

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, March 25th , 2026, 2:30 PM In-person meeting and via Zoom

Present			**Absent**		
First Name	**Last Name**	**Representing**	**First Name**	**Last Name**	**Representing**
Melinda	Zimmerman	Town of Valdese	Larry	Yoder	Alexander County
Jill	Patton	City of Hickory	Jody	York	Town of Hildebran
Les	Morrow	City of Claremont	Donald	Robinson	Town of Catawba
Hank	Guess	City of Hickory	Holly	Crafton-Lay	Town of Maiden
Genita	Hill	Town of Long View	Jack	Simms	Town of Taylorsville
Jamie	Hagerty	Town of Granite Falls	VACANT		Brookford
Donna	Price	Town of Rhodhiss	VACANT		Gamewell
Jonathan	Beal	City of Lenoir	VACANT		Glen Alpine
Lanny	Ford	Town of Maiden	VACANT		Caldwell County
Martin	Townsend	Town of Granite Falls	VACANT		Cedar Rock
Mary	Furtado	Catawba County	VACANT		Connelly Springs
Jonathan	McClure	City Newton	VACANT		Sawmills
Molly	McKay	City of Morganton	VACANT		Rutherford College
Gary	Sigmon	City of Claremont	VACANT		Drexel
Barbara	Beatty	Catawba County			
Mark	Canrobert	City of Conover			

Mike	Stroud	Burke County			
Jim	Engleman	Town of Hudson			
Richard	Andrews	Town of Cajah's Mountain			

WPCOG, FHWA & GUEST	**NC DOT STAFF**
Averi Ritchie – WPCOG	Ruben Crummy – NC DOT TPD
Casey Fullbright - WPCOG	Sean Sizemore – Div 11
Daniel Odom – WPCOG	Michael Poe- Div 11
Anthony Starr - WPCOG	Anson Merrithew – Div 11
Alison Alexander – WPCOG	Travis Chrisawn – Div 11
Michael Bowman - WPRTA	Travis Jordan – Div 12
Renee Carswell – City Clerk Morganton	Dough Phillips – Div 13
	Tim Anderson – Div 13
	Stephan Sparks – Div 13
	Dean Leadbetter – Div 11 & 12
	Meghan Phillips – NCDOT BOT
	Gabriel Johnson – Div 13
	Brad Lail – NCDOT BOT
	Brandon Whitaker – Div 11

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, Meghan Phillips, Brandon Whitaker, Renee Carswell and Stephan Sparks. Chairman Guess canvassed the committee for any objections to online participants. Upon a motion made by Mr. Townsend and seconded by Mr. Morrow, online participation was approved.

Action Items:

I. **Approval of Consent Agenda:** Chairman Guess called for a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included the Minutes of the February 25, 2026 meeting and the Transportation Improvement Program Revisions for Release. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Patton and a second by Mr. Morrow, the Committee unanimously approved the consent agenda.

II. **Transportation Improvement Program Revisions for Approval:** Ms. Ritchie briefly presented the Transportation Improvement Program Revisions for Approval, condensing the review due to the large number of projects in the packet. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Patton and seconded by Mr. Townsend, the committee unanimously approved the revisions.

III. **Transit State of Good Repairs Performance Measures:** Ms. Ritchie presented the Transit State of Good Repairs Performance Measures as detailed in the agenda packet. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Patton and seconded by Mr. Canrobert, the committee unanimously adopted the measures.

IV. **Local Input Point Methodology for Prioritization 8:** Mr. Fullbright presented the Local Input Point Methodology for Prioritization 8. The committee reached consensus to approve the methodology.

V. **Resolution of Support for IMD Multimodal Planning Grant-City of Hickory:** Ms. Ritchie presented the Resolution of Support for the IMD Multimodal Planning Grant for the City of Hickory. Upon a motion made by Mr. Beal and seconded by Mr. Morrow, the committee unanimously approved the resolution of support.

VI. **LAPP 2026-Spring Call for New Projects:** Mr. Odom presented the Locally Administered Project Program (LAPP) 2026 Spring Call for New Projects. The committee reached consensus to release the call for projects for public comment.

NCDOT Update –

- **BOT –** Mr. Lail reviewed the latest newsletter and shared updates from a recent meeting with the Secretary of Transportation. Mrs. Phillips provided updates on board activities.

- **Division 11:** Mr. Poe reviewed the information provided in the agenda packet. Mr. Chrisawn provided an update on the Pinewood Road project, noting that it is progressing well.
- **Division 12:** Mr. Jordan reported that there were no major new updates, but noted there is currently a lot of resurfacing, mowing, and active construction occurring.
- **Division 13:** Mr. Phillips reviewed the project development list, noting that paving is underway. He also reported that the Connelly Springs Road bridge project is actively clearing and working through permitting and phasing.
- **NCDOT-TPD:** Mr. Crummy reported that there is no traffic forecast currently in progress and the GHMPO Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) has been submitted for adoption. It was also noted that the TPD director is moving and new leadership will be stepping in.
- **NCDOT-IMD:** None.

Reminders: Ms. Ritchie reminded members to submit their TAC ethics forms. She also reminded the committee about the upcoming Federal Recertification review survey.

Public Comment/Announcements: None

Adjournment: Upon a motion made by Chairman Guess and a second by Mr. Morrow, the meeting was adjourned at 3:07 PM. The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 22, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Hank Guess, TAC Chairman	Averi Ritchie, TAC Secretary