

AGENDA

*The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) of the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization will meet **Wednesday, May 9, 2007**, at the Market Street Buffet & Bakery. The restaurant is located at 2525 S. York Street (US 321) in Gastonia, NC. The meeting will begin at 12 Noon. The following is the agenda for the meeting:*

1. Set Agenda, Presenter: Ben Blackburn, TCC Chair

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

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

- a. During the March 12, 1997 TCC 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: Ben Blackburn, TCC Chair

Minutes from the regularly scheduled meeting of March 14, 2007.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve as Presented.

4. Introduction of Guests, Presenter: Ben Blackburn, TCC Chair

All guests shall introduce themselves at this time.

5. Public Comment Period, Presenter: Ben Blackburn, TCC Chair

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

6. SAFETEA-LU: Final Statewide and Metropolitan Planning Rule, Presenter: Loretta Barren, Community Planner, Federal Highways Administration

Ms. Barren will present a brief overview of the SAFETEA-LU regulations and their impacts on the MPO planning process.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information Only.

7. Amendment to the 07-13 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to include the purchase of two ADA compliant lift vans in FY 2008, Presenter: Hank Graham, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner

Gastonia Transit has programmed the necessary replacement/expansion of two new ADA compliant lift vans for FY 2008. As required for use of Federal funds an endorsement from the MPO is necessary. The addition of this project has been included in the 2007-2013 STIP.

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommend approval to TAC.

8. 8-Hour Ozone Conformity Analysis and Determination Report, Presenter: Randi A. Philbeck, Transportation Planner I

Recent changes in the 2007-2013 State TIP required a new Ozone conformity analysis report for the Charlotte ozone non-attainment region. This report constitutes the second amendment to the original Conformity Determination Report dated June 8, 2005.

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommend approval to TAC.

9. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Updates, Presenter: Randi A. Philbeck, Transportation Planner I

Periodically, as needs and conditions change, it becomes necessary to amend the LRTPs. Enclosed are one amendment to the Gaston Urban Area Long Range Transportation Plan, and two resolutions, including one to adopt the Amended 2030 LRTP for the Gaston Urban Area MPO, and one finding conformity of the 2030 LRTP.

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommend approval to TAC.

10. 2007-2013 Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program, Presenter: Randi A. Philbeck, Transportation Planner I

At the March 27th meeting of the TAC, a resolution was signed adopting the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program and its supporting Funding Table for FY 07-13, along with the 07-13 State Transportation Improvement Program and its supporting Funding Table. The addition of Southridge Drive Parkway to the Thoroughfare Plan Map is the reason for this minor amendment to our TIP funding tables and MTIP.

It is also necessary at this time for a resolution finding conformity of the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization FY 2007-2013 Transportation Improvement Program.

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommend Approval to TAC.

11. Modification to Gaston MPO Boundary, Presenter: Hank Graham, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner

A request has been made by the county to incorporate the entire county within our MPO boundary.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information and Discussion Only.

12. Regional Commuting Report, Presenter: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I

Centralina Council of Governments will develop a regional commuting report for travel times between burgeoning residential areas near and outside of 485 and Uptown Charlotte. This would be valuable information for a variety of audiences, and would help raise the level of awareness and hopefully facilitate more efficient travel patterns for workers commuting to Uptown.

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommend Approval to TAC.

13. Purchase of Gaston County Freight Data

The consultants hired to complete the Freight study for the Gaston MPO Area have informed MPO staff that additional detailed data exists that would significantly benefit Gaston County. This data was not part of the current study's scope. The cost for this detailed data is approximately \$15,000.00. Benefits would include actual instead of estimated assumption totals of freight traffic within and through Gaston County. This data is collected and assembled nationally from a private source.

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommend Approval to TAC.

14. New Business

15. Other Business

- a) Gastonia Express 85-X Ridership Report
- b) Gastonia Transit Expansion Study - Update
- c) Gaston County Freight Study – Update
- d) Ozone Awareness / Education Program

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, Bernie Yacobucci at 704-854-6604, or Randi Philbeck at 704-866-6980. You can also e-mail us at hankg@cityofgastonia.com, berniey@cityofgastonia.com, or randip@cityofgastonia.com respectively.

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**MINUTES
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)
TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TCC)
REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING
MARCH 14, 2007**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC) was held **Wednesday, March 14, 2007**, at the Market Street Buffet and Bakery, 2525 S. York Street, Gastonia, NC.

Members Present:

Ben Blackburn	City of Lowell, TCC Chairman
Kevin Krouse	City of Bessemer City, TCC Vice Chairman
Wilce Martin	Town of Stanley, Public Works Director
Steve Baucom	Town of Cramerton, Planner
David Kahler	Town of Dallas, Comm. Dev. Administrator
Steve Miller	Town of Dallas, Town Manager
Barry Webb	City of Belmont, City Manager
Don Lowe	City of Gastonia, City Traffic Engineer
Jack Kiser	City of Gastonia, Director of Planning
David Williams	Gaston County, Director of Planning
Marc Bolick	Gaston EDC, Project Adm.
Margaret Taylor	Gaston County, Access Transp. Director
Anne Wilkes	Gaston County, Access Transp. Asst. Dir.
Hank Graham	Gaston MPO, Principal Transportation Planner
Randi Philbeck	Gaston MPO, Transportation Planner I
Bernie Yacobucci	Gaston MPO, Transportation Planner I
Cass Roberts	Gaston MPO, Administrative Assistant III
Shannon Ransom	NCDOT, Gaston MPO Coordinator
Mike Holder	NCDOT, Division Engineer
Byron Engle	NCDOT, Deputy Div. Traffic Eng.

Others Present:

Joe Gates	Town of Cramerton, Intern
Brett Wallace	URS Corporation, Transportation Planner

Members with absences in 2007:

Town of McAdenville	(Jan. - 1)
Town of Spencer Mountain	(Jan. - 1)
City of Mt. Holly	(Mar. - 1)

1. Set Agenda, Presenter: Ben Blackburn, TCC Chair

Mr. Blackburn asked if there was any new business or any additions to add to the agenda? There were none.

Mr. Krouse made a motion to set the agenda with Mr. Webb seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Determination of Quorum, Presenter: Ben Blackburn, TCC Chair

It was determined that there was a quorum present.

3. Approval of Minutes, Presenter: Ben Blackburn, TCC Chair

Mr. Blackburn entertained a motion to approve the minutes of January 10, 2007 as presented. Mr. Martin stated that his first name was spelled incorrectly in the minutes and should be corrected to Wilce. Mrs. Roberts made a note of the change.

Mr. Webb made a motion to approve the minutes of January 10, 2007 with the name correction as presented with Mr. Krous seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Introduction of Guests, Presenter: Ben Blackburn, TCC Chair

There were no new guests.

5. Public Comment Period, Presenter: Ben Blackburn, TCC Chair

There were no public comments.

6. Gaston Urban Area MPO 2007-2008 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Presenter: Hank Graham, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner

Mr. Graham stated that attached in the agenda package is the proposed 2008 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Fiscal Year 2007-2008. The purpose of this document is to outline the tasks to be undertaken by MPO staff in the coming year and the amount of funding it will take to complete those tasks.

Mr. Graham stated that the total money in Table 1 represents the two grants received by the MPO each year. The finalized work program must be received by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) no later than June 1, 2007 and needs to be adopted at the March 27, 2007 TAC meeting. The due date for draft UPWP is May 1, 2007.

Mr. Graham continued by stating that NCDOT has authorized a PL funding allocation of \$250,022.00 with \$34,800 for the 5303 Transit Funds. Staff proposes to request authorization to use the un-obligated fund balance to complete many necessary work projects and the following are some of the projects and emphasis areas that have been identified for the upcoming year:

1. Update the Community Transportation Services Plan (CTSP),
2. Continue to strengthen and improve our regional transportation involvement,
3. Continue to work with the Gastonia Engineering Department to complete functional designs for thoroughfares on the Thoroughfare Plan,
4. Improve our Public Involvement/Participation and Environmental Justice efforts,
5. Complete a county-wide bicycle and pedestrian trail and greenway data base system,
6. Continue to coordinate with NCDOT to obtain funding of highest priority projects.

Mr. Webb asked about II-D-3, Special Studies, where there are activities currently underway such as the Belmont-Mt. Holly Loop and the Gastonia-Mt. Holly Connector corridor studies/functional designs and that additional functional designs will be pursued. He thought that functional designs should have been completed by now. Mr. Kiser stated that he would check with Felix Pruitt, City of Gastonia Director of Engineering, to see if these functional designs can be completed or would it be to our advantage to hire outside consultants.

Mr. Webb made a motion to approve the proposed 2007-2008 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with the understanding that the plan can be amended at a later date. Mr. Bolick seconded the motion with the motion passing unanimously.

7. Thoroughfare Plan Map Amendments, Presenter: Hank Graham, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner

Garden Parkway Name Change

Mr. Graham stated that in November, 2006, the North Carolina Turnpike Authority voted to change the name of the Gaston East-West Connector to the Garden Parkway and asked that in the spirit of conformity, that the TCC and TAC approve the amendment to the Gaston Urban Area Thoroughfare Plan Map for this name change.

Mr. Graham added that the original Gaston East-West Connector was split into two sections. One section was north of Dallas and that section today, with approving this amendment, will be known as the 321 Bypass. The other section is the Garden Parkway which will connect from I-85 to I-485.

Southridge Parkway Extension – Functional Design

Mr. Graham stated that this map amendment to the Gaston Urban Area Thoroughfare Plan involves the addition and inclusion of Southridge Drive. NCDOT has completed a functional design for Southridge Drive in Bessemer City for the Southridge Industrial Park and the Dole Plant. Mr. Graham added that there have been discussions to extend the Southridge Parkway into Bessemer City proper, but there is no funding at

this time, but that it could be added to the Thoroughfare Plan as an unfunded project. Mr. Bolick stated that this extension would make this area more attractive and functional. He added that the county would not consider building this extension this year.

Mr. Blackburn entertained a motion to approve the Garden Parkway name change and the Southridge Parkway Extension functional design. Mr. Kiser made a motion to approve with Mr. Miller seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Methodology for Funding – Use of Transportation Planning Funds (104F Grant Monies), Presenter: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I

Mr. Yacobucci stated that MPO staff is currently developing a methodology for the use of Planning (PL) 104F Funds. Additional criteria would involve projects having greater weight if local governments contribute more than the required minimum match along with a possible sub-allocation policy for locally based transportation planning projects using sub-allocated Planning Funds as prescribed in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Mr. Kiser stated that there needs to be a minimum and maximum for a project in any given year. Mr. Holder added that each project should be evaluated on its own merit.

Mr. Blackburn asked members if they have any comments to please direct them to Mr. Yacobucci.

Mr. Yacobucci added that there are draft guidelines attached for review in the agenda package.

9. Adopted 07-13 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Presenter: Randi A. Philbeck, Transportation Planner I

Ms. Philbeck stated that the 2007-2013 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) was adopted by the NCDOT Board of Transportation on March 1, 2007. Presently, NCDOT has put one more project, Southridge Parkway, into the STIP since staff mailed out the agenda. There is also one change in Project - 5007, Milepost 24 to Milepost 27 – a pavement rehabilitation based on priority needs and this project will be added with construction in FY 07.

Mr. Blackburn entertained a motion to adopt 07-13 State Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Krouse made a motion to approve with Mr. Webb seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. County-wide/MPO-wide Greenway Plan, Presenter: Randi A. Philbeck, Transportation Planner I

Ms. Philbeck stated that there will be a joint meeting of the Gaston MPO Bicycle/ Pedestrian Facilities Committee and the Gaston 2012 Quality of Life Committee on Thursday, March 22nd at 6:00 pm in the Elm Room at Gaston Memorial Hospital. The purpose of the meeting will be to get an update of where the local municipalities are with their greenway planning, to look at inter-municipality connections, and when these connections could possibly be made.

11. Draft Franklin Blvd. Corridor Plan Concept, Presenter: Hank Graham, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner

Mr. Graham stated that the handout presented in the agenda is of the draft conceptual designs for the proposed Franklin Boulevard Corridor Study. It is for information and discussion only.

12. New Business

13. Other Business

- a) Gastonia Express 85-X Ridership Report. The report for January shows ridership of 5,094, an increase of 299 riders since January, 2006, an increase of 2,004 riders since 2006, an increase of 3,261 riders since January 2004, and an increase of 3,151 riders since January 2005.
- b) Gastonia Transit Expansion Study – Update – The kickoff meeting was on January 20, 2007. A draft transit expansion survey is attached for review.
- c) Gaston County Freight Study Kick-off – the working group will hold its kickoff meeting on March 21, 2007 in the Garland Center, Room 131.
- d) Gaston MPO Site Plan Review Reminder – Ms. Philbeck urged all members of local governments to allow the Gaston MPO staff the opportunity to review development proposals in order to protect the necessary rights-of-ways for those thoroughfares designated on the adopted Thoroughfare Plan.

14. Adjournment

There being no other business, Mr. Krouse made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Mr. Miller seconding the motion, and the meeting was adjourned unanimously at 1:25 pm

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Agenda Item # 6

To: TCC Members
From: Loretta Barren, Community Planner, FHWA
Date: May 9, 2007
Subject: SAFETEA-LU: Final Statewide and Metropolitan Planning Rule

Background

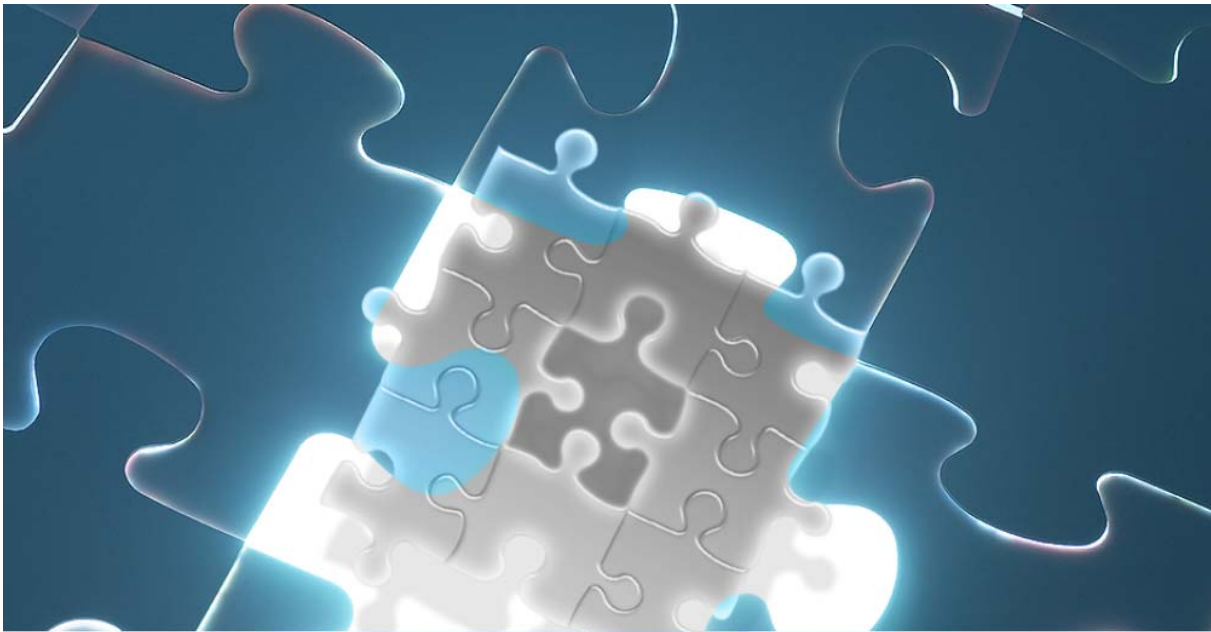
Ms. Barren will present a brief overview of the SAFETEA-LU regulations and their impacts on the MPO planning process, including:

- Planning Factors
- Participation Plans
- Interested Parties
- Consultation
- Environmental Mitigation
- Congestion
- Financial
- Amendments and Modifications
- Implementation

Staff Recommendation

Information Only.

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SAFETEA-LU: Final Statewide and Metropolitan Planning Rule

Federal Highway Administration - North Carolina



Overview

- Planning Factors
- Participation Plans
- Interested Parties
- Consultation
- Environmental Mitigation
- Congestion
- Financial
- Amendments and Modifications
- Implementation



Planning Factors: Safety and Security

- Focus on mobility and safety
 - Increase the safety of motorized and non-motorized users
- Incorporate provisions of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP)
- Increase security of the transportation system



Planning Factors: Land Use

- Promote consistency of plans with state and local planned growth
- MPO and NCDOT need to coordinate and streamline transportation and land use planning



Participation Plans

- Shall be developed in consultation with interested parties
- Provide adequate, & timely public notice and reasonable access to information
- Hold meetings at convenient and accessible locations & times
- Employ visualization techniques
- Electronic availability



Interested Parties

- Representatives of users of pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities, representatives of the disabled, freight shippers and providers, rep. public transportation employees, private providers of transportation, affected public agencies, and other interested parties.



Consultation

- MPO and State LRTPs shall be developed in consultation with State, tribal and local agencies responsible for:
 - Land Use Management
 - Natural Resources
 - Conservation
 - Historic Preservation
- A comparison of agency plans is required, if available



Environmental Mitigation

- LRTPs shall include a discussion of potential mitigation activities and potential areas to carry out these activities, including those with potential to restore and maintain the environmental function of the areas affected.
- The discussion shall be developed in consultation with State, Federal, tribal, land management, wildlife and regulatory agencies.
- The discussion may focus on policies, programs or strategies



Congestion

- National initiative to address congestion
- Congestion Management Process (CMP) is required in TMAs
- Operational technologies for capacity
- Implement strategies to address the growing needs of freight



Financial

- STIP/TIP has increased from a 2-year to a 4-year program or document
- Inflation rate(s) to reflect “year of expenditure dollars”
- Projects over \$500m will provide annual project management and financial plans to the Secretary



Implementation

- Air Quality Conformity shall be updated every 4 years with the Plan/TIP
- LRTP updated every 4 or 5 years
- Certification Review (for TMAs only) every 4 years
- Self-Certification every 4 years (unless designated otherwise by the Secretary)



Amendments and Modifications

- Administrative Modifications will be allowed after July 1, 2007, but major new project Amendments will not
 - **Administrative Modifications**- Minor funding or description changes
 - **Amendments**- Major project additions/deletions, project cost increases that affect fiscal constraint, moving projects across LRTP horizon years

SAFETEA-LU LRTP, TIP/STIP, & Conformity Implications

Key Issues/Actions:

- FHWA must make a STIP finding for all areas by 6/30/07 (for project approvals good through 9/30/08-depending on circumstances FHWA can extend the STIP approval for 180 days (beyond the 9/30/07 date)).
- For the AQ areas (i.e., Metrolina and Triangle) we will need to consider a contingency strategy if for some reason we see that an LRTP amendment/conformity determination will not be completed before 6/30/07. The contingency strategy will consist of not doing a LRTP amendment and move forward with a STIP/TIP that is a subset of the current conforming LRTP (this would require excluding any project that is not consistent with the current conforming LRTP). Steps for accomplishing this are:
 - Inform Interagency consultation partners of this approach and seek concurrence
 - MPO resolution adopting this approach (optional)
 - Make sure this approach is included in the public review and comment period
 - The rest of the process is identified in the conformity process schedule.

After July 1, 2007

- No STIP/TIP/LRTP amendments* will be allowed after June 30, 2007 until SAFETEA-LU compliant LRTP updates are completed. LRTPs are in a “planning freeze”, meaning no changes (moving projects across horizon years) can be made to the document until a new SAFETEA-LU compliant LRTP is updated.
- 2009-2015 STIP can be approved providing there is consistency with projects in approved LRTPs (TEA-21).

Options after October 1, 2008:

- Extend (up to 180 days) the 2007-2013 STIP

*Amendments vs. Administrative Modifications

- **Any amendments or updates** to long-range statewide transportation plans, STIPs, metropolitan transportation plans, or TIPs on or after July 1, 2007 shall be based on the provisions and requirements of the Final Rule (SAFETEA-LU).
- **Examples of Amendments:**
 - any additions or deletions to major (regionally significant type) projects listed in first 3 years of STIP.
 - significant project cost increases (that affect overall fiscal constraint). Changes that affect fiscal constraint must take place by amendment of the STIP (450.216(n))
 - moving of projects from years 1-3 to years 4+ or vice versa
 - moving projects across LRTP horizon years
- **Administrative modifications** may be made to long-range statewide transportation plans, STIPs, metropolitan transportation plans, or TIPs on or after July 1, 2007 without meeting Final Rule requirements (SAFETEA-LU).
- **Examples of Administrative Modifications:**
 - any changes to projects listed in STIP year 4 and later
 - administrative changes/corrections to projects listed in first 3 years of STIP, such as minor project description changes
 - minor funding changes to a project

** These examples are intended to serve as a guide to decision-making. Any specific project changes where there is uncertainty (whether it's considered an amendment or modification) will be discussed on a case by case basis.

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Agenda Item # 7

To: TCC Members
From: Hank Graham, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner
Date: May 9, 2007
Subject: Resolution requesting funding for the purchase of two ADA lift vans in FY 2008

Background

Gastonia Transit programmed the replacement of 2 new ADA lift vans. The 2007-2013 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) has been amended to include add these vans. The attached resolution is required to facilitate the appropriation of these funds from the Federal Transit Administration and NCDOT.

ID No.	System	Description	Funding	FFY
TA-4986	Gastonia Transit	2 ADA lift vans	FUZ \$87,150	2008
			STAT \$8,400	
			L \$9,450	
			Total \$105,000	

This endorsement request from the TCC and TAC is necessary for Gastonia Transit to receive the above referenced funding allocation from FTA and NCDOT for purchasing two additional ADA lift vans in FY 2008.

Staff Recommendation

Recommend approval of attached resolution to TAC.

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RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE GASTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION'S (MPO) METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (MTIP) TO INCLUDE GASTONIA TRANSIT'S PURCHASE OF TWO ADA LIFT VANS IN FY 2008.

WHEREAS, the City of Gastonia has expressed the need to replace/expand its ADA van fleet in Fiscal Year 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is currently conducting a transit expansion study which will include possible future improvements and expansions; and

WHEREAS, the benefits to be realized from implementing this project include: Greater mobility for physically disabled residents and employees of Gaston County; and,

WHEREAS, Gastonia Transit maintains its fleet in conformance with Federal Guidelines by replacing dated fleet vehicles in a timely manner thus reducing vehicle emissions for the Charlotte region; and,

WHEREAS, it is officially recognized that state funding is limited for both highway and transit projects and this project has already been added as a funded project to the 2007-2013 STIP; and,

WHEREAS, Gastonia Transit will use the following funding table for project implementation:

Gaston Urban Area 2007 MTIP Amendment

ID No.	System	Description	Funding	FFY
TA-4986	Gastonia Transit	2 ADA lift vans	FUZ \$87,150 STAT \$8,400 L \$9,450 Total \$105,000	2008

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE **TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE** AT ITS MEETING ON **MAY 22, 2007** THAT:

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

ADOPTED THIS **22nd** DAY OF **MAY, 2007**.

Gaston MPO Chair

Witness

North Carolina
Gaston County

I, **Cathleen L. Roberts**, a Notary Public for said County and State, do hereby certify that **Jim Long** personally appeared before me on this the 22nd day of May 2007, and acknowledge the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 22nd day of May 2007.

Cathleen L. Roberts
Notary Public



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Agenda Item # 8

To: TCC Members
From: Randi A. Philbeck, Transportation Planner I
Date: May 9, 2007
Subject: 8-Hour Ozone Conformity Analysis and Determination Report

Background

Based on the results of the analysis described in this report, the 2030 Long-Range Transportation Plans (LRTPs) for CRMPO, GUAMPO, and MUMPO, and their latest, respective Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) conform to the purpose of the North Carolina State Implementation Plan (SIP) (or interim emissions test, in areas there no State Implementation Plan is approved or found adequate by EPA). This transportation conformity determination is supported by the following findings:

- The Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-2013 TIP is a direct subset of the conforming 2030 LRTPs.
- Each LRTP has a 20-year planning horizon.
- The conformity determinations for the RPOs (donut areas) were made by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). NCDOT concluded that the projects in the donut areas included in the FY 2007-2013 TIP conform to the purpose of the North Carolina SIP (or interim emissions test, in areas where no State Implementation Plan is approved or found adequate by EPA).

The reports have been made available for public comment for thirty days (April 3, 2007 thru May 3, 2007).

Staff Recommendation

Recommend Approval to TAC.

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Agenda Item # 9

To: TCC Members
From: Randi A. Philbeck, Transportation Planner I
Date: May 9, 2007
Subject: Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Updates

Background

Periodically, as needs and conditions change, it becomes necessary to amend the LRTPs. The Gaston MPO, along with others, are taking this opportunity to analyze the transportation conformity implications of the FY 2007-2013 TIP adopted by the North Carolina Board of Transportation on March 1, 2007. The changes in the FY 2007-2013 TIP significant to conformity are that seven projects in the region will be rescheduled from the 2010 horizon year to the 2020 horizon year and one project will be rescheduled from the 2030 horizon year to the 2020 horizon year. Four of these projects are regionally significant and/or federally funded. These changes warrant reevaluation and reaffirmation of the transportation conformity determination.

Gaston Urban Area MPO Projects

TIP Project U-4915 in Bessemer City was rescheduled by the North Carolina Board of Transportation to occur after 2010. The project is now scheduled to be completed by 2020. The project is located off SR 1307 (Edgewood Road). The road will be widened to three lanes.

Staff Recommendation

Recommend approval to TAC.

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**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE AMENDED 2030 LONG RANGE
TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR THE GASTON URBAN AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

WHEREAS, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) requires all Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to develop and maintain a Long Range Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Long Range Transportation Plan must address all modes of transportation in an urban area, have a horizon year of at least 20 years, and be financially constrained (23 CFR Part 450.322); and

WHEREAS, the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan as amended for the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (GUAMPO) has been found to be in conformance with the State Implementation Plan (or interim emissions tests in areas where no SIP has been approved or found adequate) for air quality in accordance with 40 CFR 51 & 93; and

WHEREAS, the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan and the Conformity Analysis and Determination Report as amended for GUAMPO is based on the latest planning assumptions and transportation demand model with a horizon year of 2030; and

WHEREAS, the GUAMPO 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan and the Conformity Analysis and Determination Report as amended were reviewed by the general public in accordance with the GUAMPO Public Participation Policy and requires all written and verbal commentary regarding the above referenced documents be documented in the final appendix sections of each; and

WHEREAS, this adoption is made contingent pending comments on the amended GUAMPO 2030 LRTP and Conformity Analysis and Determination Report are adequately addressed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Transportation Advisory Committee of the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization approves the amended 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Jim Long, Chair, Transportation Advisory Committee
Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

ATTESTED:

James H. Graham, Jr. AICP, Principal Transportation Planner
Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

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 **Jim Long** personally appeared before me on this the 22nd day of May, 2007, and acknowledge the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 22nd day of May, 2007.

Cathleen L. Roberts
Notary Public

RESOLUTION FINDING CONFORMITY OF THE 2030 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR THE GASTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (GUAMPO)

WHEREAS, the amended 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan for the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (GUAMPO) is consistent with the motor vehicle emissions budgets in an area where the applicable implementation plan contains a budget (40 CFR Part 93.118) or interim emissions tests in areas where no SIP has been approved or found adequate (40 CFR Part 93.119); and

WHEREAS, there are no remaining transportation control measures to be completed from the applicable implementation plan (40 CFR Part 113b); and

WHEREAS, GUAMPO has made this conformity determination according to the consultation procedures of 40 CFR 93.105 and the implementation plan revision required by 40 CFR Part 93.390 (4 CFR Part 416); and

WHEREAS, the conformity determination is based on the latest emissions model available; and

WHEREAS, the conformity determination is based on the latest planning assumptions (40 CFR Part 93.110); and

WHEREAS, this conformity finding is made contingent pending all comments of the draft conformity determination report being addressed by GUAMPO.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Transportation Advisory Committee of the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby finds that based on the regional emissions analysis test the amended 2030 Gaston MPO Long Range Transportation Plan conforms to the purpose of the North Carolina State Implementation Plan (or interim emissions tests for areas where no SIP has been approved or found adequate) in accordance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Jim Long, Chair, Transportation Advisory Committee
Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

ATTESTED:

James H. Graham, Jr. AICP, Principal Transportation Planner
Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

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 **Jim Long** personally appeared before me on this the 22nd day of May, 2007, and acknowledge the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 22nd day of May, 2007.

Cathleen L. Roberts
Notary Public



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Agenda Item # 10

To: TCC Members
From: Randi A. Philbeck, Transportation Planner I
Date: May 9, 2007
Subject: 2007-2013 Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program

Background

At the March 27th meeting of the TAC, a resolution was signed adopting the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program and its supporting Funding Table for FY 07-13, along with the 07-13 State Transportation Improvement Program and its supporting Funding Table. A minor amendment to this resolution is needed.

It is also necessary at this time for a resolution finding conformity of the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization FY 2007-2013 Transportation Improvement Program.

Staff Recommendation

Recommend Approval to TAC.

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AMENDED RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE GASTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND ITS SUPPORTING FUNDING TABLE AND THE STATE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND ITS SUPPORTING FUNDING TABLE FOR FY 2007-2013 IN CONFORMITY WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN OR INTERIM EMISSIONS IN AREAS WHERE NO SIP HAS BEEN APPROVED OR FOUND ADEQUATE

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

WHEREAS, the Transportation Advisory Committee has found that the Metropolitan Planning Organization is conducting transportation planning in a continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive manner in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 1607 and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Advisory Committee has found that the Transportation Improvement Program conforms to the purpose of the North Carolina State Implementation Plan (or interim emissions tests in areas where no SIP has been approved or found adequate) for maintaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards in accordance with 40 CFR 51 and 93; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Advisory Committee has found the Transportation Improvement Program to be in full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Title VI Assurance executed by each State under 23 U.S.C. 324 and 29 U.S.C. 794; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Advisory Committee has considered how the Transportation Improvement Program will affect the involvement of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in the FHWA and the FTA funded projects (Sec. 105 (f), Pub. L. 97-424, 96 Stat. 2100, 49 CFR part 23); and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Advisory Committee has considered how the Transportation Improvement Program will affect the elderly and the disabled per the provision of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-336, 104 Stat. 327, as amended) and the U.S. DOT implementing regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program is a direct subset of the amended Gaston Urban Area *2030 Long Range Transportation Plan*; and

WHEREAS, the amended Long Range Transportation Plan has a planning horizon year of 2030, and meets all the requirements for an adequate Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Advisory Committee has solicited both public and private transportation provider comment; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Transportation Advisory Committee of the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization adopts the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program and its supporting Funding Table and the State Transportation Improvement Program and its supporting Funding Table for FY 2007-2013 in conformity with the North Carolina State Implementation Plan (or interim emissions tests in areas where no SIP has been approved or found adequate).

Jim Long, Chair, Transportation Advisory Committee
Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

ATTESTED:

James H. Graham, Jr. AICP, Principal Transportation Planner
Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

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 **Jim Long** personally appeared before me on this the 27th day of March, 2007, and acknowledge the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 27th day of March, 2007.

Cathleen L. Roberts
Notary Public

**RESOLUTION FINDING CONFORMITY OF THE GASTON URBAN
AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (GUAMPO)
FY 2007-2013 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the GUAMPO FY 2007-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is consistent with the 2030 GUAMPO Long Range Transportation Plan such that the regional emissions analysis performed for the 2030 Long Range Transportation applies to the FY 2007-2013 TIP; and

WHEREAS, the GUAMPO FY 2007-2013 TIP contains all projects which must be started in the TIP's time frame to implement the highway and transit system envisioned by the 2030 GUAMPO Long Range Transportation Plan in each of the horizon years; and

WHEREAS, all Federally funded TIP projects which are regionally significant are part of the specific highway and transit system envisioned in the GUAMPO 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan horizon years; and

WHEREAS, the design concept and scope of each regionally significant project identified in the TIP is not significantly different than that described in the 2030 GUAMPO Long Range Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the GUAMPO 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan and the Conformity Analysis and Determination Report were reviewed by the general public in accordance with the GUAMPO Public Participation Policy, and requires all written and verbal commentary regarding the above referenced documents be documented in the final appendix sections of each; and

WHEREAS, this adoption is made contingent pending all comments on the 2030 LRTP and Conformity Analysis and Determination Report are addressed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Transportation Advisory Committee of the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby finds that the FY 2007-2013 TIP is a subset of the 2030 GUAMPO Long Range Transportation Plan. The TIP meets the conditions listed above and conforms to the purpose of the State Implementation Plan for maintenance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards in accordance with 40 CFR 51 & 93.

Jim Long, Chair, Transportation Advisory Committee
Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

ATTESTED:

James H. Graham, Jr. AICP, Principal Transportation Planner
Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

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 **Jim Long** personally appeared before me on this the 22nd day of May, 2007, and acknowledge the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 22nd day of May, 2007.

Cathleen L. Roberts
Notary Public



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Agenda Item # 11

To: TCC Members
From: Hank Graham, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner
Date: May 9, 2007
Subject: Modification to Gaston MPO Boundary

Background

Gaston County has requested that MPO staff look at changing the boundary of the Gaston Urban Area. The current boundary mirrors the 2000 US Census designation of urbanized area in Gaston County. However, for funding distribution purposes, countywide and regional transportation planning efforts would benefit significantly by having the entire county incorporated into the MPO boundary.

Staff Recommendation

Information and Discussion only.

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Agenda Item # 12

To: TCC Members
From: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I
Date: May 9, 2007
Subject: Regional Commuting Report

Background

Currently, there is no regular reporting of commuting times between outlying parts of the region to Uptown Charlotte and other major employment centers. Typical reports elsewhere in the country use Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) congestion index reports, travel demand model household travel behavior surveys, Census journey to work data, or derived travel times via VMT and V/C ratios. The process envisioned for this region would be much more specific because it collects data on actual commutes, with the local bottlenecks and other quirks reflected in the times. This project will provide a number of benefits for the participating partners. First, it will provide name recognition for each of the transportation planning agencies, particularly in terms of providing information to the public about the transportation system that is not otherwise available to them. It will provide input into other planning efforts using real-world, real-time data, and may provide some “groundtruthing” to modeled data. By providing information about commute times from various locations, it provides timely and relevant information that can be used for reducing congestion. GAUMPO’s contribution to this study will be \$ 2,500.00.

Staff Recommendation

Recommend Approval to TAC.

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Agenda Item # 13

To: TCC Members
From: Hank Graham, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner
Date: May 9, 2007
Subject: Purchase of Gaston County Freight Data

Background

The consultants hired to complete the Freight study for the Gaston MPO Area have informed MPO staff that additional detailed data exists that would significantly benefit Gaston County. This data was not part of the current study's scope. The cost for this detailed data is approximately \$15,000.00. Benefits would include actual instead of estimated assumption totals of freight traffic within and through Gaston County. This data is collected and assembled nationally from a private source.

Staff Recommendation

Recommend Approval to TAC.

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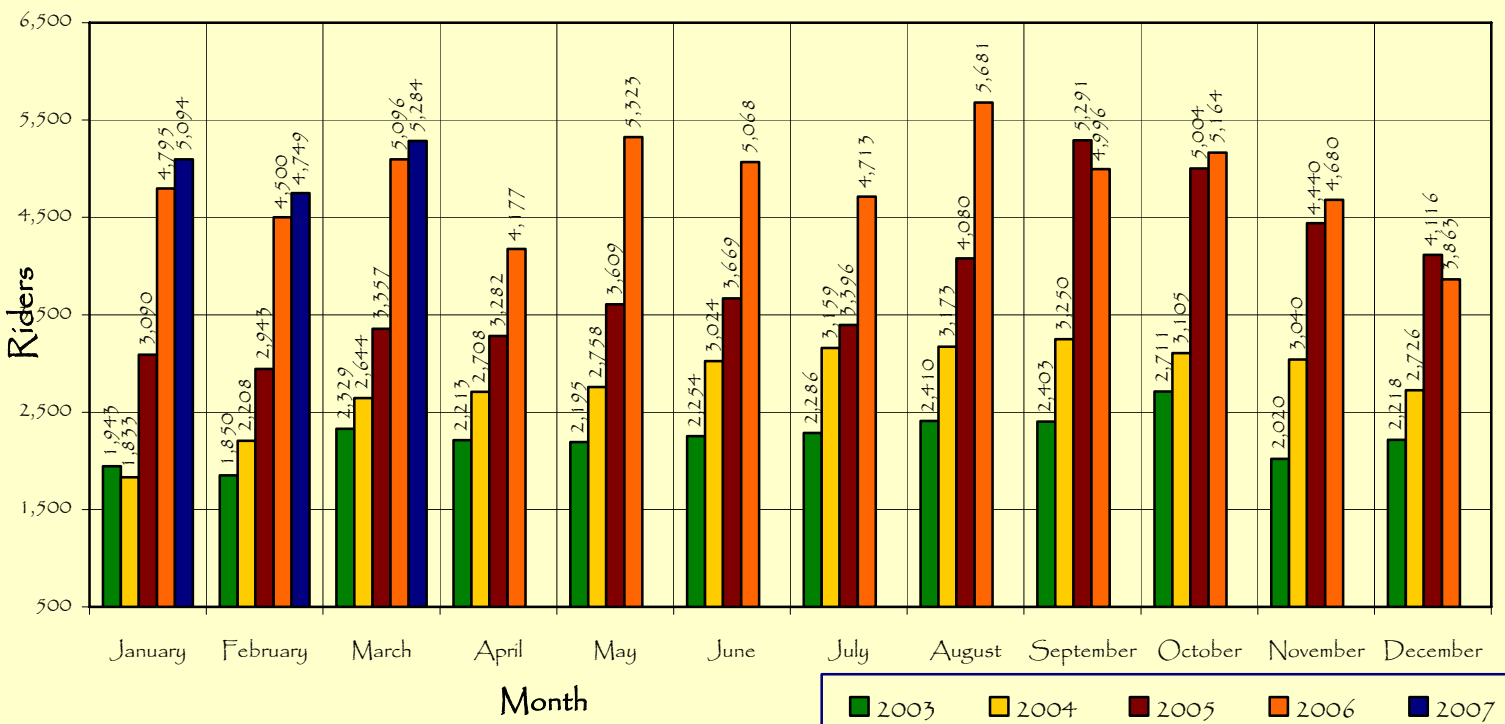
Other Business a)

To: TCC Members
From: Randi A. Philbeck, Transportation Planner I
Date: May 9, 2007
Subject: Gastonia Express 85-X Ridership Report

Background

MPO staff receives ridership totals for the Gastonia Express 85X bus service on a month-by-month basis.

Gastonia Express Ridership History



Staff Recommendation

Information only.

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Other Business b)

To: TCC Members
From: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I
Date: May 9, 2007
Subject: Gastonia Transit Expansion Study - Update

Background

A recent survey was conducted to assess needs for transit for the transit expansion study. Approximately 400 surveys were returned (240 riders / 157 non-riders). The surveys were collected at the ten branch libraries in Gaston County, on-board GT transit buses and at Bradley Station, local agencies and municipalities, and on-line. Some preliminary findings of the surveys will be discussed.

Staff Recommendation

Information and Discussion only.

Preliminary Results from Survey

Other key points from surveys:

- CATS Express Bus does not connect well with Gastonia Transit buses
- Current Gastonia Transit schedules can be confusing
- Riders are pleased with the quality of Gastonia Transit services
- A growing number of important destinations are outside of existing service area



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Other Business c)

To: TCC Members
From: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I
Date: May 9 2007
Subject: Gaston County Freight Study - Update

Background

The first working group meeting of the Freight Study was conducted on May 1, 2007. A report will be given regarding what was discussed at the meeting and the direction the working group is headed.

Staff Recommendation

Information and Discussion only.

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Other Business d)

To: TCC Members
From: Randi A. Philbeck, Transportation Planner I
Date: May 9, 2007
Subject: Ozone Awareness / Education Program

Background

May 1st kicked off Ozone Awareness season! As we all know, local air quality affects how we all live and breathe. As you may recall, as an Ozone Awareness/Education program, the Gaston MPO purchased fifty (50) sets of both orange and red flags, plus two mounting brackets for each set. With this program, these flags would need to be flown when the Air Quality Index (AQI) for Ozone reaches 101 or greater.

The Gaston MPO is still in need of your help to get these flags flying. We have not yet heard from some of the municipalities in our Urban Area. If possible, I need a designee from each local government, with access to email, to commit to flying the flags underneath existing flags on public property, on orange and red days. Those willing to participate will receive an email from EPA the afternoon/evening prior to a forecasted orange or red day.

We are having trouble getting this program up and running. If you know of any flag locations in your municipality (public or private) that would be willing to participate in this exciting new program, please let Gaston MPO staff know ASAP. If you would send me contact information, I will make sure that these agencies are signed up with EPA to receive these alerts. And remember, ozone season began on May 1st, so we need to push forward with this program quickly! I will be sure to provide you with the flag sets, and other public information that you may need.

Staff Recommendation

Information and Discussion only.