLMPO)
TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TCC)
September 12, 2018

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) was held on **Wednesday, September 12, 2018**, from 10:00 am until 10:57 am at the Gaston County Administration Building, Room 3A, which is located at 128 W. Main Avenue, Gastonia, NC.

Members Present

Alisha Sheets Barnes	Gaston County Economic Dev. Commission, Economic Dev. Specialist
Rusty Bost	City of Gastonia, Dir. of Development Services, TCC Vice-Chair
Kara Brown	Lincoln Economic Dev. Association, Account Services Manager
Andrew Bryant	Lincoln County, Planning Director
Kristy Crisp	City of Gastonia, Director of Economic Development
Kristi Davis	Gastonia Transit, Grants Manager
Laura Elam	City of Lincoln, Planning Director
Tiffany Faro	Town of Dallas, Development Services Director
Karen Floyd	City of Bessemer City, Planner
Stuart Gilbert	City of Kings Mountain, Planning Director
Heath Jenkins	Town of Stanley, Town Manager
Willie King, Jr.	Gaston County, Planner III
Kevin Krouse	City of Lowell, City Manager
Dean Ledbetter	NCDOT (Div-12), Corridor Development Engineer
Chris Martin	Cleveland County, Planning Director
Gregory Moyer	City of Gastonia, Civil Engineer III
Anil Panicker	NCDOT (Div-12), Planning Engineer
Alex Robinson	City of Belmont, Senior Planner
Walter Scharer	City of Shelby, Planning Director, TCC Chair
Lucas Shires	Town of Boiling Springs, Town Manager
Josh Watkins	Town of Cramerton, Planning Director
Vincent Wong	Gastonia Transit, Director of Community Services

Staff Present

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

Guests Present

Steve Blakley	Kimley-Horn, Senior Vice President
Juan Garcia	Gaston County, GIS Data Analyst
James Walker	Former Gaston County Citizen, Attorney

Absences (x = Absent) / Not In Good Standing

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

1. Set Agenda

Presenter: Walt Scharer, TCC Chair

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

Mr. Bryant motioned to set the agenda as presented. Mrs. Elam seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Determination of Quorum and Good Standing

Presenter: Walt Scharer, TCC Chair

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

3. Approval of Minutes

Presenter: Walt Scharer, TCC Chair

Mr. Scharer asked for a motion to approve the July 11, 2018 meeting minutes as presented.

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

4. Introduction of Members & Guests

Presenter: Walt Scharer, TCC Chair

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

5. Public Comment

Presenter: Walt Scharer, TCC Chair

Mr. Jim Walker thanked the TCC for the work they continue to do, especially on the last round of the Regional projects and for their support of the I-85 widening project and projects from the Build A Better Boulevard Study. He then expressed that he was glad to see how much will be done to improve the US 74 Corridor including South Fork and Catawba River bridges, intersection improvements and signalization in Belmont.

Mr. Walker then thanked everyone for the outstanding participation and level of enthusiasm in the light rail meeting that took place in Belmont a few weeks ago. Mr. Walker felt like it made an impact on the people from Charlotte who are in the position to potentially make decisions about the future of the light rail.

6. Draft P5.0 Local Input Point Assignments – Division Needs Tier

Presenter: Randi Gates, Principal Transportation Planner

Mrs. Gates noted that NCDOT released the P5.0 quantitative scores and draft list of programmed Statewide Mobility projects on April 3 and draft list of programmed Regional Impact projects on August 30, 2018. The GCLMPO has developed the draft Division Needs local input point assignments based upon the adopted Local Input Point Methodology and need to adopt the draft.

For the Regional Impact tier, there were several projects funded including the widening of US 74 adjacent to the South Fork bridge. Funding for the bridge replacement had already been procured but, until now, no funding for the widening of the road had been secured. Rather than the seven (7) projects the MPO expected to have funded in the Regional Tier, it received fourteen (14); several of the projects are being funded for ROW and construction in the latter years of the 10-year STIP. Due to the passing of the Build NC Bonds over the summer, NCDOT was able to approve funding more projects than they would have otherwise.

The P6.0 statewide workgroup will be looking at what is defined as a “committed project.” As it stands currently, projects within the first five (5) years of the STIP or projects that have gone through the NEPA process for environmental documents and anything with right of way or with environmental work going on the first five (5) years of the STIP are considered committed. A decision of the statewide workgroup will potentially change that rule to having projects within the first seven (7) years being locked in as committed projects which could potentially eliminate the need to rescore projects in the latter years of the ten (10) year STIP period. NCDOT is also looking at expediting some projects to get environmental work underway in hopes of locking in more projects.

Any projects that did not receive funding in the Regional Impact tier are cascading into the Division Needs Tier which is being scored now. The P5.0 subcommittee has used the adopted Local Ranking Methodology to rank all projects in each tier with each mode of transportation being ranked based upon its individual criteria. The MPO has 1800 points to assign to Division Tier projects with a cap of 100 points maximum per project. The adopted methodology states that the MPO will not automatically add local input points to a cascading project but will consider each project on a case-by-case basis since cascading projects can be very expensive thus requiring all or most of the Division Needs Tier budget to complete. The Local Ranking Methodology further lays out that the MPO will assign 100 points each to the highest ranking eighteen (18) projects unless there are explained deviations.

In the event that the MPO wants to add points to a cascading project or if the subcommittee feels that a project will not get funded, does not have local support or does not line up with NCDOT Division 12 priorities, the subcommittee is given the right in the Local Ranking Methodology to deviate from the established ranking criteria. Most deviations in this tier are due to low quantitative scores. Additionally, there were two (2)

cascading projects that received local input points in the Division Needs Tier using the deviation clause.

Lastly Mrs. Gates noted that, although the MPO can assign points to eighteen (18) projects, not all of those projects will be funded even if the project scores well quantitatively and locally. NCDOT has only \$86 million dollars for the entirety of Division 12 over the 10-year STIP which includes six (6) counties so there will be many more projects than there are funds.

The draft list will go out for a 15-day public comment period directly following the Board meeting. There are three (3) public meetings already scheduled, one (1) in each of the three (3) counties. The MPO website will be updated to include the draft point assignments and the online comment form option will once again be available for the public to post comments.

Mr. Bost motioned to approve the draft Division Needs local input point assignments and the 15-day public comment period (September 28-October 12, 2018) as presented. Mr. Bryant seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Formal Process for Funding Transportation Planning Projects

Presenter: Randi Gates, Principal Transportation Planner

Mrs. Gates stated that, as previously discussed, the MPO was able to obtain some SPR funding to get two (2) projects funded from the special projects list. The remainder of the special projects list did not qualify for planning funds. While going through the process of getting those projects funded MPO staff realized that there was no formal process around a call for projects for that planning effort so, at this time, Mrs. Gates would like to bring forward a formal process of how to allocate any excess planning (PL) funds or SPR funds. Eligible activities for this type of funding include corridor studies, access and mobility analysis, traffic alignment alternatives and feasibility studies, bike-ped planning and economic impact of transportation investments but does not include any design or engineering work.

The timeline for this process would be as follows

- September – GCLMPO will issue an annual call for Local Transportation Planning Projects
- October – Applications due
- November – Subcommittee will review and evaluate applications
- January – Draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- February – NCDOT call for SPR projects
- March – UPWP Adoption
- June – NCDOT award notification for SPR Funding

MPO staff has put together a Quick Facts Guide which is based off of other MPOs in the region which already have procedures in place around allocating excess planning funds. There is also a local match required for this funding, typically 80% federal funding and 20% local match though there is occasionally a state match for some SPR funds. Any plan that comes through the MPO does not need to go through the PL or SPR funding process, as this is reserved for local communities that would like to apply for those funds. The application focuses on how projects relate to the MPO's 2045 MTP and the goals and objectives laid out in that study. There will be a subcommittee to help staff go through the applications and select projects.

Mr. Robinson motioned to approve the Quick Facts Guide, Application and Call for Projects procedure as presented. Mr. Krouse seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Scharer asked for volunteers for the subcommittee. Mr. Robinson, Mr. Krouse, Mr. Scharer, Mr. Watkins and Mr. Bryant all graciously volunteered.

8. Other Business

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

Mr. Anil Panicker had the following updates:

- i. Lincoln County
 1. Project R-5712 has a field inspection scheduled for completion by the end of September followed by ROW acquisition.
 2. Projects R-5720 and U-5765 will have public meetings upcoming.
- ii. Cleveland County
 1. Project R-2707C (Shelby Bypass from NC 226 to NC 150) – Duke has started relocating their utilities.
 2. Project R-2707F – Work started in April and is 18% complete
 3. Resurfacings – 20% complete. 25% behind schedule but hoping to catch that up.
- iii. Gaston County
 1. I-5000 – Project is 38% complete and on schedule. Completion date expected November 2019.
 2. NC 273 Widening – 3% behind schedule.
 3. I-5893 (I-85 Milling and Filling and Guardrail Replacement) – Pavement marking issues have all be remedied.
 4. I-5894 (I-85 from Exit 22 to Mecklenburg County Line) – Milling working is done. Waiting for a weekend with weather permitting to complete the job.
 5. NC 279 Passing Lanes – Project should be let in November 2018.
 6. US 29/US 74 Franklin Blvd. Resurfacing and Realignment is complete.
 7. 2016-2017 resurfacings are complete.
 8. 2017-2018 Gaston County resurfacings are 28% complete.

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

9. Adjournment

There being no further business Mr. Scharer adjourned the meeting at 10:57am.