

**GASTON URBAN AREA  
UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM  
FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012**



Final  
July 26, 2011

Prepared for:

City of Gastonia, NC  
Federal Transit Administration  
Federal Highway Administration  
Gaston Urban Area MPO Transportation Advisory Committee and  
**North Carolina Department of Transportation**

**UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM  
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION FOR FY 2010-2011  
GASTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**JULY 1, 2011 -JUNE 30, 2012**

**DESIGNATED RECIPIENT: CITY OF GASTONIA, NC (LEAD PLANNING AGENCY)**

The Unified Planning Work Program (PWP) is the instrument by which the Urban Area describes to the federal and state grant agencies how it plans to carry out the federally mandated “continuing, cooperative and comprehensive” (3-C) planning process. By law, Congress has determined that "It is in the national interest to encourage and promote the development of transportation systems embracing various modes of transportation in a manner which will efficiently maximize mobility of people and goods within and through urbanized areas and minimize transportation-related fuel consumption and air pollution. To accomplish this objective, metropolitan planning organizations, in cooperation with the State, shall develop transportation plans and programs for urbanized areas of the State. Such plans and programs shall provide for the development of transportation facilities (including pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities), which will function as an intermodal transportation system for the State, the metropolitan areas, and the Nation. The process for developing such plans and programs shall provide for consideration of all modes of transportation and shall be continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive to the degree appropriate, based on the complexity of the transportation problems." (§134, Title 23, US Code)

Each year the planning staff of the Gaston Urban Area MPO reviews the planning goals and objectives and identifies new projects for the coming year. This is done in coordination with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Statewide Planning Branch. Some of these tasks are ongoing such as a traffic count program or the collection of socioeconomic data. Others have a more defined scope such as the Thoroughfare Planning process, a transit ridership survey, or a corridor study. After considering the amount of work necessary to complete the task, an estimate of funding is developed for each task code.

The following section outlines the work to be completed in fiscal year 2011-2012 by task code category. Also included is the dollar amount budgeted for the year. The recommendations are as follows:

## **Task Codes**

### **TASK CODE II – CONTINUING TRANSPORTATION**

#### **Task Code II-A: Surveillance of Inventory Data**

- II-A-1 Traffic Volume Counts - Vehicle counts will be collected as needed throughout the Gaston Urban Area in support of corridor studies and other analyses. Staff will disseminate traffic volume counts from the Metrolina Regional Model when necessary. Staff will also evaluate the accuracy of counts collected by NCDOT. (\$4,680.00)
- II-A-4 Traffic Accidents – Analysis of unit member local government vehicular accident reports. The data will be used to determine whether roadway safety improvements are necessary. (\$4,680.00)
- II-A-5 Transit System Data - Data related to the operation of Gastonia Transit will be collected as needed. Specifically, data collection efforts recommended in the Community Transportation Services Plan (CTSP), such as boarding and alighting counts, will be carried out as time permits. Also, the bus stop inventory completed as a part of the CTSP will be incorporated into the Lead Planning Agency's Geographic Information System. (\$4,624.00)
- II-A-10 Mapping - Maps will be created for various projects such as corridor studies, transit planning and corridor protection activities. (\$20,720.00)
- II-A-12 Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Inventory – During the fiscal year, work will continue on the completing a sidewalk and greenway trail inventory for the entire MPO area. This effort will aid staff in identifying the best routes for connecting major county resource attractions and "missing links" in the sidewalk and greenway trail system. (\$4,812.00)

#### **Task Code II-B: Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)**

- II-B-3 Travel Model Updates - LPA staff will fund a local share and work with NCDOT's Transportation Planning Branch, Charlotte Department of Transportation and the Charlotte Regional Alliance for Transportation (CRAFT) to amend the Regional Model and specifically the Gaston Urban Area model as needed. (\$37,725.00)
- II-B-7 Forecasts of Future Travel Patterns - The datasets compiled for the regional modeling effort will need to be forecasted to our horizon year and any other years determined necessary for air quality modeling purposes. Several different land use scenarios may be studied. (\$7,020.00)
- II-B-8 Capacity Deficiency Analysis – Staff will utilize transportation modeling analysis to determine whether existing roadway segments are deficient in capacity flows. This effort will primarily occur during the review of proposed land developments. (\$6,616.00)

- II-B-9 Highway Element of the LRTP - Staff will make any necessary adjustments and amendments to the adopted Thoroughfare Plan based on corridor studies done to refine alignments. These changes need to be coordinated with all necessary governing boards and NCDOT. Further, any amendments that are proposed through the County Comprehensive Plan process will be reviewed (\$1,404.00)
- II-B-10 Transit Element of LRTP - Staff will utilize the Section 5303 grant for transit planning activities to implement the issues raised through the Community Transportation Services Plan (CTSP). We will also continue to work to implement the goals of the 2025 Multi-Modal Long Range Transportation Plan, through such projects as the Gastonia-Charlotte Express Bus service. Funds from the Section 5307 grant, which can be used for planning, have been set aside to conduct a feasibility study of the extension of the West Corridor into Gaston County. This is an extension of a project being conducted by Charlotte Area Transit System. (\$22,912.00)
- II-B-11 Bicycle and Pedestrian Element of the LRTP - Staff will continue to work with NCDOT Division of Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning to publish the Gaston Urban Area bicycle route map. The original map was completed in FY 2003-2004 and adopted by the Transportation Advisory Committee. We will continue to encourage the design of future transportation improvements that accommodate alternate modes of transportation. (\$3,199.00)
- II-B-14 Rail, Water or other mode of LRTP – Staff will continue to work with NCDOT Rail Division and its leasee to renovate and redevelop the P&N Railroad Corridor for Freight and Economic Development purposes. (\$4,680.00)
- II-B-15 Freight Movement/Mobility Planning - Staff will continue to work with NCDOT and the Metrolina Partners to better incorporate freight data into the Metrolina Model. Staff will also continue working to determine what investments offer residents of the Gaston Urban Area MPO a full range of real, practical mobility choices that suit their lifestyles and improve their lives. (\$17,488.00)
- II-B-17 Congestion Management Strategies - Staff will work to preserve the functional integrity of the thoroughfare system by encouraging good access management practices. This will be done through coordination with municipal staffs and the development community. (\$4,680.00)
- II-B-18 Air Quality Planning Conformity Analysis - The MPO must make a determination as to the conformity of the Long Range Transportation Plan to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality. Staff will work with NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch and other appropriate agencies to complete regional conformity efforts. (\$15,616.00)

### **TASK CODE III: ADMINISTRATION**

- III-A Planning Work Program - Preparation of the annual Planning Work Program (PWP), and all related activities, is the objective of this category, along with the preparation of detailed task outlines as required by the Federal Transit Administration. (\$9,360.00)

III-B Transportation Improvement Program - Under this task code, staff will prepare the biennial Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP). Staff will also evaluate any new projects proposed to be added to the Unmet Needs List using the methodology approved by the Technical Coordinating Committee and Transportation Advisory Committee. (\$9,360.00)

### **Task Code III-C: Civil Rights Compliance/Regulatory Requirements**

III-C-2 Environmental Justice - Recipients of federal funds must comply with Executive Order 12898 regarding environmental justice. Staff will work to ensure public involvement of low-income and minority groups in decisions making, prevent disproportionately high and adverse impacts on low-income and minority groups and assure that a proportionate share of benefits are received. (\$6,552.00)

III-C-6 Public Involvement - Staff will initiate an effort to update the adopted Public Involvement Process to better reflect current planning activities and to ensure an open exchange of information and ideas. Create and maintain a new Gaston MPO logo and webpage. (\$7,488.00)

### **Task Code III-D: Incidental Planning and Project Development**

III-D-1 Transportation Enhancement Planning - Staff will assist municipal staff members in applying for Transportation Enhancement funds and prepare endorsements for TAC approval. (\$7,020.00)

III-D-2 Environmental Analysis and Pre-TIP Planning - Projects on the adopted Thoroughfare Plan will be evaluated in the following areas: efficiency in serving travel demands, energy conservation, cost, and impact on the physical, social and economic environment. MPO staff will work with the TCC and Statewide Planning Branch to recommend projects for Pre- TIP Planning. (\$9,360.00)

III-D-3 Special Studies - Corridor studies will be initiated for projects on the adopted Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) maps, which need to be evaluated in terms of alignment, feasibility, environmental impact and design. Activities currently underway (such as the Belmont-Mount Holly Loop and Gastonia-Mount Holly Connector corridor studies/functional designs) will continue, and additional functional designs will be pursued. Additional tasks will include engineering services, a pedestrian/bicycle design study along Franklin Boulevard for the City of Gastonia, Bike/Pedestrian design studies for the City of Mt. Holly, and Bessemer City, an intersection study for City of Lowell, the transportation element for a land use study for the Town of Cramerton, and a revenue creation study for Gaston County. (\$286,587.00)

III-D-4 Regional and Statewide Planning - Staff will continue to participate in activities of the Charlotte Regional Alliance for Transportation (CRAFT) and the North Carolina Association of MPOs. Also, a significant amount of time will be spent on the development of the Metrolina Regional Travel Demand Model. Staff will participate in other regional planning efforts and workshops as required. (\$40,854.00)

- III-D-5 Corridor Protection - Staff will continue to participate in activities such as adoption of the model right-of-way protection ordinances and/or new subdivision ordinances. Staff will also continue to monitor conformance with the adopted Gaston Urban Area Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) maps through the review of proposed site plans, subdivisions and rezonings for local governments. To better protect the corridor of the Garden Parkway (US 321/74 Bypass), staff will meet with applicable planning boards and governing bodies to adopt subdivision and zoning ordinance amendments that validate and reinforce the corridor plan. (\$7,488.00)
- III-E: Management and Operations - Within this task code, staff planners will: attend the meetings of and prepare the agendas and minutes for the various committees it serves; document expenditures; file for reimbursement of expenditures; attend training sessions; and generally, manage all functions of the MPO. Administrative staff will also perform work in this task code. The Prospectus, Memorandum of Understanding and any other administrative agreements or procedures will be updated if necessary. Further, assistance and information will be provided to other agencies, the press, developers and the general public in regard to transportation-related issues. (\$67,392.00)

**Table 1**  
**Gaston Urban Area Planning Work Program Amendment**  
**Fiscal Year 2011 Expenditures (without SPR Funding)**  
**(July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012)**

Task Code	Description				
<b>II - Continuing Transportation Planning</b>		<b>Federal</b>	<b>State*</b>	<b>LPA</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>II-A</b>	<b>Surveillance of Inventory Data</b>				
II-A-1	Traffic Volume Counts	\$3,744		\$936	\$4,680
II-A-4	Traffic Accidents	\$3,744		\$936	\$4,680
<b>II-A-5</b>	<b>Transit System Data</b>	<b>\$3,699</b>	<b>\$462</b>	<b>\$462</b>	<b>\$4,624</b>
II-A-10	Mapping	\$16,576		\$4,144	\$20,720
II-A-12	Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Inventory	\$3,850		\$962	\$4,812
	Surveillance of Inventory Data - Sub-Total	\$31,613	\$462	\$7,441	\$39,516
<b>II-B</b>	<b>Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)</b>				
II-B-3	Travel Model Updates	\$30,180		\$7,545	\$37,725
II-B-7	Forecasts of Future Travel Patterns	\$5,616		\$1,404	\$7,020
II-B-8	Capacity Deficiency Analysis	\$5,293		\$1,323	\$6,616
II-B-9	Highway Element of the LRTP	\$1,123		\$281	\$1,404
<b>II-B-10</b>	<b>Transit Element of the LRTP</b>	<b>\$18,330</b>	<b>\$2,291</b>	<b>\$2,291</b>	<b>\$22,912</b>
II-B-11	Bicycle and Pedestrian Element of the LRTP	\$2,559		\$640	\$3,199
II-B-14	Rail, Water or other mode of LRTP	\$3,744		\$936	\$4,680
II-B-15	Freight Movement/Mobility Planning	\$13,990		\$3,498	\$17,488
II-B-17	Congestion Management Strategies	\$3,744		\$936	\$4,680
II-B-18	Air Quality Planning/Conformity Analysis	\$12,493		\$3,123	\$15,616
	Sub-Total	\$97,071	\$2,291	\$21,977	\$121,339
<b>III - ADMINISTRATION</b>					
<b>III-A</b>	<b>Planning Work Program</b>				
	Planning Work Program	\$7,488		\$1,872	\$9,360
	Sub-Total	\$7,488		\$1,872	\$9,360
<b>III-B</b>	<b>Transportation Improvement Program</b>				
	Transportation Improvement Program	\$7,488		\$1,872	\$9,360
	Sub-Total	\$7,488		\$1,872	\$9,360
<b>III-C</b>	<b>Civil Rights Compliance/Regulatory Requirements</b>				
III-C-2	Environmental Justice	\$5,242		\$1,310	\$6,552
III-C-6	Public Involvement	\$5,990		\$1,498	\$7,488
	Sub-Total	\$11,232		\$2,808	\$14,040
<b>III-D</b>	<b>Incidental Planning &amp; Project Development</b>				
III-D-1	Transportation Enhancement Planning	\$5,616		\$1,404	\$7,020
III-D-2	Environmental Analysis & Pre-TIP Planning	\$7,488		\$1,872	\$9,360
III-D-3	Special Studies	\$229,270		\$57,317	\$286,587
III-D-4	Regional and Statewide Planning	\$32,683		\$8,171	\$40,854
III-D-5	Corridor Protection	\$5,990		\$1,498	\$7,488
	Sub-Total	\$281,047		\$70,262	\$351,309
<b>III-E</b>	<b>Management and Operations</b>				
	Management and Operations	\$53,914		\$13,478	\$67,392
	Sub-Total	\$53,914		\$13,478	\$67,392
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$489,853</b>	<b>\$2,753</b>	<b>\$119,710</b>	<b>\$612,316</b>

<b>2011/2012 PL Funds</b>	
FY 11-12 Annual PL (104f) Allocation	\$259,000
FY10-11 Un-Rescinded Funds	\$208,824
5303 Transit Funds	\$22,029
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$489,853</b>

**Table 2**  
**Agency Spending**  
**Gaston Urban Area Unified Planning Work Program Amendment**  
**Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Revenues**

Task Code	Description	Sec. 104(f) PL		Sec. 5303			Sec. 5307			Task Funding Summary			
		FHWA	LPA	FTA	NCDOT	LPA	FTA	NCDOT	LPA	Federal	State*	LPA	Total
		80%	20%	80%	10%	10%	80%	10%	10%				
<b>II-A</b>	<b>Continuing Transportation Planning</b>												
II-A-1	Traffic Volume Counts	\$3,744	\$936							\$3,744		\$936	\$4,680
II-A-4	Traffic Accidents	\$3,744	\$936							\$3,744		\$936	\$4,680
<b>II-A-5</b>	<b>Transit System Data</b>			<b>\$3,699</b>	<b>\$462</b>	<b>\$462</b>				<b>\$3,699</b>	<b>\$462</b>	<b>\$462</b>	<b>\$4,624</b>
II-A-10	Mapping	\$16,576	\$4,144							\$16,576		\$4,144	\$20,720
II-A-12	Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Inventory	\$3,850	\$962							\$3,850		\$962	\$4,812
<b>II-B</b>	<b>Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)</b>												
II-B-3	Travel Model Updates	\$30,180	\$7,545							\$30,180		\$7,545	\$37,725
II-B-5	Forecasts of Future Travel Patterns	\$5,616	\$1,404							\$5,616		\$1,404	\$7,020
II-B-8	Capacity Deficiency Analysis	\$5,293	\$1,323							\$5,293		\$1,323	\$6,616
II-B-9	Highway Element of the LRTP	\$1,123	\$281							\$1,123		\$281	\$1,404
<b>II-B-10</b>	<b>Transit Element of the LRTP</b>			<b>\$18,330</b>	<b>\$2,291</b>	<b>\$2,291</b>				<b>\$18,330</b>	<b>\$2,291</b>	<b>\$2,291</b>	<b>\$22,912</b>
II-B-11	Bicycle and Pedestrian Element of the LRTP	\$2,559	\$640							\$2,559		\$640	\$3,199
II-B-15	Rail, Water or other mode of LRTP	\$3,744	\$936							\$3,744		\$936	\$4,680
II-B-14	Freight Movement/Mobility Planning	\$13,990	\$3,498							\$13,990		\$3,498	\$17,488
II-B-17	Congestion Management Strategies	\$3,744	\$936							\$3,744		\$936	\$4,680
II-B-18	Air Quality Planning/Conformity Analysis	\$12,493	\$3,123							\$12,493		\$3,123	\$15,616
<b>III-A</b>	<b>Planning Work Program</b>	\$7,488	\$1,872							\$7,488		\$1,872	\$9,360
<b>III-B</b>	<b>Transportation Improvement Program</b>	\$7,488	\$1,872							\$7,488		\$1,872	\$9,360
<b>III-C</b>	<b>Civil Rights Compliance/Regulatory Requirements</b>												
III-C-2	Environmental Justice	\$5,242	\$1,310							\$5,242		\$1,310	\$6,552
III-C-6	Public Involvement	\$5,990	\$1,498							\$5,990		\$1,498	\$7,488
<b>III-D</b>	<b>Incidental Planning &amp; Project Development</b>												
III-D-1	Transportation Enhancement Planning	\$5,616	\$1,404							\$5,616		\$1,404	\$7,020
III-D-2	Environmental Analysis & Pre-TIP Planning	\$7,488	\$1,872							\$7,488		\$1,872	\$9,360
<b>III-D-3</b>	<b>Special Studies</b>	\$229,270	\$57,317							\$229,270		\$57,317	\$286,587
III-D-4	Regional and Statewide Planning	\$32,683	\$8,171							\$32,683		\$8,171	\$40,854
III-D-5	Corridor Protection	\$5,990	\$1,498							\$5,990		\$1,498	\$7,488
<b>III-E</b>	<b>Management and Operations</b>	\$53,914	\$13,478							\$53,914		\$13,478	\$67,392
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$467,824</b>	<b>\$116,956</b>	<b>\$22,029</b>	<b>\$2,753</b>	<b>\$2,754</b>				<b>\$489,853</b>	<b>\$2,753</b>	<b>\$119,710</b>	<b>\$612,316</b>

**Table #3**  
**Anticipated DBE Contracting Opportunities for FY11-12**

Name of MPO: Gaston Urban Area MPO

Person Completing Form: James H. Graham, Jr., AICP

Telephone Number: 704-854-6663

Prospectus Task Code	Prospectus Description	Name of Agency Contracting Out	Type of Contracting Opportunity (Consultant, etc.)	Federal Funds to be Contracted Out	Total Funds to be Contracted Out
II-A-5	Transit System Data	City of Gastonia	Consultant	\$3,699.00	\$4,624.00
II-B-3	Travel Model Updates	Gaston Urban Area MPO	Consultant	\$31,437.00	\$37,725.00
II-B-10	Transit Element of LRTP	Gaston Urban Area MPO	Consultant	\$18,330.00	\$22,912.00
III-D-3	Engineering Services	City of Gastonia	Consultant	\$20,000.00	\$24,000.00
III-D-3	Franklin Blvd. Corridor Design Study	City of Gastonia	Consultant	\$40,000.00	\$48,000.00
III-D-3	Transportation Plan	Town of Cramerton	Consultant	\$10,000.00	\$12,000
III-D-3	Sidewalk Design	City of Mt. Holly	Consultant	\$22,941.00	\$27,529.00
III-D-3	Intersection Study	City of Lowell	Consultant	\$22,941.00	\$27,529.00
III-D-3	Sidewalk Design	Bessemer City	Consultant	\$22,941.00	\$27,529.00
III-D-3	Revenue Creation Study	Gaston County	Consultant	\$100,000.00	\$120,000.00

**Note: This form must be submitted to NCDOT-PTD even if you anticipate no DBE contracting opportunities.**  
**Note “No contracting opportunities” on the table if you do not anticipate having any contracting opportunities.**





**FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK  
PROGRAM (UPWP) FOR THE GASTON URBAN AREA  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**WHEREAS**, a comprehensive and continuing transportation planning program must be carried out cooperatively in order to ensure that funds for transportation projects are effectively allocated to the Gaston Urban Area; and

**WHEREAS**, The City of Gastonia, as Lead Planning Agency for the Gaston Urban Area, has been designated as the recipient of FTA Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Program grant funds, FTA Section 5307 Transit Administration Program grant funds and FHWA Section 104(f) Planning grant funds; and

**WHEREAS**, members of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee agree that the Planning Work Program will effectively advance the transportation planning for FY 2011-2012;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**

1. That the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) hereby endorses and approves the Unified Planning Work Program for FY 2011-2012 for the Gaston Urban Area.
2. The total UPWP budget amount is now \$489,853.00.
3. The Chairperson of the Transportation Advisory Committee TAC is hereby authorized to make changes in this program that do not materially affect the scope of this Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and is further authorized to make budget changes to this UPWP not to exceed 10 percent (10%) of the total budget approved by the state of North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) without prior consultation with the TAC.
4. That the Principal Transportation Planner is authorized to furnish such additional information to the United States DOT and the North Carolina DOT that they may require in connection with the application and implemented for the Program Projects.

A motion was made by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ for the adoption of the following resolution and upon being put to a vote was duly adopted.

I, **Joe D. Carpenter**, Chairperson of the Transportation Advisory Committee for the Gaston Urban Area, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of an excerpt from the minutes of a meeting of the Transportation Advisory Committee of the Gaston Urban Area, duly held on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of July 2011.

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Joe D. Carpenter, TAC Chairperson  
Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

**ATTESTED:**

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James H. Graham, Jr., AICP, Principal Transportation Planner  
Gaston Urban Area MPO Coordinator

I, **Cathleen L. Roberts**, a Notary Public for said County and State, do hereby certify that **Joe D. Carpenter** personally appeared before me on this the 26th day of July, 2011, and acknowledge the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 26th day of July, 2011.

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Cathleen L. Roberts  
Notary Public

