



Western Piedmont
Council of Governments

Creative Regional Solutions Since 1968

Local Coordinated Public Transportation Plan Workshop | 2021

July 20, 2021 @ 2:00 PM

Agenda

- Plan Purpose
- Demographics and Trends
- Survey Results
- Breakout Exercise
- Next Steps

What is a local coordinated plan?



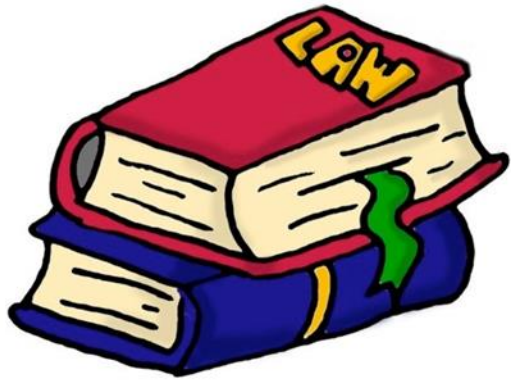
The purpose of the Local Coordinated Public Transportation Plan is to identify the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and those with lower incomes, and to identify and prioritize strategies for meeting those needs.

Some of the goals of the LCPTP include:

- ✓ Promoting transportation equity
- ✓ Managing resources efficiently
- ✓ Creating economic opportunities

The LCPTP is updated every four years.

What is this plan used for?



FAST Act legislation mandates that organizations receiving Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grants adopt a “locally developed” Coordinated Public Transportation-Human Services Plan in order to program eligible funds. This plan will allow organizations and entities within the region to receive FTA Section 5310 (Transportation for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities) and Section 5307 (Urbanized Formula) funding grants.

Funding Opportunities

As mentioned in the previous slide, the LCPTP is used to obtain federal funding for public transit needs. Here are some of those specific opportunities:



FTA 5307 – Urbanized Area Formula Program

FTA 5310 – Transportation for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities

FTA 5311 – Formula Grants for Rural Areas

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ)

Q&A: Do you have any questions about these programs at this moment?

Demographics

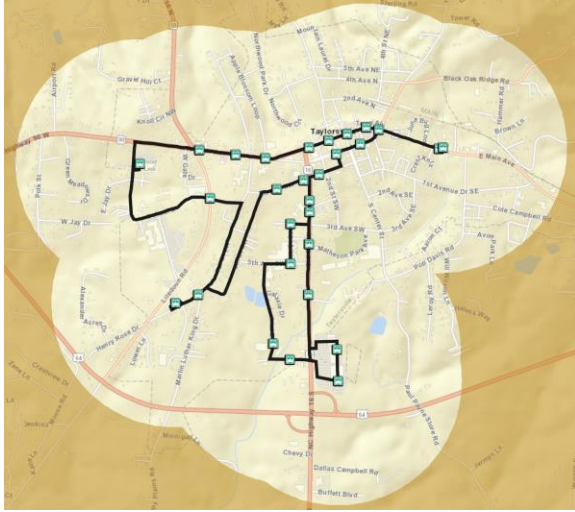


Because the LCPTP focuses on the needs of targeted populations, it is crucial to analyze demographic data in the region. Some key demographics/maps include:

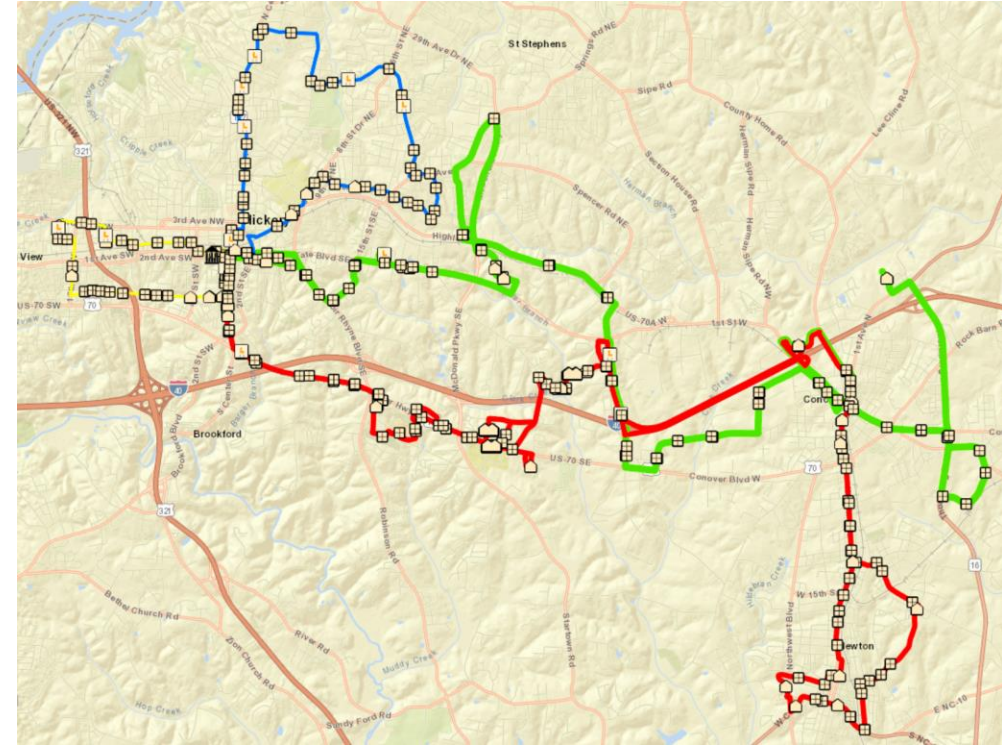
- Current WPRTA Routes & Schedules
- Hickory Metro % of Households with No Automobile
- Hickory Metro % Age 65 and Older
- Hickory Metro % of Families Below Poverty Level
- Hickory Metro % of Persons with Disabilities
- Commuter Patterns

Current WPRTA Routes and Schedules

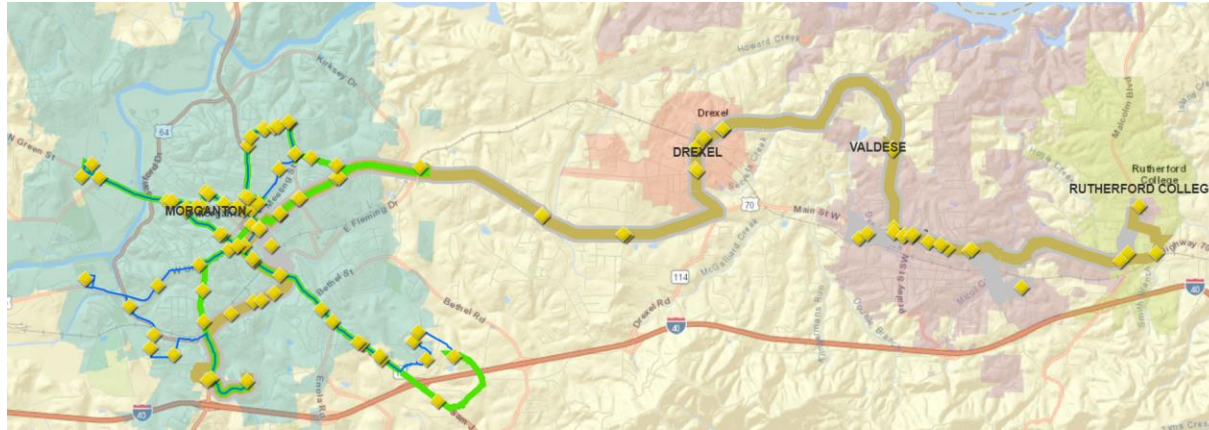
Alexander



Catawba



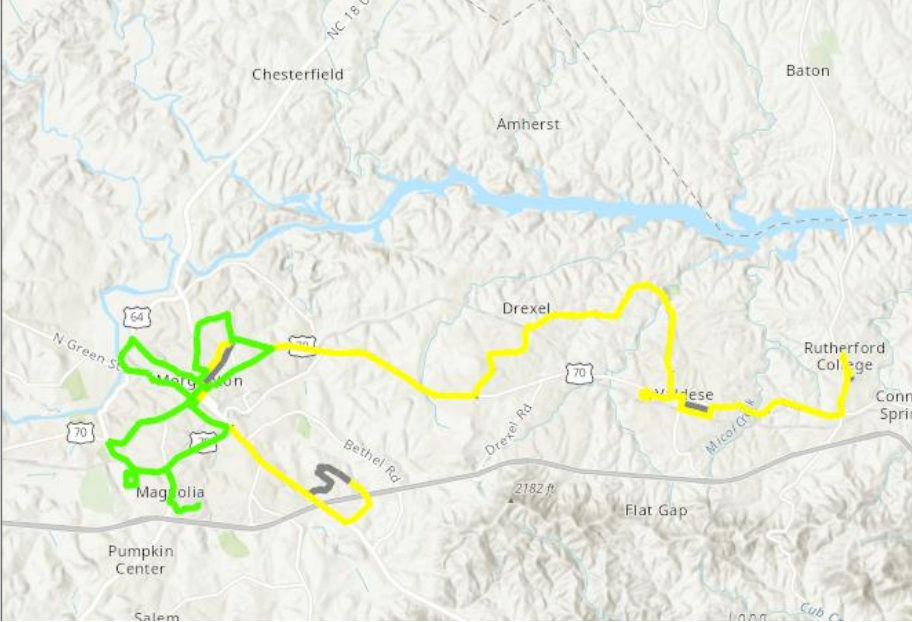
Burke



Planned WPRTA Routes and Schedules

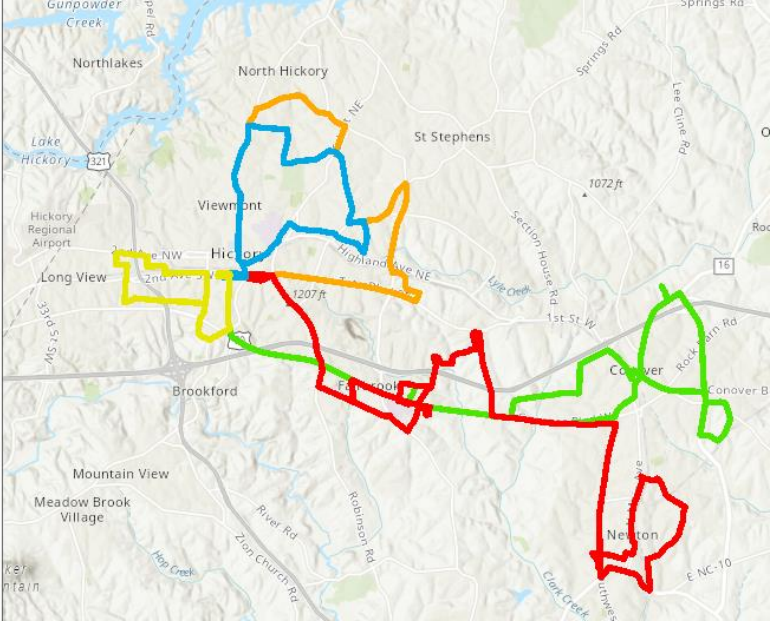
Burke

- Morganton Route New
- Valdese Inbound New
- Valdese Outbound New



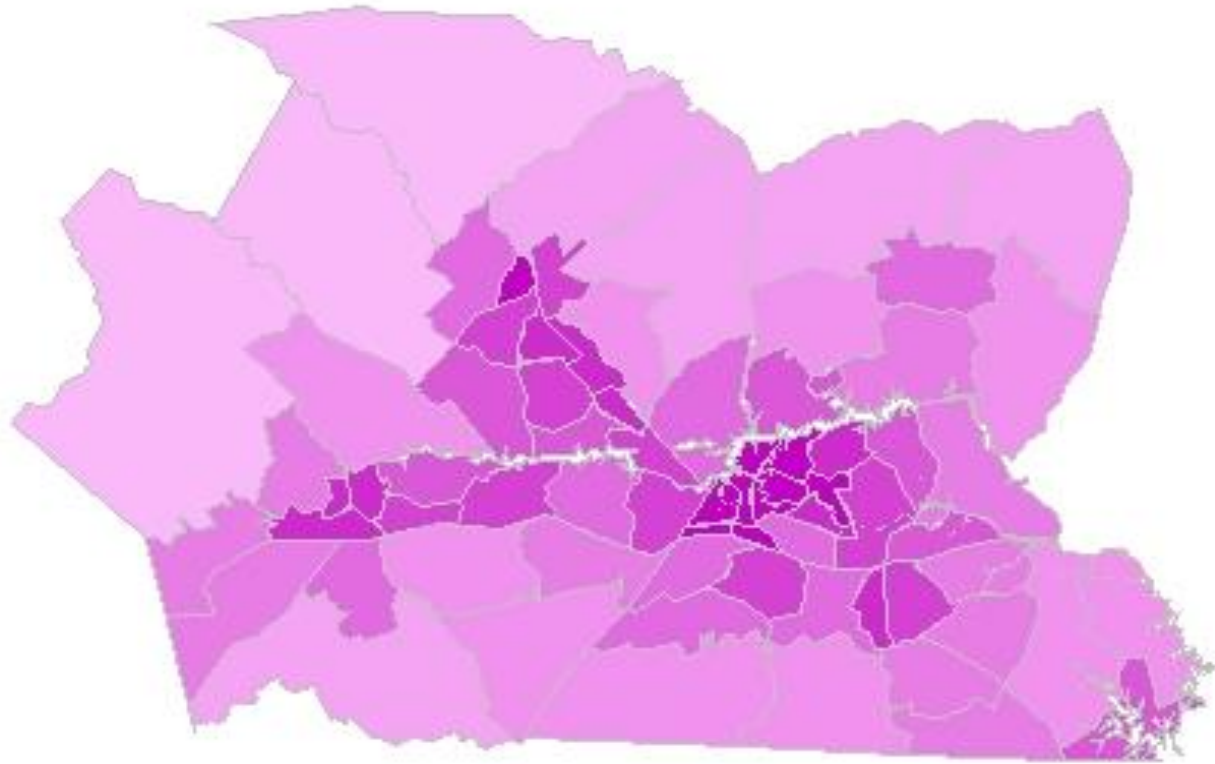
Catawba

- Hickory_Fixed_Route_2020_New
- View Route 1
- View Route 2
- View Route 3 & Route 4
- View Route 5 & Route 5
- View Route 7



Caldwell?

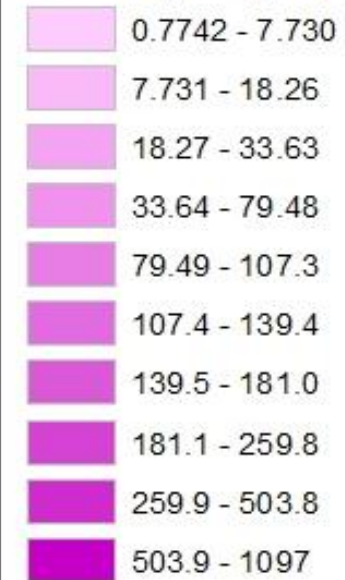
Population Density



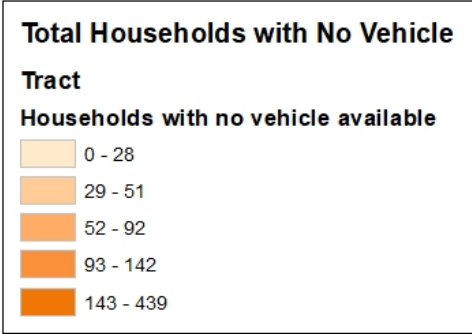
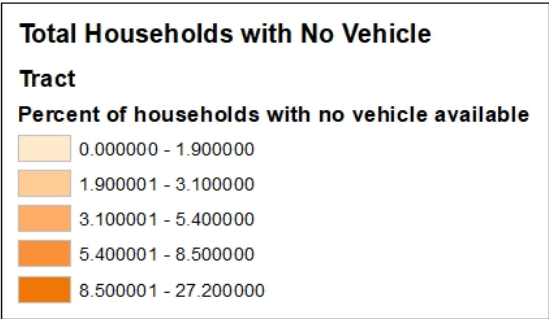
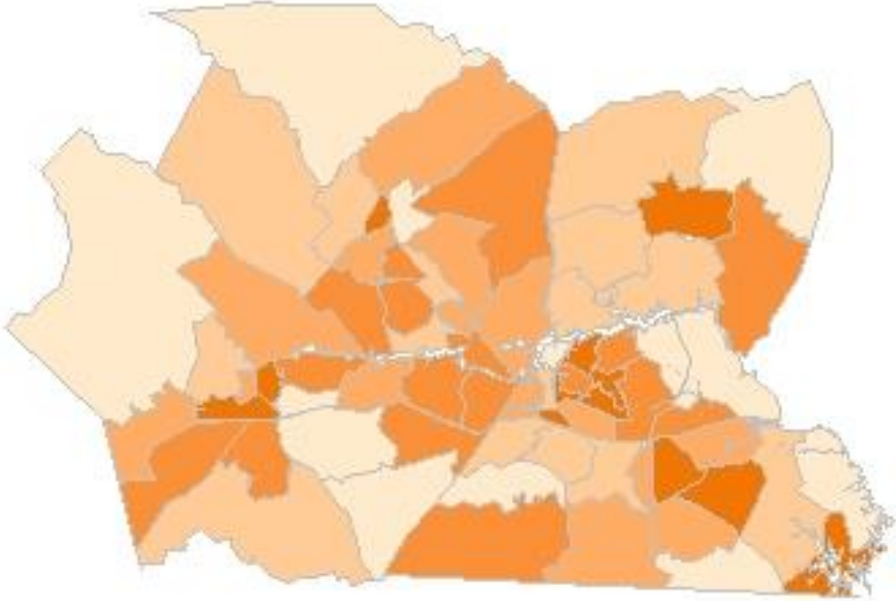
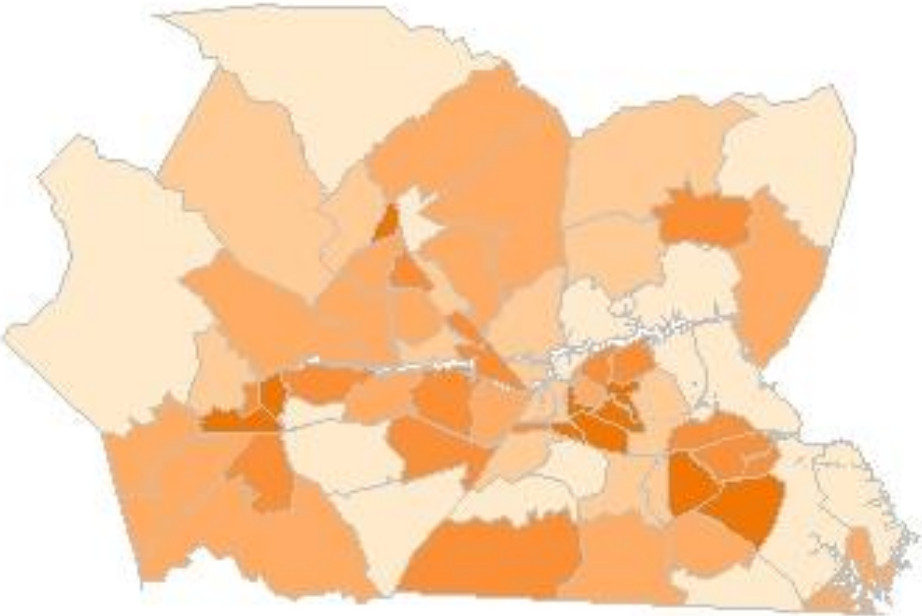
People per Square Kilometer

Tract

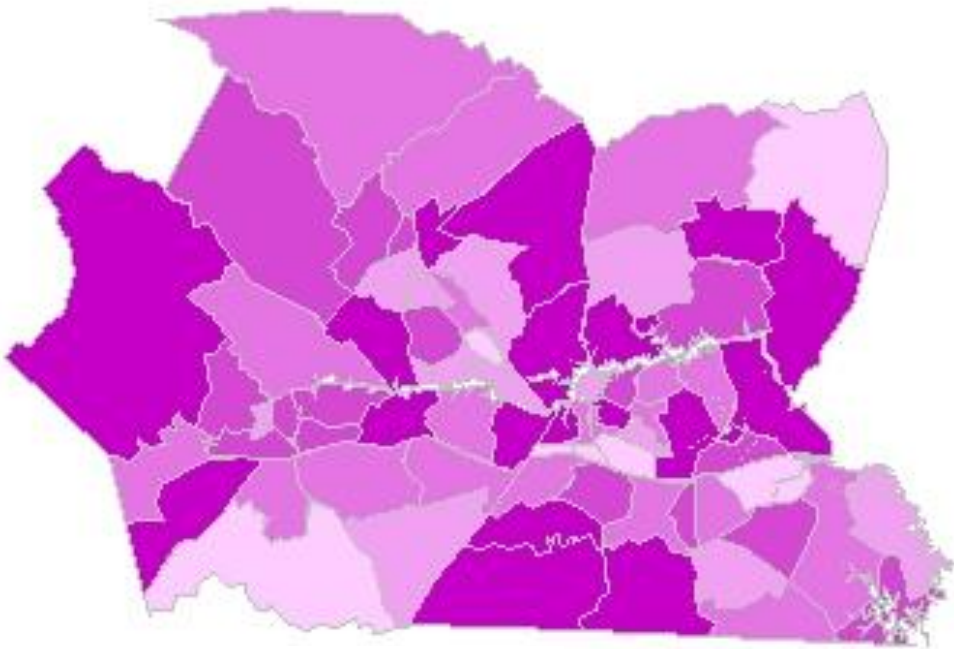
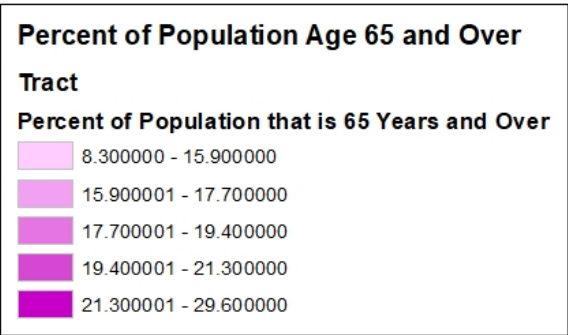
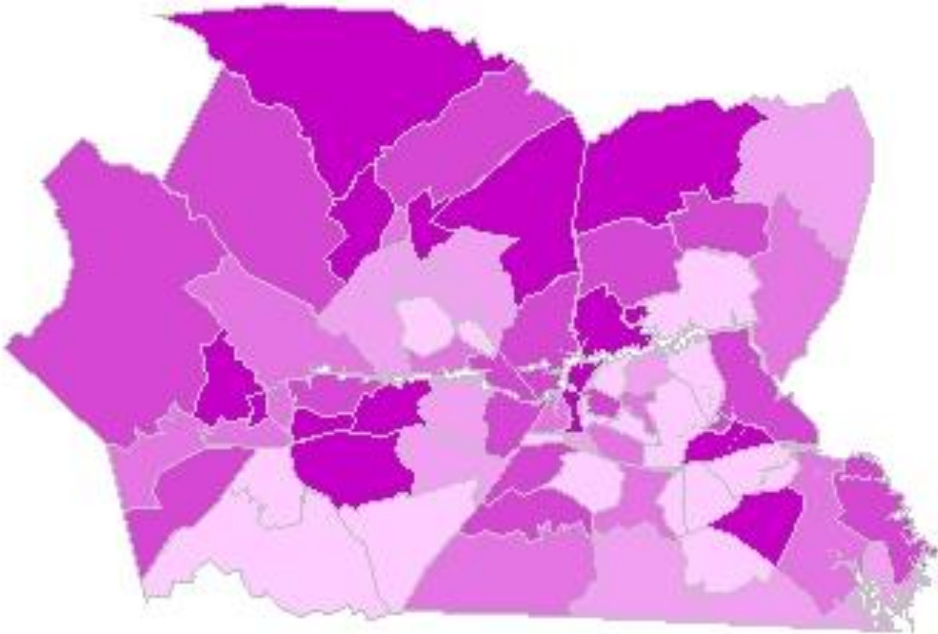
B01001_calc_PopDensity



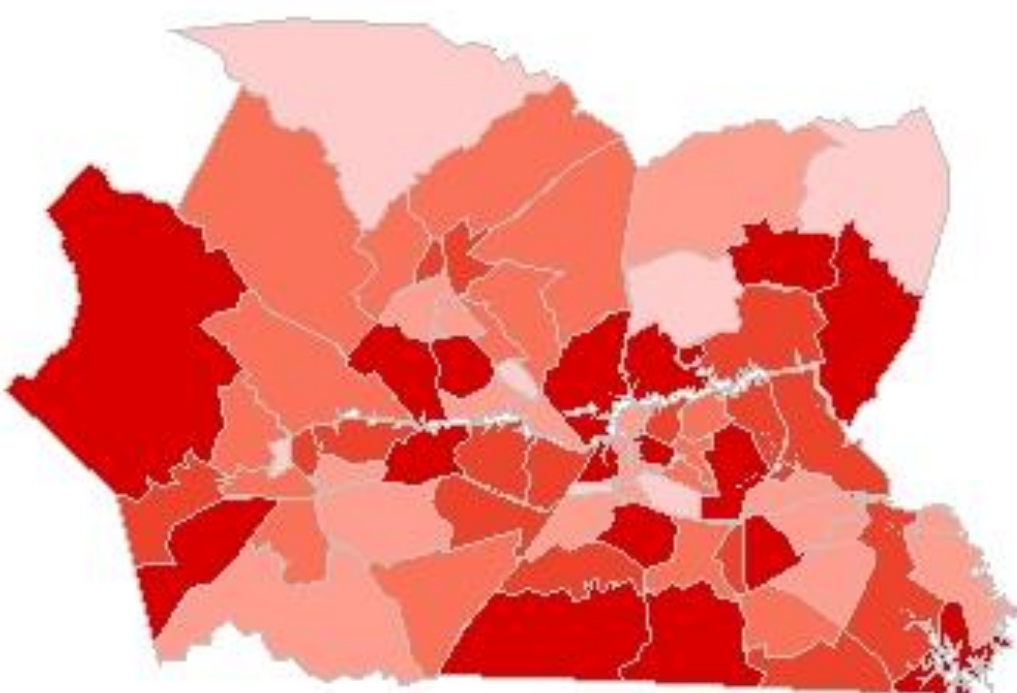
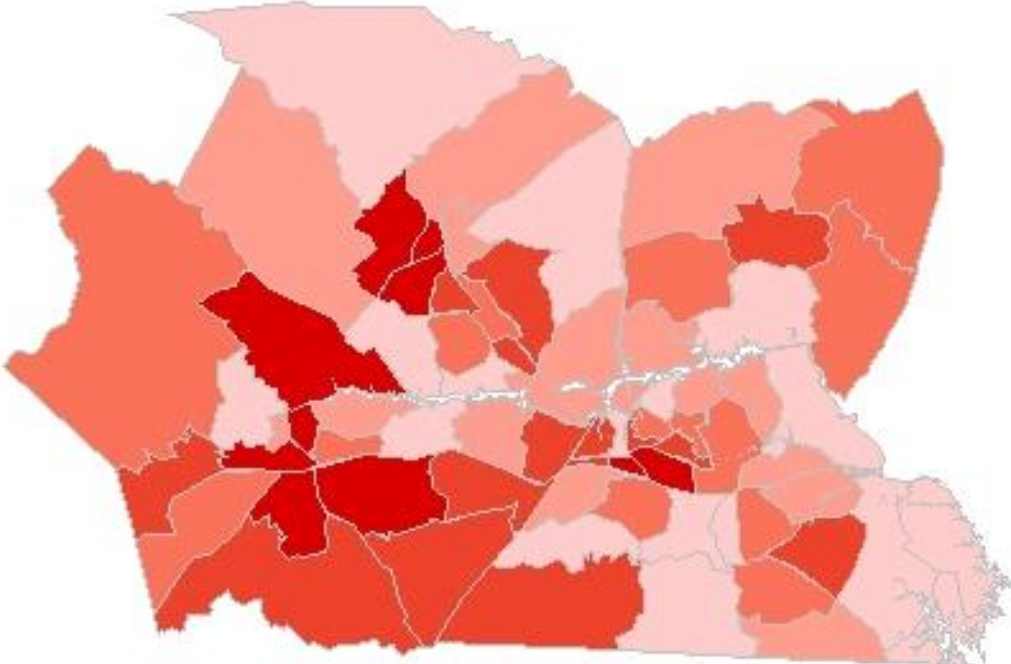
Percent of/Total Households with No Vehicle (2015-2019)



Percent/Total Age 65 and Over (2015-2019)



Percent of/Total Families Below Poverty Line (2015-2019)



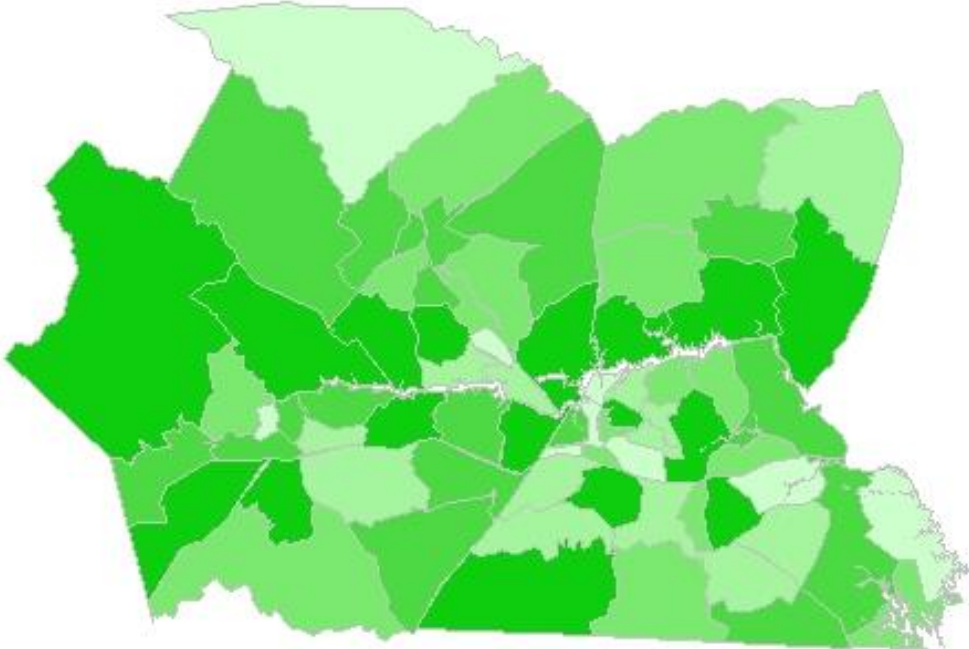
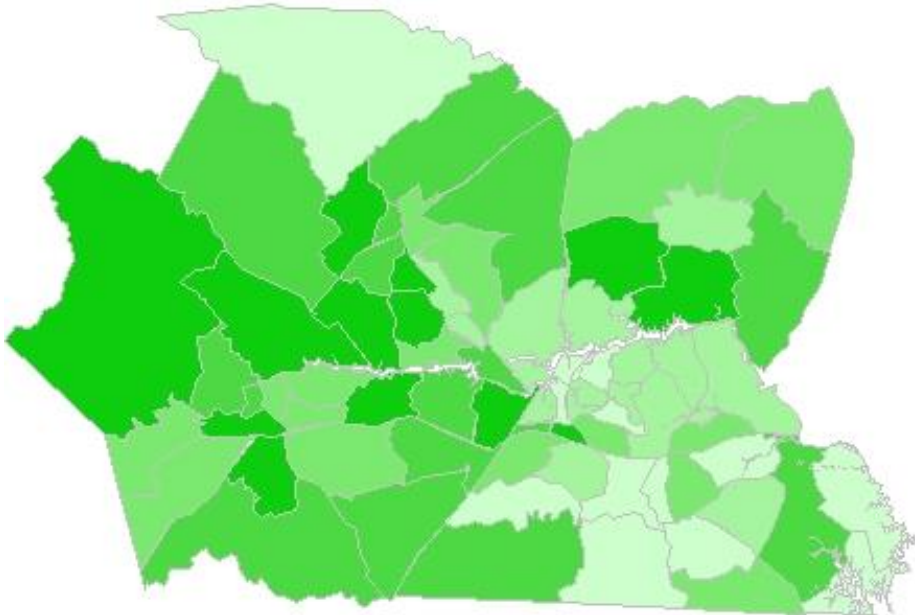
% of households below poverty line
Tract
B17020_calc_pctPovE

3.200 - 10.50
10.51 - 13.30
13.31 - 17.40
17.41 - 24.50
24.51 - 40.40

Total Households in Poverty
Tract
Total Population For Whom Poverty Status is Determined

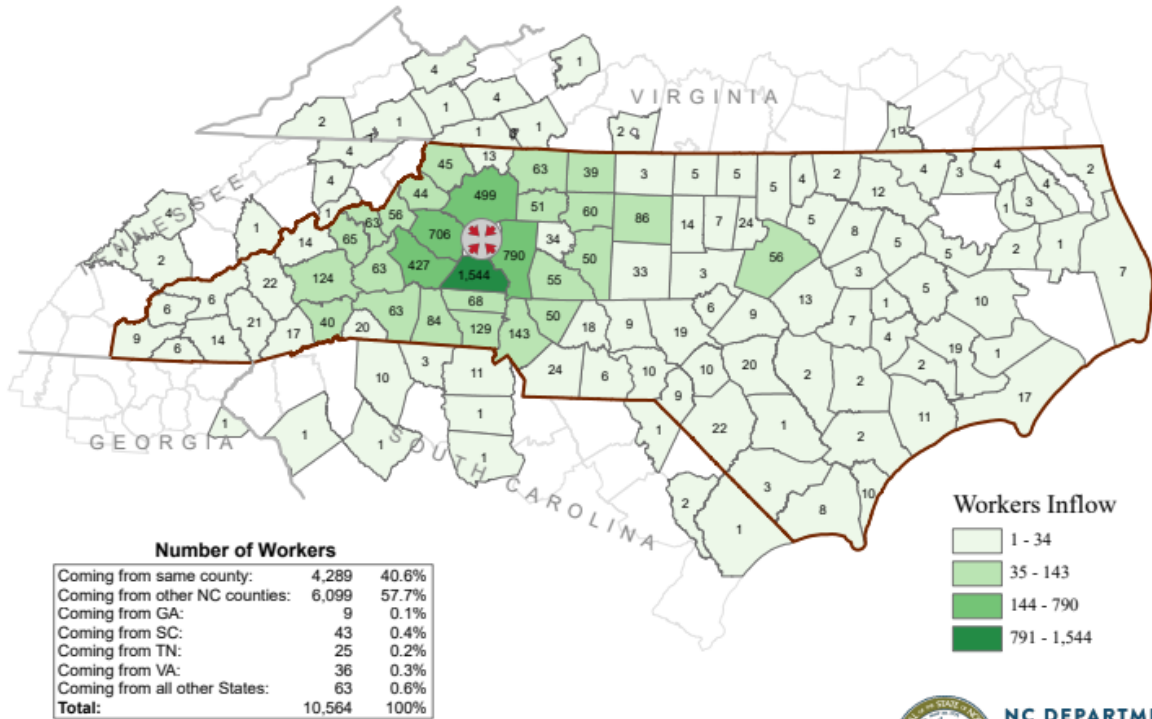
904 - 3184
3185 - 4093
4094 - 4722
4723 - 6053
6054 - 8874

Percent of/Total Persons with Disabilities (2015-2019)

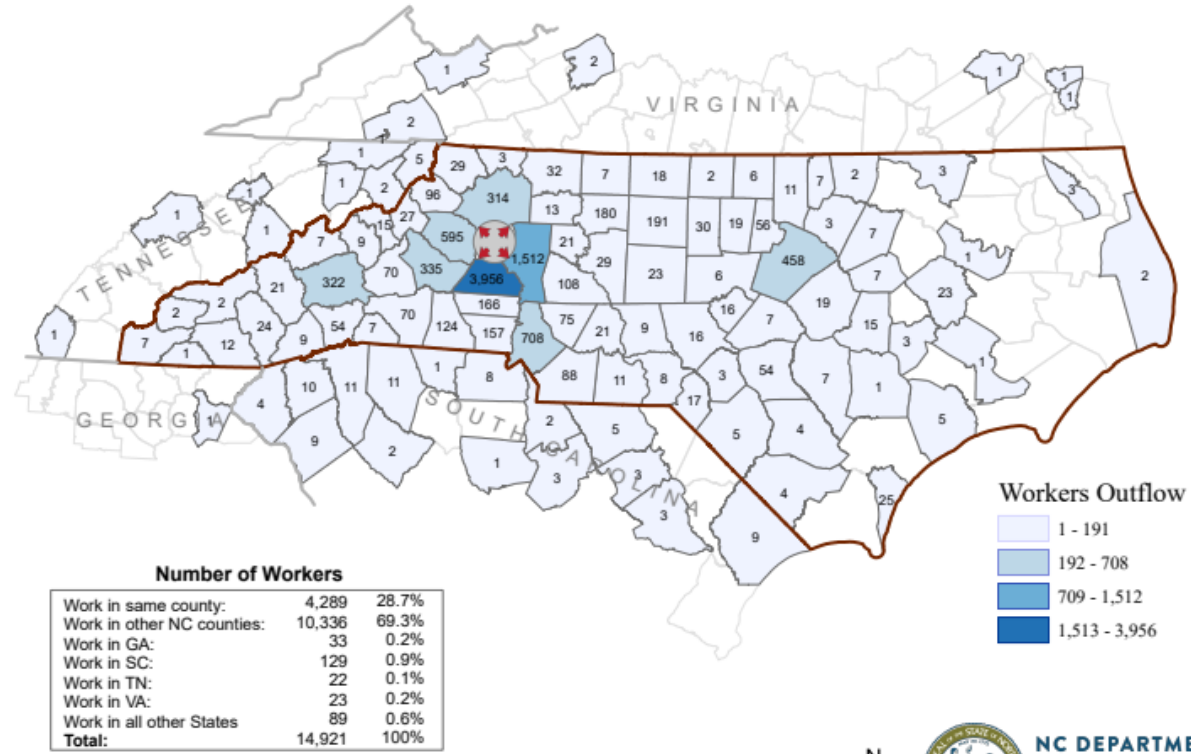


Commuter Patterns (Alexander)

Workers Commuting into Alexander County, North Carolina



Workers Commuting out of Alexander County, North Carolina



Data Source: US Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LODES, 2018.
Map Created in March, 2021

60 Miles



NC DEPARTMENT
of COMMERCE
LABOR & ECONOMIC
ANALYSIS

Data Source: US Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LODES, 2018.
Map Created in March, 2021

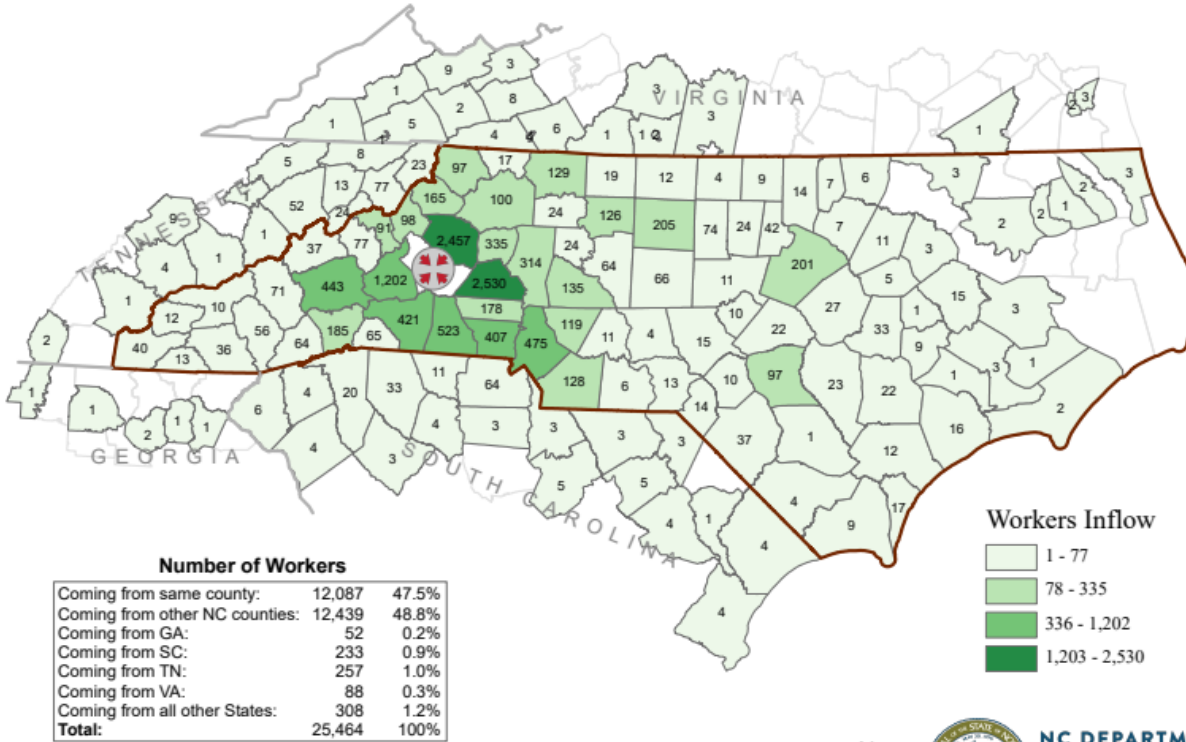
70 Miles



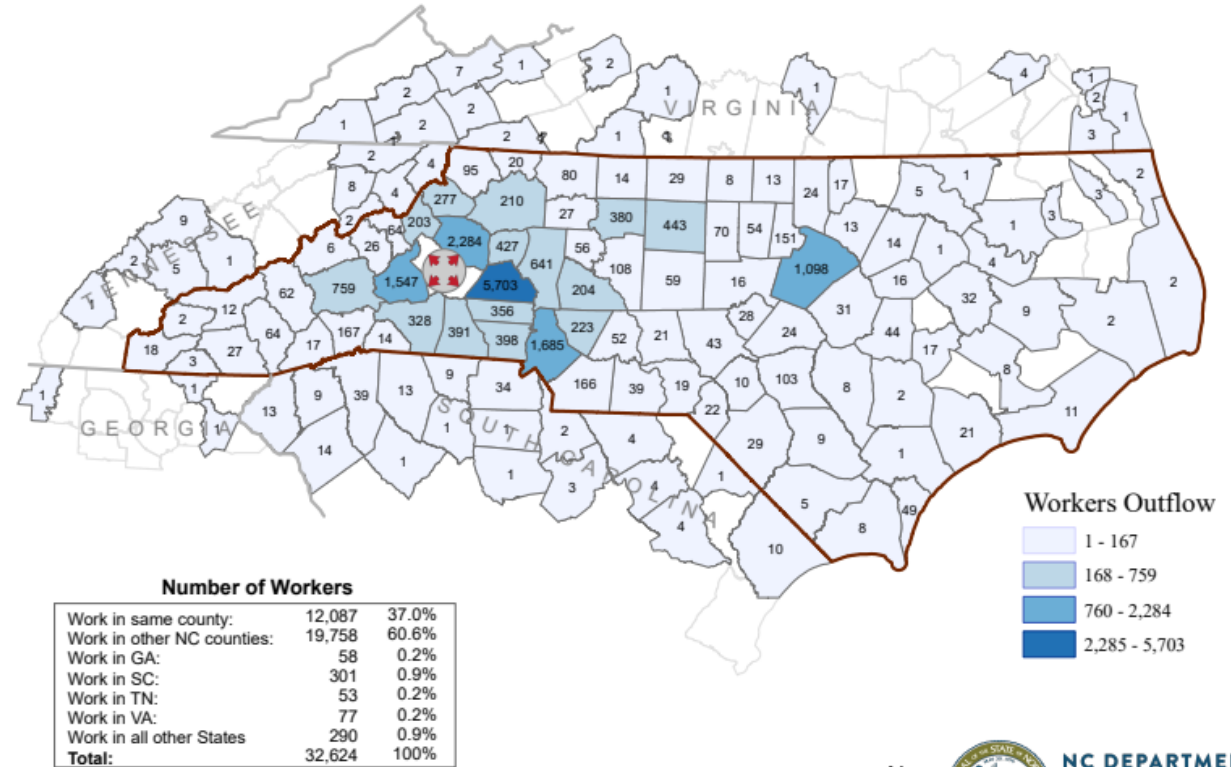
NC DEPARTMENT
of COMMERCE
LABOR & ECONOMIC
ANALYSIS

Commuter Patterns (Burke)

Workers Commuting into Burke County, North Carolina



Workers Commuting out of Burke County, North Carolina



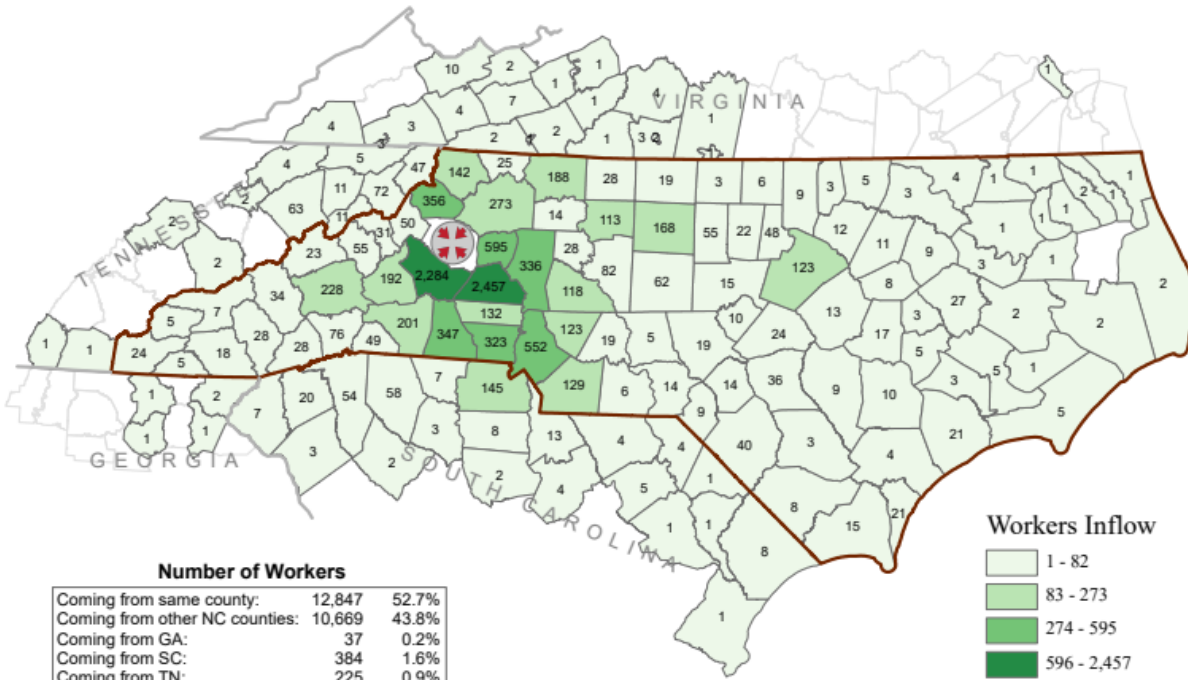
Data Source: US Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LODES, 2018.
Map Created in March, 2021

Data Source: US Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LODES, 2018.
Map Created in March, 2021



Commuter Patterns (Caldwell)

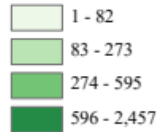
Workers Commuting into Caldwell County, North Carolina



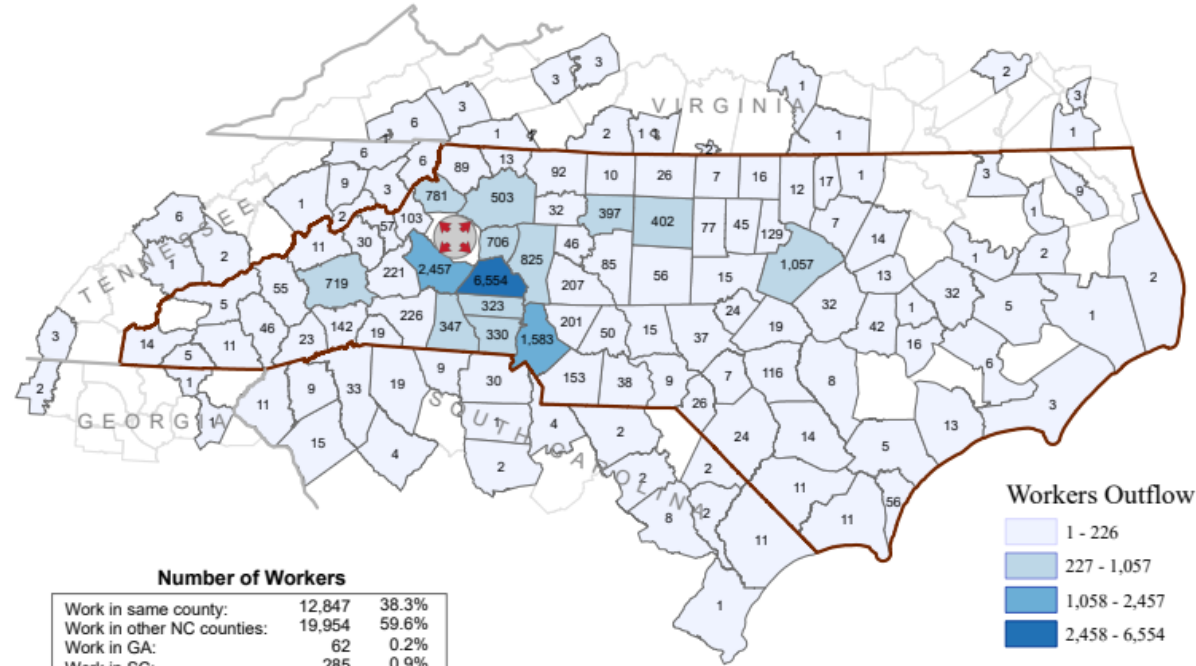
Number of Workers

Coming from same county:	12,847	52.7%
Coming from other NC counties:	10,669	43.8%
Coming from GA:	37	0.2%
Coming from SC:	384	1.6%
Coming from TN:	225	0.9%
Coming from VA:	77	0.3%
Coming from all other States:	124	0.5%
Total:	24,363	100%

Workers Inflow



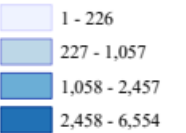
Workers Commuting out of Caldwell County, North Carolina



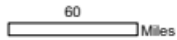
Number of Workers

Work in same county:	12,847	38.3%
Work in other NC counties:	19,954	59.6%
Work in GA:	62	0.2%
Work in SC:	285	0.9%
Work in TN:	54	0.2%
Work in VA:	58	0.2%
Work in all other States:	246	0.7%
Total:	33,506	100%

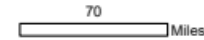
Workers Outflow



Data Source: US Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LODES, 2018.
Map Created in March, 2021

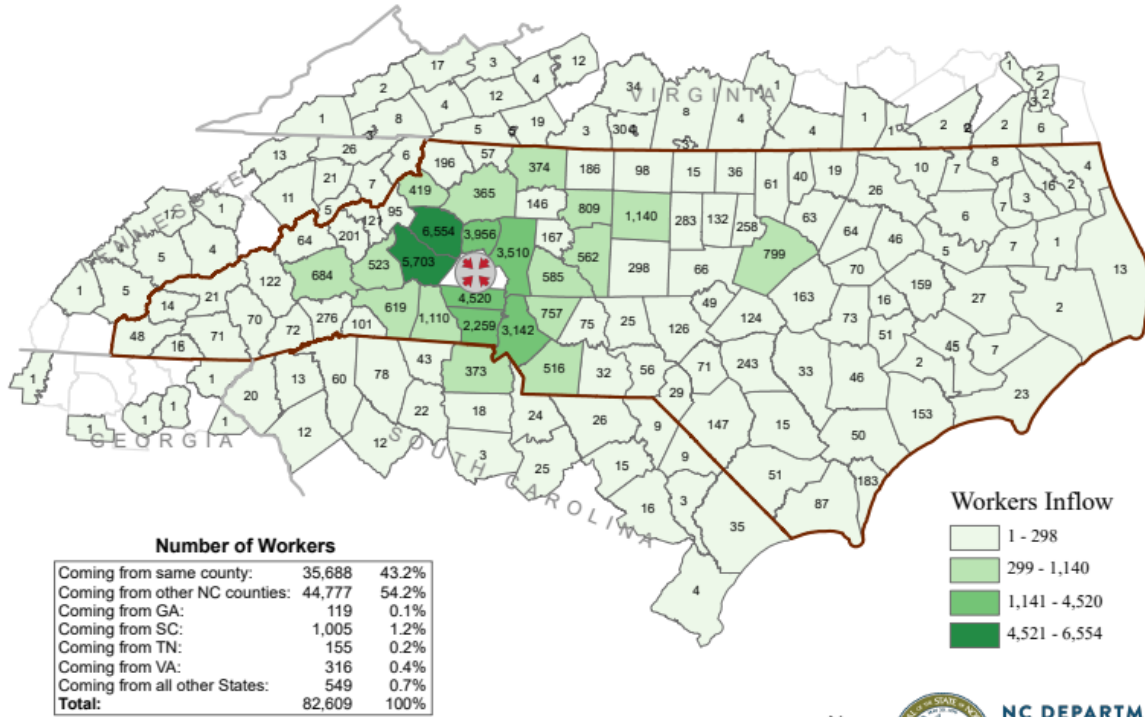


Data Source: US Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LODES, 2018.
Map Created in March, 2021



Commuter Patterns (Catawba)

Workers Commuting into Catawba County, North Carolina



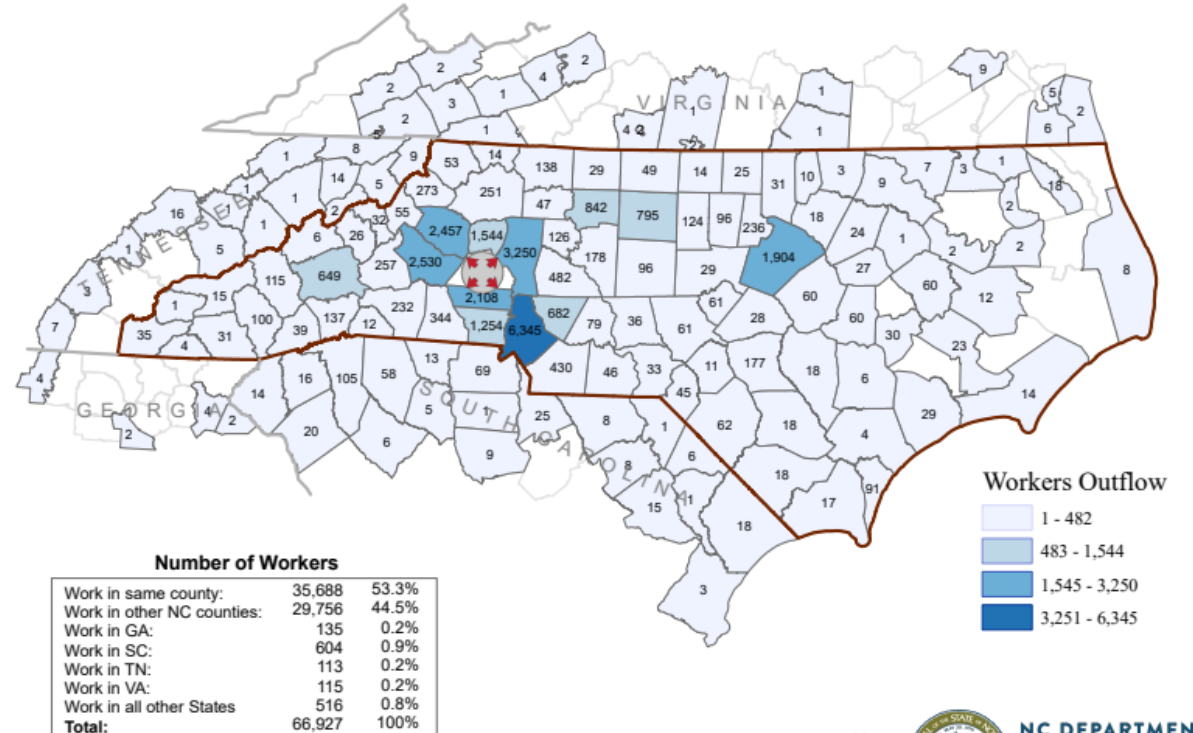
Data Source: US Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LODES, 2018.
Map Created in March, 2021

60 Miles



NC DEPARTMENT
of COMMERCE
LABOR & ECONOMIC
ANALYSIS

Workers Commuting out of Catawba County, North Carolina



Data Source: US Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LODES, 2018.
Map Created in March, 2021

70 Miles



NC DEPARTMENT
of COMMERCE
LABOR & ECONOMIC
ANALYSIS

Emerging Transportation Technologies



Autonomous vehicles



Fare technology



Ridesharing



Electrification



Micromobility

Current Transportation Resources (WPRTA)



Services offered by the Western Piedmont Regional Transit Authority (WPRTA):

- Urban fixed route transit services in Hickory, Newton, and Conover (includes $\frac{3}{4}$ mile ADA buffer)
- Flex routes in Taylorsville, Morganton, Drexel, Valdese, and Rutherford College
- Demand response service
- Private transportation providers operate in Burke County, providing trips brokered by WPRTA

Current Transportation Resources (Other)

Other public human service transportation providers:

- Catawba County DSS
- Caldwell County DSS

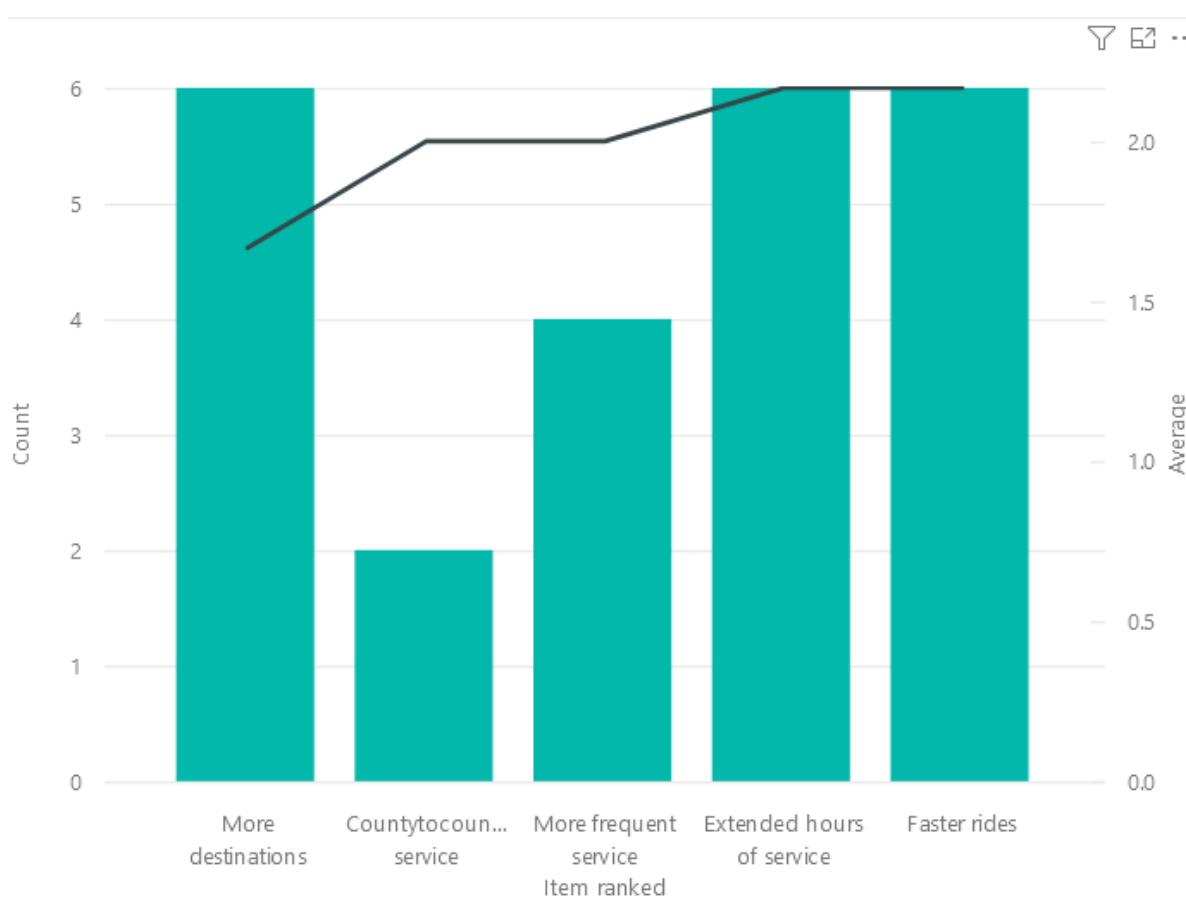


Private transportation providers:

- Ace cab
- Burke Christian Tours
- Abby Cab
- Medi-Van
- Handi-Care
- Lyft
- Catawba Valley Medical Services
- Premier Transportation
- The Hickory Hop
- Yellow/Diamond Cab
- Pace
- Catawba County Medical Transportation
- Uber

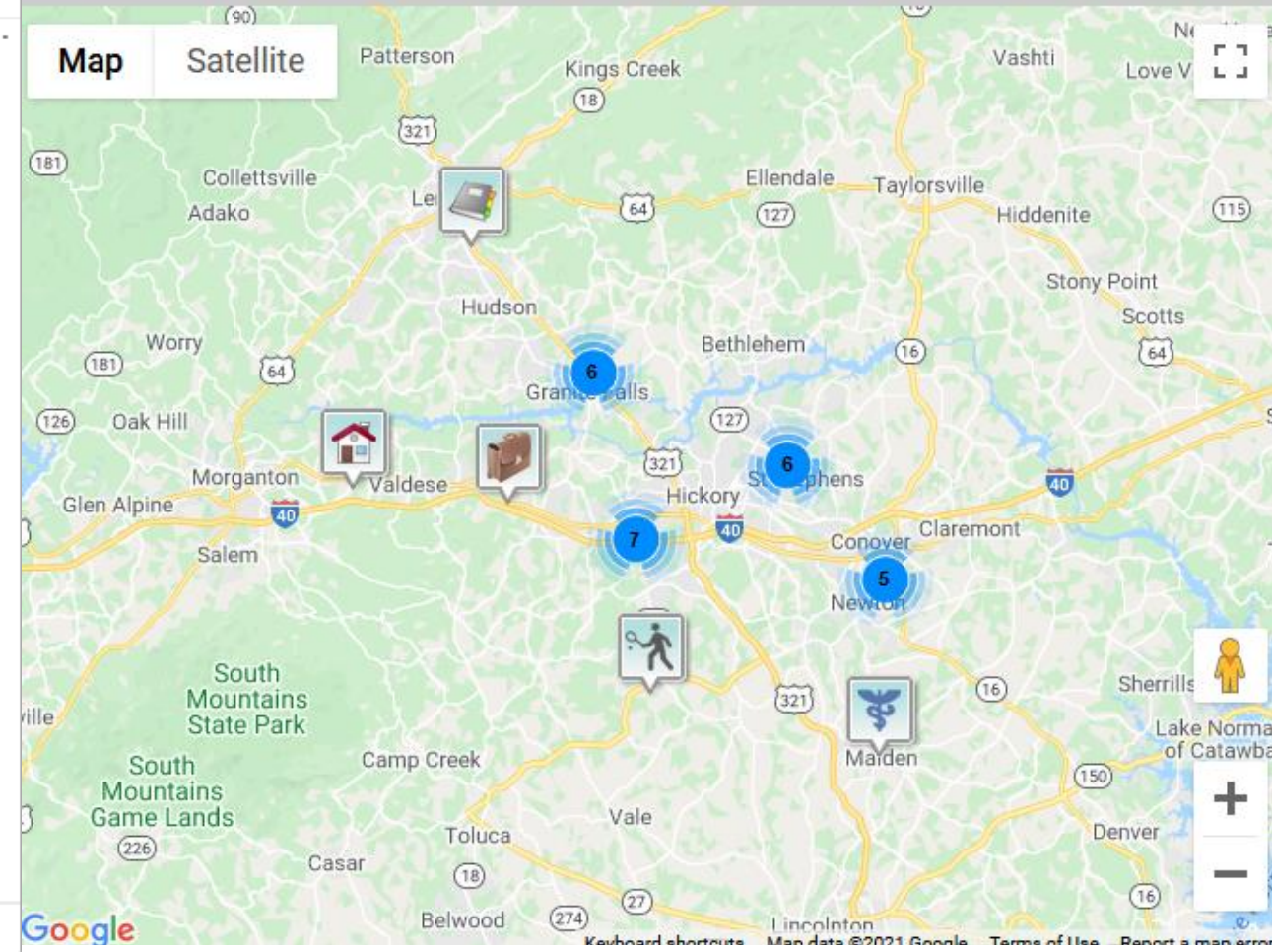
Unmet Transportation Needs: Survey Results

Priorities by both responses and average rank.



* Note that the highest rank is 1, so small rankings and averages are better than high ones.

A map showing the distribution of map markers by type.



Unmet Transportation Needs: Comments



"Ride from work"

"Weekend transportation"

"More opportunities for the homeless to get transportation to and from work"

"Need to make this more public"

"More bus stops"

Unmet Transportation Needs: Previous Workshops

Here are some issues identified in previous workshops:

- Expanding fixed route service
- County-to-county connections
- Discounts for disadvantaged populations
- Expanding service hours
- Utilize technology for faster service
- Prepaid card
- Increase frequency
- Safer stops



Unmet Transportation Needs: Workshop Activity

1. Nominate a group reporter
2. Read through list with your sub-group
3. Brainstorm new needs add to the list
4. Discuss what makes them priorities



Unmet Transportation Needs: Regathering



5. Report your answers to the rest of the group
6. Use your tokens to prioritize the objectives most important to you
7. Discuss any further ideas/concerns

Unmet Transportation Needs

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Next Steps

Spread the word about our online survey!!! It's open until August 2nd !



If you have any further questions, contact Emma Stogner at emma.stogner@wpcog.org