

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, July 23rd, 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
John	Marshall	City of Hickory	Patrick	Reach	Alexander County
Caroline	Kone	City of Hickory	Brian	Burgess	Alexander/Taylorsville
Wendy	Smith	Town of Morganton	Patrick	Creech	Alexander County
Rick	Justice	Town of Rhodhiss	Randy	Feirabend	Town of Cajah's Mtn
Bill	Carroll	Town of Drexel	Daniel	Cobb	Town of Granite Falls
Bradley	Kirkley	Burke County	Chris	Timberlake	Catawba County
Karen	Dickerson	City of Hickory	Greg	Wilson	Town of Granite Falls
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
Steve	Miller	City of Hickory	Chris	Timberlake	Catawba County
Wilson	Elliott	City of Hickory	Amy	Bucknam	Alexander County
Jon	Greer	Town of Hudson	Erik	Schlichting	City of Conover
Danny	Hipps	Town of Catawba	Hannah	Williams	City of Lenior
Wayne	Rash	Caldwell County	Jon	Hogan	City of Lenoir

			Alan	Glines	Burke County
			Bryce	Carter	City of Claremont
			Bonnie	Caudie	Town of Gamewell
WPCOG, FHWA & GUEST			**NC DOT STAFF**		
Averi Ritchie – WPCOG			Dean Ledbetter – Div 11 & 12		
Daniel Odom – WPCOG			Ruben Crummy – NC DOT TPD		
Casey Fullbright – WPCOG			Sean Sizemore – Div 11		
Alexis Douglas – Intern Town of Newton			Kenny Heavner – Div 11		
			Michael Poe – Div 11		
			Anil Panicker – Div 12		
			Travis Jordan – Div 12		
			Stephen Sparks – Div 13		
			Dough Philips Div 13		
			Luke Bender – NC DOT		
			John Hunter – NC DOT		
			Steve Cannon – Div 13		

Call to Order/ Introductions: Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 1:05 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. Kone, the board unanimously approved the consent agenda.

II. **Transportation Improvement Program for Release**: Ms. Ritchie presented the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program for release, outlining the 2026–2035 MTIP as a fiscally constrained, ten-year plan developed in coordination with NCDOT and regional stakeholders. The MTIP includes all local projects from the state's STIP, aligns with federal requirements, and highlights regional priorities in infrastructure, transit, and multimodal transportation. It plays a key role in funding authorization, with only listed projects eligible to receive federal dollars, and only the first five years (2026–2030) scheduled for delivery. Public engagement is central to the process, with the draft MTIP being released for comment ahead of planned adoption on August 27, 2025. Seeing no objections, the committee unanimously approved the release for public comment.

III. **Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan—Interactive Tool Update:** Mr. Fullbright and Mr. Odom presented the Regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan Interactive Tool Update, highlighting enhancements to the online viewer that allows users to explore active transportation projects and planning efforts across the region. The tool integrates GIS data to visualize existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian facilities, safety concerns, and local priorities. They demonstrated how stakeholders can filter data by county, project status, and facility type, improving transparency and accessibility for both planners and the public. The presenters emphasized that the tool supports regional collaboration and decision-making by helping identify connectivity gaps and investment opportunities. Committee members expressed appreciation for the update and discussed ways the tool could be further utilized for future planning initiatives.

NCDOT Update –

- **Division 11:** Mr. Poe discussed project updates including,The US 321 Sawmills project is scheduled to begin in October. Additional reduced conflict intersection (RCI) projects are planned in Hudson and on Pine Mountain Rd.
- **Division 12:** Mr. Panicker provided updates in the packet, which now features a revised format. All projects listed in the adopted STIP are included, even if not yet started, to reflect all major construction activity within Division 12.
- **Division 13:** Mr. Phillips discussed project updates including, the completion of Bridge projects in Burke County. A new access road in a Burke construction park has been let and awarded. A multi-county striping contract is expected to begin by August. A resurfacing contract has been approved, but no work has started yet. Project R-3430 is scheduled to be let in August.
- **NCDOT-TPD:** Mr. Crummy stated that there are no new traffic forecasts at this time.

The Integrated Mobility Division (IMD) quarterly update will be released on the 17th. Members were encouraged to review the latest TPD newsletter and review the IMD webinar. The Community Data Explorer (CDE) tool will be transitioning to TPD management.

- **NCDOT-IMD:** No updates

Reminders: Ms. Ritchie reminded members that Prioritization 8 (P8) workshops are upcoming, with opportunities to attend drop-in sessions or schedule separate meetings. Staff are reviewing both carryover and new project selections for P8. Public meetings related to the regional Bike and Pedestrian Plan are also being planned.

Public Comment/Announcements: None

Adjournment: Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 1:33 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 27th, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Williams, MPO/TCC Chair

Averi Ritchie, TAC Secretary