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1.0

1.0 Introduction

Introduction

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) are required to follow the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) regulations when addressing transportation. The FHWA prepared an MPO transportation planning guidance document to address updated and new regulatory requirements of the SAFETEA-LU of 2006. The Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process: Key Issues A briefing Notebook for Transportation Decision Makers, Officials, and Staff states that "...the MPO is responsible for making sure that freight movement is considered in the overall transportation planning process".

The Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (GUAMPO) initiated a freight planning study during the spring of 2007 to incorporate freight related issues into planning activities. In addition, the results of the freight study will be incorporated into the current 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

This study's efforts included three tasks: project coordination, freight assessment, and strategy development. The Project Coordination included working with planning partners and the community to assess freight issues and develop solution strategies. The Freight Assessment involved analyzing freight related data and determining the relationship between existing plans and their impact to the movement of freight. The Strategy Development included solution strategies to address the freight issues identified during the Freight Assessment.

The following sections of this report document the tasks completed during the freight study. GUAMPO recognizes that freight planning activities must be integrated into the transportation planning process; therefore freight related data will be updated on a regularly scheduled basis and strategy solutions will be revisited in the future.