

AGENDA

*The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) of the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization will meet **Wednesday, May 14, 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 March 12, 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. Garden Parkway Update, Presenter: Jennifer Harris and Reid Simons, North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA)

Representatives from the NC Turnpike Authority will give a presentation on the current status of the Garden Parkway.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information Only.

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

The metropolitan planning statutes state that a Long Range Transportation Plan 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 come up with the attached DRAFT project list.

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommend Approval of 2035 LRTP Project List in DRAFT form to TAC.

8. Resolutions Required for the Long Range Transportation Plan and Conformity Updates, Presenter: Randi P. Gates, Transportation Planner I

MPOs are required to make a conformity determination on any newly adopted or amended fiscally constrained LRTPs and TIPs.

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommend Approval to TAC.

9. Comprehensive Transportation Plan, Presenter: Shannon Ransom, NCDOT

Gaston MPO staff has been directed by NCDOT to include a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

ACTION REQUESTED: Information and Discussion Only.

10. New Business

11. Other Business

- a) Gastonia Express 85-X Ridership Report
- b) Air Quality Signs

12. 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 Gates at 704-866-6980. You can also e-mail us at hankg, berniey, or randig@cityofgastonia.com respectively.

**MINUTES
GASTON URBAN AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (GUAMPO)
TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TCC)
REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING
MARCH 12, 2008**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC) was held **Wednesday, March 12, 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
Joe Gates	City of Lowell, Planning Director
Adrian Miller	City of Belmont, Senior Planner
Danny Jackson	City of Mt. Holly, Assistant City Manager
Steve Baucom	Town of Cramerton, Planner
Debby Key	City of Gastonia, Director of Fleet Services
Don Lowe	City of Gastonia, Traffic Engineer
Jack Kiser	City of Gastonia, Planning Director
David Kahler	Town of Dallas , Community Dev. Administrator
Margaret Taylor	Gaston County ACCESS, Director
Anne Wilkes	Gaston County ACCESS, Assistant Director
Sam Nichols	NCDOT, Division Traffic Engineer
Shannon Ransom	NCDOT, Gaston MPO Coordinator

Staff present:

Hank Graham	Gaston MPO, Principal Transportation Planner
Randi Gates	Gaston MPO, Transportation Planner I
Bernie Yacobucci	Gaston MPO, Transportation Planner I
Cass Roberts	Gaston MPO, Administrative Assistant III
Kim Wallis	Gaston MPO, Planning & GIS Specialist III

Others present:

Lynn Purnell	Parsons Brinckerhoff, Senior Supervising Planner
Charles Harrison	Carolina Central Railroad, Vice President

Members with absences in 2008:

Town of McAdenville	(Jan., Mar. - 2)
Town of Spencer Mountain	(Jan., Mar. - 2)
Town of Ranlo	(Jan., Mar. - 2)

Town of Stanley
Town of Dallas

(Jan., Mar. - 2)
(Jan. – 1)

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. Blackburn asked for a show of hands to accept the agenda as presented. All members were in favor of accepting the agenda as presented.

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 9, 2008 as presented. Mr. Miller asked that the City of Belmont's absence be changed for the January meeting. Elson Baldwin, the Director of Planning for Belmont, served as an alternate at the January meeting. Mr. Jackson stated that he was not noted on the list of attendees for the January meeting and he was present. Mrs. Roberts stated that she would make the corrections to the January 9, 2008 minutes.

Mr. Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes of January 9, 2008 as amended with Mr. Miller 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. Lynn Purnell of Parsons Brinckerhoff was in attendance to give a presentation on the **Fast Lanes, Charlotte Region Fast Lanes Study**.

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

There were no public comments at this time.

6. Charlotte Region Fast Lanes Study, Presenter: Lynn Purnell, Senior Supervising Planner, Parsons Brinckerhoff

Mr. Purnell began his presentation by stating that he is with Parson Brinckerhoff, which is the consulting firm that is assisting transportation planning agencies in the Charlotte Region to embark upon a region-wide study to determine which highways should be considered for managed lanes such as High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV), High Occupancy Toll (HOT), or Truck Only Toll (TOT) facilities. Presently, Parsons Brinckerhoff is studying corridors that make up about 350 miles and that encompass a seven county region in order to see the potential for managed lanes on these roadways.

Mr. Purnell stated that the concept of *Fast Lanes* consists of a separate, dedicated lane system where one or more user groups may use the lane system to travel unimpeded during periods of peak demand. In the Charlotte area, there are *Fast Lanes*/HOV lanes currently in use on I-77 where there are “continuous access” lanes with a 10 inch painted buffer and “access is prohibited” lanes with a 6 inch painted buffer. He added that the use of these HOV lanes has increased in the Charlotte area by 20% between the years 2005 – 2007.

Mr. Purnell discussed the following screening criteria for *Fast Lanes*/HOV lanes: 1.) presence of congestion 2.) HOV demand 3.) HOT/TOT demand and 4.) Determining the physical attributes of a road to see how an HOT/HOV lane may work. In the Charlotte Mecklenburg area, the best areas for HOT/HOV demand are I-85, I-77, and US74. The Garden Parkway remains under study by the NC Turnpike Authority and has been eliminated for further consideration for this study.

Mr. Purnell stated that corridor segments moving to Phase Two of the study will be analyzed for lane treatments, operations strategy, revenue potential, and access and project phasing. The most congested corridors are recommended for Phase 2 study. HOV and HOT options are feasible on these corridors whereas TOT options are not. Corridors that do not move to Phase Two of the study will still need attention using other congestion management strategies.

Mr. Purnell stated that the *Fast Lanes* website is at <http://www.fastlanes.org> for further information.

Mr. Graham expressed his concern about the design exceptions along I-85 where there are some unsafe conditions with bridges and with grade separation crossings and connections. Mr. Purnell stated that studies have been done throughout the country where reducing the width of lanes and reducing the width of shoulders would allow another lane to be reconfigured or fit as additional space or as an additional lane. Mr. Purnell added that Parsons Brinckerhoff will solicit NCDOT’s perspective on design exceptions and if there is a problem on any design, no time will be wasted implementing design exceptions.

There were no other questions.

Mr. Blackburn thanked Mr. Purnell for his presentation.

**7. Gaston Urban Area MPO 2008-2009 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP),
Presenter: Hank Graham, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner**

Mr. Graham stated that the proposed 2009 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for fiscal year 2008-2009 is included in the agenda packet. The purpose of this document is to outline the tasks to be undertaken by MPO staff in the fiscal year beginning July, 2008 and ending June, 2009 and the amount of funding it will take to complete those tasks.

Mr. Graham stated that some of the major projects are as follows:

- Update the 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).
- Complete the 2009 Ozone Non-Attainment Air Quality demonstration.
- Continue to strengthen and improve our regional transportation involvement.
- Hire private engineering consultants to complete functional designs for necessary thoroughfares on the Thoroughfare Plan.
- Continue with Public Involvement and Environmental Justice efforts.
- Assist with planning and implementation of a countywide bicycle and pedestrian trail and greenway system.

Mr. Graham stated that MPO staff will be involved in the regional Carolina Thread Trail activities as well as the incremental or smaller trail segment expansions in Gastonia and other interested municipalities in the GUAMPO area.

Mr. Graham stated that the total UPWP budget for this fiscal year is \$367,687. Of that amount, \$75,000 from the unobligated fund balance will be used to conduct a site selection feasibility study and environmental design work for a multi-modal transportation facility in downtown Gastonia. This facility will combine the operating facilities of Amtrak, Trailways, Greyhound, 85X – CATS express bus route to Charlotte and back to Gastonia, the Gastonia Transit System, and some functions of Gaston County Access. For the Transit Planning Grant (5303), we are requesting \$36,450. The Planning Fund allocation request is \$256,237.

There being no questions or comments, Mr. Blackburn entertained a motion to recommend approval to the TAC of the Gaston Urban Area MPO 2008-2009 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) as presented.

Mr. Miller made a motion to recommend approval to the TAC of the Gaston Urban Area MPO 2008-2009 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) as presented. Mr. Kiser seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

8. DRAFT Conformity Determination Report for the 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program, Presenter: Hank Graham, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner

Mr. Graham stated that MPOs are required to make a conformity determination on any newly adopted or amended fiscally-constrained LRTP and TIP. The purpose of the Conformity Determination Report for the 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program is to document compliance with the provisions of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAAA) and the Safe Accountable Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users – 2005. The conformity determination for the 2009-2015 TIP is based on a regional emissions analysis that utilizes the transportation networks in adopted and conforming 2030 Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTPs) and the emissions factors developed by the North Carolina Department of Environment and

Natural Resources (NCDENR). All regionally significant, federally funded projects in areas designated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as air quality non-attainment or maintenance areas must come from a conforming LRTP and TIP.

Mr. Graham added that this document is not just an informational discussion item and it requires recommendation to the TAC to authorize the release of this document to the public for comment during the period of April 1, 2008 through May 2, 2008. The document will be placed at the resource desks of all regional and local libraries and also at respective City Halls as well. A public hearing will also be scheduled.

Mr. Blackburn entertained a motion to recommend to the TAC approval of the DRAFT Conformity Determination Report for the 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program as presented.

Mr. Jackson made a motion to recommend approval to the TAC of DRAFT Conformity Determination Report for the 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program as presented. Mr. Baucom seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

9. Socioeconomic (SE) Data Update, Presenter: Hank Graham, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner

Mr. Graham stated that MPO staff has been working with the various municipalities in the county to develop population and employment projections for the Gaston Urban Area. Mr. Yacobucci plugged in those numbers regarding population, employment and household adjustments into the respective TAZs for the periods of 2015, 2025, and 2035.

Mr. Graham stated that our current Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is the 2030 LRTP and the new update will be the 2035 LRTP. The population in 2035 in the MPO area will grow to 299,202 and in the next 25 years, almost 100,000 people will be added to the area. The employment will not grow as much as the population will grow but the assumption is that Charlotte-Mecklenburg is still going to be the leader in providing major employment options and opportunities in the region.

Mr. Blackburn entertained a motion to recommend to the TAC the Socioeconomic (SE) Data Update as presented.

Mr. Miller made a motion to recommend to the TAC the Socioeconomic (SE) Data Update as presented. Mr. Jackson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

10. NCDOT Highway Division 12 FY 2007-2015 Funding Breakdown, Presenter: Randi Gates, Transportation Planner I

Ms. Gates stated that this request for a funding breakdown came from Jim Long, TAC Chair, who directed Gaston MPO staff to research how TIP funding in Division 12 is divided among the six counties in the division.

Ms. Gates pointed out that of the funding for Division 12 for the period 2007-2015, Gaston County receives 14% for funded projects, Cleveland County receives 21%, Catawba County receives 14%, Lincoln County receives 9%, Alexander County receives 0.24%, and Iredell County receives 42% of the funding.

Mr. Graham stated that he did not wish this item to be on the TAC agenda unless our Board member, Judge Collier, was aware of this funding breakdown report in advance. After contacting Judge Collier, Mr. Graham stated that Judge Collier told him that one of the reasons that Iredell County has the highest percentage of funding is because Iredell County has an interchange improvement project for which Judge Collier has authorized the bulk of Garvee Bond Funds. If Garvee Bond Funds were not involved in this project, then the funding percentage would be around 20-22% instead of 42%.

Mr. Graham felt that since Gaston County has the highest population within Division 12, the NCDOT Board Member should come from Gaston County. Since there is no formula nor formal way to distribute funds at this time, the method to distribute funds is at the discretion of the NCDOT Board member in the Division.

Mr. Blackburn asked who was the last Board member from Gaston County? Mr. Lowe thought it was Lanier Williams and that was over 20 years ago. Mr. Graham stated that Judge Collier was appointed this year for a 4-year term but with a new governor, this may change.

11. New Business

There was no new business to report.

12. Other Business

- a) Gastonia Express 85-X Ridership Report – Ms. Gates stated that there is a 9.4% increase in ridership in January, 2008 from last year's ridership totals. Ridership figures throughout the months are still on the increase.
- b) Carolina Thread Trail Community Meetings – Ms. Gates stated that the public meeting schedule is enclosed in the agenda package and she hoped that members would attend one of the scheduled meetings to show support.

13. Adjournment

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.



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Agenda Item # 7

To: TCC Members
From: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I
Date: May 14, 2008
Subject: Gaston Urban Area MPO DRAFT 2035 LRTP Project List

Background

The metropolitan planning statutes state that a Long Range Transportation Plan 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. The purpose of the financial plan is to demonstrate fiscal constraint. Therefore, one of the required chapters in the LRTP will be the Financial Constraint Plan. This chapter will describe the revenues the MPO projects to be receiving during the three horizon years of the LRTP as well as list the projects that can be funded through the projected revenue within each of the three horizon years.

The fiscal constraint requirement is intended to ensure that long-range metropolitan transportation plans reflect realistic assumptions about future revenues, rather than being lists that include many more projects than could realistically be completed with available revenues. When the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) released their Statewide and Metropolitan Planning Rule it included a new requirement for long-range transportation plans. Under the new rule, financial constraint of the plan must be demonstrated in "Year of Expenditure" (YOE) dollars. The rationale for this rule is that long-range estimates of transportation costs have understated the deficient between costs and revenues. Therefore, converting all costs and revenues to YOE dollars would theoretically present a more accurate picture of costs, revenues, and deficits associated with the LRTP.

Staff Recommendation

Recommend Approval of 2035 Project List in DRAFT form to TAC.

Urban Area MPO 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan-Project List

	Facility Name	Description
1	13th Street Railroad Underpass	Replace the 13th Street Norfolk Southern Railroad underpass to allow for safer and more efficient traffic flow.
2	Avon/Catawba Creek Greenway System	
3	Belmont	NC 7, I-85 to US 29-74. Widen to five lanes (0.4 miles)
4	Belmont	Streetscape improvements along US 29/74, Catawba River to the intersection of Wilkinson Boulevard, Catawba St, and Hazeline Ave
5	Belmont, Median improvements	Concrete medians shall be changed to planted on US 29/74 for the remaining length of that roadway within the Belmont city limits that has not been addressed.
6	Belmont-Mt.Holly Loop	Construct new, four-lane divided facility from South Point Road to the proposed Gastonia-Mt. Holly Connector
7	Belmont, Streetscape improvements	Decorative lighting, tree plantings, marked pedestrian crossings, sidewalk improvements on Catawba Street leading from the downtown business district to the East Belmont business district.
8	Bessemer City	NC 274 (Gastonia Highway), SR 1484 (Main Ave) to NC 275. Widen to five lanes with curb and gutter (1.4 miles).
9	Bessemer City	Mickley Ave over Norfolk Souther Railroad. Replace Bridge NO. 155
10	Blackwood Creek Greenway System	
11	Cramerton	Downtown Cramertons-South Fork river greenway extension. Ped. Bridges and trail.
12	Cramerton	Eigth Ave, Ninth St, and Center St, streetscaping
13	Cramerton Greenway System	
14	Cramerton, Median improvements	Concrete medians shall be changed to planted on US 29/74 for the entire length of Cramerton Town Limits.
15	Cramerton, Sidewalk improvements	Implement installtion of sidewalks per the Town's NCDOT Pedestrian Plan set to be adopted in 2007.
16	Cramerton, Streetscape improvements	Tree plantings, decorative sidewalk on each side of Market Street, and a decorative signal lighthouse at intersection of Eighth Ave. and Market St. and US 29/74 and Market St.
17	Crowders Mountain Parkway	Construct new, three-lane minor thoroughfare facility from US 29/74 (Franklin Blvd) to Edgewood Rd.
18	Dallas	Phase II: Trade, College, Hoffman, and Wilkins Streets, Streetscaping
19	Duhart's Creek Greenway System	
20	Eight Avenue Railroad Underpass	Widen existing one-lane underpass bridge to a two-lane underpass bridge from Main Street to 500' past the railroad tracks.
21	Franklin Blvd Westbound	Add an additional westbound through lane from Church Street to Cox Road
22	Garden Parkway	Construct a new four-lane divided, controlled access facility from NC 160 in Mecklenburg County to I-85
23	Garden Parkway	Construct a new four-lane divided, controlled access facility from I-85 to US 321 (north of Dallas)
24	Gastonia	SR 1136 (Myrtle School Road), US29-74 to SR 1255 (Hudson Boulevard). Widen to multi-lanes (1.8 miles)
25	Gastonia	Upgrade Gastonia computerized signal system.
26	Gastonia	SR 1131 (Linwood Rd), Crowder's Creek to US 29-74-NC 274 (Franklin Boulevard). Widen to multi-lanes, some relocation. (2.2 miles).
27	Gastonia	NC 279, NC 7 to west of NC 275 in Dallas. Widen to multi-lanes (3.6 miles)
28	Gastonia	NC 274, NC 275 to US 29-74. Widen to multi-lanes (2.8 miles).
29	Gastonia	US 29-74, SR 2200 (Cox Rd) to SR 2339 (Church ST). Add lane in the eastbound direction (0.5) miles
30	Gastonia	West Davidson Ave. Replace bridge NO. 421 over Kaylor Branch
31	Gastonia	Tulip Dr over Kaylor Branch. Replace Bridge NO. 167
32	Gastonia	Avon-Catawba creek greenway trail extension
33	Gastonia	Streetscape in downtown between the CBD and West Gastonia including the Historic Lora Mill and Mill Village.
34	Gastonia, Highland Rail Trail/Long Creek Greenway System	
35	Gastonia-Mt.Holly Connector	Construct a new, four-lane divided facility from Cox Road to Catawba Avenue.
36	Hudson Blvd. Extension	Hudson Boulevard Extension from Davis Park Road to Chapel Grove Road
37	I-85	Southfork River bridge to exit 27-Pavement rehab
38	I-85	Cleveland county line to the Mecklenburg county line. Install milled rumble strips on the median and outside shoulders.
39	I-85/US 321 Interchange Improvements	Geometric Safety Improvements to Interchange
40	Lineberger Road	Construct 5-lane road including bridge over I-85 from US 29/74 (Franklin Blvd.) to the proposed Gastonia-Mt. Holly Connector.
41	Lowell, Median improvements	Median planting strips at I-85 Exits 22& 23.
42	Lowell, Median improvements	Planted islands/strips to separate parking areas in Downtown.
43	Lowell, Sidewalk improvements	Miscellaneous sidewalk repairs throughout city.
44	Lowell, Sidewalk improvements	Sidewalk extension from Geer St. to George Poston Park.
45	Lowell-Bethesda Road/Beaty Road	Widen 2-lane to 5-lane from Westover St. to Union Rd. Also, construct new 5-lane from Union Rd. to the proposed Gaston East-West Connector
46	Lowell-Bethesda/Groves St. Connection	Provide direct connection between Lowell-Bethesda Rd. and the intersection with Franklin Blvd. And Groves St. The project will also include a grade-separated crossing of the Norfolk Southern Railroad.

Urban Area MPO 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan-Project List

47	Market Street	Add right turn lane on northbound Market St. to eastbound US 29/74.
48	Mt. Holly	NC 273 (South Main St), South of Catawba Dr. to Highland Street at Rankin Ave. Widen to five lanes. (1 mile).
49	Mt. Holly, Riverfront Greenway System	
50	NC 15	South of Lucia in Gaston County to SR 1895 in Catawba County. Four Lanes divided on new location
51	NC 273 (South Point Road)	Widen existing two-lane road to a four-lane divided facility from Nixon Road to Lower Armstrong Rd. (NC 273).
52	NC 274 Bypass	Construct new, three-lane minor thoroughfare facility from NC 274 (Bessemer City Highway) to Costner School Road.
53	NC 279	Cherryville to US 321. Widen to Multi-lanes
54	New Hope Road	Widen existing four-lane road to a five-lane facility. There are two segments to this project: Burtonwood Dr. to Garrison Blvd. and Robinwood Rd. to Armstrong Park Rd.
55	New Route	NC 273 to NC 16. Two lane connector with tow foot paved shoulders on new locations
56	North Dallas Bypass	North Dallas Bypass (Dallas-Cherryville Highway (NC 279) to Lower Dallas Rd. (NC 279)
57	Oakland Street	Widen substandard two-lane road from Trade St. to Carr Rd. to provide standard lane width of 12 feet.
58	Puetts Chapel Road Widening	Widen existing two-lane road to a three-lane facility from Maine Avenue to the proposed NC 274 Bypass.
59	Ratchford Road/US 321 Interchange	Construct Interchange between US 321 and Ratchford Road.
60	Robinson Rd/321 Railroad Underpass	Railroad trestle underpass at the intersection of Robinson Road and US 321 (North Carolina South Carolina Border)
61	S. New Hope Road	Widen existing two-lane road to five-lanes from Titman Road to Union-New Hope Road
62	Southridge Parkway North Extension	Extend Southridge Parkway (three-lane facility) north to NC 274 (at Crème Haven Dr.)
63	Southridge Parkway West Extension	Construct a new, three-lane facility from Crowders Mtn. Rd. to Edgewood Rd.
64	Spencer Mountain Road	Widen two-lane road to a four-lane cross section from Ozark Avenue (NC 7) to Central Ave.
65	SR 1103	Crowder's creek, replace bridge NO. 49
66	SR 1800	Little Long Creek, replace bridge NO. 155
67	SR 1820	Creek, Replace Bridge NO. 173
68	SR 1905	Stanley Creek, Replace bridge NO. 200
69	SR 1935	Stanley Creek, Replace bridge NO. 203
70	SR 2014	South Fork Catawba River, replace bridge NO. 6
71	SR 2439	Duhart's creek, replace bridge NO. 15
72	Stanley Southern Connector	Construct new, four-lane divided facility from Dallas-Stanley Highway (NC 275) to Charles R. Jonas Highway (NC 27).
73	Titman/Cramerton Road	Widen existing two-lane roads to three-lane, and construct new three-lane connector from S. New Hope Rd. to Woodlawn Ave.
74	Union Road	Widen the existing two-lane facility to five lanes and construct a new four-lane divided realignment from Robinson Rd. to Beaty Rd.
75	US 29/74 Catawba River Bridge	Widen existing four-lane bridge to six-lanes, and widen existing four-lane cross section to six-lanes from Catawba Street (NC 7) to the east bank of the Catawba River
76	US 29/74 South Fork River Bridge	Replace existing four-lane bridge to match existing six-lane cross section of Wilkinson Blvd. Widen east bound and west bound approaches to bridge to six-lanes from Market Street to Albert Avenue.
77	US29/74	Catawba River replace bfridge NO. 91 Scheduled for feasibility study.
78	York Road	Widen four-lane facility to five-lane cross section from Hudson Blvd. to Beam Ave.
79	Belmont-NC 7	I-85 to Mains Street/Central Ave
80	NC 279 (North New Hope Rd.) Widening	Robinson Clemmer Rd to Gaston St. (Dallas)
81	NC 274 (Union Rd)	Niblick Dr to Osceola Street
82	Mitchem Rd Ext.	NC 7 to Mitchem Rd.



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Agenda Item # 8

To: TCC Members
From: Randi P. Gates, Transportation Planner I
Date: May 14, 2008
Subject: Resolutions Required for the Long Range Transportation Plan and Conformity Updates

Background

The purpose of the Conformity Determination Report for the 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program is to document compliance with the provisions of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAAA) and the Safe Accountable Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users – 2005. The conformity determination for the 2009-2015 TIP is based on a regional emissions analysis that utilized the transportation networks in adopted and conformity 2035 Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTPs) and the emissions factors developed by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR). All regionally significant federally funded projects in areas designated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as air quality nonattainment or maintenance areas must come from a conforming LRTP and TIP.

The attached resolutions state that the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization finds that the 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program and 2009-2015 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program both conform to the purpose of the North Carolina State Implementation Plan (or interim emissions tests, in areas where no State Implementation Plan is approved or found adequate by USEPA) in accordance with Clean Air Act as Amended (CAAA), and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act, a Legacy for Users Act (SAFETEA-LU).

Staff Recommendation

Recommend Approval to TAC.

Resolution Finding the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program in Compliance with the Provisions of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act, a Legacy for Users Act

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

WHEREAS, the Gaston MPO's Amended 2030 Long-Range Transportation Plan meets the planning requirements of 23 CFR Part 450.322; and

WHEREAS, the 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program is a direct subset of the Amended 2030 Long-Range Transportation plan; and

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) designated the Gaston MPO as nonattainment for ozone on June 15, 2004, and maintenance for CO on September 18, 1995; and

WHEREAS, the transportation conformity analysis of the Gaston MPO's 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program is based on the most recent estimates of population, employment, travel, and congestion; and

WHEREAS, the 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program is fiscally constrained; and

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

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

WHEREAS, those projects and programs included in the Gaston MPO's 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program contribute to annual emissions reductions as shown by the quantitative emissions analysis; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization finds that the 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program conforms to the purpose of the North Carolina State Implementation Plan (or interim emissions tests, in areas where no State Implementation Plan is approved or found adequate by USEPA) in accordance with Clean Air Act as Amended (CAAA), and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act, a Legacy for Users Act (SAFETEA-LU).

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 May, 2008, and acknowledge the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 27th day of May, 2008.

Cathleen L. Roberts
Notary Public

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE GASTON URBAN AREA
METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM FOR FY 2009-2015 IN CONFORMITY WITH THE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

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 Gaston MPO 2009-2015 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) conforms to the purpose of the North Carolina State Implementation Plan for maintaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards in accordance with 40 CFR 51 & 93; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Advisory Committee has found the Gaston MPO 2009-2015 MTIP 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 subset of the currently conforming Gaston Urban Area 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Long Range Transportation Plan has a planning horizon year of 2035 and meets all the requirements for an adequate Transportation Plan; and

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

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston Urban Area Transportation Advisory Committee adopts the FY 2009-2015 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program for the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization on this the 27th day of May 2008.

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.

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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 # 9

To: TCC Members
From: Shannon Ransom, Gaston MPO Coordinator, NCDOT
Date: May 14, 2008
Subject: Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)

Background

Gaston MPO staff has been directed by NCDOT to include a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Discussion is to inform the group about exactly what a CTP is and why a CTP is mandatory. TCC will also discuss the format for including the CTP in the LRTP.

Staff Recommendation

Information and Discussion Only.

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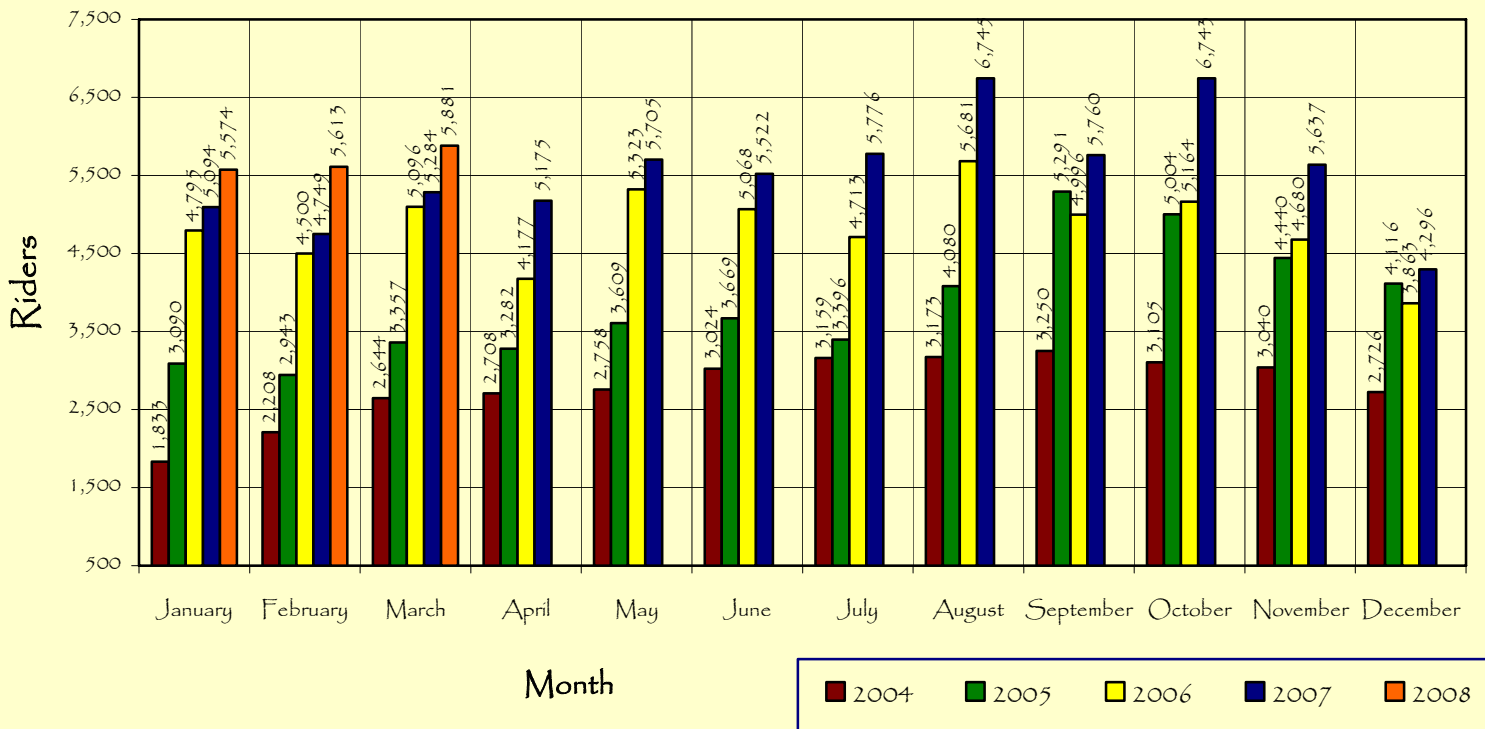
Other Business a)

To: TCC Members
From: Randi Gates, Transportation Planner I
Date: May 14, 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.

Gastonia Express Ridership History



Staff Recommendation

Information only.



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Other Business b)

To: TCC Members
From: Randi Gates, Transportation Planner I
Date: May 14, 2008
Subject: Air Quality Signs

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, the Gaston MPO purchased sets of flags last year, but ran into some issues on the County and some municipalities not wishing to participate in the program. Some thought that citizens might get confused, not knowing what the flags represented.

The Gaston MPO decided to add to our program by having ozone signs made. We are still in need of your help to promote the Ozone Awareness Program! If possible, I need a designee from each local government, with access to email, to commit to changing the color on the sign as the day-to-day forecast changes. The signs have colors for every day during the ozone season, to get the public to understand the meaning of each forecast and the colors associated with each, not just the Action Days. Those willing to participate will receive an email from EPA the afternoon/evening prior to the forecasted day. Please let me know if you are interested in an ozone awareness sign!

Staff Recommendation

Information Only.