

AGENDA

The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization will meet **Tuesday, November 29, 2011** at the Gastonia Police Department Community Room. The Police Department is located at 200 Long Avenue in Gastonia, NC. Dinner will be served at 5:45 PM and the meeting will begin at 6:30 PM. The following is the agenda for the meeting:

1. Set Agenda, Presenter: Joe D. Carpenter, TAC Chair

The agenda needs to be set to include adding “New” or “Other Business”

2. Determination of Quorum (51%-seven of thirteen), Presenter: TAC Chair

- a. During the March 12, 1997 TAC meeting, it was discussed that the following five cities, six towns, the County of Gaston, and the NCDOT would be counted to determine if a quorum is present; all other members would be affiliate. This is a total of thirteen votes to be counted against the quorum.
- b. The City of Belmont ____, The City of Bessemer City ____, The Town of Cramerton ____, The Town of Dallas ____, The County of Gaston ____, The City of Gastonia ____, The City of Lowell ____, The Town of McAdenville ____, The City of Mount Holly ____, The Town of Ranlo ____, The Town of Spencer Mountain ____, The Town of Stanley ____, The North Carolina Department of Transportation ____.

3. Approval of Minutes, Presenter: Joe D. Carpenter, TAC Chair

Discussion and approval of the meeting minutes from October 25, 2011.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve as Presented.

4. Introduction of Guests, Presenter: Joe D. Carpenter, TAC Chair

All guests shall introduce themselves at this time.

5. Public Comment Period, Presenter: Joe D. Carpenter, TAC Chair

Any public comment will be presented and addressed at this time. Public comment will be kept to a reasonable period of time.

6. Transit Grants, Presenter: Jack Flaherty, NCDOT-Transit

Mr. Flaherty will discuss three federal transit grants available.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information and discussion only

7. Transit Project Rankings for the Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT)

Assign points to the transit project in the SPOT program.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve as Presented

8. 2012-2018 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) and 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Amendment, Presenter: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I

The 2012-2018 MTIP and 2035 LRTP need to be amended due to the addition of new projects and existing project changes.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve as Presented

9. NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grants 2012, Presenter: Jason Pauling, Transportation Planner I

The NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning issued a call for proposals for 2012 for municipalities to develop a bicycle or pedestrian plan. Applications are due by December 2, 2011. Each application must be accompanied by the appropriate resolution of support by the municipality and the MPO. Gastonia and Mount Holly are applying for pedestrian grants for the current cycle.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve as Presented

10. 2012 Recreation Trails Program – Call for Project Proposals, Presenter: Jason Pauling, Transportation Planner I

The Division of Parks and Recreation and the State Trails Program are instituting a 2012 Federal Recreational Trails Program Pre-Application process. All agencies and non-profit organizations interested in applying for 2012 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funding are required to complete and submit the online pre-application by December 30, 2011.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information and discussion only

11. Title VI, Presenter: Hank Graham, AICP., Principal Transportation Planner

Pursuant to a desktop compliance survey of Title VI – Civil Rights Act of 1964 requirements, the North Carolina Department of Transportation’s Office of Civil Rights has requested that all North Carolina Metropolitan Planning Organizations come into compliance. The required Title VI Assurances and Plan are provided for review and adoption.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve as Presented

12. New Business

13. Other Business

MPO Staff Update

- a) Gastonia 85X Express Ridership History
- b) Next TAC meeting: January 24, 2012

14. Adjournment:

If you have any additional items or questions regarding this agenda, please call Hank Graham at 704-854-6663, Bernie Yacobucci at 704-854-6604, or Jason Pauling at 704-866-6980. You can also e-mail us at hankg, berniey, or jasonpa@cityofgastonia.com respectively.

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MINUTES
Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Transportation Advisory (TAC) Committee Meeting
October 25, 2011

The regularly meeting of the Gaston Urban Area MPO Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held Tuesday, October 25, 2011, from 6:30 pm until 8:08 pm at the City of Gastonia City Hall second floor conference room, 181 S. South St., Gastonia, NC.

Members Present:

Joe Carpenter	Gaston County Commissioner, TAC Chairman
Houston Helms	Town of Cramerton, Commissioner, TAC Vice-Chairman
Ron Foulk	City of Belmont, Councilman
Joe Will	City of Bessemer City, Councilman
Dave Kirlin	City of Gastonia, Councilman
Brenda Craig	City of Gastonia, Councilwoman
Rick Coleman	Town of Dallas, Mayor
Perry Toomey	City of Mt. Holly, Councilman
Bennie Brookshire	City of Mt. Holly, Councilman
Jason Williams	Town of Ranlo, Commissioner
Gail Brotherton	Town of Stanley, Councilwoman
Robert Collier	NCBOT, Chairman
Mike Holder	NCDOT Division 12, Engineer

Others Present:

Hank Graham	Gaston MPO, Principal Transportation Planner
Bernie Yacobucci	Gaston MPO, Transportation Planner I
Jason Pauling	Gaston MPO, Transportation Planner I
Cass Roberts	Gaston MPO, Administrative Assistant III
Shannon Ransom	NCDOT, Gaston MPO Coordinator
Jim Long	Gaston Chamber 2020, Member

Guests:

Reid Simons	NCTA, Dir. of Government & Public Affairs
Rev. Sam Robbins	Charity Baptist Church, Gastonia
Wilma Craig	Gastonia, Concerned Citizen
Bill Craig	Gastonia, Concerned Citizen

Members with absences in 2011:

Town of McAdenville	(Jan., Mar., May, July, Oct. - 5)
Town of Spencer Mtn.	(Jan., Mar., May, July, Oct - 5)
Town of Stanley	(Jan., Mar. - 2)

Town of Ranlo
Town of Lowell
City of Belmont

(Mar., May - 2)
(May, Oct. - 2)
(July - 1)

1. Set Agenda, Presenter: Joe Carpenter, TAC Chairman

Mr. Carpenter asked TAC members if there were any additional items to be placed to the agenda. There were no additional items to be placed on the agenda. Mr. Carpenter entertained a motion to set the agenda as presented.

Mr. Toomey made a motion to set the agenda as presented. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Determination of a Quorum, Presenter: Joe Carpenter, TAC Chairman

It was determined that a quorum was present.

3. Approval of Minutes, Presenter: Joe Carpenter, TAC Chairman

Mr. Carpenter asked if there were any changes, additions, or deletions to the minutes of the meeting of July 26, 2011. There were none. Mr. Carpenter entertained a motion to approve the minutes of July 26, 2011 as presented.

Ms. Craig made a motion to approve the minutes of July 26, 2011 as presented. Mr. Will seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Introduction of Guests, Presenter: Joe Carpenter, TAC Chairman

Mr. Carpenter asked that guests please introduce themselves at this time. Reverend Sam Robbins of the Charity Baptist Church in Gastonia introduced himself and said that he was here to listen to information on the Garden Parkway. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Craig arrived later and wanted to know more about the Garden Parkway concerning their property.

Mr. Carpenter welcomed guests and thanked everyone for attending the meeting tonight.

5. Public Comment Period, Presenter: Joe Carpenter, TAC Chairman

Mr. Carpenter invited public comment during this time.

With Mr. Carpenter's permission, Judge Collier announced that he was going to circulate a report for everyone to view regarding road projects that will be let in the next 12 months throughout state with most of the projects located in Gaston County. He also mentioned that the Federal Court approved the Monroe Bypass today and he had the decision and opinion document for anyone to review at this meeting.

There were no other Public Comments. Mr. Carpenter closed the Public Comment Period.

6. Garden Parkway Update, Presenter: Reid Simons, Director of Government & Public Affairs

Ms. Simons stated the NC Turnpike Authority was especially gratified by the Federal Court's approval of the Monroe Bypass and proud of the part that the Turnpike Authority had in the analysis and environmental process. She added that construction and financing will start as soon as possible for this project.

Mr. Carpenter asked about the implications of the Monroe Bypass relative to the Garden Parkway. Ms. Simons stated that NCTA will be able to issue by the end of the year a Record of Decision where the route will be set and that the environmental planning process will occur.

Ms. Simons talked about the financial plan being updated on the Garden Parkway project and the final traffic and revenue study that will occur around the beginning of next year. The General Assembly has allocated GAP funding for this project starting July 1, 2012 for \$17.5 million for the first year and \$35 million annually for the life of the bonds. Ms. Simons stated that the project comprises 2 sections - one located in the east and one located in the west. She added that a press release will be issued on the short list of construction teams for each section along with the Record of Decision.

Mr. Helms asked what the timeline will be for property owners located in the parkway's path. Ms. Simons suggested that those property owners should call the Turnpike Authority on their status. Mr. Williams asked if there has been any communication with property owners regarding updates and timelines. Ms. Simons stated that once the Record of Decision occurs at the end of this year, there will be more communication with property owners. Mr. Long added that what he hears from the public is uncertainty about what is going on with this project and he felt that not much education was done to let people know just how important and necessary the Garden Parkway is to this area. He pointed out a situation that occurred this week on I-85 by the Stabilus plant where I-85 was shut down for 15 hours due to a truck accident. He felt that if Gaston County had to be evacuated due to a dangerous incident, another road would be imperative in the evacuation. Mr. Carpenter agreed and added that as the region grows, traffic will grow as well and the additional road will be beneficial to our region.

Mr. Craig asked Mr. Carpenter for permission to ask a question. Mr. Carpenter stated that we are not in a public comment period but allowed the question from Mr. Craig. Mr. Craig stated that his property is going to be divided by the Garden Parkway and a portion of his property consists of 4 or 5 acres on the south side and that it is land locked – what will happen to his portion of his property. Ms. Simons suggested that Mr. Craig negotiate with the state as a willing seller. Mr. Holder added that the state in most cases could probably buy this smaller acreage as an economic remedy.

Reverend Robbins was recognized by Mr. Carpenter to ask a question. Reverend Robbins stated that the Garden Parkway ROW is located at his church at Davis Park Road with plans for 6 lanes and a 46 foot median strip. Ms. Simons stated that the design built process is a 4 lane divided highway in this area. Reverend Robbins stated that the church is on 8 ½ acres of land and there is one section of that land that will be of no use to the church and from the discussion tonight, it seems like the State will compensate the church for this small section of

land. Ms. Simons stated that the state can compensate for wetland mitigation if there are wetlands and make the party whole.

There were no other questions. Mr. Carpenter thanked Ms. Simons for her update.

Since this item was for information purposes only, no action was needed at this time.

7. 2040 State Transportation Plan, Presenter: Shannon Ransom, NCDOT, Gaston MPO Coordinator

Ms. Ransom stated that NCDOT is updating its 2040 Statewide Transportation Plan and that when she first spoke about the 2040 State Transportation Plan a few meetings ago, she focused on the process, the schedule, and the initial activities. Today, she wanted to inform the TAC about the status of the ongoing activities and what has transpired thus far.

The 2040 Plan consists of the following:

- Challenges and opportunities
- Long-term modal infrastructure and service needs
- A sustainable financing strategy
- A framework of strategic long-term spending (Safety, Mobility, Infrastructure Health)
- Policy or procedure adjustments needed to meet program delivery targets

Ms. Ransom stated that Secretary Conte has asked that the Board of Transportation to adopt the plan by June, 2012. She added that there are MPO and RPO comment/workshops planned for the winter, 2011-2012. Currently, the second round of Public Involvement has been initiated. Webinars have occurred in September for MPOs and RPOs.

Ms. Ransom pointed out that the Technical Elements are in development such as modal needs and costs estimates, transportation system performance, current revenue sources and revenue options. She also pointed out that there will be a 20% decrease in motor tax revenues caused by the current Fuel Efficiency Standards placed on new cars.

Because of the uncertain financial future, new revenue options are under consideration and some of these options are as follows:

- System tolling of interstate highway and urban loops
- Fee on vehicle miles traveled
- Local vehicle property tax
- Local option sales tax
- Fee on automobile insurance

Ms. Ransom asked the TAC to provide feedback on the following and to think of not necessarily their specific region but of overall North Carolina:

1. What other revenue sources should be considered
2. What other investment priorities should be considered

3. What high priority targets should be considered

Ms. Ransom informed the TAC that Tyler Bray of NCDOT and Mark Boggs from Adkins are working on this plan and that the 2040 Plan can be viewed at its website: <http://www.ncdot.org/performance/reform/2040Plan>.

Mr. Kirlin asked about how much MPO input has gone into this process thus far. Mr. Carpenter stated that he attended a meeting on the 2030 Plan in Hickory and Mr. Long has attended other meetings in the past.

Mr. Graham apologized for the lateness of last notification for a series of workshops as he was out of the office when the notification arrived and by the time he could send the information out, the workshop was occurring the next day in Hickory. Judge Collier commented that there were only 4 or 5 people there so it was not well attended.

Mr. Graham invited the TAC members to give their comments to the MPO staff. Mr. Kirlin asked that the Multimodal Transit Center should be included in the 2040 Plan. Mr. Long added that our area needs county-wide transit service.

Mr. Graham reminded the TAC to answer the Public Involvement survey found on the website.

As this item was for information purposes, no action was needed at this time.

8. Approve the Final Air Quality Conformity Analysis, Amended 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the 2012-2018 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program, Presenter: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I

Mr. Yacobucci stated that the TCC has recommended approval of the final Air Quality Conformity Analysis, the Amended 2035 LRTP, and the 2012 – 2018 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP).

Mr. Yacobucci discussed some projects not currently on the 2012-2018 MTIP and the 2035 LRTP and a project in the plan which will be amended in both plans in the future:

1. US-321 at Robinson Road to replace overhead Railroad Bridge will be delayed a year
2. Mount Holly Riverfront Greenway - \$800,000 for the greenway from the municipal complex to Tuckaseegee Park
3. Rebuilding of I-85 from mile marker 8.4 to mile marker 13.9
4. The truck way station relocation to the Cleveland/Gaston County line

Mr. Carpenter entertained a motion to approve the final Air Quality Conformity Analysis as presented.

Mr. Kirlin made a motion to approve the final Air Quality Conformity Analysis as presented. Mr. Helms seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Carpenter entertained a motion to approve the amended 2012-2018 MTIP.

Mr. Helms made a motion to approve the amended MTIP with the 7 projects as presented. Ms. Craig seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Carpenter entertained a motion to approve the amended 2035 LRTP.

Mr. Kirlin made a motion to approve the amended 2035 LRTP. Mr. Toomey seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

9. Gaston Urban Area MPO Highway, Project Rankings for the Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) Program, Presenter: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I

Mr. Yacobucci began the review of the final rankings of the Gaston MPO projects as determined by the SPOT program. The TCC allotted 1,300 points for Division 12 for the top ten ranked projects in SPOT. Since the agenda packet went out, SPOT has clarified some issues such as if a project crosses an MPO boundary, how is that project scored. The answer is that the local MPO can give that project as many points as a percentage of that project being in your area.

Mr. Yacobucci stated that the TCC thought it best just to take the top scoring projects in our area on the SPOT program and give them all 100 points. These projects will have to be broken down into smaller components in SPOT 3.0. If we do what the TCC recommends, we will have a greater chance of these projects being funded.

Mr. Yacobucci asked the TAC for their approval so that he can add the amended list into the SPOT program for their final statewide rankings.

Mr. Long asked Mr. Yacobucci to remove the 7th project from the bottom (Construct new three lane minor thoroughfare facility from NC27, Bessemer City Road at Costner School Road, SR 1452) on the *P2.0 Existing Projects as Ranked by the TCC* as this project is complete and the road is open. Mr. Yacobucci said he would remove this item.

Mr. Carpenter entertained a motion to approve the Gaston Urban Area MPO Highway, Project Rankings for the Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) Program as presented.

Mr. Toomey made a motion to approve the Gaston Urban Area MPO Highway, Project Rankings for the Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) Program as presented with Mr. Coleman seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Gaston Urban Area MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Project Rankings for the Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) Program, Presenter: Jason Pauling, Transportation Planner I

Mr. Pauling introduced himself as the new Transportation Planner for the MPO.

Mr. Pauling reviewed the final ranking of the Gaston MPO bike/ped projects as determined by the SPOT program. The TAC will discuss the selection of the top 5 pedestrian projects and the top 5 bicycle projects.

Mr. Carpenter entertained a motion to approve the top 5 Bicycle and the top 5 Pedestrian rankings for the SPOT program as presented.

Mr. Kirlin made the motion to approve the top 5 Bicycle and the top 5 Pedestrian rankings for the SPOT program as presented. Mr. Helms seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

11. Gaston Urban Area MPO Transit Project Rankings for the Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) Program, Presenter: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I

Mr. Yacobucci said he'd like to review the final ranking of the Gaston MPO transit projects with the TAC members as determined by the SPOT program but Ms. Key of Gastonia Transit has not completed the transit project ranking of 550 points at this time.

Mr. Carpenter suggested that this item be tabled until the next TAC meeting as this item was not time sensitive. There was no objection.

12. FY 2016-2017 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) call for projects, Presenter: Jason Pauling, Transportation Planner I

Mr. Pauling handed out a revised chart to replace the one in the agenda package.

Mr. Pauling stated that NCDOT has notified the Gaston MPO of the CMAQ process for 2.0 prioritization and development of the 2014 STIP. Gaston MPO staff is requesting that all MPO municipalities submit applications for eligible projects to be considered for CMAQ funding. CMAQ projects typically consist of improvements such as increasing pedestrian travel through the construction of sidewalks or greenways, new local transit service routes, alternative fuel transit or passenger vehicle purchases, and intersection improvements including turn lanes, roundabouts, etc. Individual projects should be a minimum of \$100,000. There is a maximum of \$1,700,507 of Federal CMAQ dollars available each year based on the project amounts submitted last year for 2013, 2014 and 2015 project requests. Total project cost including the local 20% match is \$2,130,133 per year, \$4,260,266 total for both years.

Mr. Carpenter entertained a motion to approve the 2016-2017 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) call for projects.

Mr. Kirlin made a motion to approve the 2016-2017 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) call for projects as presented. Mr. Helms seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

13. NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Initiative, Presenter: Jason Pauling Transportation Planner I

Mr. Pauling stated that NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning has issued a call for proposals for municipalities to develop a bicycle or pedestrian plan. Mr. Pauling emphasized that municipalities that have a Bike and Pedestrian Plan already in place have the advantage to get funding. The cities of Belmont, Cramerton, and Bessemer City already have Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans but the city of Gastonia does not and that will be one task for the MPO staff to do. He also pointed out that the local match for each municipality that applies for funding is dependent upon the population of the municipality applying for the grant.

Mr. Pauling added that applications should be turned in to MPO staff by December 2, 2011 and they must be accompanied by an appropriate resolution of support by the MPO.

Because this item was for information and discussion only, no action was needed at this time.

14. Household Travel Survey Update, Presenter, Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I

Mr. Yacobucci gave an update on the initial assessment of the trial run for the Household Travel Survey. This survey has been transformed from a trip base model (home to work and back) to a tour base model which captures all the trips a household makes in a day which is a more efficient survey.

Mr. Yacobucci stated that NCDOT will be issuing a press release on the Household Travel Survey. In addition, 4,000 surveys will be sent out to the Metrolina region as well as having 300 to 400 vehicles equipped with GPS units for more data gathering. From all this data, a random sample of household travel will be produced.

Because this item was for information and discussion only, no action was needed at this time.

15. New Business

16. Other Business

MPO Staff Update

Gastonia 85X Express Ridership History

Next TAC meeting: November 29, 2011

17. Adjournment:

There being no other business to report, Mr. Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 8:08 pm.



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Agenda Item # 6

To: TAC Members
From: Jack Flaherty, NCDOT - Transit
Date: November 29, 2011
Subject: Transit Funding Update



Background:

Three transit federal grants are available to transit systems, government authorities and private transportation providers providing public transportation. Section 5310 grants serve the elderly and individuals with disabilities. Section 5316 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) serve low income individuals requiring transportation for jobs and/or job training. Section 5317 (New Freedoms) expands access to transit for the disabled.

Action Requested:

Information and discussion only

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Federal Grant Funds to Transport Elderly and Disabled Individuals and for Access to Jobs


NC Department of Transportation – Public Transportation Division
5310, 5316 and 5317 Grants
GASTON URBAN AREA MPO
November 29, 2011



This presentation is tailored to:

- Human Service Agencies;
- State or Local Governmental Authorities;
- Non-profit Organizations;
- Public Transportation Providers including Private Operators of public transportation service.






N.C. Department of Transportation

PURPOSE: To provide and maintain North Carolina's transportation network, including highways, rail, aviation, ferries, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, as well as public transportation.

NCDOT MISSION: *Connecting people and places in North Carolina, safely and efficiently, with accountability and environmental sensitivity.*





Public Transportation Division (PTD)

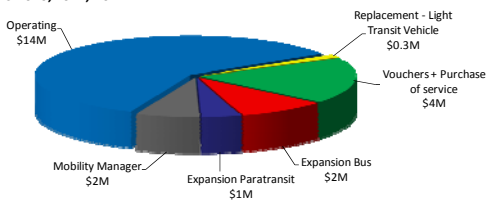
- General Statute 136-44.20 designates NCDOT as the agency to receive and administer federal and state public transportation funds.
- The NCDOT Public Transportation Division (PTD) does not own local transit vehicles or operate local transit services. These services are provided by grantees including local governments, transportation authorities, nonprofit agencies and private transportation companies.
- PTD provides technical assistance, monitors federal compliance and evaluates project performance.





In the past three years, the 5310, 5316, and 5317 programs provided \$23.3M in transit investments.

5310, 5316 and 5317 Investments
Fiscal Years-2010, 2011, 2012





Funds Available

\$6,933,860 Section 5310 - Elderly & Disabled

\$4,297,124 Section 5316 - JARC

\$4,409,166 Section 5317 - New Freedom





5310 Program Elderly & Individuals with Disabilities

GOAL: To improve mobility for elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities throughout the country.

PURPOSE: Provide transportation services planned, designed and carried out to meet the special transportation needs of elderly individuals and individuals with disabilities.





5310 Program – Targeted Groups

Elderly Individual: Includes, at a minimum, all persons 65 years of age or older. Grantees may use a definition that extends eligibility for service to younger persons, e.g. 60 and over.

Individual with a Disability: Individual who, because of illness, injury, age, congenital malfunction, or other incapacity or temporary or permanent disability cannot use effectively, without special facilities, planning, or design, a public transportation service or facility.

Eligibility certification is required.





5310 Program - Eligible Sub-recipients

- Private nonprofit organizations
- In NC, eligible governmental authorities are limited to:
 - ✓ The designated lead agency as a unit of local government.
 - ✓ Local governments and transit authorities located in urbanized areas that have been designated by the Metropolitan Planning Organization to receive Section 5307 funds.
 - ✓ Area Agencies on Aging, local aging programs operated by governmental authorities as well as Rural Planning Organizations operated by Council of Governments.
 - ✓ Local vocational workshops operated by governmental authorities.





5310 Program - Matching Requirements

Capital Projects: The federal share of eligible capital costs may not exceed 80 percent of the net cost.

Operating Projects: The federal share of the eligible operating costs may not exceed 50 percent of the total net operating cost.

North Carolina is one of seven states chosen by FTA to fund operating projects.





5310 Program – Examples of Eligible Expenses

- Vehicles
- Operations (based on availability of funds)
- Mobility Management (optimizes all transportation resources in a community)
- Vehicle support equipment (mobility aid restraints)
- New technology, radios and communications equipment
- Purchase of Service





5316 Program – Job Access Reverse Commute

GOAL: To improve access to transportation services to employment and employment-related activities for welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals, and to transport residents of urbanized areas and rural areas to suburban employment opportunities.

PURPOSE: Provide transportation services planned, designed and carried out to meet the transportation needs of eligible low-income individuals and reverse commuters regardless of income.





5316 Program – Targeted Groups

Welfare Recipient: Refers to an individual who has received assistance under a state or tribal program funded under part A of Title IV of the Social Security Act at any time during the three-year period before the date on which the applicant applies for a grant.

Low-income Individual: Refers to an individual whose family income is at or below 150 percent of the poverty line for a family of the size involved.

Eligibility certification is required.





5316 Program - Eligible Sub-recipients

- Private nonprofit organizations
- State and local governmental authorities including human service agencies
- Operators of public transportation, including private operators of public transportation





5316 Program - Matching Requirements

Capital and Planning Projects: The federal share of eligible capital costs may not exceed 80 percent of the net cost.

Operating Projects: The federal share of the eligible operating costs may not exceed 50 percent of the total net operating cost.





5316 Program – Examples of Eligible Expenses

- Late night and weekend service
- Guaranteed ride home service
- Van or bus dedicated to a shuttle service
- Incremental cost of expanded fixed-route public transit routes
- Demand-responsive service
- Employment-related activities for low-income individuals including transportation to child care and job training (general education classes are not eligible)
- Voucher Program
- Mobility Management





5317 Program – New Freedom

GOAL: To provide additional tools to overcome existing barriers facing persons with disabilities seeking integration into the work force and full participation in society.

PURPOSE: To reduce barriers to transportation services and expand the transportation mobility options available to persons with disabilities beyond the requirements of the ADA of 1990.

New service is any service that was not operational on August 10, 2005.





5317 Program - Eligible Subrecipients

- Private nonprofit organizations
- State and local governmental authorities including human service agencies
- Operators of public transportation, including private operators of public transportation





5317 Program - Matching Requirements

Capital Projects: The federal share of eligible capital costs may not exceed 80 percent of the net cost.

Operating Projects: The federal share of the eligible operating costs may not exceed 50 percent of the total net operating cost.





5317 Program – Demand Response Examples of Eligible Expenses

- Enhancement of level of service providing escorts or assisting riders with preparation for transportation or through the door of their destination
- Acquisition of vehicles and equipment designed to accommodate mobility aids (lifts with larger capacity, modifications to lifts)
- Voucher Programs
- Mobility Management





5317 Program – Fixed Route Examples of Eligible Expenses

- Expansion of para-transit parameters beyond ¼ mile required by ADA
- Expansion of current hours of operation of ADA para-transit services that are beyond those provided on fixed route services
- Incremental cost of changing next day to same day service
- Incremental cost of making door to door instead of curb to curb service available to all eligible ADA para-transit riders





Mobility Management

Mobility management does not include operating public transportation services, but it does include:

- Short-range planning and management activities and projects for improving coordination among public transportation and other transportation service providers.
- Coordination of transportation information on all travel modes and manages arrangements for customers.
- Enhancement of transportation access for populations served by many organizations.

NCDOT is looking for applications for Mobility Management projects from regional organizations.





Voucher Programs

- Supplement existing transportation services by expanding the number of providers available or the number of passengers receiving transportation services.
- Grantee pays providers of alternative transportation services based on pre-determined rates or contractual agreement.
- Provides vouchers to low-income individuals to purchase rides. No transit passes for fixed-route service or paratransit.
- 5316, 5317 - Vouchers are an operation expense
5310 - Vouchers & user-side subsidies are a capital expense





Sources of Local Match

- Rural Operating Assistance Program funds – allocated by formula to the county or to transit authorities
- Federal Funds, not from FTA, that are eligible to be expended on transportation.
- Dedicated Tax Revenues
- Private Donations
- Human Service transportation contract revenue





Using Federal Funds as Local Match

- Federal programs that include funds for transportation can be used as match funds in your project .
- The transportation activities funded by the federal program you use as a match must be inside the scope of your 5310, 5316 or 5317 project.
- Your project budget must include the cost of the federally-funded activities plus the supplemental activities in your project.

Specific program information about eligible federal funding is included in a handout.





Must Have to Apply

- Locally Coordinated Human Service and Public Transportation Plan
- Application forms from the NCDOT website
- Comprehensive planning and budgeting process
- Governing body endorsement
- Source(s) of local matching funds
- Access to NCDOT Web-Enabled Grants Module -





Coordination and Connectivity

- Connect with a Mobility Development Specialist to discuss your application.
- Meet with your locally operated Community Transit System to discuss your plans.
- Convene a focus group of the population you are targeting to provide feedback about your project ideas.
- Determine what other community support and resources are needed to implement your project.





NCDOT Application Documents November 1, 2011

www.ncdot.gov/nctransit - See Grant & Program News

Application Overview: Use this guide to get a quick start on what you need to know as you prepare and complete your application.

Application Checklist: There are many documents that must be read, completed, signed, scanned and attached to the budgets in the Grants Module. An application is not complete unless all of required documents are attached to your budgets.





NCDOT Application Documents

Federal/State Required Forms – These forms must be signed, scanned and attached to the budgets in the Web-Enabled Grants Module:

- Federal Certifications and Assurances (with attachments)
- Governing Body Resolution
- Public Hearing documents
- Local Share Certification
- Title VI and DBE Certifications
- Surface Transportation Providers List





Who Can Apply?

- Private nonprofit organizations – 5310, 5316 & 5317
- State and local governmental authorities – 5316 & 5317, restrictions apply to 5310 Program applicants
- Operators of public transportation
 - 5310 – large urban, small urban or rural transit
 - 5316 & 5317 – small urban, rural, or transit systems providing service in a small urban and/or rural area
- Private operators of public transportation – 5316 & 5317





Nonprofit Organization Eligibility

- An organization described by 26 U.S.C. 501(c) that is exempt from taxation under U.S.C. 501(a).
- Or, designated as a nonprofit from a state agency verified by certified documentation
- Recognized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- Subject to pre-award audit.





Period of Performance & Reporting

Period of Performance: July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014; an applicant may apply for a period of performance less than 24 months.

Reporting: Grantees will be required to submit a report in conjunction with their request for reimbursement. Quarterly reports will be required regardless of financial activity.





Examples of Compliance Requirements

- Drug and Alcohol Testing
- Procurement
- Preventive Maintenance
- Title VI
- ADA
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Certification
- Contract Provisions
- System Safety





Competitive Selection

- Meet objectives of the grant program
- Demonstrate planning and coordination efforts
- Include realistic budgets to sustain after the project ends
- Propose measurable indicators of success
- Provide evidence of organizational preparedness and technical capacity





Application Schedule

- November – Call for Projects
- January 27, 2012 – Application Deadline
- January-March – Application Review
- April – Projects to Board of Transportation
- April-June – FTA Application and Award of Funds
- July – Projects go live, invoicing
- October – First quarterly report





Awarding of Grants

- Pre-award audit for first time grantees
- Execute contracts
- NCDOT oversight and site visits
- Procure capital in accordance with the federal requirements
- Initiate applicants coordinated project plan and publicly announce the award
- Market service and begin eligibility certification process





Questions?



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Agenda Item #7

To: TAC Members
From: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I
Date: November 29, 2011
Subject: Gaston Urban Area MPO Transit Project Rankings for the Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) Program

Background

A maximum of 100 points can be assigned per project. Staff recommends that 100 points be assigned for the transit projects in the Gaston Urban Area MPO as follows:

- 100 points for replacement buses
- 100 points for the multimodal facility
- 100 points for a downtown trolley

Action Requested

Approve as Presented

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SPOT ID	GOAL	TIER	TRANSIT PARTNERS	STIP#	DESCRIPTION	FLEET	ADD VEH	3 YR COST	HR\$/PTS	CONNECT/PTS	TECH/PTS	AGE/PTS	FACILITY/PTS	STATE SCORE	STATE Order
1358	mobility	sub regional	GASTONIA/TA TRANSIT	TD-5113	Facility - Intermodal Center - new design, acquisition, construction	9		\$6,500		4.6	4.1		17.70	26.4	13
1392	health	sub regional	GASTONIA/TA TRANSIT	TA-5103	Replacement Bus	9	3	\$1,200			0.8	21.06		21.8	19
1353	health	sub regional	GASTONIA/TA TRANSIT	TA-5109	Expansion Bus - Trolley	9	1	\$350	5.7	4.6	0.2			10.5	52

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Agenda Item #8

To: TAC Members
From: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I
Date: November 29, 2011
Subject: 2012-2018 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) and 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Amendments

Background

Changes have occurred to current projects in the adopted 2012-2018 MTIP and 2035 LRTP. New projects are also being proposed. Staff recommends amending the 2012-2018 MTIP and 2035 LRTP to include these changes.

Action Requested

Approve as Presented

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Proposed 2012-2018 MTIP Amendments

TIP Number	Project Type	Road	Project Description	Reason for Amendment	Current FY	Proposed FY	Cost
I-4928	Weigh Station	I-85	Weigh Station for Trucks	New Project	NA	TBD	TBD
Y-5500	Study	Statewide	Traffic separation Study Implementation and Closure	New Project	NA	2012	\$400,000
BK-5120	Bridge	SR 1802	Replace Bridge No. 170 on Colt Thornburg Road over Creek	Delayed Construction. Bridge management needs additional time to complete environmental document due to replacing bridge with culvert.	2011	2012	\$500,000
W-5311	Bridge	US 321 at Robinson Road	Replace overhead Railroad Bridge to allow for construction of two-lane, two-way road for Robinson Road. Construct right turn lane for US 321 northbound approach and construct two limited movement crossover and revise existing flasher.	Delayed right of way Delayed construction Division waiting for railroad decision as to building a new bridge adjacent to project.	2011 2012	2012 2013	\$1,935,000
S-5106	Various, Phase II	Statewide	North Carolina Scenic Byways Land Conservation Initiative: to advance the permanent protection of natural, historic, cultural, and visual resources along 25 of North Carolina's Scenic Byways	Added right of way not previously programmed	NA	2012	\$2,145,500
I-5503	Road	I-85	Mill 2 inches, heavy patching and resurface on I-85 from MM 8.4 to MM 13.9	New Project	N/A	2013	\$7,000,000
EB-5014	Greenway	N/A	Mount Holly Riverfront Greenway - The length of the project is approximately 1.7 miles. It begins at Mount Holly Municipal Complex and ends at Tuckaseegee Park. The cross-section is a 10-foot wide asphalt surface with a 2-foot select material shoulder on either side of the asphalt pavement and a 3-foot grass shoulder.	Construction funding allocated	N/A	2013	\$800,000

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**RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GASTON URBAN AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVING
THE AMENDED 2012-2018 METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) are actively involved in transportation planning for the Gaston Urban Area; and

WHEREAS, the Gaston Urban Area Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) is the duly recognized transportation decision making body for the 3-C transportation planning process in the Gaston Urban Area pursuant to 23 CFR Part 134; and

WHEREAS, the Gaston Urban Area Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and the TAC for the MPO have prepared an amendment to the Gaston Urban Area 2012-2018 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) for the MPO; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the proper movement of traffic within and through the Gaston Urban Area MPO is a highly desirable element of the amended 2012-2018 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program for the orderly growth and development of the Urban Area; and

WHEREAS, after the full study of the 2012-2018 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program, the TAC of the Gaston Urban Area MPO finds the Plan meets the goals and objectives for the Gaston Urban Area; and

WHEREAS, after full study the Gaston Urban Area finds the amended 2012-2018 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program meets the requirements of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU); and

WHEREAS, the public has had the opportunity to review and comment on the amended 2012-2018 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program through document sharing; and

WHEREAS, the 2012-2018 Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program is a subset of the currently conforming Gaston Urban Area MPO amended 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT members of the Gaston Urban Area MPO endorse and approve the amended 2012-2018 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program

Joe D. Carpenter, Chair, Transportation Advisory Committee
Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

ATTESTED:

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

Resolution adopted upon a motion of _____ seconded by
_____ by a vote of the majority of the Gaston Urban Area
Transportation Advisory Committee.

North Carolina
Gaston County

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 29th day of November,
2011, and acknowledge the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 29th day of November, 2011.

Cathleen L. Roberts
Notary Public

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GASTON URBAN AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVING
THE AMENDED 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION
PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) are actively involved in transportation planning for the Gaston Urban Area; and

WHEREAS, the Gaston Urban Area Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) is the duly recognized transportation decision making body for the 3-C transportation planning process in the Gaston Urban Area pursuant to 23 CFR Part 134; and

WHEREAS, the Gaston Urban Area Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and the TAC for the MPO have prepared an amendment to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan for the MPO; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the proper movement of traffic within and through the Gaston Urban Area MPO is a highly desirable element of the amended 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan for the orderly growth and development of the Urban Area; and

WHEREAS, after the full study of the amended Long Range Transportation Plan the TAC of the Gaston Urban Area MPO finds the Plan meets the goals and objectives for the Gaston Urban Area; and

WHEREAS, after full study the Gaston Urban Area finds the amended 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan meets the requirements of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU); and

WHEREAS, the amended 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan has at least a 20 year horizon year and is fiscally constrained pursuant to 23 CFR Part 450.322; and

WHEREAS, the public has had the opportunity to review and comment on the amended 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan through document sharing; and

WHEREAS, the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program is a subset of the currently conforming Gaston Urban Area MPO amended 2035 Multi-Modal Long Range Transportation Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT members of the Gaston Urban Area MPO approve and endorse the amended 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan as prepared by the Gaston Urban Area TCC, the TAC, and NCDOT.

Joe D. Carpenter, Chair, Transportation Advisory Committee
Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

ATTESTED:

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

Resolution adopted upon a motion of _____, seconded by _____, by a vote of the majority of the Gaston Urban Area Transportation Advisory Committee.

North Carolina
Gaston County

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 29th day of November, 2011, and acknowledge the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 29th day of November, 2011.

Cathleen L. Roberts
Notary Public

Agenda Item #9

To: TAC Members
From: Jason Pauling, Transportation Planner I
Date: November 29, 2011
Subject: NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant Applications

Background:

The NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning issued a call for proposals for 2012 for municipalities to develop a bicycle or pedestrian plan. Applications are due by December 2, 2011. Each application must be accompanied by the appropriate resolution of support by the municipality and the MPO. Gastonia and Mount Holly are both applying for pedestrian grants for the 2012 cycle. The City of Belmont was awarded this grant last year, and is in the process of searching for consultants to draft the plan.

Funding:

City of Gastonia Pedestrian Plan:

Total Cost = \$65,000 | NCDOT Cap = \$39,000 (60%) | Local Match = \$26,000 (40%)

Town of Mount Holly Pedestrian Plan:

Total Cost = \$45,000 | NCDOT Cap = \$31,500 (70%) | Local Match = \$13,500 (30%)

Process & Schedule:

An awards committee at NCDOT will evaluate and rank proposals based on how well the plan satisfies the selection criteria. Selected grant recipients must execute a legal agreement with NCDOT prior to receiving funding, which will also include a Municipal Reimbursement Agreement (MRA). This agreement must be executed within six months after notification that the grant has been awarded. In addition, the funded municipality must also submit the final plan to the City Council or other approving authority for adoption. Selected municipalities will receive a formal NTP once the following conditions are met:

1. The Municipal Reimbursement Agreement is fully executed
2. A list of potential steering committee members is submitted to NCDOT
3. An executed consultant contract with approved scope of work and cost proposals is submitted.

Awarded municipalities will have 12-18 months to complete their plan, and the following key dates were established by the Division of Bicycle & Pedestrian Transportation:

Activity	Date
Issue Call for proposals	September 2, 2011
Application submission deadline – 5:00 PM	December 2, 2011
Awards Committee makes recommendations to NCDOT	March, 2012
Municipalities notified of award	June, 2012
MRA executed and Notice to Proceed issued	Within 6 months from award notification
Plan completion date	Within 18 months from issuance of MRA

Action Requested: Approve as Presented



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Agenda Item #10

To: TAC Members
From: Jason Pauling, Transportation Planner I
Date: November 29, 2011
Subject: 2012 Recreational Trails Program – Call for Projects

Background:

The Division of Parks and Recreation and the State Trails Program are instituting a 2012 Federal Recreational Trails Program Pre-Application process. All agencies and non-profit organizations interested in applying for 2012 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funding are required to complete and submit the online pre-application by December 30, 2011.

Funding:

Minimum grant amount = \$25,000, Maximum Grant Amount = \$75,000

Attachments:

RTP Pre-Application

Action Requested:

For Information and discussion

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Recreational Trails Program 2012 Pre-Application

Due December 30, 2011 by 4:30pm
Pre-Applications submitted after this time will not be considered

Notes:

- Pre-applications are required before applying for 2012 RTP Funding
- Minimum Grant Award \$25,000 - Maximum Grant Award \$75,000

Applicant Information

1. Agency or Organization Name:

2. Federal Tax ID Number:

3. Contact Name:

4. Title:

5. Mailing Address:

City:

State:

North Carolina

Zip:

6. Telephone:

7. E-mail address:

8. Sponsoring Agency:

Project Information

9. Name of Trail Project:

10. Anticipated Amount of Grant Request:

11. Project classification:

12. Will completion of this project require additional funding other than the RTP grant amount, and the required 25% cash and/or in-kind match?

Yes No

Project Description *(Limit your text to the visible area)*

13. Provide a brief description of your project, what will this RTP grant pay for and accomplish?

14. Provide a brief statement describing your project readiness - ready to build, plans in hand or is project just in concept?

15. Will your agency or organization be responsible for maintenance and management of this trail project? If not, who will and do you have a formal agreement with this second party?

Project Description (Continued)

16. Define your trail project as one of the following: a park specific project; or part of a larger local, regional, state or national trail system.

17. Provide a brief statement describing community support for this project.

Authorization

"I am authorized by the Project Sponsor to submit this pre-application and understand that this pre-application will be evaluated on the basis of the information submitted, and the submission of incorrect information can result in this pre-application being withdrawn from consideration. I further understand that this pre-application may or may not qualify the Project Sponsor to submit a complete 2012 Recreational Trails Program Grant application package."

Typed Name (required):

Title:

Date:

Submission of Application

Once you have completed your application, click the "Submit" button in the upper right-hand corner of your screen and follow the steps to send your pre-application to our server via Adobe.

Vincent T. Newman-Brooks
State Trails Program Grants Manager

Mail Service Center 1615 Raleigh, NC 27699-1615 Phone: (919) 715-1846 Fax: (919) 715-3085

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Agenda Item #11

To: TAC Members
From: Hank Graham, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner
Date: November 29, 2011
Subject: Title VI Program

Background

Pursuant to a desktop compliance survey of Title VI – Civil Rights Act of 1964 requirements, the North Carolina Department of Transportation’s Office of Civil Rights has requested that all North Carolina Metropolitan Planning Organizations come into compliance. The required Title VI Assurances and Plan are provided for review and adoption.

Title VI requirements primarily cover anti-discrimination policies with regard to race, sex, religion, etc. Since 1964, Title VI requirements have been expanded to include policies public information and fairness issue for low income, limited English speaking, and hearing and speaking impaired groups. As the Lead Planning Agency (LPA) for the Gaston Urban Area MPO, the City of Gastonia has adopted Title VI compliance policies and regulations, as required, however the deficiencies cited from the NCDOT statewide MPO survey requires consolidation of the fragmented policies adopted by the City of Gastonia to be formally adopted by the MPO itself.

NCDOT has given each MPO in the state 30 days to come up with a compliance adoption schedule and 90 days for full compliance implementation. Staff has assembled all Title VI assurance documentation for your review and approval this month and will bring the larger Title VI Consolidated Plan to the TAC in January, 2012.

Action Requested

Approve as Presented

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Agenda Item #13

To: TAC Members
From: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I
Date: November 29, 2011
Subject: Gastonia 85X Express Ridership History

Gastonia Express Ridership History

