

## AGENDA

*The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization will meet **Tuesday, July 26, 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 May 24, 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. Garden Parkway Update, Presenter: Reid Simons, Director of Community Relations, NCTA**

An update of the Garden Parkway project will be given.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information and discussion only.

**7. 2040 State Transportation Plan, Presenter: Tyler Bray, NCDOT Statewide Plan Engineer**

NCDOT is updating its Statewide Transportation Plan. A brief discussion of the Plan's horizon year period, state growth assumptions and schedule will be provided.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information and discussion only.

**8. Minimum Problem Statements, Presenter: Shannon Ransom, NCDOT**

The Strategic Planning Office of Transportation requires Minimum Problem Statements for all submitted highway projects.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information only.

**9. Air Quality Conformity Analysis, Presenter: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I**

Approve the Final Air Quality Conformity Analysis.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve as Presented.

**10. Gaston Urban Area MPO Highway Project Rankings for the SPOT Program, Presenter: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I**

Review the ranking of the highway projects.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve as Presented.

**11. Gaston Urban Area MPO Bike/Pedestrian Project Rankings for the SPOT Program, Presenter: Macy Peeler, Intern**

Review the ranking of the bike/pedestrian projects.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve as Presented.

**12. Fiscal Year-2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment, Presenter: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I**

The FY 2011-2012 UPWP contained an error in its calculations which has been corrected in the current version.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve as Presented.

**13. Special Meeting, Presenter: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I**

ACTION REQUESTED: Information and discussion only.

**14. New Business**

**15. Other Business**

NCDOT Update

MPO Staff Update

- a) Update on the New Transportation Bill and Tiger Funds
- b) Gastonia 85X Express Ridership History
- c) Next TAC meeting: September 14, 2011

**16. Adjournment:**

If you have any additional items or questions regarding this agenda, please do not hesitate to call Hank Graham at 704-854-6663 or Bernie Yacobucci at 704-854-6604. You can also e-mail us at hankg or berniey@cityofgastonia.com respectively.

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**MINUTES**  
**Gaston urban area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**  
**Transportation Advisory (TAC) Committee Meeting**  
**May 24, 2011**

The regularly meeting of the Gaston Urban Area MPO Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) was held Tuesday, May 24, 2011, from 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm in the Community Room of the Gastonia Police Department located at 200 East Long Avenue, Gastonia, NC.

**Members Present:**

Joe Carpenter	Gaston County Commissioner, TAC Chairman
Houston Helms	Town of Cramerton, Commissioner, TAC Vice-Chair
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
Gail Brotherton	Town of Stanley, Councilwoman
Martha Stowe	City of Belmont, Councilwoman
Mike Holder	NCDOT Division 12, Engineer
Bob Clay	NCTA, Board Member

**Others Present:**

Hank Graham	Gaston MPO, Principal Transportation Planner
Bernie Yacobucci	Gaston MPO, Transportation Planner I
Jon Barrett	Gaston MPO, Transportation Planner I
Cass Roberts	Gaston MPO, Administrative Assistant III
Shannon Ransom	NCDOT, Gaston MPO Coordinator

**Guests:**

Bill Duston	Centralina COG, Director of Planning
Jim Long	Gaston Chamber, Gaston 2020 Member
Reid Simons	NCTA, Dir. of Government & Public Affairs

**Members with absences in 2011:**

Town of McAdenville	(Jan., Mar., May - 3)
Town of Spencer Mtn.	(Jan., Mar., May - 3)
Town of Stanley	(Jan., Mar. - 1)
Town of Ranlo	(Mar., May - 2)

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

Mr. Carpenter asked if there were any other items to be added to the agenda. There were no additional items to be added to the agenda. Mr. Carpenter entertained a motion to set the agenda as presented.

**Mr. Toomey made a motion to set the agenda as presented. Ms. Craig 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 March 22, 2011. There were none. Mr. Carpenter entertained a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

**Mr. Toomey made a motion to approve the minutes of March 22, 2011 as presented. Mr. Helms 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. Mr. Derek Staton from HDR Engineering for NCTA's Garden Parkway project introduced himself. Ms. Gail Brotherton, former Mayor of the town of Stanley and former Chairperson for the TAC introduced herself and stated that she has been appointed as the TAC representative from the town of Stanley to replace Chad Brown, now a Gaston County Commissioner.

Mr. Carpenter welcomed them all 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. There were no participants for Public Comment. Mr. Carpenter closed the Public Comment Period.

**6. Garden Parkway Update, Presenter: Reid Simons, Director of Community Relations, NCDOT/NCTA**

Mr. Carpenter stated that Ms. Simons will be updating the TAC members on the Garden Parkway project.

Ms. Simons acknowledged that the TAC members probably have been reading articles in the Gaston Gazette regarding the Garden Parkway Gap funding being removed from the budget in the NC House but that in the Senate Budget, the funding seems more

promising. Currently, NCTA is monitoring the legislative process and she felt there was no need for alarm regarding funding at this time.

Ms. Reid stated that NCTA is currently reviewing the comments on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and the Record of Decision will occur in August. She added that traditionally a Record of Decision will last about three years and after that point, there would be a re-evaluation.

Ms. Reid confirmed that currently there are 7 to 8 companies that have submitted RFQs for Phase A construction and Phase B construction for the Garden Parkway. Ms. Reid added that NCTA will not move forward on the RFQs until the budgetary process is complete. The NCTA has the preliminary designs, still meets with environmental agencies, and continues to receive feedback from local governments receiving Resolutions from them in support of the Parkway. The NCTA also receives negative feedback from those not in support of this project.

Mr. Kirilin asked what happened to the \$35,000,000 in Gap Funding since NC House Budget removed it from the Garden Parkway project. Ms. Simons stated that it went to the Urban Loops into the Mobility Fund. Mr. Holder explained that the NC House budget proposed removing Gap funding in the first year with possible restoration in the second year. Mr. Clay added that the NC House and Senate will be working together this weekend to reach a final budget. Ms. Simons stated that we probably will know within a week or two where the Garden Parkway funds may stand. Mr. Holder stated that North Carolina is facing a greater fiscal need now, not in next year though at this point he couldn't guarantee that there may be delayed funding in the next fiscal year as well.

Mr. Helms asked what is the purpose of Mobility Funds. Mr. Holder stated that these funds are slated for transportation projects that are of a super regional significance in that the bulk of their ranking formula lies in the percent of travel time savings.

Mr. Clay asked about the status of the Traffic and Revenue study for the project. Ms. Simons stated that the study by Wilbur Smith and Associates should be completed by February, 2012 but again with the financial uncertainty of the Gap funds, this study might be held up until we have a better idea of the state's financial forecast. After the study is complete, Wilbur Smith and Associates will meet with NCTA in late fall for a post Record of Decision.

Mr. Kirilin wondered that even with the approved Gap funding, aren't we ahead of the actual process to start construction. Ms. Simons stated that the funding occurred during a time that we thought we'd be ready for construction.

Mr. Holder added that the leadership of this Legislature does not like projects being identified by statute – they would rather have projects compete on a prioritization and a quantitative basis – a similar occurrence happens with the Loops and projects that are part of the intrastate system. Mr. Holder stated that this is the reason that the funding is

moving over to the Mobility funds at this time where all projects will compete equally for limited dollars.

Mr. Kirlin remarked that since the funding for the Garden Parkway has been approved statutorily, there shouldn't be a direct impact on the future of the project. Mr. Holder stated that this is still no guarantee as the Statutes can be changed. The Statutes become the authorization that North Carolina can spend the funds. If it is in the General Statutes, there is budgetary authority to spend. If the revenues are not there, obviously, the budgetary authority doesn't mean anything if the money is not there to back it up.

Mr. Carpenter thanked Ms. Reid for the update.

**7. Centralina Council of Governments Sustainability Grant, Presenter: Bill Duston, Director of Planning**

Mr. Duston stated that the Centralina COG received a grant from the NC Sustainable Communities Task Force for \$40,000 which will impact Gaston County directly because two projects are located in Gaston County and within the confines of the MPO. The focus of this grant is to look at five corridors in the region – two corridors in Gaston County and one corridor (Hwy. 74) corridor between I-485 going the width of Gaston County through Kings Mountain to the South Carolina line. Another corridor is the US 321 corridor from Gastonia to Dallas, to High Shoals and to Lincolnton and lastly, the Lincolnton corridor. Mr. Duston stated that the aim of this grant is to find ways to reinvest along these corridors and discover what strategies we will need to regenerate them.

Mr. Duston stated that Centralina COG has re-applied for a HUD Sustainability Grant amounting to over \$3 million dollars. This grant will blueprint growth and development within the Centralina Region, using all the growth factors and modeling them while taking into account the transportation and utility infrastructure needed for the wants and needs of the constituents in the region. Mr. Duston added that he should receive notice from HUD this month about the rules and regulations of the HUD grant and for a timeline, we have about 4 to 6 weeks (by July) to put the grant application together because the Feds want the grant dollars awarded by the end of the Federal fiscal year which is September 30, 2011.

Mr. Duston stated that what is needed today is to have the TAC approve the Memorandum of Understanding with respect to the grant received by the Centralina COG from the NC Sustainable Communities Task Force for \$40,000, and to adopt a Resolution of Support for the Centralina COG to apply for a HUD Sustainability Grant in 2011 for over \$3 million dollars.

Mr. Duston stated that he would like for the MPO to be involved in the preparation of the grant and to provide necessary data when needed. He also hoped that there will be input from citizens as well.

There being no other discussion, Mr. Carpenter entertained a motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with respect to a grant received by the Centralina COG from the NC Sustainable Communities Task Force, and to adopt a Resolution of Support for the Centralina COG to apply for a HUD Sustainability Grant in 2011.

**Mr. Kirlin made a motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with respect to a grant received by the Centralina COG from the NC Sustainable Communities Task Force, and to adopt a Resolution of Support for the Centralina COG to apply for a HUD Sustainability Grant in 2011. Mr. Helms seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

**8. Release of Draft Metrolina Conformity Document, Draft Amended 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Draft State Transportation Improvement Program 2012-2018 (STIP), and Draft Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program for Public Comment, Presenter: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I**

Mr. Yacobucci stated that the Metrolina Draft Air Quality Conformity Document, Draft Amended 2035 LRTP, Draft 2012-2018 STIP and Draft MTIP have been released for public review and comment for 30 days from May 23, 2011 until June 24, 2011. He added that the plans are on display at all City Halls and in local libraries in the MPO area for citizens to review. The Public Hearing will be on June 8 at the Gaston County Library from 4pm – 6 pm.

Mr. Yacobucci stated that at the next TAC meeting on July 26, these documents will be ready to be approved by the TAC.

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

**9. GUAMPO Self Certification, Presenter: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I**

Mr. Yacobucci stated that Federal regulations require MPOs to self-certify that they comply with all laws, statutes, etc. governing the transportation planning process. He added that GUAMPO does a self-certification by Resolution every year. The Resolution outlines the tasks for self-certification which revolve around the MPO's conformity with the 3-C Planning Process, Air Quality Conformity, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan, and for SAFETEA-LU.

Mr. Carpenter entertained a motion that the TAC approve the Resolution regarding Self-Certification.

**Mr. Helms made a motion to recommend approval of the Resolution Certifying the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Planning Process for FY2011-2012.**

**Mr. Toomey seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

**10. Approval of the Gaston Urban Area Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Maps, Presenter: Shannon Ransom, NCDOT, Gaston MPO Coordinator**

Ms. Ransom stated that the Gaston Urban Area MPO is required to replace their existing Thoroughfare Plan map with the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Maps. These CTP maps are comprehensive and portray all elements of transportation and the areas slated for transportation improvement in the future.

Ms. Ransom reviewed the changes to the maps the TCC requested at their last meeting regarding Insets A and F. Mr. Long asked about Inset B – Hwy 274 which is still under construction and includes a sidewalk. He added that there is a .10 of a mile gap from Gastonia to Bessemer City where the sidewalk stops and then begins and he felt that this should be corrected on the CTP map. Ms. Ransom stated that sidewalks are not required to be included in the CTP maps for larger MPOs.

Mr. Carpenter entertained a motion to approve the CTP maps as presented.

**Mr. Helms made a motion to recommend approval of the CTP maps as presented. Mr. Toomey seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

**11. The Bicycle Pedestrian Subcommittee Methodology Recommendation, Presenter: Jon Barrett, Transportation Planner I**

Mr. Barrett stated that the bike/ped subcommittee met twice in April and created a methodology for ranking bicycle and pedestrian projects. Mr. Carpenter asked if we ever had a ranking for these projects. Mr. Barrett said there was no ranking or methodology for bike/ped projects to rank them until now.

There were no other questions.

Mr. Carpenter entertained a motion to approve the Bicycle/Pedestrian Methodology as presented.

**Mr. Kirlin made a motion to approve the Bicycle/Pedestrian Methodology as presented. Ms. Stowe seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

**12. Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) Project Update, Presenter: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I**

Mr. Yacobucci stated that the MPO staff will be running the highway, bike/ped projects through the MPOs methodology to ascertain their ranking. A tentative schedule is included in the agenda package. The TCC and the TAC will be asked to approve the rankings of the bike/ped projects and 15 unfunded highway projects that are not yet in the SPOT program.

There were no questions for Mr. Yacobucci.

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

**13. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Eligibility, Presenter: Jon Barrett, Transportation Planner I**

Mr. Barrett stated that on April 25, 2011, NCDOT informed the MPO that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) provided clarification on CMAQ eligibility for alternative fueled vehicles AFV/hybrids. Essentially, CMAQ funding can only be applied to the cost differential between a conventional fueled vehicle and an AFV/hybrid when that vehicle is intended for general governmental use. In other words, fleet AFV/hybrid vehicles for government use cannot be funded on an 80/20 CMAQ funding schedule because only a portion of the total project costs is CMAQ-eligible. The City of Bessemer City and the City of Cramerton had applied for CMAQ funding for Alternative Fueled Vehicles earlier this year and these cities are the only ones affected by this change.

Mr. Helms stated that because of this change, the City of Cramerton will not be able to move forward with their CMAQ application for an AFV/hybrid vehicle. Mr. Barrett added that the funding has already been allocated to both Cramerton and Bessemer City but both cities will have to resubmit a new project application for funding. Mr. Barrett stated that the money is reserved for their use and MPO staff will be happy to assist with the CMAQ application process. Mr. Helms stated that the City of Cramerton will respond back to Mr. Graham with a list of possible projects for CMAQ funding. Mr. Barrett added that the City of Bessemer City has already been in contact with MPO staff about another CMAQ application submittal.

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

**14. North Carolina Department of Transportation Project Updates: Robert Collier, NCDOT BOT Chair**

Mr. Holder stated that Judge Collier could not attend the meeting this evening and sends his regrets.

Mr. Holder confirmed that the Marietta Street project is almost completed. The work that is remaining is the applications of crosswalks. He said that there was discussion with the City of Gastonia's Public Works Director on Friday and contractual details were settled.

Mr. Holder relayed that some secondary, primary streets throughout the Gaston County have been resurfaced. Several bridge replacement projects are planned in the next couple years. The concrete inlays on the ramps at the Lowell interchange are finished.

Mr. Toomey asked what is the State currently doing to alleviate the traffic problems that will arise because of the new Cramerton High School. He stated that most of Mt. Holly will be affected by the new Cramerton High School with traffic delays from Freightliner

and with increased traffic throughout town to the east side of town. Mr. Holder stated that at this point, Gaston County taxpayers will probably be shouldering improvements to the roadway system around the school and that there are no plans for improvements at any intersections or on surface streets in that area.

Mr. Toomey suggested that the Belmont-Mt. Holly loop be activated by moving the project up on the Unmet Needs List. Mr. Holder affirmed that decisions like that on road projects are at the TAC's discretion. Mr. Toomey stated that he was very concerned about the traffic difficulties parents will experience as they drop off and pick up their children from school and that the need to address the current and future congestion on NC 273 is imperative.

Mr. Helms asked about the way station relocation on I-85. Mr. Holder stated that NCDOT won't decommission the current sites until the new ones are built. It takes about 25 acres to have this type of facility and currently the state is looking at a site on I-85 south of Bessemer City.

Ms. Stowe stated that there will be ReVenture project drop-in on June 1, 2011 from 5 pm until 8 pm at the Caravan Coffee Shop in Belmont for anyone who is interested in learning about Renewable Energy Eco-Industrial Parks.

#### **15. New Business**

#### **16. Other Business**

**MPO Staff Update**

**Gastonia 85X Express Ridership History**

#### **17. Adjournment**

There being no other business to discuss, Mr. Carpenter adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.



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## **Agenda Item # 6**

**To:** TAC Members  
**From:** Reid Simons, Director of Community Relations, NCDOT/NCTA  
**Date:** July 26, 2011  
**Subject:** Garden Parkway Project Update

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### **Background:**

The NCTA will give an update on the progress of the Garden Parkway.

### **Action Requested:**

Information and discussion only

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## **Agenda Item # 7**

**To:** TAC Members  
**From:** Tyler Bray, NCDOT Statewide Plan Engineer  
**Date:** July 26, 2011  
**Subject:** 2040 Transportation Plan

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### **Background**

Gov. Bev Perdue signed Executive Order No. 2 in January 2009 to reform NCDOT and ensure that its plans and projects are developed and awarded in a professional manner. Based on this order and input from stakeholders across the state, NCDOT officials have developed a strategic process for transportation decision-making that focuses on achieving the department's long-term goals of safety, mobility and infrastructure health.

The N.C. Department of Transportation is updating the Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan called the 2040 Plan, which will help us guide North Carolina's transportation policy focus and assist in determining transportation needs in 2040 and how to best meet them. In addition to highways, the plan will address aviation, ferries, rail, bicycles, pedestrian facilities and public transportation.

Known as "Policy to Projects," this process with the 30-year Statewide Long-Range Plan, also called the 2040 Plan and the 10-year Program and Resource Plan, ending with the 5-year Work Program and ends with a detailed work program that spells out specific projects needed to achieve these goals. This format results in a reliable and realistic work plan that is both transparent and accountable.

Input from our planning organization partners is crucial to developing a future transportation plan that is realistic and addresses the diverse needs of our state. Therefore, presentations will be conducted to all Technical Coordinating Committees and Transportation Advisory Committees in North Carolina. This presentation will provide information regarding the 2040 Plan including tasks completed and information on future activities.

### **Staff Recommendation**

Information and discussion only

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## Agenda Item #8

**To:** TAC Members  
**From:** Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I  
**Date:** July 26, 2011  
**Subject:** Minimum Problem Statements

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### Background

Prepare Minimum Problem Statements for each Project: In order for any highway project to be scored in P2.0 it must have a clearly defined Minimum Problem Statement (justification of need for the project). Projects that do not have a Minimum Problem/Needs Statement will not be scored. For projects already in an adopted transportation plan which has an existing Minimum Problem Statements, those statements will be accepted. For projects from transportation plans that are being developed and which do not have a Minimum Problem Statement, a Minimum Problem Statement must be created. For any new project candidate submittals (July 5-29 window) MPO, RPO, Division must create a Minimum Problem Statement and upload via Partner Connect. Transportation Planning Branch Coordinators have been asked to assist any MPO, RPO, and Division's that needs assistance on these statements. Minimum Problem Statements will be due to SPOT by close of business August 26.

### Staff Recommendation

Information and discussion only

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## **MINIMUM PROBLEM STATEMENT INSTRUCTIONS – JUNE 2011**

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In order for a highway project to be scored in P2.0 it must have a clearly defined Minimum Problem Statement. A Minimum Problem Statement is simply the justification of need for the project and includes specific details on the deficiency(s). An example is shown below. **Projects that do not have a Minimum Problem Statement will not be scored.**

The web technology tool called *Partner Connect* will be used to accept Minimum Problem Statements and you can start to submit these statements from July 5. Please keep the following guidance in mind:

- For projects already in an adopted CTP the MPO or RPO can upload existing Minimum Problem Statements into Partner Connect
- For projects from CTP's that are being developed the MPO or RPO must create a Minimum Problem Statement and upload via *Partner Connect*
- For any new project candidate submittals (July 5-29 window) the MPO, RPO, and/or Division must create a Minimum Problem Statement and upload via Partner Connect
- Transportation Planning Branch Coordinators have been asked to assist any MPO, RPO, or Division that needs assistance on this guidance.
- Keep these statements short and to the point; provide basic information and statements (bullet or paragraph form) describing the current deficient conditions and NEED for the project.

**PLEASE SUBMIT MINIMUM PROBLEM STATEMENTS THROUGH PARTNER CONNECT FOR ALL PROJECTS (Mobility, Modernization or otherwise) BY AUGUST 26<sup>TH</sup> (includes both existing projects and new candidate projects submitted in July)**

### **Example Minimum Problem Statement**

#### **Main Road (SR 1000)**

Main Road (SR 1000) between General Road (SR 1001) and Ten Ten Road (SR 1010) is expected to be over capacity by 2030. Improvements are needed to accommodate projected traffic in order to maintain a Level of Service "D".

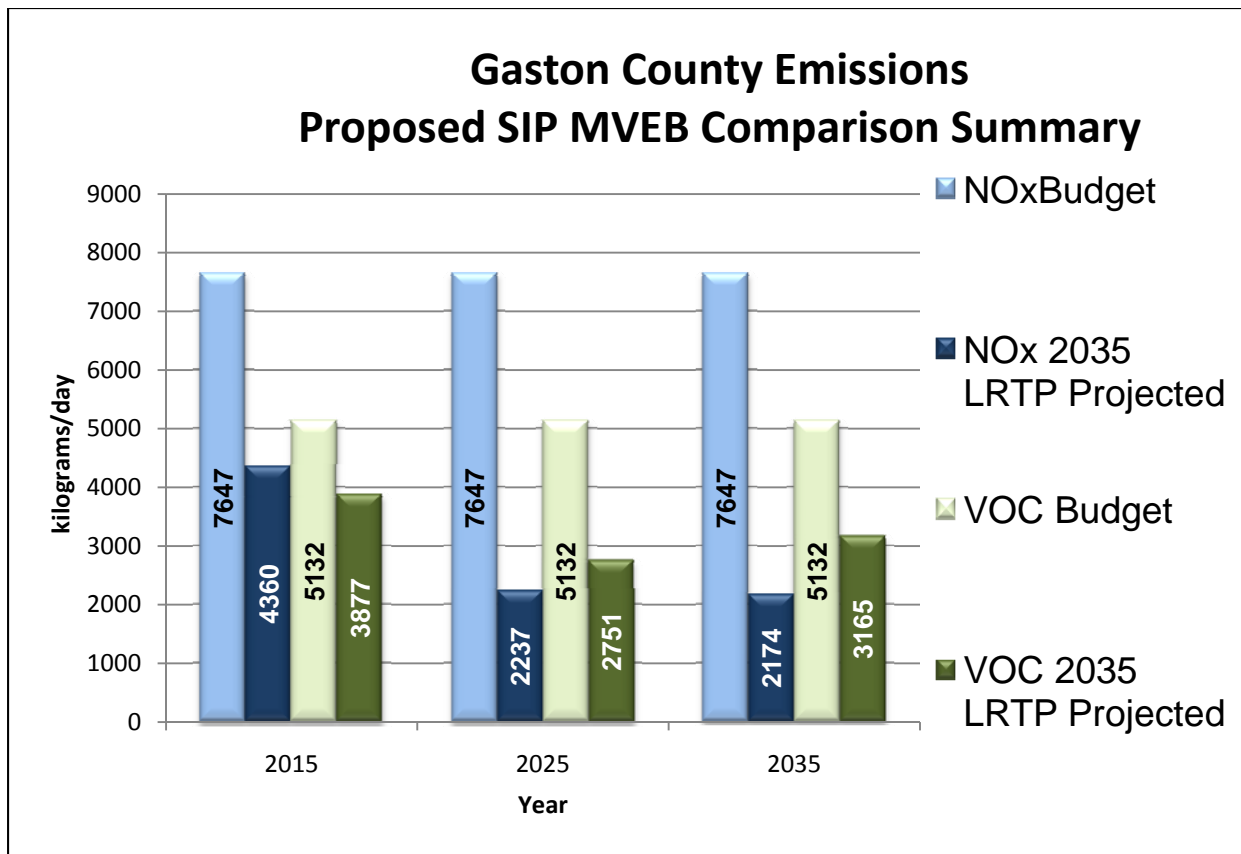
This section of Main Road currently has a two-lane, 18-foot cross section. The 2003 annual average daily traffic (AADT) is 2,000 vehicles per day (vpd); by 2030, the AADT is expected to be 11,300 vpd compared to a LOS "D" capacity of 11,000 vpd for the existing cross section. Near the Main Road and General Road intersection there are plans for the construction of a new regional shopping complex on the east side of the Town which accounts for the high percent increase in traffic.

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## Agenda Item # 9

**To:** TAC Members  
**From:** Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I  
**Date:** July 26, 2011  
**Subject:** Air Quality Conformity Analysis, Presenter: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I

### Background



### Staff Recommendation

Approve as Presented.

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**RESOLUTION FINDING THE GASTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) AMENDED 2035 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND THE FISCAL YEAR 2012-2018 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CLEAN AIR ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1990 AND THE SAFE, ACCOUNTABLE, FLEXIBLE, EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT – A LEGACY FOR USERS (SAFETEA-LU)**

**WHEREAS**, the Transportation Advisory Committee is the duly recognized decision making body of the 3-C transportation planning process for the Gaston Urban Area MPO; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gaston Urban Area MPO amended 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan meets the planning requirements of 23 CFR Part 450.322; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2012-2018 Transportation Improvement Program is a subset of the amended 2035 Long-Range Transportation plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) designated Gaston Urban Area as nonattainment for ozone on April 15, 2004; and

**WHEREAS**, the amended transportation conformity analysis of the Gaston Urban Area MPO and amended 2035 Long-Range transportation plan is based on the most recent estimates of population, employment, travel, and congestion; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gaston Urban Area MPO amended 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan is financially constrained; and

**WHEREAS**, there are no transportation control measures in the North Carolina State Implementation Plan (SIP) that pertain to the Gaston Urban Area MPO area; and

**WHEREAS**, the most recent vehicle emissions model was used to prepared the quantitative emissions analysis; and

**WHEREAS**, those projects and programs included in the Gaston Urban Area MPO amended 2035 Long Range-Transportation Plan contribute to annual emissions reductions as shown by the quantitative emissions analysis,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Gaston Urban Area MPO TAC finds that both the Gaston Urban Area MPO amended 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan and 2012-2018 Transportation Improvement Program conform to the purpose of the North Carolina State Implementation Plan (or base year emissions, in areas where no State Implementation Plan is approved or found adequate by EPA) in accordance with Clean Air Act as Amended (CAAA) and SAFETEA-LU

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

ATTESTED:

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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 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

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GASTON URBAN AREA  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVING  
THE 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 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 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 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 2012-2018 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan 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 2012-2018 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan 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 approve and endorse the 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 24th 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.

---

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 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.

---

Cathleen L. Roberts  
Notary Public



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## **Agenda Item # 10**

**To:** TAC Members  
**From:** Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I  
**Date:** July 26, 2011  
**Subject:** Gaston Urban Area MPO Highway Project Rankings for the Strategic Planning Office of Transportation Program

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### **Background:**

Attached are the results of the ranking of the highway projects. The top fifteen projects will be submitted in the SPOT program.

### **Staff Recommendation:**

Approve as Presented.

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### Score Sheet for Ranked Projects

2007 Ranking by Points	2011 Total Points	Project	Description	Proposed SPOT Entry
3	NA	US 321 Bypass	Construct a new four-lane divided, controlled access facility from I-85 to US 321 (north of Dallas)	Submit
11	59	Belmont-Mt. Holly Loop (South Point)	Construct new, four-lane divided facility from South Point Road to US 29/74 (Wilkinson Blvd)	Submit
13	55	Lineberger Road	Construct four-lane divided facility including bridge over I-85 from US 29/74 (Franklin Blvd.) to the proposed Gastonia-Mt. Holly Connector.	Submit
New Project	55	NC 273 Widening	Widen NC 273 from South Main St. to Catawba Ave	Submit
16	53	Lowell-Bethesda/Beaty Rd.	Widen two-lane to four-lane divided from NC 279 (S. New Hope Rd.) to NC 274 (Union Rd.)	Submit
New Project	50	York Rd	Widen York Road from Jackson Rd to south City Limits	Submit
19	48	Puetts Chapel Road Widening	Widen existing two-lane road to a three-lane facility from Maine Avenue to the proposed NC 274 Bypass.	Submit
21	50	Oakland Street	Widen substandard two-lane road from Trade St. to Carr Rd. to provide standard lane width of 12 feet.	Submit
22	51	13th St. overpass	Replace the 13th Street Norfolk Southern Railroad underpass to allow for safer and more efficient traffic flow.	Submit
23	45	Eight Avenue Railroad underpass widening	Widen existing one-lane underpass bridge to a two-lane underpass bridge from Main Street to 500' past the railroad tracks.	Submit
25	41	Southridge Parkway North Extension	Extend Southridge Parkway (three-lane facility) north to NC 274 (at Crème Haven Dr.)	Submit
26	41	Spencer Mtn. Road	Widen two-lane road to a three-lane cross section from NC 7 (Ozark Avenue) to Central Ave.	Submit
28	40	NC 273 Widening (Nixon R-Lower Armstrong)	Widen existing two-lane road to a four-lane divided facility from Nixon Road to NC 273 (Lower Armstrong Rd.)	Submit
29	38	NC 274 Bypass (NC274-Costner)	Construct new, three-lane minor thoroughfare facility from NC 274 (Bessemer City Highway) to Costner School Road.	Submit
29	38	Southridge Parkway West Extension	Construct a new, three-lane facility from Crowders Man. Rd. to Edgewood Rd.	Submit
34	34	Gaston Day School Road Extension	Construct new four lane divided highway from Kinmere Dr to NC 274 (Union Rd.)	
38	38	Forbes Road Extension	New four lane divided highway connecting Forbes Rd to the North to Forbes Rd to the South	
New Project	29	Kendrick Road	Widen to three lanes Robinwood Rd to East City Limits	
New Project	13	Maine St / 12 Street Intersection Improvements	Intersection Improvements	Safety Project

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## **Agenda Item # 11**

**To:** TAC Members  
**From:** Macy Peeler, Intern  
**Date:** July 26, 2011  
**Subject:** The Bicycle Pedestrian SPOT Ranking

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### **Background:**

Attached are the results of the ranking of the bike/pedestrian projects. The top ten of each category 10 bike projects and 10 pedestrian projects will be submitted in the SPOT program.

### **Staff Recommendation:**

Approve as Presented.

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Bicycle				
Proposed SPOT Rank	Points	Costs Estimate	City	Project Description
1	115	400,000.00	Cramerton	Installation of sidewalk along Cramer Mtn. Road from Baltimore to S. New Hope connecting CBD to town Center, Cramer Mtn. And Baltimore to Cramerton Middle School
2	98	398,046	Bessemer City	Sidewalk (5 ft) on 12 Street and Yellow Jacket Lane connecting neighborhoods to existing sidewalk network and three schools
3	93	300,000	Gastonia	Sherwood Elem/Grier Middle - Sidewalk on Churchill Dr. to Laurel Lane to Timberlane St to Holly Dr. to existing Avon Catawba Creek Greenway.
4	80	140,000	Gastonia	Sidewalk on west side of Redbud Dr. from Hudson to New Hope Road
5	53	50,000	Gastonia	Pleasant Ridge Elementary - Sidewalk from Linwood Avenue east to Coloniger Street
6	53	87,000	Gastonia	Brookside Elementary - Sidewalk Montrose Drive between Rhyne Carter and N. New Hope Road
7	53	100,000	Gastonia	Robinson Elementary Sidewalk from Union Rd. north to Robinwood Road and Pedestrian improvements at Union Rd./Neal Hawkins Rd.
8	53	75,000	Gastonia	Gardner Park Elementary - Sidewalk on Gardner Park Dr. between Sandy Lane and Cheswick Lane
9	53	48,000	Gastonia	Sidewalk on Laurel Lane from Castlegate Street to Robinwood Road
10	53	28,000	Gastonia	Sidewalk on New Hope Road from Hunt Avenue to Court Drive

Pedestrian				
Proposed SPOT Rank	Points	Costs Estimate	City	Project Description
1	105	500,000	Cramerton	Pedestrian Bridge to Goat Island connecting to the Lakewood neighborhood and the new Cramerton High School.
2	90	500,000	Belmont	Belmont Rail Trail- Connects Belmont Abbey College to Downtown Belmont
3	83	125,000	Cramerton	Lane realignment and installation of raised crosswalks at Mayflower and Woodlawn
4	77	177,000	Cramerton	Intallation of raised traffic table and crosswalks at 8th Ave and Center Street Intersection
5	70	360,000	Belmont	Abbey Creek Greenway
6	70	140,000	Gastonia	Sidewalk west side Redbud Drive (SR 2446) from Hudson Blvd.(SR 1255) to New Hope Road (NC279)
7	63	550,000	Gastonia	Pleasant Ridge Elementary - from school along Adams Dr. through Athenian to West Garrison
8	53	34,000	Gastonia	Sidewalk on Marietta Street from Plymouth Street to Garrison Blvd.
9	53	34,000	Gastonia	Sidewalk on Second Avenue from Willow Street to Avon Street
10	53	52,000	Gastonia	Sidewalk on Jackson Street from Eighth to tenth Avenue

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## **Agenda Item # 12**

**To:** TAC Members  
**From:** Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I  
**Date:** July 26, 2011  
**Subject:** Fiscal Year-2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment

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### **Background:**

The previous UPWP contained an error in the formulas. The corrected current version is attached.

### **Staff Recommendation:**

Approve as Presented.

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**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.**

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE  
GOVERNOR

EUGENE A. CONTI, JR.  
SECRETARY

July 5, 2011

Mr. Hank Graham, AICP  
Senior Transportation Planner  
P.O. Box 1748  
Gastonia, North Carolina 28052

Subject: Gaston UA MPO, FY 2012 PL Work Program Approval

Dear Hank:

Your PL Work Program for FY 2012 in the amount of \$ 584,780 (\$467,824 Federal) has been submitted to FHWA for approval. Also, your current unprogrammed balance is \$ 64,829 and reflects the closeout of your FY 2010 work program.

Please note that if the MPO chooses to hire a Professional Engineering Firm (PEF), NCDOT's consultant selection procedures must be followed and the use must be approved by TPB's MPO coordinator. Also, any invoices that include payments to PEF's (or any other types of subconsultants) must reflect the amount paid on a separate form that may be obtained from your coordinator. In addition, the PEF or subconsultant must be established with NCDOT as a vendor in order for the invoice to be processed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call or email me: (919) 707-0901, mbruff@ncdot.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Bruff".

Mike Bruff, P.E.  
Manager, Transportation Planning Branch

cc: Loretta Barren  
Shannon Ransom

**MAILING ADDRESS:**  
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BRANCH  
1554 MAIL SERVICE CENTER  
RALEIGH NC 27699-1554



<http://ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/tpb/>

**LOCATION:**  
TRANSPORTATION BUILDING  
1 SOUTH WILMINGTON STREET  
RALEIGH, NC 27601  
Phone: 919-707-0900  
Fax: 919-733-9794

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**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 \$612,316.00.
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 26<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2011, and acknowledge the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

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

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Cathleen L. Roberts  
Notary Public



Post Office Box 1748  
Gastonia, North Carolina 28053  
Phone (704) 866-6837

150 South York Street  
Gastonia, North Carolina 28052  
Fax (704) 869-1960

## **Agenda Item # 13**

**To:** TAC Members  
**From:** Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I  
**Date:** July 26, 2011  
**Subject:** TAC Special Meeting

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### **Background:**

The SPOT schedule calls for the final entry of the ranked highway projects to be submitted in October thru November. Unfortunately, the draft scoring of the projects from the SPOT program will not occur until sometime in September. The TCC and TAC will then be able to distribute the 1,300 points that the MPO is entitled to allot to the projects. The process of allotting the points may necessitate a special meeting in October.

### **Staff Recommendation:**

Information and discussion only

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# DEADLINES FOR STRATEGIC PRIORITIZATION 2.0

June 2, 2011

## HIGHWAY Projects

- **June 3** – Complete review and provide any necessary project data to create a quantitative score for existing highway projects. Also review associated shapefiles per project. Refer to the P2.0 Instructional Guide for definitions and examples.  
**Action:** Email your completed spreadsheet directly to SPOT (David Wasserman at [dswasserman@ncdot.gov](mailto:dswasserman@ncdot.gov), Don Voelker at [djvoelker@ncdot.gov](mailto:djvoelker@ncdot.gov) & Alpesh Patel at [agpatel@ncdot.gov](mailto:agpatel@ncdot.gov))
- **July 5-29** – Submit New Candidate Projects (up to a combined total of 15 Mobility and Modernization Projects)  
**Action:** Use Partner Connect to submit projects.
- **August 26** – Submit Minimum Problem/Need Statements for both existing projects and new candidates. Keep statements simple (1-2 paragraph, 4-5 bullets) and utilize your respective MPO/RPO Coordinator in TPB for assistance.  
**Action:** Use Partner Connect to upload statements.
- **October 3 – November 30** – Assign 1300 points to projects (includes existing plus new projects). This is your Local Input ranking opportunity. *You must assign a minimum of 4 points per project and can only assign up to 100 points per project.*  
**Action:** Use Partner Connect to enter project points.
- **November 30** – Submit agreements for donating points (up to 100 points per project) between organizations.  
**Action:** Email these agreements (all parties must agree) to Don Voelker at [djvoelker@ncdot.gov](mailto:djvoelker@ncdot.gov).

## BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN Projects

- **Now – July 29** – Review and provide data for existing bicycle and pedestrian projects **AND** submit new bicycle and pedestrian projects (up to 10 new bicycle projects and up to 10 new pedestrian projects). Also create a shapefile for all bicycle and pedestrian projects (existing + new). Refer to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Instructional Guide for definitions (anticipated to be sent by June 3<sup>rd</sup>)  
**Action:** Email your completed spreadsheet (includes existing + new projects) directly to John Vine Hodge at [javinehodge@ncdot.gov](mailto:javinehodge@ncdot.gov).
- **October 3 – November 30** – Assign ranking for up to 5 bicycle projects and up to 5 pedestrian projects.  
**Action:** Use Partner Connect to assign Rank.

## **TRANSIT Projects**

- **Now – July 29** – Review and provide data for existing transit projects **AND** submit new transit projects (No limit except realize that local match must be available for candidate projects). The Transit spreadsheet was sent on May 25<sup>th</sup>.  
**Action:** Email your completed spreadsheet (includes existing + new projects) directly to Bill Barlow at [wrbarlow@ncdot.gov](mailto:wrbarlow@ncdot.gov).
- **October 3 – November 30** – Assign numerical rankings to projects (no limit).  
**Action:** Use Partner Connect to assign Rank

## **FERRY Projects**

- **July 5-29** – Submit New Candidate Projects (no limit on number of projects)  
**Action:** Email directly to Charles Fearing at [cfearing@ncdot.gov](mailto:cfearing@ncdot.gov).
- \* **Note:** Ferry Projects do not need to be ranked/assigned points.

## **RAIL Projects**

- **July 5-29** – Submit New Candidate Projects (no limit on number of projects)  
**Action:** Email directly to Cheryl Hannah at [cwhannah@ncdot.gov](mailto:cwhannah@ncdot.gov).
- \* **Note:** Rail Projects do not need to be ranked/assigned points.

## **AVAIATION Projects**

- **July 5-29** – Submit New Candidate Projects (no limit on number of projects)  
**Action:** Email directly to Bobby Walston at [bwalston@ncdot.gov](mailto:bwalston@ncdot.gov) & Rick Barks at [rbarks@ncdot.gov](mailto:rbarks@ncdot.gov)
- \* **Note:** Aviation Projects do not need to be ranked/assigned points.

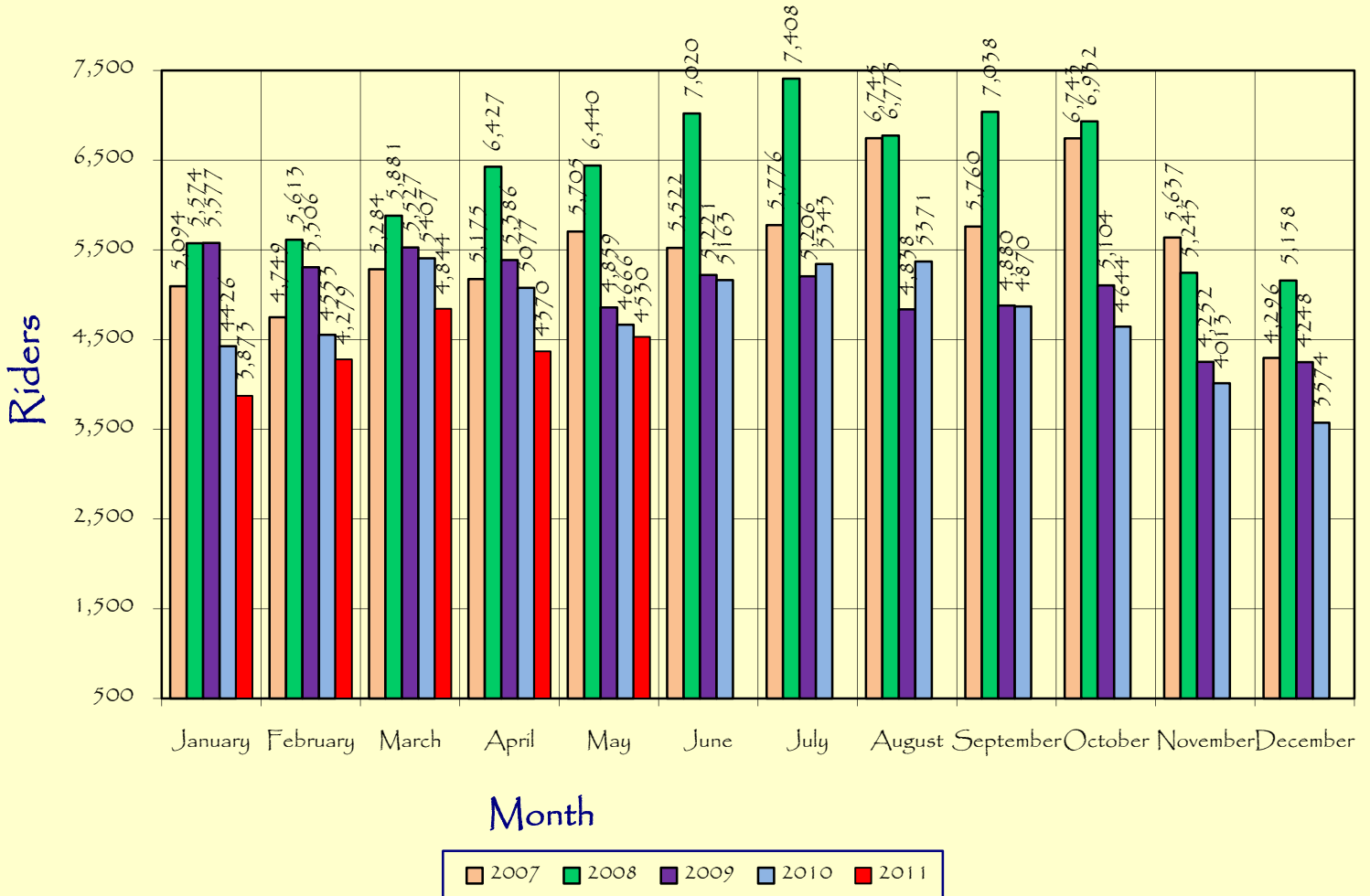
## **CMAQ Projects**

- **October 1-31**- Submit completed project applications (new application form available on TPB's website soon).  
**Action:** Use Partner Connect to submit projects.

### Agenda Item # 15a

**To:** TAC Members  
**From:** Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I  
**Date:** July 26, 2011  
**Subject:** Gastonia 85X Express Ridership History

## Gastonia Express Ridership History



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