

AGENDA

The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) of the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization will meet Wednesday August 11, 2010, at Ryan's Family Steakhouse. The restaurant is located at 2900 E. Franklin Blvd. in Gastonia, N.C. The meeting will begin at 12 Noon. The following is the agenda for the meeting:

1. Set Agenda, Presenter: Kevin Krouse, TCC Chair

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

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

Review and adopt the minutes from the regularly scheduled meeting of March 10, 2010.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve as Presented.

4. Introduction of Guests, Presenter: Kevin Krouse, TCC Chair

All guests shall introduce themselves at this time.

5. Public Comment Period, Presenter: Kevin Krouse, 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. Conformity Determination and 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan project list amendments report, Presenter: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I

The DRAFT Conformity Determination Report was distributed to all public library branches and municipal administration offices within the Gaston Urban Area on Friday July 23, 2010 for the 30 day public review period. The report was also available on the Gaston MPO webpage.

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommend approval to TAC

7. Future Congestion Mitigation for Air Quality (CMAQ) Funding Allocations, Presenter: James H. Graham, Principal Transportation Planner

The MPO will be soliciting input from the TCC members for other possible CMAQ projects.

Federal FY	2013	2014	2015	Total
Target Funding	\$1,695,555.00	\$ 1,736,655.00	\$ 1,767,312.00	\$ 5,199,522.00

ACTION REQUESTED: Information and discussion only

8. CMAQ Funding Request, Presenter: Alan Giles, Charlotte Mecklenburg Department of Air Quality

Mr. Giles will be discussing grant opportunities for diesel equipment owners to assist them with the purchase of newer, cleaner, less polluting equipment and/or engines.

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommend approval to TAC

9 Regional Sustainable Communities Grant, Presenter: James H. Graham, Principal Transportation Planner

Centralina, in collaboration with Catawba Regional Council of Governments and a number of other regional partners, will submit an application for HUD's Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program on August 23, 2010.

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommend approval to TAC

10. New Business

11. Other Business

MPO Staff Update

- a) **Gas Cap Check Program**
- b) **Gaston Urban Area MPO Summer Newsletter**
- c) **Gastonia 85X Express Ridership History**

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 Jon Barrett at 704-866-6980. You can also e-mail us at hankg, berniey, or jonb@cityofgastonia.com respectively.

**MINUTES
GASTON URBAN AREA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TRANSPORTATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE (TCC)
REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING
MARCH 10, 2010**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC) was held **Wednesday, March 10, 2010**, at Ryan's Family Steakhouse, 2900 E. Franklin Blvd. in Gastonia, NC.

Members Present:

Kevin Krouse	City of Bessemer City, TCC Chairman
Adrian Miller	City of Belmont, Planner, TCC Vice Chair
Jack Kiser	City of Gastonia, Director of Planning
Debby Key	City of Gastonia, Director of Fleet Services
Don Lowe	City of Gastonia, Traffic Engineer
David Kahler	Town of Dallas, Planner
Ben Blackburn	City of Lowell, City Manager
Scott Attaway	City of Lowell, Director of Planning
Brian DuPont	City of Mount Holly, Planner
Michael Peoples	Town of Cramerton, Town Manager
Tom Datt	Town of Stanley, Town Manager
David Williams	Gaston County, Director of Planning
Margaret Taylor	Gaston County ACCESS, Director
Anne Wilkes	Gaston County ACCESS, Assistant Director
Marc Bolick	Gaston EDC, Project Administrator
Shannon Ransom	NCDOT, Gaston MPO Coordinator

Staff present:

Hank Graham	Gaston MPO, Principal Transportation Planner
Bernie Yacobucci	Gaston MPO, Transportation Planner I
Vincent Wong	Gaston MPO, Transportation Planner I
Cass Roberts	City of Gastonia, Administrative Assistant III
Lauren Hinely	City of Gastonia, Administrative Assistant III

Others present:

Bob Clay	NC Turnpike Authority, Board Member
Bill Gray	Ohio Valley Railroad Co., President
Taylor Marcantel	Gaston County, Planning Intern

Members with absences in 2010:

Town of McAdenville	(Jan., Mar. - 2)
City of Bessemer City	(Jan. - 1)
Town of Ranlo	(Jan., Mar. - 2)
Town of Spencer Mountain	(Jan., Mar. - 2)

1. Set Agenda, Kevin Krouse, TCC Chair

Mr. Krouse asked members if there were any changes to the agenda. There were none.

2. Determination of Quorum (51%-seven of thirteen)

A quorum was present.

Mr. Krouse reminded members that only the designed primary representative of the town, city, or organization should vote. If the designed primary from each municipality or the designated primaries of the City of Gastonia are not present, the designed alternate/s may vote.

3. Approval of Minutes, Kevin Krouse, TCC Chair

Mr. Krouse asked for corrections or changes to the TCC minutes of January 13, 2010.

Mr. Blackburn made a motion to approve the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of January 13, 2010 as presented. Mr. Kahler seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

4. Introduction of Guests

Mr. Krouse asked guests to please introduce themselves. Mr. Bill Gray, President of the Carolina Central Railroad, Ohio Valley Railroad Company, was present. Mr. Bob Clay, NCTA Board member, was also present. Upon their arrival later in the meeting Mr. Williams introduced the Gaston County Planning Intern, Taylor Marcantel, who will be working at the County for approximately three months before entering grad school.

5. Public Comment Period

Mr. Krouse stated that during the public comment period, comments made should be kept to a reasonable period of time.

There were no public comments.

6. 8-hour Ozone Conformity Analysis and Determination Report and 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan, Presenter: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I

Mr. Yacobucci stated that he hoped that all members had the opportunity to review the *8-hour Ozone Conformity Analysis and Determination Report* and the *2035 Long Range Transportation Plan* (LRTP).

Mr. Yacobucci stated that the emissions projected from the Gaston MPO 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan and 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program are in conformity with the 8-hour ozone standard.

Mr. Yacobucci continued his presentation by stating that the LRTP is a federally mandated, long-term planning document detailing the transportation improvements and policies to be implemented in the Gaston MPO's planning area. It outlines where and how roads, transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities would be built up to the year 2035. Mr. Yacobucci reviewed the various changes, enhancements, goals, funding and projects that were incorporated into the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Mr. Krouse entertained a motion to recommend to the TAC the Resolution finding the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan and the 2009-2035 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program in compliance with the Provisions of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) as presented.

Mr. Blackburn made a motion to recommend to the TAC the Resolution finding the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan and the 2009-2035 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program in compliance with the Provisions of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) as presented. Mr. Datt seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Krouse entertained a motion to recommend to the TAC the Resolution adopted by the Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Advisory Committee approving the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan as presented.

Mr. Blackburn made a motion to recommend approval to the TAC of the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan as presented. Mr. Lowe seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Graham began discussing Item #8 of the agenda package, instead of Item #7. There was no objection from TCC members for Mr. Graham to continue with his presentation on Item #8 and then return to Item #7.

8. 2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Presenter: Hank Graham, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner

Mr. Graham stated that included in the agenda package is a copy of the proposed 2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for fiscal year 2010-2011. 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 the FY 2010-2011 UPWP has a projected budget for the Gaston Urban Area MPO totaling \$381,469. Of this budgeted amount, \$35,640 is budgeted for the Transit Administration Grant (5303); \$104,952 is budgeted for the Transit Operations Grant (5307); and \$240,877 is budgeted for the Transportation Planning Grant (104f). Mr. Graham believed that there would be potential budget changes on the horizon at the federal and state levels so the budget amounts may change. Mr. Graham explained that Congress has yet to reauthorize the federal transportation bill and NCBOT has not acted on changes to the PL fund allocation method. The budget will probably increase by \$100,000 to \$150,000 when these actions are done. In the meantime, Mr. Graham encouraged TCC member municipalities to request funding for their planning needs because if municipalities don't request the money, the federal government will take it all.

Mr. Peoples stated that the City of Cramerton would like to request land use update funding in the amount of \$20,000. Mr. Krouse stated that he will need additional funding but he won't request it until next year. Mr. Krouse advised TCC members to submit requests for planning funding projects to Mr. Graham as soon as they arise. Whether the money is available now or later, at least the planning funding request has been submitted and will be acted upon as planning funding becomes available.

Mr. Graham was pleased to announce that he received word this morning from Bill Barlow from NC Public Transit Division that \$17 million has been approved for the construction of the Multi-Modal Center.

Mr. Peoples pointed out that the description in the PWP narrative report, task code line item II-B-15, Freight Movement/Mobility Planning, is incorrect as it pertains to bicycle and pedestrian planning and bicycle route planning. Mr. Graham thanked Mr. Peoples for pointing this out and that the appropriate change would be made to the document.

Mr. Krouse entertained a motion to recommend to the TAC the PWP with the addition of the \$20,000 planning funding request from the City of Cramerton and the correction as presented.

Mr. Peoples made a motion to recommend to the TAC the approval of the PWP with the addition of the \$20,000 planning funding amendment from the City of Cramerton and the corrections as presented. Mr. Blackburn seconded the motion and the motion pass unanimously.

7. Metrolina Regional Travel Demand Model Annual Budget, Presenter: Hank Graham, AICP, Principal Transportation Planner

Mr. Graham stated that the attached annual budget in the agenda package outlines the funding needed by various agencies to provide for the continued development, modification, maintenance, and use of the Metrolina Regional Travel Demand Model. Mr. Graham added that the MPO has worked with other MPOs and RPOs within the Charlotte Metrolina Region for at least seven years in order to do the Air Quality modeling and the Air Quality Conformity Determination Report. A computer model must

be maintained with all the roadway networks data and all the population data. Information on travel demand surveys, travel roadways surveys, freight data, household travel surveys, and other additional data is to be collected to feed into this Charlotte Metropolitan Region model. All data gathering is due within the next 3 to 5 years.

Mr. Graham stated that the Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT) and NCDOT continually maintain this model. NCDOT pays a large portion of the cost of this model. GUAMPO is responsible for the costs of \$37,530 in 2011, \$22,259 in 2012, and \$18,486 in 2013. Mr. Graham explained that if the TCC should decide to recommend this item to the TAC, that the motion should include the adoption of three years (2011 – 2013) of allocations as presented.

Mr. Krouse entertained a motion to recommend approval to the TAC of the Metrolina Regional Travel Demand Model Annual Budget for years 2011 through 2013 as presented.

Mr. Lowe entertained a motion to recommend approval to the TAC of the Metrolina Regional Travel Demand Model Annual Budget for years 2011 through 2013 as presented. Mr. Blackburn seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

9. SPOT Results Update, Presenter: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I

Mr. Yacobucci stated that on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, NCDOT hosted a Prioritization Results Forum to show the initial rankings of the Strategic Prioritization Process. Under NCDOT's new prioritization process, each project is classified under three primary goals – Safety, Mobility, Infrastructure Health; under three tiers – Statewide, Regional, and Sub Regional; and the project scores were based on Volume, Capacity, Congestion, Safety, and Pavement Conditions.

Mr. Yacobucci was pleased to announce that out of 8 projects, Gaston County received 7. Mr. Wong added that out of the 205 Bike and Ped projects statewide in North Carolina, 50 of them are located in Gaston County.

Mr. Krouse noted that this information can also be viewed on the GUAMPO website.

This item was for information and discussion so no action was needed to be taken.

10. Garden Parkway Update, Presenter: Vincent Wong, Transportation Planner I

Mr. Wong stated that the North Carolina Turnpike Authority (NCTA) made a presentation in Belmont on February 25, 2010 regarding the Garden Parkway. Some highlights of that meeting were that \$352 million dollars were trimmed from the project, which enabled the project to be built all the way from I-85 to I-485. The changes that helped this endeavor were the elimination of one interchange, downsizing and

reconfiguring other interchanges, and by moving the road from I-85 to 321 to two lanes and from 321 to I-485 to four lanes. One of the biggest obstacle of the Parkway was that it would be built in stages. With these new changes, it is more financially feasible to build the entire Parkway from I-85 to I-485.

Mr. Clay, NCTA Board member, added that the Gaston Regional Chamber of Commerce recorded the entire NCTA presentation in Belmont and it can be found on their website. He urged TCC members to contact him or NCTA if there are any concerns or questions regarding the Garden Parkway. NCTA has been very responsive to all his concerns and he felt confident they would answer any questions or respond to any comments regarding the Garden Parkway. He added that his email address is bob@clayrealtyadvisory.com should anyone wish to contact him.

Since this was an informational item, no action was needed to be taken at this time.

11. New Business

12. Other Business

- Gastonia Express 85-X Ridership Report – Mr. Yacobucci stated that ridership has fallen due in part to unemployment or inclement weather conditions. Mr. Wong added that the 85X is the 2nd highest ridership route for the Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS). Mr. Kiser stated that 85X is 100% commuter traffic.
- Mr. Miller inquired about the CMAQ funding application. Mr. Graham stated that during the time we had applied for funding, the federal government rescinded around \$156,000,000 from the State of North Carolina. CMAQ funding will not be available until October 1, 2012.
- Letter to Transportation Secretary Conti – Mr. Graham stated that this letter was sent to Secretary Conti to support the work efforts of Mr. Bill Gray of the Carolina Central Railroad Division of the Ohio Valley Railroad Company. NCDOT cancelled the NCDOT Request of Proposal with Mr. Gray's company and expressed the MPO's concern as to why NCDOT took this position as this project is critically important to economic growth potential to Gaston County and the Charlotte Metro area. The letter strongly supported Mr. Gray's next RFP for the lease of the former Piedmont and Northern and asked Secretary Conti and NCDOT to give serious consideration to awarding the RFP to his company.
- Urban Loop Prioritization Comments – Mr. Graham stated that a letter was sent to Mr. Don Voelker, Director of NCDOT's Strategic Planning Office of Transportation, providing comments regarding NCDOT's Urban Loop Prioritization Process. The letter is part of the agenda package for TCC member's review.
- NC General Assembly Transportation Oversight Committee - Distributing Transportation Funds – Mr. Wong stated that this item is a informational notice of a meeting regarding Distributing Transportation funds. It will occur on April 6,

2010 in Room 544 Legislative Office Building in Raleigh, NC.

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

Mr. Blackburn made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Mr. Kahler seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Agenda Item # 6

To: TCC Members
From: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I
Date: August 11, 2010
Subject: Amended Conformity Determination Report (CDR) & 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Project Revision.

Background:

As was discussed at the March 10, 2010 TCC meeting, the scope of the Garden Parkway project was in the process of being revised. The project description in the adopted 2035 LRTP describes the Garden Parkway as a four-lane highway from I-485 in Mecklenburg County to US 321 in Gaston County to be built by the year 2015. Then an additional four-lane highway from US 321 to I-85 was to be built by the year 2035. The new project scope is to build the four-lane section from I-485 to US 321 and a two-lane segment from US 321 to I-85 in Gaston County by 2015. An additional lane would be constructed in each direction from US 321 to I-85 by the year 2035. As a result of the change in the project scope, a revised Conformity Determination Report (CDR) was required. The DRAFT CDR was distributed to all the libraries and municipal offices within the Gaston Urban Area on Friday July 23 for a 30 day public review period. The DRAFT CDR was also placed on the Gaston Urban Area MPO's web site (www.gastonmpo.org) for the same 30 day public review. The table below summarizes the results of the CDR.

Year	NO _x		VOC	
	LRTP Emissions	RFP SIP MVEBs	LRTP Emissions	RFP SIP MVEBs
2010	6002	7647	3824	5132
2011	5305	7647	3596	5132
2015	3326	7647	2912	5132
2025	1819	7647	2216	5132
2035	1848	7647	2564	5132

Action Requested:

Recommend approval to TAC

Final Project List for 2035 L RTP

Reference Number	Project ID	Facility Name	Description	Distance (Miles)	Existing Facility	Future Facility	Functional Classification (Current)	2015 Cost Estimates	2025 Cost Estimates	2035 Cost Estimates	Regionally Significant	Exempt	CFR
1	U-3321	Garden Parkway	I 485/NC 160 near the Charlotte Douglas International Airport in Mecklenburg County to I-85 In Gaston County	12.8 (Mileage is from Gaston County Line to US 321.	NA	Four Lane Facility from I-485 in Mecklenburg County to US 321 in Gaston County.	NA	\$928,300,000			Yes	No	
				(6 Miles from US 321 to I-85)		Two Lanes from US 321 to I-85 in Gaston County							
53	U-3321	Garden Parkway	I 85 west of Gastonia to US 321 south of Gastonia - Add an additional lane in each direction.	6	NA	Four Lane Facility	NA			\$472,282,225	Yes	No	
								Funded thru 2015					
								Funded thru 2035					

PROJECT: **ROUTE:** GASTONIA
CHARLOTTE

DESCRIPTION:

**GARDEN PARKWAY, I-85 WEST OF
GASTONIA TO I-485 IN MECKLENBURG
COUNTY. MULTI-LANES ON NEW
LOCATION.**

LENGTH: **COUNTY**

18.8 MILES GASTON
MECKLENBURG

%

86
14

MPO / RPO		%
GASTONIA		86
CHARLOTTE		14

PROJECT BREAKS

PROJECT	PART	DESCRIPTION	CNTY1	%	CNTY2	%	CNTY3	%
U-3321	A	I-85 TO US 321. CONSTRUCT TWO LANES. US 321 TO I-485. CONSTRUCT FOUR LANES.	GASTON	86	MECKLE	14		0
U-3321	B	I-85 TO US 321. CONSTRUCT ONE ADDITIONAL LANE EACH DIRECTION.	GASTON	100		0		0

FUNDING	FF09	FFY10	FFY11	FFY12	FFY13	FFY14
BOND			R 179000			
BOND			U 21200			
BOND				C 182000	C 182000	C 182000

- INTRASTATE
- LOOP
- NHS
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- FEASIBILITY STUDY
- PURCHASE ORDER CONTRACT
- UNFUNDED

FUNDING	FFY15	FFY16	FFY17	FFY18	FFY19	FFY20	POST YEAR
BOND							
BOND							
BOND	C 182000						

COMMENTS PLANNING/DESIGN IN PROGRESS BY THE NORTH CAROLINA TURNPIKE AUTHORITY

PRIOR YEARS: 22,392
PROGRAMMED: 928,200
POST YEARS:
TOTAL COST: 950,592

RESOLUTION FINDING THE GASTON URBAN AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) AMENDED 2035 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND THE AMENDED 2009-2015 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CLEAN AIR ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1990 AND THE SAFE, ACCOUNTABLE, FLEXIBLE, EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT – A LEGACY FOR USERS (SAFETEA-LU)

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

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

WHEREAS, the 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program is a subset of the 2035 Long-Range Transportation plan; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gaston Urban Area MPO TAC finds that both the Gaston Urban Area MPO amended 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan and amended 2009-2015 Transportation Improvement Program conform to the purpose of the North Carolina State Implementation Plan (or base year emissions, in areas where no State Implementation Plan is approved or found adequate by EPA) in accordance with Clean Air Act as Amended (CAAA) and SAFETEA-LU

Joe Will, Vice-Chair, Transportation Advisory Committee
Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

ATTESTED:

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

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

North Carolina
Gaston County

I, **Candice G. Owenby**, a Notary Public for said County and State, do hereby certify that **Joe Will** personally appeared before me on this the 24th day of August, 2010, and acknowledge the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 24th day of August, 2010.

Candice G. Owenby
Notary Public

My Commission Expires May 27, 2011



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 # 7

To: TCC Members
From: James H. Graham, Principal Transportation Planner
Date: August 11, 2010
Subject: Future CMAQ Funding Allocations

Background:

The MPO has requested two projects thus far totaling \$3,994,863 in CMAQ funding. This leaves a balance of \$1,204,659, which would have to be matched with at least 20% local funding (\$301,165). Please note that this funding is not available for use until Federal fiscal year 2013 (which commences October 2012) at the earliest. The MPO currently has a September 30, 2010 deadline to submit additional applications or other requests to program this balance in the TIP.

The MPO will be soliciting participation in a CMAQ methodology and ranking criteria and project selection process.

Federal FY	2013	2014	2015	Total
Target Funding	\$1,695,555.00	\$ 1,736,655.00	\$ 1,767,312.00	\$ 5,199,522.00

Action Requested:

Recommend approval to TAC.



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Agenda Item # 8

To: TCC Members
From: Alan, Transportation Planner I
Date: August 11, 2010
Subject: GRADE (Grants to Replace Aging Diesel Engines)

Background:

Mr. Giles will be giving a brief summary on GRADE (Grants to Replace Aging Diesel Engines). GRADE is a grant opportunity for diesel equipment owners to assist them with the purchase of newer, cleaner, less polluting equipment and/or engines. The goal of GRADE+ is to reduce nitrogen oxide (NOx) pollution from diesel equipment operating in our region. Reducing NOx will lead to reductions in ozone pollution throughout the region.

Action Requested:

Recommend approval to TAC.



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

Agenda Item # 9

To: TCC Members
From: James H. Graham, Principal Transportation Planner
Date: August 11, 2010
Subject: Regional Sustainability Grant.

Background:

The Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant is an outgrowth of the Sustainable Communities Partnership formed by HUD, DOT, and EPA in 2009, to promote better integration of housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments on a regional basis. The overall goal of the program is to align these sometimes disparate planning sectors in a manner that promotes economic competitiveness and revitalization; social equity, inclusion, and access to opportunity; energy use and climate change; and public health and environmental impact. Approximately \$75 million is available nationwide for grants to major metropolitan regions, to translate the Livability Principles developed by the HUD/EPA/DOT partnership into strategies that direct long-term development and reinvestment, demonstrate a commitment to addressing issues of regional significance, utilize data to set and monitor progress toward performance goals, and engage stakeholders and citizens in meaningful decision-making roles.

Centralina and Catawba Regional COGs, and their partners, will use the grant application as an opportunity to put regional “legs” under the CONNECT Regional Vision, a values-based document that supports Sustainable, Well-Managed Growth, a Healthy Environment, Regional Multi-Modal Transportation, and a Strong and Diverse Economy. The Vision has now been adopted by 52 jurisdictions representing almost 70% of the region’s population. Funding from this Program will support the development and implementation of a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD) that helps communities to align housing, transportation investment, water infrastructure, economic development, land use planning, environmental conservation, energy system, open space, workforce development, and other infrastructure priorities for the region, based on growth in the future. The planning process will focus on those most difficult questions that hinder community reinvestment and job growth, full use of existing infrastructure, and strategic alignment of growth plans. Such an approach can increase each of our jurisdictions’ fiscal sustainability, enhance job opportunities and housing for all of the region’s residents, and protect the environment in ways that we now cannot achieve.

Action Requested:

Recommend approval to TAC.

Serving: Belmont•Bessemer City•Cramerton•Dallas•Gaston County•Gastonia
Lowell•McAdenville•Mount Holly•Ranlo•Spencer Mountain•Stanley

August 2, 2010

A.R. Sharp, Executive Director
Centralina Council of Governments
525 North Tryon Street, 12th Floor
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

Dear Al,

As Chairman of the Gaston Urban Area MPO, I am writing to strongly endorse Centralina Council of Governments and Catawba Regional Council of Governments' application for Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant funding. We understand that Centralina is the lead applicant for this project.

The Gaston Urban Area MPO is charged with the "3-C" planning process for the urbanized portion of Gaston County. Our planning processes and goals over the years have reflected an increased commitment to link transportation project planning to our land use plans, so that both work better. The Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant will enable us to do that much more comprehensively, and it will allow us to much better analyze the impacts of alternative development patterns and projects. We believe it will help us plan more effectively. We particularly support the scenario development and modeling component of the application, which directly supports our work in all aspects of Long-Range Transportation Plan development, and in which we plan to play an active role.

We will also support the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant with data and staff time that links our planning processes to the larger planning processes, and would consider that as in-kind match for the Planning Grant. We also understand that if our staff needs to provide significant support outside their normal work scope, this will be funded through the Grant.

Because of our summer meeting schedule, we have not been able to take a resolution to this effect to the full governing board, but will take it up at our August 24, 2010, meeting.

We look forward to an active partnership and membership in the consortium for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant, and strongly encourage the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's funding of this proposal.

Very truly yours,



Joe D. Carpenter
TAC Chair
Gaston Urban Area MPO

Serving

Belmont
Bessemer City
Cramerton
Dallas
Gaston County
Gastonia
Lowell
McAdenville
Mount Holly
Ranlo
Spencer Mountain
Stanley

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITIES REGIONAL PLANNING GRANT**

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program (Program) is designed to support regional planning efforts by linking housing, transportation, economic development, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Program's foundation is six Livability Principles that are intended to promote sustainability, and are closely linked to the CONNECT Regional Vision Core Values and Action Agenda adopted by many Gaston Urban Area MPO members; and

WHEREAS, both the Livability Principles and the CONNECT Action Agenda call for the provision of transportation choices and an effective transportation system that supports economic development; and

WHEREAS, one of the key goals of the Gaston Urban Area MPO is the support of a regional transportation system that stimulates the economic development and vitality of communities in the Gaston Urban Area MPO planning area; and

WHEREAS, work associated with the grant will provide a strong platform for the Gaston Urban Area MPO in pursuing this goal, as well as assist Gaston Urban Area MPO member jurisdictions with aligning transportation, land use, and economic development planning; and

WHEREAS, successful participation in the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant will benefit future applications by Gaston Urban Area MPO member jurisdictions for any implementation funds;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gaston Urban Area MPO TAC supports the submission of a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant, with Centralina Council of Governments as lead applicant, and agrees as a member of the Regional Sustainable Communities Planning Consortium (consortium agreement to be negotiated within 120 days of grant award) to participate in planning activities relevant to the geography of the Gaston Urban Area MPO and adjacent counties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Gaston Urban Area MPO agrees to consider the identification of those portions of its planning funds that support air quality, regional planning, and CTP development as "in kind" match for the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant, with the understanding that the Grant will support additional staff work that would not otherwise be undertaken.

Joe Will, Vice-Chair, Transportation Advisory Committee
Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

ATTESTED:

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

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

North Carolina
Gaston County

I, **Candice G. Owenby**, a Notary Public for said County and State, do hereby certify that **Joe Will** personally appeared before me on this the 24th day of August, 2010, and acknowledge the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal, this the 24th day of August, 2010.

Candice G. Owenby
Notary Public






My Commission Expires May 27, 2011

Agenda Item # 10A

To: TCC Members
From: Jon Barrett, Transportation Planner I
Date: August 11, 2010
Subject: Gas Cap Check Program

Background:

Approximately 220 gas caps were checked on July 19th and 20th in the second Gas Cap Check Program sponsored by The Gaston MPO. The program, which started last summer, aims to improve air quality in the region by replacing faulty gas caps for free. This year, approximately 5% of the gas caps checked were replaced. As part of the greater Charlotte Metrolina Non-Attainment Area, the area served by the Gaston MPO does not meet federally mandated air quality standards for ozone. Reasons for air quality non-attainment vary, but Gaston County's primary pollutant is Ozone (O₃).




ARE YOU LOSING GAS???

If your gas cap is leaking, you could be losing up to
30 GALLONS of Gasoline annually!

Leaking Gas Caps...

- **Contribute to air pollution.**
- **Waste Fuel due to evaporation.**
- **Can leak regardless of the age of the vehicle.**
- **Cost you 30 gallons (\$\$) of gasoline each year.**



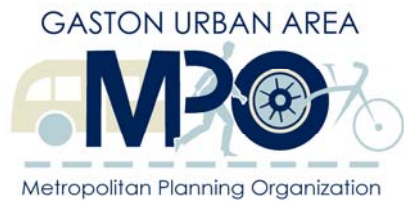
HAVE YOUR GAS CAP TESTED

*Monday July 19, 2010
&
Tuesday July 20, 2010*

3:00 pm –8:00 pm

**Gastonia Farmers Market
410 East Long Avenue, Gastonia**

**If your cap leaks it will be replaced on the spot
for FREE!**



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 # 10B

To: TCC Members
From: Jon Barrett, Transportation Planner
Date: August 11, 2010
Subject: Transportation Conformity Brochure

How Does Conformity Work?

The Gaston Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (GUAMPO) and remaining area of Gaston County are non-attainment areas for the pollutant, ozone. Because of this, we must ensure that our 25-year Transportation Plan, 7-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and individual projects “conform” to the goal of clean air.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A PLAN, PROGRAM, OR PROJECT DOES NOT CONFORM?

A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in a non-attainment area will not receive federal funding and cannot adopt a Transportation Plan or Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) unless the MPO can prove that their Plan or TIP conforms to the intent of the State Implementation Plan (SIP). At the project level this means that projects may face approval delays if the Plans or TIPs that include them do not conform. This does not necessarily mean that work on a project cannot move into the next major project phase. The major project phases are environmental planning, design, right-of-way and construction. For example, a project can be designed during a conformity lapse, but the sponsor cannot start buying right-of-way or obtain any federal funding to proceed with project construction. However, a project under construction can generally be completed during a conformity lapse.



CONFORMITY FOR A TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Our Transportation Plan must meet these requirements:

1. Vehicle emissions, based on the plan, must be below such allowed in the State Implementation Plan (SIP).
2. We must use the latest statistics (population, employment, vehicle type, etc.) and the latest EPA approved emissions model when estimating emissions.
3. We must discuss the analysis with other affected agencies.
4. The plan must not interfere with any emission controls in the State Implementation Plan (SIP).

CONFORMITY FOR A TIP

GUAMPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a list of projects that we hope to be completed within a 7-year timeframe. A TIP conforms if the following are all true:

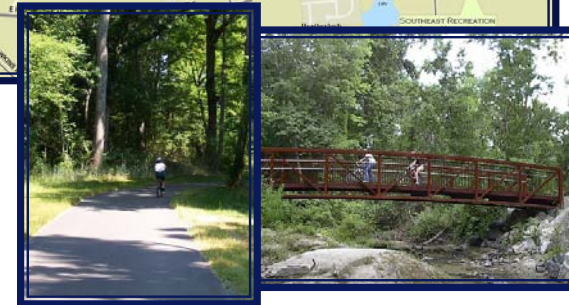
1. There is a conforming transportation plan.
2. Vehicle emissions are below the vehicle emissions allowed in the SIP.
3. We used the latest planning assumptions and the latest emissions model to estimate emissions.
4. We have consulted with other affected agencies.
5. Nothing in the TIP interferes with any emission controls in the SIP and the emission control measures in the SIP are on target.

CONFORMITY FOR A PROJECT

Generally a **TRANSPORTATION PROJECT CONFORMS IF AND ONLY IF** it is in a conforming transportation plan and conforming TIP. However, if the project's design, concept, or scope have changed since the earlier conformity determination the project may not conform and the analysis may need to be redone at the plan and TIP level.

EXEMPT PROJECTS

Some projects have very small emissions footprints and have been exempted from the conformity requirement. The exempt list includes hazard elimination projects, transit operating assistance, sidewalk or greenways and similar projects.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The following resources give more information on transportation conformity:

www.knowledge.fhwa.dot.gov/cops

www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/conform.htm

www.epa.gov/otag/stateresources/transconf

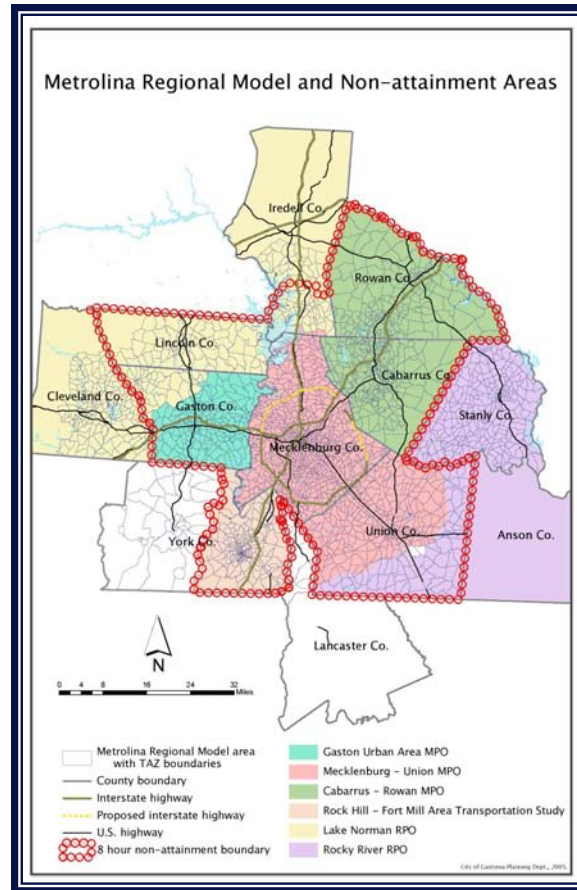
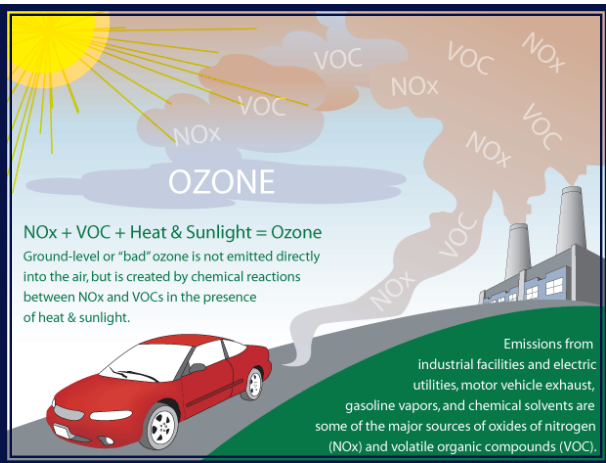
The Conformity Rule 40 CFR Part 93

The Planning Rule 23 CFR Part 450

DEFINITIONS

Transportation Conformity is the process Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) use to ensure that the transportation sector does its part to meet state and national goals for clean air.

- **Attainment areas** meet air quality standards.
- **Non-attainment areas** do not meet an air quality standard.
- **Maintenance areas** did not meet an air quality standard at one time.
- The **air quality standards** protect our health.
- The **SIP** is North Carolina's **State Implementation Plan** to meet the air quality standards.
- A **TIP (Transportation Improvement Program)** is a prioritized schedule of multimodal transportation projects.
- **Ozone (O₃)** is a gas composed of three oxygen atoms that can be "good" or "bad".
 - Generally, ground-level ozone is considered "bad." Motor vehicle exhaust and industrial emissions, gasoline vapors, and chemical solvents as well as natural sources emit NOx and VOC that help form ozone. Ground-level ozone is the primary constituent of smog. Sunlight and hot weather cause ground-level ozone to form in harmful concentrations in the air.
 - "Good" ozone occurs naturally in the stratosphere approximately 10 to 30 miles above the earth's surface and forms a layer that protects life on earth from the sun's harmful rays.



TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY



www.gastonmpo.org

P.O. Box 1748
Gastonia, NC 28053

Phone: 704.854.6663



"No department, agency, or instrumentality of the Federal Government shall engage in, support in any way or provide financial assistance for license, or permit, or approve any activity which does not **conform** to an implementation plan after it has been approved or promulgated under section 110."

- Section 176 (c) of the Clean Air Act

Agenda Item # 10C

To: TCC Members
From: Bernie Yacobucci, Transportation Planner I
Date: August 11, 2010
Subject: 85X Ridership

Background:

