NORTH CAROLINA
Department of Transportation

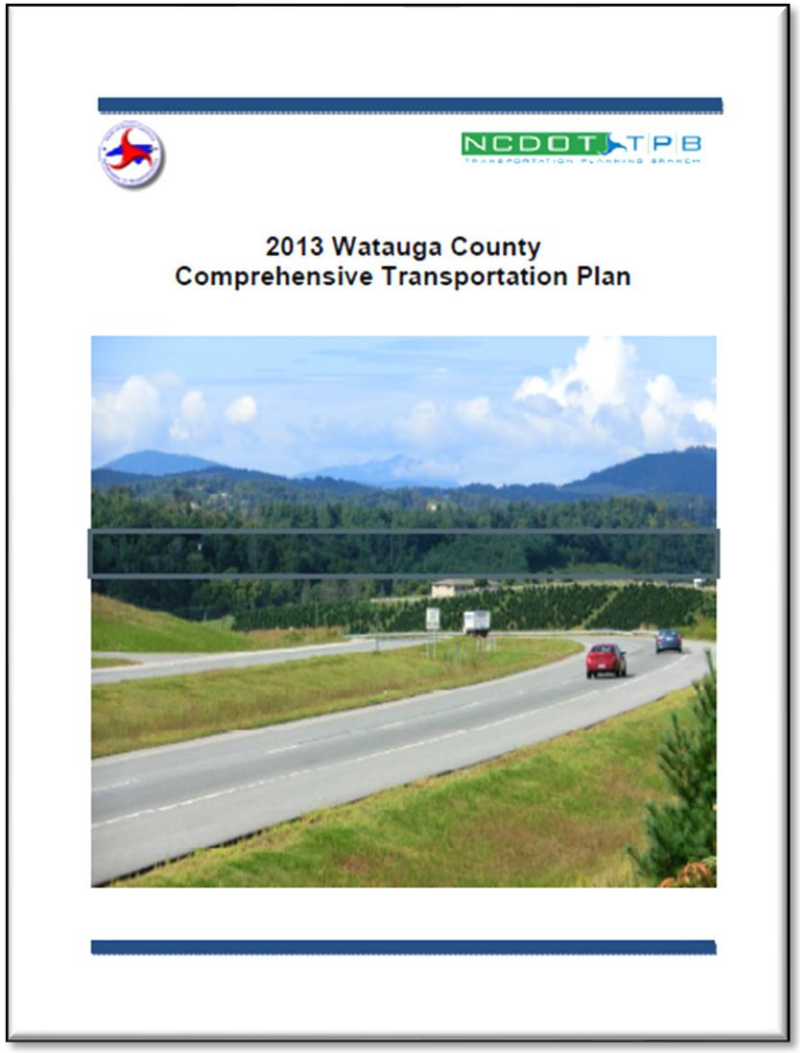
Watauga County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) “What Is A CTP”

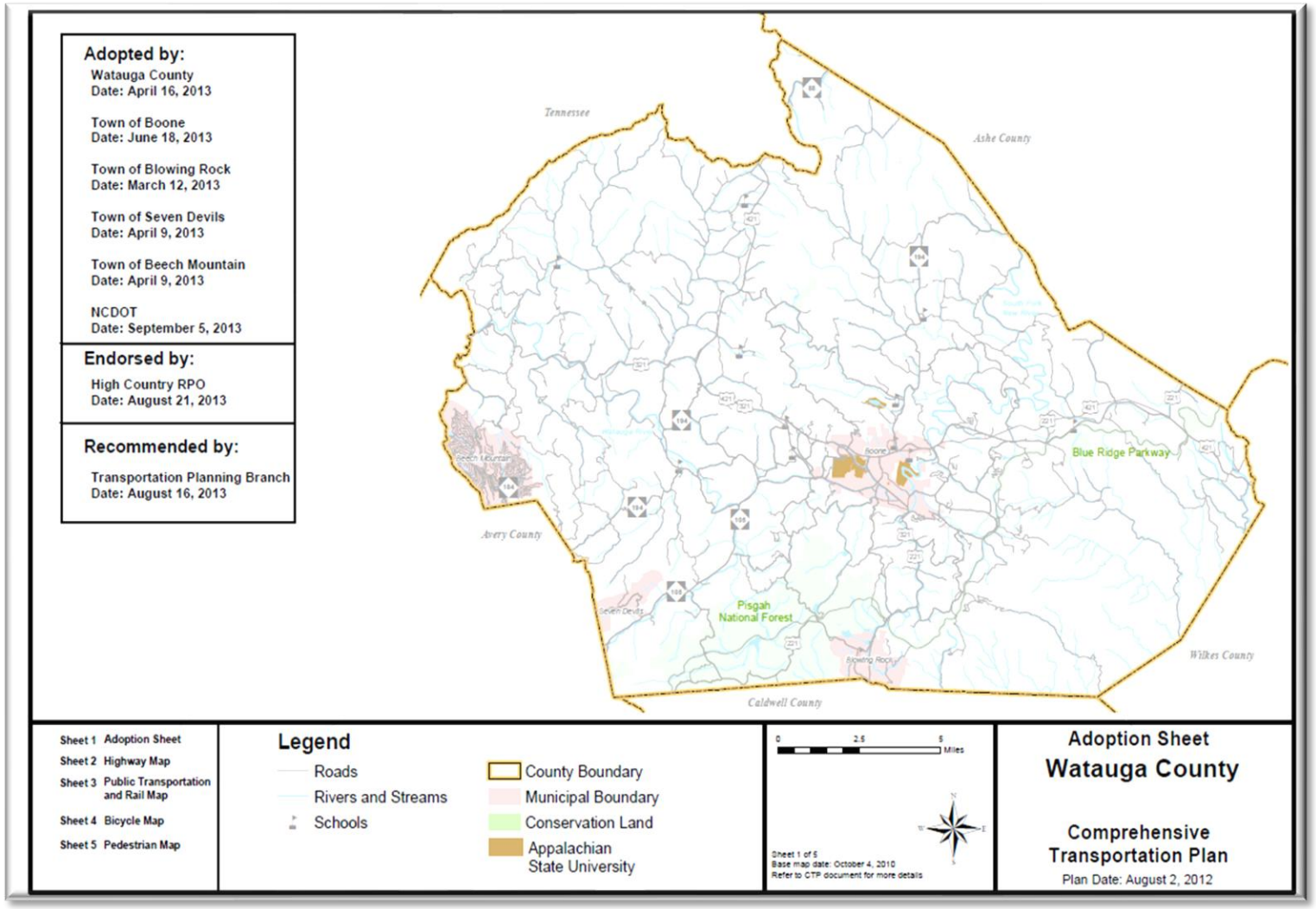
Reuben Crummy NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (TPD)
David Graham High Country Rural Planning Organization (RPO)

August 12, 2026

Connecting people, products and places safely and efficiently with customer focus, accountability and environmental sensitivity to enhance the economy and vitality of North Carolina

The 2013 Watauga County CTP is Being Updated





What Is A CTP ?

State Mandated Plan

Per § G.S. 136-66.2 – Development of a coordinated transportation system and provisions for streets and highways in and around municipalities

First Part of (a):

Each municipality, not located within a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) as recognized in G.S. 136-200.1, with the cooperation of the Department of Transportation, shall develop a comprehensive transportation plan that will serve present and anticipated travel demand in and around the municipality.

A Current Land Use Plan Is Required

Current legislation (§ 136-66.2.b1) requires that local areas have a current land development plan (less than five years old) prior to receiving any planning assistance from the Department.

(b1) The Department of Transportation may participate in the development and adoption of a transportation plan or updated transportation plan when all local governments within the area covered by the transportation plan have adopted land development plans within the previous five years. The Department of Transportation may participate in the development of a transportation plan if all the municipalities and counties within the area covered by the transportation plan are in the process of developing a land development plan. The Department of Transportation may not adopt or update a transportation plan until a local land development plan has been adopted. A qualifying land development plan may be a comprehensive plan, land use plan, master plan, strategic plan, or any type of plan or policy document that expresses a jurisdiction's goals and objectives for the development of land within that jurisdiction.

What is A CTP?

- A long range needs-based plan (25-30 years)

- Represents consensus on a future transportation system

- Multimodal
  - Highway
  - Public Transportation / Rail
  - Bicycle / Pedestrian

- Satisfies NC State Statute § 136-66.2



What is A CTP?

Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Developed cooperatively with:

- NCDOT
- Municipalities
- Counties
- Metropolitan and/or Rural Planning Organizations
- Community Stakeholders
- The public

What is A CTP?

Comprehensive Transportation Plan

It is adopted or endorsed at three levels:

1. Locally (Local Governments)
2. Metropolitan and/or Rural Planning Organization
3. NCDOT Board of Transportation

Adoption is the first step of the development of transportation projects

What are the benefits of a CTP?

- Identifies solutions
- Supports community-adopted vision
- Allows communities to consider all modes

The results of the CTP process feeds into the NCDOT prioritization process and help guide MPOs and RPOs in developing project prioritization.

What are the benefits of a CTP?

Established the Comprehensive Transportation Plan

- Facilitates accountability (through the formal public involvement process (PIP))
- Considers environmental resources and geographic region area constraints
- Provides detailed information for project proposals

Why Develop a CTP?

- First step in the NCDOT project delivery process
- Identify existing and future transportation needs
- Project proposals should be reflected in the CTP before they are submitted for future funding available through NCDOT
- NCDOT refers to the CTP when implementing its Complete Streets Policy that includes multimodal facilities adhere appropriate
- A CTP can provide a link between land use decisions and future transportation decisions

NCDOT PROJECT DELIVERY PROCESS



CTPs are “Needs-Based” Plans

CTP Recommendations:

- Identify transportation needs
- Provide reasonable proposals
- Based on data-driven analysis and public input



CTPs creates project proposals and use data from other plans

A sampling of the data considered in a Comprehensive Transportation Plan

State Transportation Improvement Program (Funded)

Local Land Development or Land Use Plans

Local & Statewide Transportation Plans

Local & Statewide Bike / Ped / Transit Plans



Information from these plans and other data go through the CTP analysis process

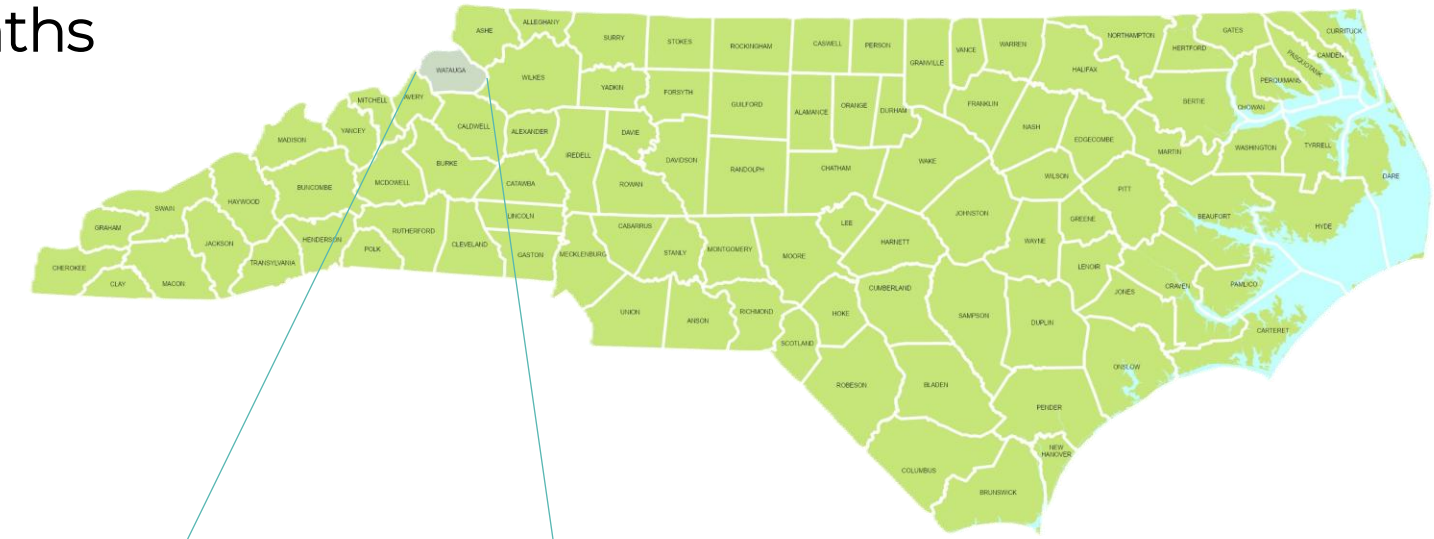
CTP Process

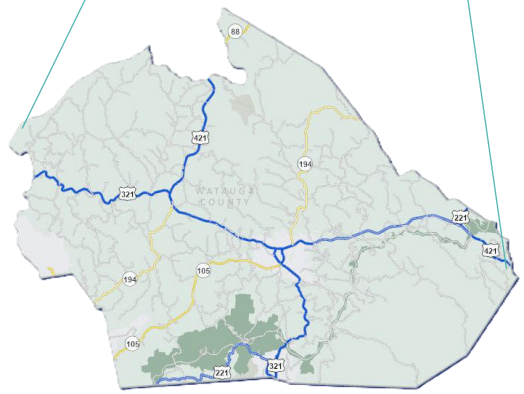
Takes approximately 12-18 months

Typical process includes:

- Develop Local Vision
- System Assessment
- Analyze Alternatives
- Develop Draft Plan
- Plan Adoption

Generally developed on a County, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), or Regional level





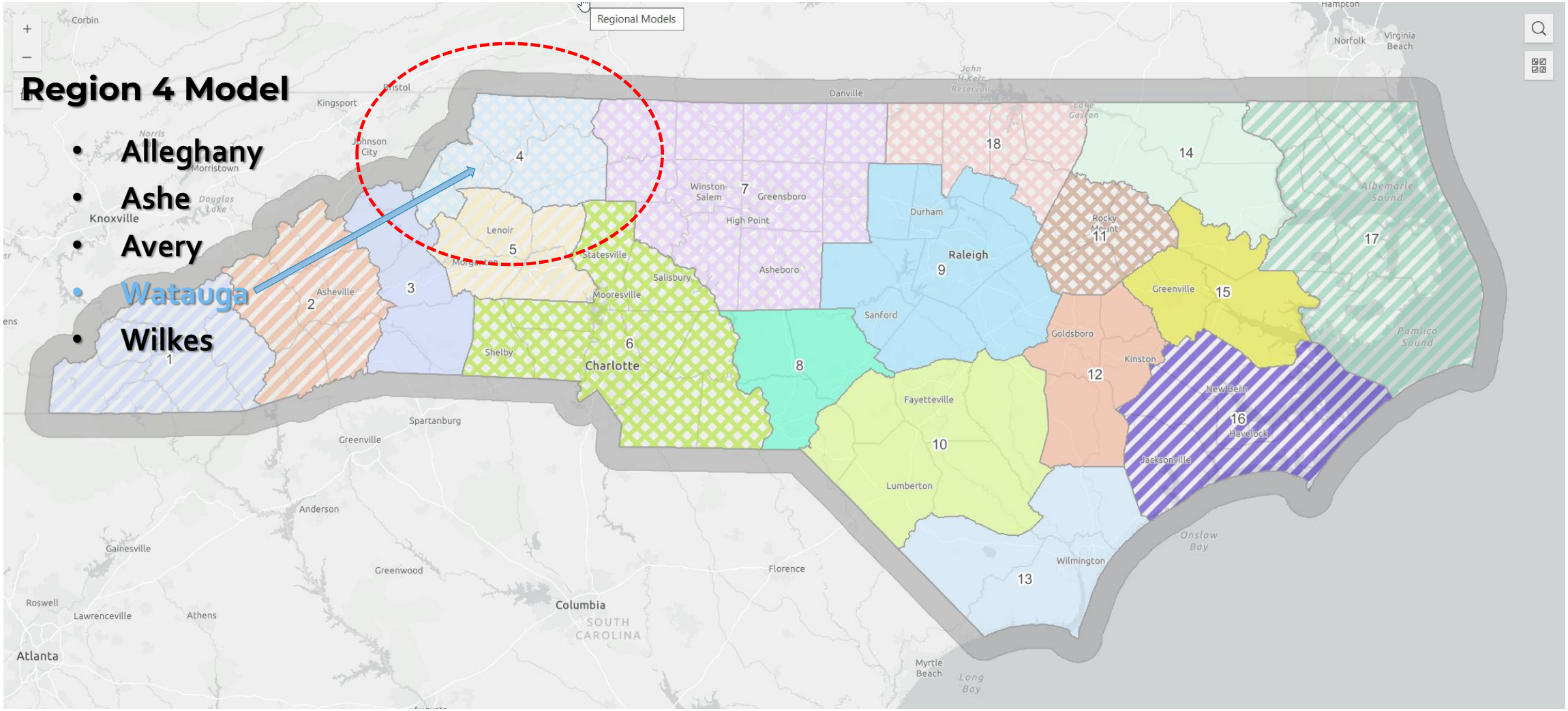
Watauga County Planning Area

County

MPO Area

Regional (Multi-County)

NCDOT Travel Demand Model Regions in NC



What is a Travel Demand Model?

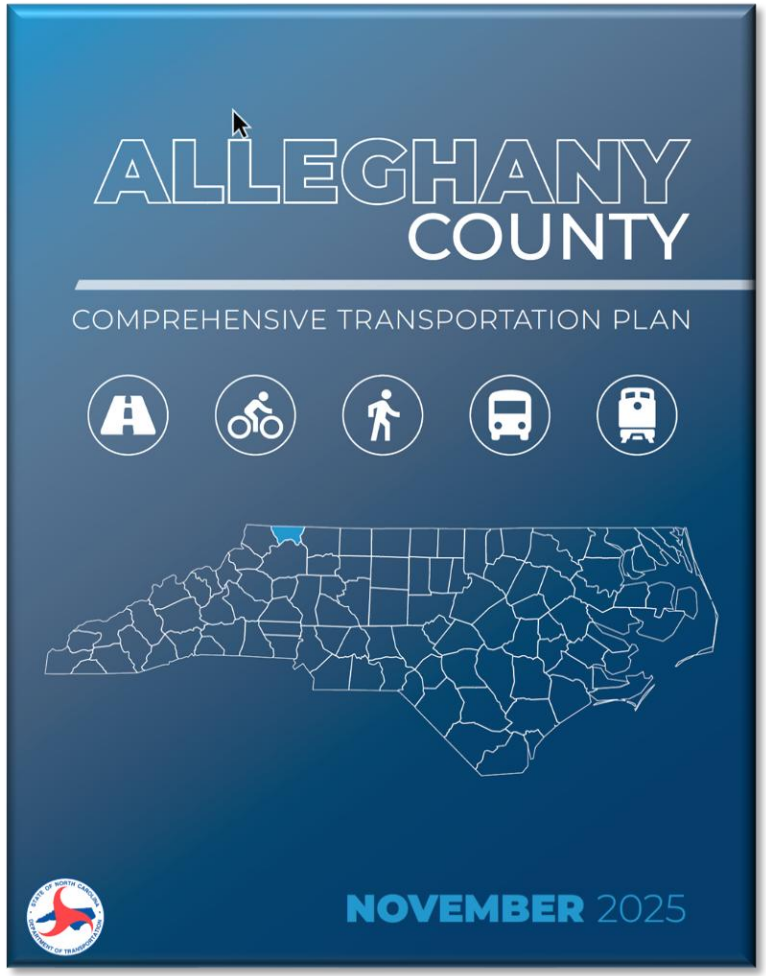
- NCDOT computer generated tool used to simulate existing and future travel patterns and deficiencies within a defined transportation network based on data (certificate of occupancy, employment, school enrollment, public transit, visitor, etc.)
- Predicts how changes in size and character of households, businesses, schools, etc. impact the transportation system in the future.
- Reflects travel behavior based on mode choices, i.e., highway vs transit vs other modes.

How is a Travel Demand Model Used?

- Used to inform the development of the Watauga CTP and other future CTPs in High Country RPO region.
- Currently being developed for Watauga County
- Guided by input from a local TDM Coordinating Committee in partnership with NCDOT and the High Country RPO

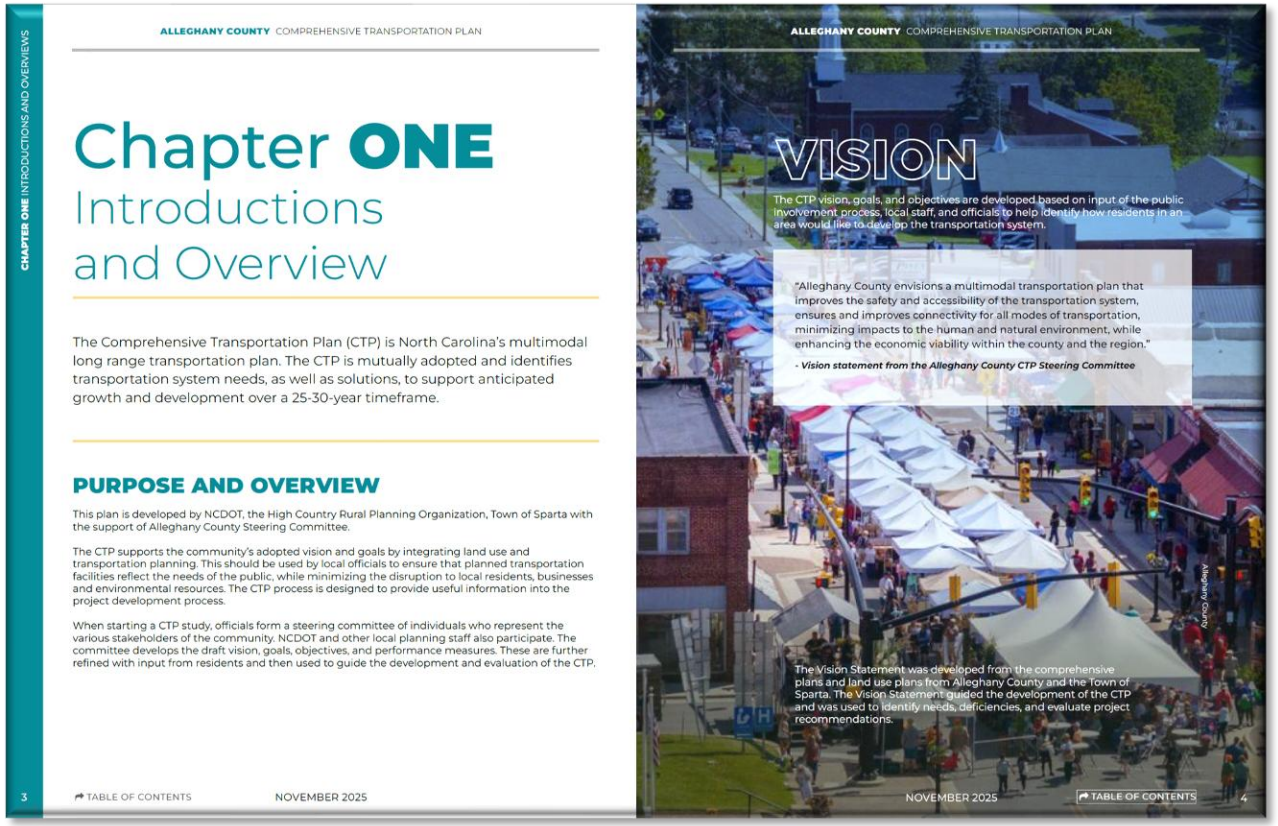
Example CTP Products

Deliverables an area will receive from the CTP Process



User Friendly Plan Documentation

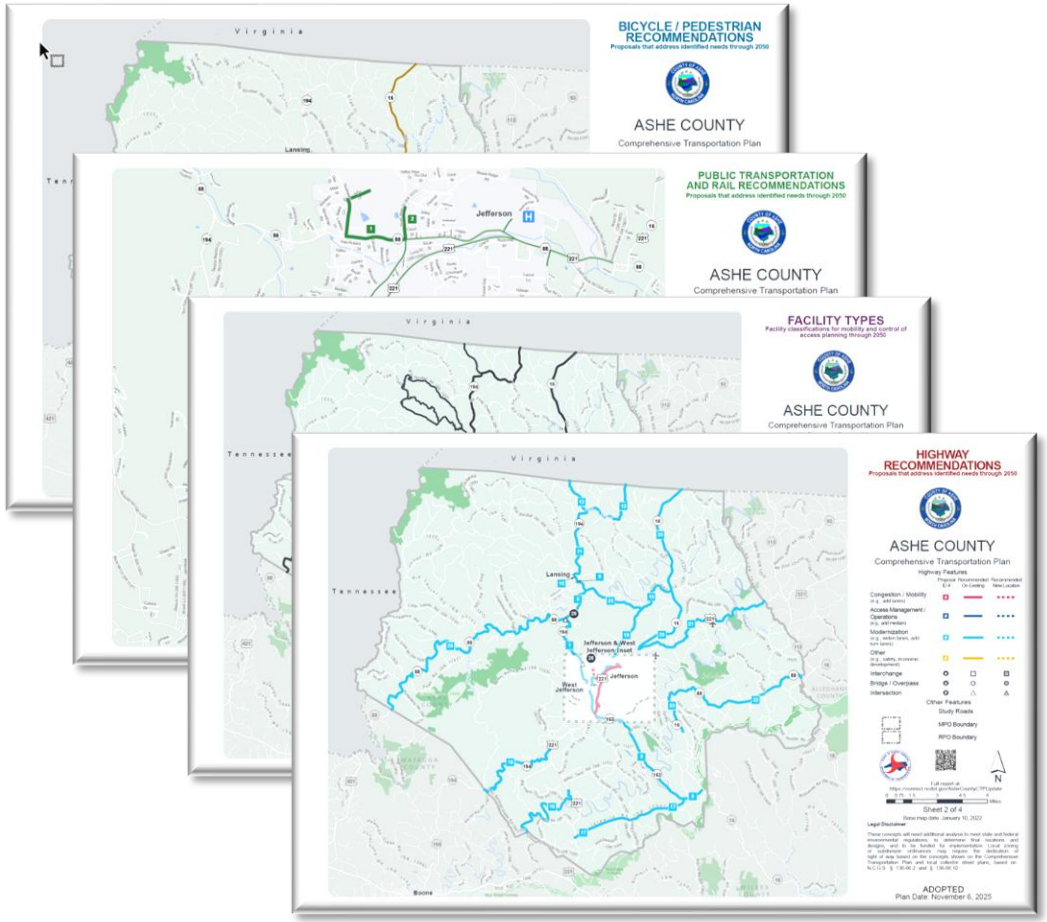
Covers Study Highlights



Example CTP Products

Deliverables an area will receive from the CTP Process

CTP Recommendation Maps



Recommendations List



ASHE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

ASHE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN August 2023

CHAPTER THREE CTP PROJECT PROPOSALS

Ashe County
Highway Recommendations

1 **US 221 BUS, NC 88, South Main St Highway Recommendation:**
From: N Sixth Ave To: UG 221 Bus/G Main St (Yamaha) I 1.72 miles
Replace with road diet (3 lanes with bicycle and pedestrian facilities)

2 **US 221 BUS, S Main St Highway Recommendation:** *From:*
UG221 Bus/G Main St (Yamaha) To: Hospital Ave (GR-1664) I 0.76 miles
Replace with road diet (3 lanes with bicycle and pedestrian facilities)

3 **US 221 BUS, NC Hwy 194 Highway Recommendation:**
From: Hamilton St To: Beaver Creek School Rd (GR 1248) I 1.27 miles
Replace with road diet (3 lanes with bicycle and pedestrian facilities)

4 **Mount Jefferson Rd Highway Recommendation:**
From: Walmart To: Lowes Dr I 0.19 miles
Widen to 3 lanes with pedestrian facilities

5 **NC Hwy 163 Highway Recommendation:**
From: 750 Feet From UG-221 To: NC-16 I 8.95 miles
Improve to roadway standard 12 foot lanes 2 ft shoulders with bicycle and pedestrian facilities

6 **NC Hwy 194 Highway Recommendation:**
From: E 5th St To: NC 88 I 1.28 miles
Improve to roadway standard 12 foot lanes 2 ft shoulders

7 **NC Hwy 194 Highway Recommendation:**
From: NC 88/NC 194 in Warrensville To: NC 88/NC 194 I 3.77 miles
Improve to roadway standard 12 foot lanes 2 ft shoulders with bicycle and pedestrian facilities

Highway Class: Congestion Access Management Modernization Other (Safety, etc.) Bridge/Intersection

HIGHWAY RECOMMENDATIONS PAGE 1

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- *Highway*
- *Bicycle & Pedestrian*
- *Public Transportation*
- *Rail*

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