

AGENDA

*The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) of the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization will meet **Wednesday, November 5, 2008**, 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

Review and adopt the minutes from the regularly scheduled meeting of September 10, 2008.

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. Approve Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Projects, Presenter: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I

The new guidelines for CMAQ projects were sent out to the TCC and TAC on October 3, 2008. Project proposals will be voted on by the TCC.

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommend Approval of the CMAQ projects to the TAC.

7. Multimodal Study Update, Presenter: Hank Graham, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner

A total of nine qualifications packages were submitted for consideration implementation of a Multi-modal Transportation *Site Suitability and Conceptual Design Study* – Gastonia, North Carolina. After review of the submitted packages a selection committee scheduled four firms/teams for interviews.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information and Discussion Only.

8. Safe Routes to School, Presenter: Hank Graham, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner

The funding available through North Carolina's Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program will facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity of schools. Applications will be accepted until January 30.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information and Discussion Only.

9. New Business

10. Other Business

- a) Gastonia Express 85-X Ridership Report.
- b) 2009 MPO Monthly Meeting Planner

11. 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 respecti

**MINUTES
GASTON URBAN AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (GUAMPO)
TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TCC)
REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2008**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC) was held **Wednesday, September 10, 2008**, at the Market Street Buffet and Bakery, 2525 S. York Street, Gastonia, NC.

Members Present:

Ben Blackburn	City of Lowell, City Manager, TCC Chair
Bob Greback	Town of Stanley, Town Manager
Jack Kiser	City of Gastonia, Director of Planning
Danny Jackson	City of Mt. Holly, Assistant City Manager
Debby Key	City of Gastonia, Director of Fleet Services
David Kahler	Town of Dallas, Community Dev. Administrator
David Williams	Gaston County, Director of Planning
Chuck Webb	Town Coordinator, Town of Ranlo
Sam Nichols	NCDOT, Division 12 Traffic Engineer
Shannon Ransom	NCDOT, Gaston MPO Coordinator

Staff present:

Bernie Yacobucci	Gaston MPO, Transportation Planner I
Cass Roberts	Gaston MPO, Administrative Assistant III

Others present:

Scott Attaway	Planner, City of Lowell
Brian DuPont	Planner, City of Mount Holly
Bill Gray	Carolina Central Rwy. Div., President

Members with absences in 2008:

Town of McAdenville	(Jan., Mar., May, Sept. - 4)
Town of Spencer Mountain	(Jan., Mar., May, Sept. - 4)
Town of Ranlo	(Jan., Mar., May - 3)
Town of Stanley	(Jan., Mar. - 2)
Town of Dallas	(Jan. - 1)
Town of Cramerton	(May - 1, Sept. - 2)
City of Bessemer City	(May, Sept. - 2)

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

Mr. Blackburn asked if there were any new business items or any additions to include in the agenda. There were none.

Mr. Kiser made a motion to set the agenda as presented. Mr. Kahler seconded the motion and 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 May 14, 2008 as presented.

Mr. Kayler made a motion to approve the minutes of May 14, 2008 as presented with Mr. Jackson seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Blackburn asked that guests and others introduce themselves. Mr. Bill Gray from the Carolina Central Railway Division was present for any questions that would arise about the P&N Railway Division. Mr. Blackburn introduced Scott Attaway, new Planning Director for the City of Lowell. Mr. Jackson introduced Brian DuPont, new planner for the City of Mount Holly. Mr. Jackson stated that Mr. DuPont would be attending the TCC meetings.

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

There were no public comments at this time.

6. Gaston Urban Area MPO 2035 LRTP Project List, Presenter: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I

Mr. Yacobucci stated that the metropolitan planning statutes state that a Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) must list projects and programs and the plan must include a financial plan that indicates resources from public and private sources that are reasonably expected to be available to carry out the program. With the current LRTP update, MPO staff has developed the revised project list that was initially presented at the May 14, 2008 TCC meeting.

Mr. Yacobucci referred to the chart in the agenda package entitled DRAFT Project List for 2035 LRTP. The Project ID, the Facility Name and Description as well as the TAC Ranking, the 2015 Cost Estimates, the 2025 Cost Estimates and the 2035 Cost Estimates for projects were listed with the designation of whether each project was unfunded, funded in 2015, funded in 2025, and funded in 2035. In addition, each project was categorized as Regionally Significant and Fiscally Constrained. Mr. Yacobucci stated that in addition, he calculated what it would cost to finance the unfunded projects in the TIP.

Mr. Yacobucci pointed out the attached charts which showed the Funded LRTP Project Costs vs. Projected Revenue, and All Project Costs vs. All Revenue.

Mr. Yacobucci invited any questions or comments.

Mr. Williams stated that Gaston County is currently working with the RPO in updating their project lists.

Mrs. Key asked Mr. Yacobucci where the Transit projects on the Draft Project List are coming from and how does he calculate their costs in future years? Mr. Yacobucci said that the projects come from the TIP and that the costs are calculated at a 5% annual rate not compounded. Since he was not sure how the inflation rate would increase the projected revenue, he did not compound the inflation rate.

Mrs. Key was concerned that Project, TA4925, for the Expansion Bus, would never come to fruition as the Expansion Bus project has been nixed and for the purposes of computing costs, it was never going to be a reality and should not be on this Project List, at least for the target year 2015 but could remain in the target year 2025.

Mr. Blackburn stated that if there are no other questions or comments, the TCC is directed to recommend to the TAC the DRAFT Project List for 2035 LRTP.

Mrs. Key's made a motion to approve the DRAFT Project List for 2035 with the change to keep Project TA4925, Expansion Bus in the 2025 target year listing but removing it from 2015 target year listing. Mr. Greback seconded the motion. Mr. Blackburn asked for discussion.

Mr. Kiser stated that the Expansion Bus project is not in favor now but sentiments can change in the future toward it. If this should happen, the TIP would have to be amended at that future time. He pointed out that just because a project is listed in the TIP, it doesn't mean that we have an obligation to implement it. Mr. Kiser was also concerned that the action of taking this item out of the TIP for the target year 2015 may in some way affect our Air Quality status. Our Air Quality model is going to be redone before 2015 and if it passes, it will be more than likely by a "hair."

Mrs. Key stated that because of the potential impact to our Air Quality of removing the Expansion Bus project from the target year 2015, she amended her motion.

Mrs. Key made an amended motion to approve the DRAFT Project List for the 2035 LRTP as presented. Mr. Greback seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

7. Garden Parkway Funding: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I

Mr. Yacobucci stated that NC House Bill 2436 was approved by the North Carolina State Legislature to fund Garden Parkway construction. In summary, effective July 1,

2010, thirty-five (35) million dollars of the Highway Trust Fund will be allocated annually to pay debt service or related finances for revenue bonds or notes used for the Garden Parkway.

Mr. Kiser stated that he heard of some efforts “under the currents” for funding which would go as high as fifty (50) million dollars but yet there is no concrete funding source at this time. There have also been some concerns raised in Gastonia for the Parkway to stop at 321 as opposed to going all the way up to I-85. Stopping the Garden Parkway at 321 creates more traffic coming through the City of Gastonia to get to I-85 and does not provide bypass function.

There were no other questions or comment. Mr. Blackburn stated that no action is needed as this item was for Information and discussion only.

8. CMAQ Process, Presenter: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I

Mr. Yacobucci stated that in light of the issues encountered implementing the CMAQ (Congestion Management Air Quality) program over the last few years, NCDOT wishes to modify the current methodology to improve its functionality and align better with the goals and missions of both the CMAQ program and NCDOT.

Some of the main changes for the proposed CMAQ methodology include the following:

- a. All projects will be subject to a minimum project threshold equal to \$250,000.
- b. Allocating funds region-wide vs. allocating funds to individual MPOs or RPOs.
- c. Prioritizing our projects based on region-wide criteria.

Mr. Yacobucci pointed out that our area is over-extended around two and one half (1.5) million dollars in CMAQ funding. He was not sure of all of the reasons but he stated that he has been in contact with Terry Arellano of the NCDOT/Transportation Planning Branch to find out. He believed our over-extension concerns previous CMAQ funds for a signal system and that the City of Gastonia did not match those funds at that time but did match those funds at a later time. Mr. Yacobucci added that he will find out the reasons and will report back to the TCC with the information.

There were no other questions or comments. Mr. Blackburn stated that this item is for information and discussion only.

9. New Business

10. Other Business

- a) Gastonia Express 85-X Ridership Report. Mr. Yacobucci stated that ridership still continues to climb monthly.
- b) 2008 North Carolina Association of MPO’s Conference – New Bern, NC – Mr. Yacobucci stated that there is a registration form in the agenda package for any members interested in attending the conference from November 12 through 14, 2008.
- c) Gaston Urban Area MPO Newsletter – Mr. Yacobucci stated that MPO staff

recently completed the first quarterly newsletter of activities. The newsletter is part of the agenda package for the TCC to review.

11. Adjournment

There being no other business to discuss, Mr. Blackburn entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Williams made a motion to adjourn the TCC meeting with Mr. Jackson seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.



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 # 6

To: TCC Members
From: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I
Date: November 5, 2008
Subject: Approve Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Projects (CMAQ)

Background

The CMAQ process has been revised to coincide with the development of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The 2011-2017 STIP is currently in project development with a Draft STIP target date of June 2009.

Proposed CMAQ projects that are to be included in the 2011-2017 STIP are due at the Transportation Planning Board by early December and must be endorsed by the Gaston MPO for consideration.

Therefore, CMAQ projects must be approved by the TCC on November 5 and the TAC on November 18.

Any CMAQ projects submitted will be voted on at this time.

Staff Recommendation

Recommend Approval of the CMAQ project list to the TAC.

Agenda Item # 7

To: TCC Members
From: Hank Graham, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner
Date: November 5, 2008
Subject: Multimodal Study Update

Background

A total of nine qualifications packages were submitted for consideration implementation of a Multi-modal Transportation *Site Suitability and Conceptual Design Study* – Gastonia, North Carolina. After review of the submitted packages a selection committee scheduled four firms/teams for interviews. The four firms included:

1. HDR
2. Louis Berger Group
3. Moser Mayer Phoenix, and
4. Parson Brinckerhoff.

The four interviews were conducted during the week of September 15-19, 2008. After conducting four presentation interviews the selection committee decided to enter into contractual agreement discussions with the HDR firm/team. HDR presented a detailed proposal process which included a major site plan design charette and the creation of a technical steering committee and the creation of a long term site plan that could be implemented incrementally over time.

DRAFT PROJECT SCOPE OF WORK

Task 1: Define Guiding Principles and Conceptual Program

1.1: Collect and review pertinent data

1.2: Establish study Technical Committee and hold kick-off meeting

Establish a Technical Committee that includes representatives of various local and state interests in the project. This committee will meet three to four times during the course of the project to provide input and feedback to the consultant team, and review study products. Draft Technical Committee roster may include but not be limited to the following:

- City of Gastonia Planning / Gaston Urban Area MPO, Fleet Services / Transit Division, Engineering / Land Development Division, Engineering / Traffic

- Engineering Division, Public Works & Utilities Department, Neighborhood Resources, and Downtown Development Corporation
- Gaston County Central Transportation (ACCESS)
 - Gaston County Economic Development Corporation
 - Gaston County Planning
 - North Carolina DOT / Public Transportation Division, and
 - North Carolina DOT / Rail Division.

1.3: Determine space and operational needs

- A. *Transportation functions* - The following public transportation functions are anticipated at the Multimodal Center:
- Gastonia Transit (as a downtown transfer facility);
 - Gaston County ACCESS (potential transfer point);
 - Greyhound;
 - Amtrak;
 - Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS) express bus service;
 - Potential future commuter rail to Charlotte;
 - Potential future high speed rail service; and
 - Potential bus rapid transit service.
- B. *Non-transportation functions*
Potential complementary (non-transportation) functions will be considered: 1) Gaston College Downtown Center, 2) Farmers Market, 3) Chamber of Commerce headquarters, and 4) Other civic uses.

1.4: Identify rail alignment constraints

1.5: Conduct half-day planning charrette/workshop

A planning charrette/workshop is intended to gather a broader base of stakeholders than the Technical Committee to provide input for the design of the site Master Plan and architectural concepts. The intent of the charrette/workshop is to better define the vision and goals for the project, including desired site elements and uses, context and scale of the buildings, and relationships to surrounding parcels.

The charrette is intended for a group of targeted stakeholders, although the representation should be diverse. The list of invitees will be fully discussed with the City, but could include representatives from the following:

- Technical staff from City, County, MPO, and NCDOT;
- Transit agency representatives;
- Elected officials;
- Local developers;

- Chamber of Commerce / Economic Development;
- Downtown / area business owners;
- Neighborhood groups;
- Transit users;
- Local churches, Historical societies, Advocacy organizations, Schools / Gaston College;
and
- Civic / social groups (Rotary, Women’s Clubs, etc.).

1.6: Create guiding principles and site program

After the charrette, the HDR Team will use information gained from the charrette, as well as from other Technical Committee members and transit representatives, to document a series of “guiding principles” that will be used to shape the site Master Plan and building concepts. A simple building program will be defined including the overall building area, building spaces, unique considerations / comments and a relationship matrix / diagram.

Task 2: Develop Site Master Plan

2.1: Conduct due diligence / site features analysis

2.2: Prepare Master Plan

A Master Plan is a comprehensive plan that describes and maps the overall development concept for a defined area, including present and future land use, urban design and landscaping, infrastructure and service provisions. The Master Plan will identify specific parcels for specific portions of the facility, based on a variety of considerations:

- Rail design constraints and needs;
- Parking needs;
- Roadway connections / bus access;
- Bicycle / pedestrian connections;
- Existing uses on site;
- Property acquisition needs;
- Relationship to surrounding area and urban context; and
- Desire for street frontage.

2.3: Hold second Technical Committee meeting

A second Technical Committee meeting will be convened to review the input received thus far (through the guiding principles and conceptual program), as well as the resulting draft Master Plan.

Task 3: Create Visualizations and Plan Deliverables

3.1: Develop renderings / visualizations

3.2: Develop conceptual cost estimate

3.3: Create draft deliverables

The information, master plan, and visualizations compiled in the above tasks will be documented in two draft deliverables:

1. Executive Summary – This document will be an 8-12 page, graphically-oriented, booklet style summary that will be a user-friendly compilation of key findings.
2. PowerPoint presentation – A PowerPoint presentation will be delivered that summarizes the key study findings, including the information contained in the Executive Summary.

For this Phase 1 scope, no in-depth technical report will be provided.

3.4: Hold third Technical Committee meeting

The third Technical Committee meeting will be held to discuss the visualizations and conceptual cost estimate.

3.5: Conduct follow-up stakeholder workshop

A follow-up workshop will be held to present the study findings to the same stakeholder group that was invited to the initial charrette. Like the charrette, this workshop will also be up to four hours in duration, and will be used to review the site master plan and visualizations in detail.

3.6: Create final deliverables

Following the workshop, any necessary edits will be made to the Executive Summary and the PowerPoint presentation, and final versions will be delivered to the City. Fifty hard copies of the Executive Summary will be submitted, along with an electronic version in .pdf format. Electronic versions of the PowerPoint presentation in .ppt and .pdf format will also be delivered.



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

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

The tentative schedule and description of events for this consulting contract are:

	Event	Date
1	Issue Requests for Qualifications (RFQ)	July 23, 2008
2	City Response to Questions by Written Addendum (electronic mail)	August 1, 2008
3	Qualification Submittal Reports Due	August 22, 2008
4	Short list Firms	August 29, 2008
5	Consultant Interviews (if necessary)/ Consultant Response to City Questions by Written Addendum (electronic mail)	Sept. 15-19, 2008
6	Consultant Selection Recommendation	September 26, 2008
7	Contract Approved by City Manager	November 7, 2008
8	Contract Begins	November 10, 2008
9	Scope of work implementation period	November 2008-May 2009
10	Project Completion*	June 1, 2009

* anticipated date (negotiable)

Staff Recommendation

Information and Discussion Only.



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 # 8

To: TCC Members
From: Hank Graham, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner
Date: November 5, 2008
Subject: Safe Routes to School Program

Background

SRTS grant funding will be provided on a grant reimbursement basis through a competitive application process. The NCDOT SRTS Program will fund innovative, effective plans, programs, and projects in locations across the state. Program guidelines and the application and instructions for each funding category are available at:

http://www.ncdot.org/transit/bicycle/saferoutes/funding/funding_intro.html

Staff Recommendation

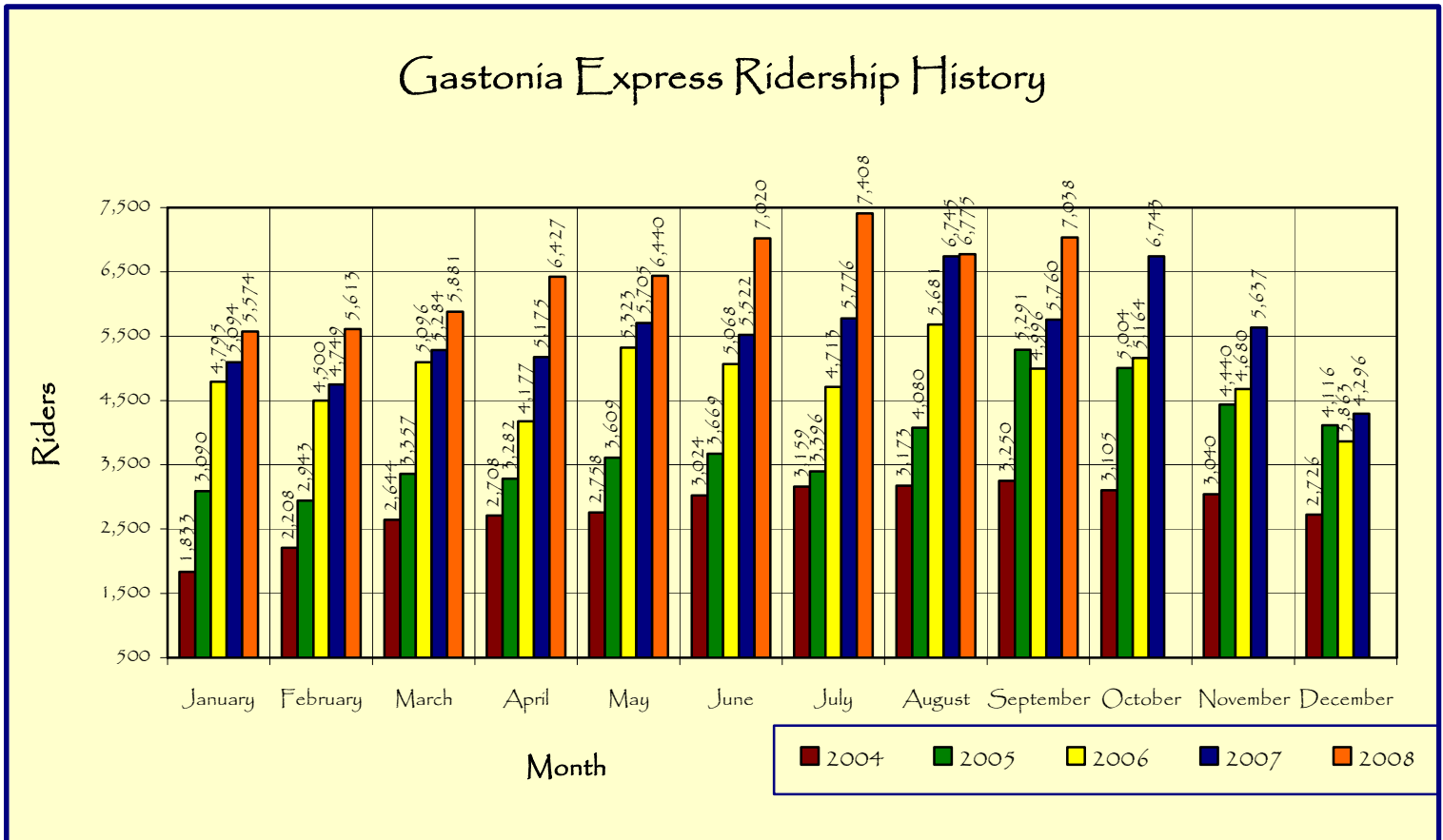
Information and Discussion Only.

Other Business 10a)

To: TCC Members
From: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I
Date: November 5, 2008
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.



Staff Recommendation

Information only.



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

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

Other Business 10b)

To: TCC Members
From: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I
Date: November 5, 2008
Subject: 2009 Calendar

Background

Please make a note of the 2009 meeting dates and times. The Chairman will be selected at the January meeting.

Staff Recommendation

Information only.



Gaston MPO Monthly Meeting Planner 2009

Schedule of Events

Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) meets on the 2ND WEDNESDAY of every other month beginning in January at 12:00 noon at the Market Street Buffet and Bakery, 2525 S. York St., Gastonia, NC

Note: Dates Circled in Light Blue

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) meets on the 4TH TUESDAY, except in November, of every other month at the Police Community Room, 200 Long Avenue, Gastonia, NC

Note: Dates Circled in Navy Blue

Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (GUAMPO)

serves the following:

Belmont, Bessemer City, Cramerton, Dallas, Gaston County, Gastonia, Lowell, McAdenville, Mount Holly, Rantlo, Spencer Mountain and Stanley

MPO Contacts

James "Hank" Graham, Jr., AICP, Principal
Transportation Planner/GUAMPO Coordinator
hankg@cityofgastonia.com
704-854-6663

Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I
bernley@cityofgastonia.com
704-854-6604

Kim Wallis, Planning & GIS Specialist III
kimw@cityofgastonia.com
704-854-6605

Cass Roberts, Administrative Assistant III
cass@cityofgastonia.com
704-866-6837

Website: www.gastonmpo.org
Fax: 704-869-1960
Address: Gaston MPO, P. O. Box 1748
Gastonia, NC 28053

January							February							March							April							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2	3		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7								
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	28	29	30	31	29	30	31	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30

May							June							July							August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
31							28	29	30											30	31						

September							October							November							December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	8	9	10	11	12	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	15	16	17	18	19	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
27	28	29	30	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
							25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	27	28	29	30	31							

