

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 (TAC)

Wednesday, August 27th, 2025 @ 2:30 PM In-person meeting and via Zoom

Present			**Absent**		
First Name	**Last Name**	**Representing**	**First Name**	**Last Name**	**Representing**
Hank	Guess	City of Hickory	Larry	Yoder	Alexander County
Martin	Townsend	Town of Granite Falls	Genita	Hill	Town of Long View
Barbara	Beatty	Catawba County	Ike	Perkins	City of Lenoir
Jill	Patton	City of Hickory	Beth	Rudisill	Town of Maiden
Barry	Mitchell	Town of Hudson	Jody	York	Town of Hildebran
Mark	Canrobert	City of Conover	Donald	Robinson	Town of Catawba
Glen	Harvey	Town of Valdese	Les	Morrow	City of Claremont
Mary	Furtado	Catawba County	Wendy	Cato	City of Morganton
Roy	Johnson	City Newton	Mike	Stroud	Burke County
Holly	Crafton-Lay	Town of Maiden	VACANT		Glen Alpine
Richard	Andrews	Town of Cajah's Mountain	VACANT		Alexander County
Donna	Price	Town of Rhodhiss	VACANT		Long View
Jack	Simms	Town of Taylorsville	VACANT		Brookford
			VACANT		Gamewell
			VACANT		Glen Alpine

			VACANT		Caldwell County
			VACANT		Cedar Rock
			VACANT		Connelly Springs
			VACANT		Sawmills
			VACANT		Rutherford College
			VACANT		Drexel

WPCOG, FHWA & GUEST	**NC DOT STAFF**
Averi Ritchie – WPCOG	Dean Ledbetter – Div 11 & 12
Casey Fullbright - WPCOG	Ruben Crummy – NC DOT TPD
Michael Bowman – Greenway	Sean Sizemore – Div 11
	Anil Panicker – Div 12
	Dough Phillips – Div 13
	Tim Anderson – Div 13
	Brad Lail - BOT
	Meghan Phillips - BOT

Call to Order/Ethics Awareness/ and Introductions: Chairman Guess called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM and welcomed all present. Introductions were conducted, followed by the Introduction of online viewers.

Approval of Remote Participation: Online attendees were Holly Crafton-Lay, Meghan Phillips, Glen Harvey and Jack Simms. Chairman Guess canvassed the committee for any objections to online participants. Upon a motion made by Chairman Guess and seconded by Mr. Canrobert, online participation was approved.

Action Items:

I. Approval of Consent Agenda: Chairman Guess called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Patton and a second by Mr. Townsend, 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. Beatty and seconded by Mrs. Patton, 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. Canrobert and seconded by Mrs. Beatty, 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. Canrobert and seconded by Mrs. Patton, 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. Chairman Guess canvassed the committee, and upon seeing no objections, the Prioritization 8 identified projects were approved for public release by consensus.

NCDOT Update –

- **Board of Transportation:** No Updates
- **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. Anderson discussed project updates including, the Castle Bridge project in Burke County being let in August. Further project updates were discussed including the Norfolk Southern bridge in Morganton being 55% completed. The current funding request for the Private Bridge and Road Program were discussed.
- **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: Chairman Guess adjourned the meeting at 3:16 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 24th, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hank Guess, TAC Chairman	Averi Ritchie, TAC Secretary