

GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

1880 2nd Avenue NW, PO Box 9026

Hickory, NC 28603

MINUTES

GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (GHMPO)

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TCC)

Wednesday, August 27th, 2025 @ 1:00 PM In-person meeting and via Zoom

Present			**Absent**		
First Name	**Last Name**	**Representing**	**First Name**	**Last Name**	**Representing**
Randy	Williams	City of Newton	Michael	Berley	City of Morganton
Caroline	Kone	City of Hickory	Patrick	Reach	Alexander County
Wendy	Smith	Town of Morganton	Brian	Burgess	Alexander/Taylorsville
Rick	Justice	Town of Rhodhiss	Patrick	Creech	Alexander County
Bradley	Kirkley	Burke County	Randy	Feirabend	Town of Cajah's Mtn
Amy	Bucknam	Alexander County	Daniel	Cobb	Town of Granite Falls
Alan	Glines	Burke County	Chris	Timberlake	Catawba County
Karen	Dickerson	City of Hickory	Jon	Greer	Town of Hudson
Blake	Wright	Town of Maiden	Logan	Shook	Town of Hildebran
Laurie	LoCicero	Catawba County	Nathan	Hester	Town of Taylorsville
Dustin	Milsap	Town of Sawmills	Shelly	Stevens	Caldwell County
Jon	Hogan	City of Lenoir	Chris	Timberlake	Catawba County
Erik	Schlichting	City of Conover	John	Marshall	City of Hickory
Hannah	Williams	City of Lenior	Steve	Miller	City of Hickory
Bryce	Carter	City of Claremont	Bonnie	Caudie	Town of Gamewell
Greg	Wilson	Town of Granite Falls	Wilson	Elliott	City of Hickory

			Bill	Carroll	Town of Drexel
			Danny	Hipps	Town of Catawba
			Wayne	Rash	Caldwell County
WPCOG, FHWA & GUEST			**NC DOT STAFF**		
Averi Ritchie – WPCOG			Dean Ledbetter – Div 11 & 12		
Casey Fullbright – WPCOG			Ruben Crummy – NC DOT TPD		
Melani Harrel – WPCOG			Sean Sizemore – Div 11		
Ed Evans – Mattern & Craig			Anil Panicker – Div 12		
			Dough Philips Div 13		

Call to Order/ Introductions: Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM and welcomed all present. Introductions were conducted, followed by the Introduction of online viewers.

Action Items:

I. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** Chair Williams called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Upon a motion made by Mr. Justice and a second by Mrs. Smith, the board unanimously approved the consent agenda.

II. **Transportation Improvement Program Revisions for Approval**: Ms. Ritchie presented the requested Transportation Improvement Program revisions, noting updates to several planning and construction projects across the Greater Hickory MPO region. She highlighted additional funding allocations to support multi-year planning assistance efforts as well as schedule adjustments for the US 321 and Mission Road intersection project in Caldwell County, which will now move forward with design and construction in later fiscal years. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Smith and seconded by Mr. Schlichting, the board unanimously approved the Transportation Improvement Program Revisions.

III. **Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program for Approval:** Ms. Ritchie presented the 2026–2035 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program, a fiscally constrained plan that outlines how transportation investments will be programmed across Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, and Catawba counties. She noted that the MTIP incorporates projects from the statewide plan while also advancing local priorities such as roadway upgrades, public transit improvements, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Upon a motion made by Mr. Schlichting and seconded by Mr. Justice, the board unanimously approved the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program.

IV. **GHMPO Functional Reclassification of Roadways:** Mr. Crummy presented the Statewide Functional Reclassification Updates, explaining that NCDOT reviewed roadway data such as traffic volumes, speed limits, and roadway characteristics to ensure classifications align with current conditions. He highlighted several roadway segments in the Greater Hickory MPO area identified for upgrades, downgrades, or no changes, including portions of NC 150, US 321, Lenoir Rhyne Boulevard, Springs Road, and US 70. The updated classifications were presented for approval to keep the regional system consistent with federal standards and funding requirements. Upon a motion made by Mr. Justice and seconded by Mr. Schlichting, the board unanimously approved the GHMPO Functional Reclassification of Roadways.

V. **Prioritization 8 Identified Projects:** Ms. Ritchie presented updates on Prioritization 8 and initiated discussion on the upcoming Prioritization 9 process, noting that these efforts are part of NCDOT's data-driven system for selecting transportation projects. She explained that the Greater Hickory MPO has an important role in submitting candidate projects, applying local input points, and ensuring consistency with long-range transportation plans. The results of the current cycle will help shape which projects move forward for funding in the next State Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Williams canvassed the

committee, and upon seeing no objections, the Prioritization 8 identified projects were approved for public release by consensus.

NCDOT Update –

- **Division 11:** Mr. Sizemore stated that no new updates were available and provided all current projects in the agenda packet.
- **Division 12:** Mr. Panicker provided updates in the packet, which now features a revised format.
- **Division 13:** Mr. Phillips discussed project updates including, the Castle Bridge project in Burke County being let in August.
- **NCDOT-TPD:** Mr. Crummy provided updates on the NC Transportation Summitt being held September 3rd-4th. He also provided an update about NC Bike Walk being held September 7th-9th.

- **NCDOT-IMD:** No updates

Reminders: Ms. Ritchie reminded members that the GHMPO will be hosting Prioritization 9 meetings in September to select the first group of projects for express designs.

Public Comment/Announcements: None

Adjournment: Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 24th, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Williams, MPO/TCC Chair

Averi Ritchie, TAC Secretary