



Western Piedmont Council of Governments

Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Wednesday, April 30, 2025, 2:30 PM

WPCOG Offices—1880 2nd Ave NW

wpcog.org/metropolitan-planning-org

Agenda Item	Presenter	Attachment	Action
Call to Order /Ethics Awareness/ Introductions	Hank Guess		
Consent Agenda Items:			
A. Minutes of March 26, 2025 Meeting	Hank Guess	Attachment I	Approve Consent Agenda Items
B. Transportation Improvement Program Revisions for Release			
FY 26 Transportation Dues Revision	Averi Ritchie	Attachment II	Recommend for Approval
Western Piedmont Transportation Safety Plan Adoption	Jordan Powell, VHB	Attachment III	Adopt by Resolution
R-3430C—Connelly Springs Road Project Segmenting	Averi Ritchie	Attachment IV	Recommend for Approval
NCDOT Board Updates	Brad Lail, Meagan Phillips		
Division 11	Michael Poe		
Division 12	Mark Stafford		
Division 13	Tim Anderson		
Transportation Planning Division	Reuben Crummy		
Integrated Mobility Division	Bryan Lopez		
Reminders	Averi Ritchie		
Public Comment / Announcements	Hank Guess		
Adjournment			
Next Meeting: May 28, 2025	Hank Guess		



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 26th, 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
Roy	Johnson	City Newton	Bruce	Eckard	City of Conover
Jill	Patton	City of Hickory	Donna	Price	Town of Rhodhiss
Martin	Townsend	Town of Granite Falls	Ike	Perkins	City of Lenoir
Barbara	Beatty	Catawba County	Genita	Hill	Town of Long View
Glen	Harvey	Town of Valdese	Jody	York	Town of Hildebran
Mary	Furtado	Catawba County	Barry	Mitchell	Town of Hudson
Mike	Stroud	Burke County	Beth	Rudisill	Town of Maiden
Richard	Andrews	Town of Cahah's Mountain	Jack	Simms	Town of Taylorsville
Wendy	Cato	City of Morganton	VACANT		Glen Alpine
Les	Morrow	City of Claremont	VACANT		Alexander County
Holly	Crafton-Lay	Town of Maiden	VACANT		Long View
			VACANT		Brookford
			VACANT		Caldwell County
			VACANT		Cedar Rock

[illegible]

Call to Order/Ethics Awareness/ and Introductions: Vice Chair 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 Stephan Sparks, Wendy Cato, Glen Harvey, Hannah Smith, Jordan Powell, Holly Crafton-Lay and Meagan Phillips. Vice Chair Guess canvassed the committee for any objections to online participants. Upon a motion made by Mr. Simms and seconded by Mrs. Patton, online participation was approved.

Action Items:
Action Items:

- I. Approval of Consent Agenda:** Vice Chair Guess called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Upon a motion from Mrs. Patton and a second from Mr. Johnson, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the consent agenda.
- II. Board Officer Elections:** The committee conducted elections for Chair and Vice Chair in accordance with the bylaws, which require elections every two years. Nominations were opened for the position of Chair, and Mayor Hank Guess was nominated by Mrs. Beatty and seconded by Mr. Morrow. A vote was held, and Mayor Guess was elected by majority vote. Nominations were then opened for the position of Vice Chair, and Bruce Eckard was nominated by Mr. Townsend and seconded by Mr. Johnson. A vote was conducted, and Mr. Eckard was elected by majority vote.
- III. Open LAPP Call for Projects & Release Methodology Revisions:** Mr. Odom presented the Local Administrative Project (LAP) program call for new projects and supplemental requests. The Greater Hickory MPO has \$4.6 million in federal funding available this year for eligible locally administered projects, including bicycle, pedestrian, intersection, and transit improvements. The call for projects opens on March 26, with applications due May 2, initial scoring on May 28, and final approvals on June 25. He also requested that TCC and TAC consider removing the Transportation Disadvantage Index and bicycle-centric language from the LAP methodology to align with evolving USDOT funding priorities, with these changes open for public comment before April approval.
- IV. Draft Western Piedmont Transportation Safety Plan:** Mr. Powell presented the draft Western Piedmont Safety Plan, developed over 12 months, with a goal to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries by 2050 and reduce them by half by 2035. The plan outlines five foundational goals, a crash reduction framework, and implementation tools, including location screening and a safety prioritization dashboard. He also discussed the upcoming Safe Streets for All (SS4A) funding opportunity, with applications expected to open by March 31 and close in June. The plan positions the region to pursue funding, with a focus on roadway and rural safety projects, and the MPO may batch applications for multiple

jurisdictions. Office hours are scheduled for April 7 and 9 to assist members with applications.

- V. 2025 MPO Meeting Schedule Modification:** Ms. Ritchie presented a modification to the existing MPO Schedule. The modification was regarding a change of date for the MPO Meeting from April 23rd to April 30th, 2025. Upon a motion made by Mr. Johnson and a second by Mrs. Beatty, the MPO Meeting Schedule Modifications were approved.

NCDOT Update –

- **NC DOT Board:** Mr. Lail presented an update on Hurricane Helene recovery, noting \$5 billion in damages to state roads, primarily in Divisions 11, 13, and 14, with FEMA expected to cover 80% of costs, leaving a \$1 billion state funding gap. To address future risks, the NCDOT Board is developing a resiliency subcommittee to strengthen infrastructure against natural disasters.
- **Division 11:** Mr. Poe presented an update on disaster recovery and ongoing transportation projects, noting approximately \$280 million in estimated storm damage costs within the division, with Caldwell County 60% complete in site-specific repairs. Key project updates included the Brown Mountain Beach Road project now under construction, delays in U-4700 CA and CB due to utility relocation issues, and U-6157 progressing with right-of-way acquisition. Additionally, federal funding adjustments required revisions for U-6034, with right-of-way acquisition expected to begin in late spring or early summer. He also noted upcoming interstate mowing operations and ongoing resurfacing initiatives.
- **Division 12:** Mr. Stafford provided project updates within the agenda packet for Division 12 & Division 13. Mr. Stafford presented an update on maintenance operations, noting that interstate mowing will begin next week, followed by county roads once interstate work is complete. The spring litter sweep is scheduled for April 12–26, with contract provisions ensuring litter removal before mowing. He confirmed that project schedules, including First and Second Avenue improvements, remain on track.
- **Division 13:** Mrs. Smith presented an update on Burke County projects, noting that the active construction progress report is included in the Division 12 report. She confirmed that there are no updates to the Burke County STIP program since the last meeting. She introduced NCDOT's Toll Credit Pilot Program, which allows local governments with TAP-funded LAP projects to apply for toll credits to cover the non-federal match, though only two projects in the MPO may be eligible. The application window is open from March 31 to May 31, and staff discussions may be necessary.
- Mr. Anderson presented an update on storm recovery efforts, stating that debris removal in Burke County is progressing well, with the county requesting NCDOT assistance on primary routes. Interstate debris removal is nearly complete, with only remaining leaners and hangers to be addressed. He noted efforts to synchronize mowing schedules and acknowledged the upcoming hurricane season as a reminder of the importance of continued preparedness.

- **NCDOT-TPD:** Mr. Crummy addressed the Board adoption of the CTP plan for the MPO, stating that it is under review now for approval. Mr. Crummy also referenced a link to IMD quarterly update videos that he will provide.
- **NCDOT-IMD:** No updates
- **FHWA:** No updates

Reminders: Ms. Ritchie reminded members about three key items: the new member orientation for TCC and TAC members on April 30th, with one-on-one meetings available for those who missed it; the SEI and RED filing deadline on April 15th, offering assistance for anyone needing help with filing; and the importance of discussing the SS4A funding source with TCC members, with workshops on April 7th and 9th available both in-person and virtually.

Public Comment/Announcements: None

Adjournment: Chairman Guess adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 30th, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hank Guess, TAC Vice Chairman

Averi Ritchie, TAC Secretary

**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION
GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TCC/TAC**

MEETING DATE: April 30, 2025

SUBJECT: Transportation Improvement Program Revisions for Release

PRESENTER: Averi Ritchie, Transportation Planning Manager

ATTACHMENTS: Transportation Improvement Program Revisions for Release

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) revisions include modifications and amendments to regional and statewide transportation projects. STIP revisions are released for public comment and approved following a 30 day public comment period by TAC. All approved revisions are submitted for Board of Transportation approval. Modifications and revisions often include funding and fiscal year changes. Revisions are released monthly by NCDOT.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: Release for public comment.

Suggested Motion: *Approval to release for public comment*

TOWN of VALDESE

RESOLUTION

Resolution to withdraw the Lovelady Rd. Sidewalk Phase I Project, BL-0140A,
from the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan

WHEREAS, the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization (GHMPO) issued a call for projects to agencies in its jurisdiction for Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Valdese submitted an application and funding was programmed for Preliminary Engineering, Right-of-Way & Utility Acquisition, and Construction for a curb and gutter sidewalk along Lovelady Rd. Valdese starting at Laurel St. NE and ending at Crescent St NE, identified as BL-0140A in GHMPO's Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP); and

WHEREAS, the Town of Valdese has determined that the sidewalk required by the LAPP Grant is cost prohibitive both as a singular project as well as it being cost prohibitive overall to the Town budget due to other competing projects which rose in costs; and


WHEREAS, the Town of Valdese is returning \$1,144,800 in Surface Transportation Block Grant - Direct Attributable (STBG-DA) funds to GHMPO's LAPP discretionary funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Valdese Town Council requests that the Western Piedmont Council of Governments withdraw the Lovelady Rd. Sidewalk Phase I Project, BL-0140A, from the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED THIS 3rd DAY OF March 2025.


Charles Watts, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jessica Lail, Town Clerk

(corporate seal)



**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION
GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TCC/TAC**

MEETING DATE: April 30, 2025

SUBJECT: Amendment of FY26 Assessments for Local Governments

PRESENTER: Averri Ritchie, Transportation Planning Manager

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Proposed Assessments Table

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Each year, the WPCOG and GHMPO assesses dues to its local governments per its charter and bylaws. The TAC approved the FY26 Assessments at its meeting in January.

The approved assessments included temporary assessments for funding regarding the WNC Passenger Rail Project to fund our region's share (\$50,000) for the non-federal match for the service development plan. The NC Department of Transportation informed our transportation planning staff that it will provide the non-federal match for the service development plan. As a result, assessing our local governments for the \$50,000 match in FY26 is no longer necessary.

Future local matching funds may be required for this rail project but details are not currently available.

The attached table shows revised assessments.

COMMITTEE ACTION REQUESTED: Staff requests TAC review and recommend approval of the FY2025-26 assessments.

Suggested Motion: *I move that the TAC recommend approval of the assessments as presented.*



Western Piedmont Council of Governments

Creative Regional Solutions Since 1968

FISCAL YEAR 2025 - 2026 ASSESSMENTS

Local Government	2023 State Planning Population	Assessments X .981 Per Capita*	MPO Transportation Planning*	FY 26 WNC Rail Project*	Total with Sister Cities Option
Alexander County	33,904	\$33,259.82	\$15,337.34		\$65,531.15
Taylorsville	2,327	\$2,282.79	\$1,052.68		\$6,519.49
Burke County	57,359	\$56,269.18	\$25,947.81		\$106,014.28
Connelly Springs	1,567	\$1,537.23	\$708.87		\$2,898.44
Drexel	1,799	\$1,764.82	\$813.82		\$3,777.36
Glen Alpine	1,567	\$1,537.23	\$708.87		\$2,865.85
Hildebran	1,708	\$1,675.55	\$772.66		\$3,112.50
Morganton	18,260	\$17,913.06	\$8,260.38		\$44,388.77
Rutherford College	1,260	\$1,236.06	\$569.99		\$2,807.00
Valdese	4,962	\$4,867.72	\$2,244.69		\$13,366.10
Caldwell County	41,950	\$41,152.95	\$18,977.15		\$79,424.55
Cajah's Mountain	2,736	\$2,684.02	\$1,237.70		\$7,385.70
Cedar Rock	299	\$293.32	\$135.26		\$546.39
Gamewell	3,735	\$3,664.04	\$1,689.62		\$6,867.20
Granite Falls	5,100	\$5,003.10	\$2,307.12		\$11,733.04
Hudson	3,891	\$3,817.07	\$1,760.19		\$7,077.18
Lenoir	18,766	\$18,409.45	\$8,489.28		\$41,664.63
Rhodhiss	1,005	\$985.91	\$454.64		\$2,078.24
Sawmills	5,095	\$4,998.20	\$2,304.85		\$11,115.29
Catawba County	87,567	\$85,903.23	\$39,613.17		\$164,143.60
Brookford	436	\$427.72	\$197.24		\$799.24
Catawba	730	\$716.13	\$330.23		\$1,328.54
Claremont	1,764	\$1,730.48	\$797.99		\$4,770.84
Conover	8,719	\$8,553.34	\$3,944.26		\$20,251.97
Hickory	45,411	\$44,548.19	\$20,542.83		\$107,786.77
Long View	5,163	\$5,064.90	\$2,335.61		\$11,058.25
Maiden	3,845	\$3,771.95	\$1,739.38		\$9,101.74
Newton	13,452	\$13,196.41	\$6,085.36		\$31,444.11
Totals	374,377	\$367,263.84	\$169,359.00		\$769,858.23

* Dues Per Capita and MPO are based on population figures from the NC Office of State Planning for 2023.

**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION
GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TCC/TAC**

MEETING DATE: April 30, 2025

SUBJECT: Western Piedmont Transportation Safety Plan

PRESENTER: Jordan Powell, Transportation Planner, VHB

ATTACHMENTS: Presentation

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The WPCOG and Greater Hickory MPO was awarded funding for a regional comprehensive highway safety plan, known as the Western Piedmont Transportation Safety Plan (WPTSP). Staff are currently overseeing the completion of the plan. The goal of the WPTSP is to identify areas of concern and high risk areas using crash location and other safety data. The WPTSP covers all modes of transportation. Once completed, the WPTSP will open the region to safety funding opportunities.

The draft WPTSP was opened for public comment at the March 26 meeting. The draft WPTSP is ready for adoption, pending TAC approval.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: Staff requests TAC review and recommend approval of the Western Piedmont Transportation Safety Plan.

Suggested Motion: *I move that the TAC recommend approval of the Western Piedmont Transportation Safety Plan.*



**GREATER HICKORY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)**
1880 2nd Avenue NW, PO Box 9026
Hickory, NC 2860

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE WESTERN PIEDMONT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PLAN

WHEREAS, the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Greater Hickory MPO recognizes the critical importance of safety in all modes of transportation across the Greater Hickory planning region; and

WHEREAS, the Western Piedmont Transportation Safety Plan (WPTSP) has been developed with the goal of identifying areas of concern and high-risk locations through the use of crash data, safety metrics, and other relevant transportation safety information; and

WHEREAS, the WPTSP provides a comprehensive and data-driven framework to guide safety improvements for motorists, bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit users; and

WHEREAS, the completion and adoption of the WPTSP will position the region to be eligible for various federal, state, and other transportation safety funding opportunities aimed at implementing identified improvements; and

WHEREAS, the TAC acknowledges the collaborative efforts of local governments, stakeholders, transportation professionals, and the public in shaping the WPTSP to reflect regional needs and priorities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Transportation Advisory Committee hereby adopts the Western Piedmont Transportation Safety Plan as the guiding document for regional transportation safety planning and improvement efforts.

Adopted this 30th day of April, 2025.

Greater Hickory MPO TAC Chair

Averi Ritchie
Greater Hickory MPO TAC Secretary

**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION
GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TCC/TAC**

MEETING DATE: April 30, 2025

SUBJECT: R-3430C – Connelly Springs Road Project Segmenting

PRESENTER: Averi Ritchie, Transportation Planning Manager

ATTACHMENTS: 1. Project Map and Resolution of Support

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

On January 31, 2025, the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Unit of NCDOT released the draft 2026–2035 STIP. Since then, MPO staff have been working closely with local governments, NCDOT Division staff, and the STIP Unit to evaluate a range of scenarios aimed at improving the timeliness and financial feasibility of project delivery.

To address delays associated with project R-3430C, NCDOT has proposed segmenting the project—specifically, advancing the portion from Cahah’s Mountain Road to Southwest Boulevard. This segmentation is expected to accelerate the delivery of that northern segment. Under this proposal, the southern portion of the project, from Cahah’s Mountain Road to the Catawba River, would remain fully committed but is expected to continue on the current draft STIP timeline. As it stands, right-of-way acquisition is scheduled for 2030, with construction slated to begin in 2034.

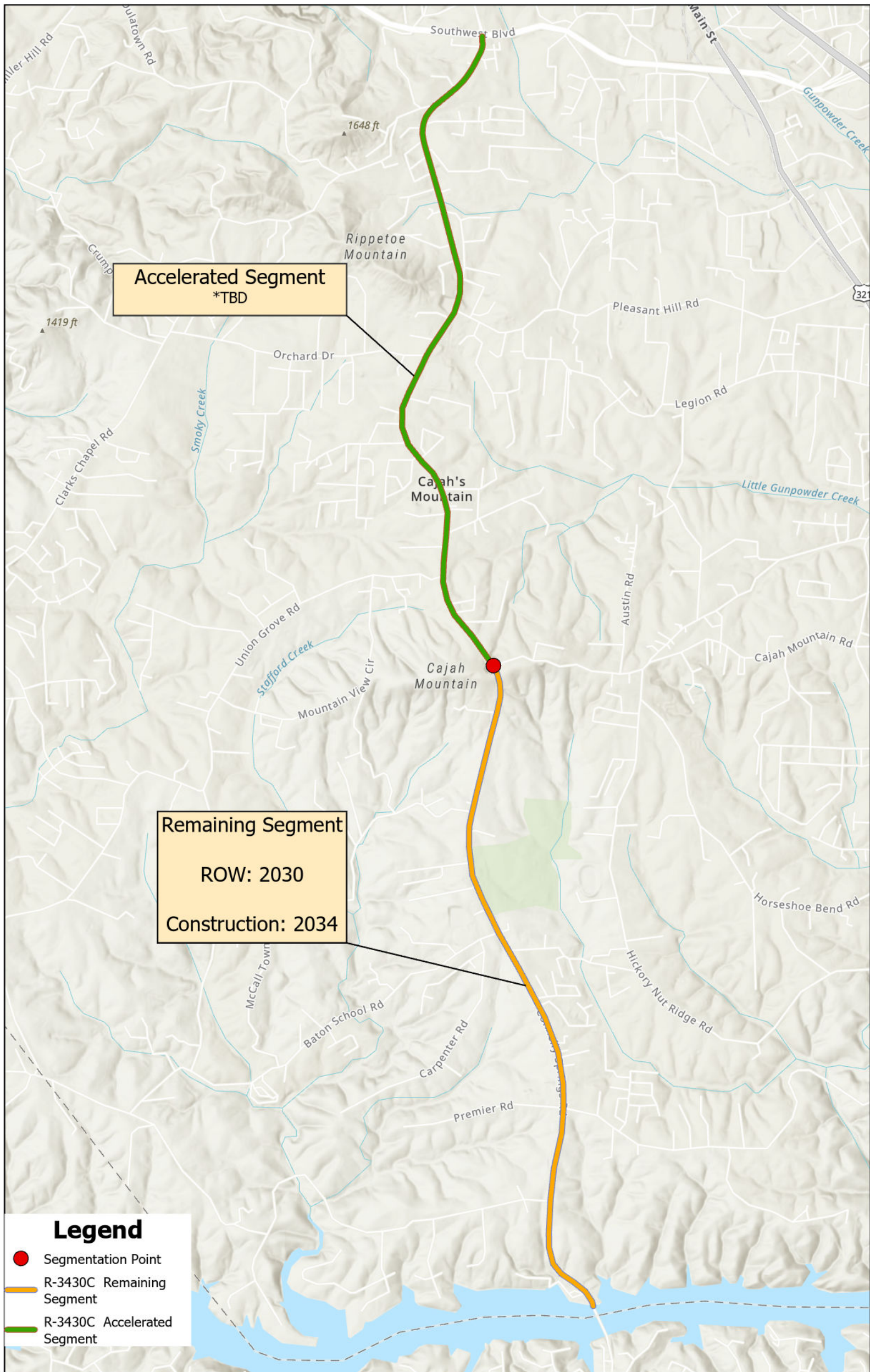
The overall project will widen Connelly Springs Road to a four-lane facility and includes the potential for bike and pedestrian infrastructure along both proposed segments.

MPO and NCDOT staff have coordinated with Caldwell County and the Town of Cahah’s Mountain, and all parties have expressed strong support for advancing the project as efficiently as possible.

A map illustrating the proposed project segmentation is attached for reference.

COMMITTEE ACTION REQUESTED: Staff requests TAC review and recommend approval of the Connelly Springs Road project segmenting.

Suggested Motion: *I move that the TAC recommend approval of Connelly Springs Road segmenting as presented.*



Accelerated Segment
*TBD

Remaining Segment
ROW: 2030
Construction: 2034

Legend

- Segmentation Point
- R-3430C Remaining Segment
- R-3430C Accelerated Segment



**GREATER HICKORY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)**

1880 2nd Avenue NW, PO Box 9026
Hickory, NC 2860

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR PROJECT SEGMENTATION OF R-3430C – CONNELLY
SPRINGS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) released the draft 2026–2035 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) on January 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, staff of the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) have actively coordinated with local governments, NCDOT Division staff, and the STIP Unit to assess project delivery scenarios that support the timely and financially feasible implementation of transportation improvements; and

WHEREAS, to address delays associated with project R-3430C, which proposes the widening of Connelly Springs Road to a four-lane roadway, NCDOT has recommended segmenting the project into two phases—one from Cajah’s Mountain Road to Southwest Boulevard and the other from Cajah’s Mountain Road to the Catawba River; and

WHEREAS, this proposed segmentation is expected to expedite the delivery of the northern segment of the project (Cajah’s Mountain Road to Southwest Boulevard), while the southern segment remains committed and continues on its current STIP timeline, with right-of-way acquisition in 2030 and construction beginning in 2034; and

WHEREAS, the project includes potential enhancements for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, contributing to a safer and more multimodal corridor; and

WHEREAS, MPO staff and NCDOT have met with representatives from Caldwell County and the Town of Cajah’s Mountain, all of whom support efforts to advance the project as efficiently as possible;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Transportation Advisory Committee of the Greater Hickory MPO hereby expresses its support for the proposed segmentation of Project R-3430C and encourages all involved parties to continue working collaboratively to expedite its delivery and maximize its regional transportation benefits.

Adopted this 30th day of April, 2025.

Hank Guess, Greater Hickory MPO TAC Chair

Averi Ritchie
Greater Hickory MPO TAC Secretary

Greater Hickory MPO
Transportation Update
April 2025

Division 11 Projects Under Development – Caldwell Co.								
<u>TIP</u>	<u>ROUTE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>ROW YEAR</u>	<u>CONST YEAR</u>	<u>TOTAL PROJECT COST</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Final Assigned Manager</u>	<u>Funding: S/F</u>
BL-0002	US 321A (MAIN STREET)	US 321A (MAIN STREET), CONSTRUCT PEDESTRIAN CROSSING IMPROVEMENTS FROM SR 1952 (CEDAR VALLEY ROAD) TO SR 1156 (LEGION ROAD).	2025	2025	\$464,000	Planning	Division	F
BL-0065	NS	Lenoir Greenway, Harper Avenue to Morganton Boulevard. Extend multi-use path.	2025	2026	\$2,449,000	Planning	LAP	F
BP11-R008	SR 1545 (COTTRELL HILL ROAD)	Replace Bridge 130011 on SR 1545 over Zachs Fork Creek in Caldwell County	2025	2026	\$900,000	Planning	Division	S
BP11-R025	SR 1927 (OLD MORGANTON ROAD)	Replace Bridge 130332 on SR 1927 over Abington Creek in Caldwell County	2025	2026	\$1,450,000	Planning	Division	S
BP11-R035	SR 1519 (HOLLYWOOD RIDGE ROAD)	Replace Bridge 130169 on SR 1519 over Warrior Creek in Caldwell County	2026	2027	\$950,000	Planning	Division	S
BP11-R040	SR 1719 (CEDAR VALLEY CHURCH ROAD)	Replace Bridge 130048 on SR 1719 over Upper Little River in Caldwell County	2025	2026	\$850,000	Planning	Division	S
BP11-R042	SR 1328 (BROWN MOUNTAIN BEACH ROAD)	Replace Bridge 130322 on SR 1328 over Este Mill Creek in Caldwell County	2026	2027	\$950,000	Planning	Division	S
BP11-R048	SR 1571	Replace Bridge 130342 on SR 1571 over Kings Creek in Caldwell County	2026	2027	\$1,300,000	Planning	Division	S
HB-0056	SR 1514	SR 1514, REPLACE BRIDGE 130 OVER YADKIN RIVER.	2026	2027	\$934,000	Planning	Division	F
HB-0057	SR 1356	SR 1356, REPLACE BRIDGE 185 OVER JOHNS RIVER.	2025	2026	\$934,000	Planning	Division	F
HB-0058	SR 1356	SR 1356, REPLACE BRIDGE 186 OVER JOHNS RIVER.	2025	2026	\$875,000	Planning	Division	F
HB-0059	SR 1356	SR 1356, REPLACE BRIDGE 275 OVER JOHNS RIVER.	2025	2026	\$934,000	Planning	Division	F

Greater Hickory MPO
Transportation Update
April 2025

HB-0060	SR 1356	SR 1356, REPLACE BRIDGE 317 OVER JOHNS RIVER.	2025	2025	\$1,214,000	Planning	Division	F
HB-0061	SR 1574	SR 1574, REPLACE BRIDGE 349 OVER JONES CREEK.	2026	2027	\$748,000	Planning	Division	F
HF-0003	SR 1328 (BROWN MOUNTAIN BEACH ROAD)	SR 1328 (BROWN MOUNTAIN BEACH ROAD) WIDEN ROADWAY TO 20 FEET IN FIVE LOCATIONS ALONG WILSON CREEK.	2024	2025	\$1,510,000	Planning	Division	F
R-3430B	SR 1001 (CONNELLY SPRINGS ROAD)	SR 1001 (CONNELLY SPRINGS ROAD), BURKE COUNTY CONSTRUCT NEWPARALLEL BRIDGE OVER CATAWBA RIVER.	2022	2025	\$24,150,000	July Let	Central	S
R-3430C	SR 1001 (CONNELLY SPRINGS ROAD)	SR 1001 (CONNELLY SPRINGS ROAD) FROM CATAWBA RIVER TO SR 1933 (SOUTH-WEST BOULEVARD). MODERNIZE ROADWAY TO INCLUDE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCOMMODATIONS.	2028	2031	\$78,508,000	Planning	Central	F
U-4700CA	US 321	SR 1160 (MOUNT HERMAN ROAD). UPGRADE INTERSECTION TO SUPERSTREET DESIGN. - WITHIN THE LIMITS OF U-4700 C.	2019	2025	\$7,620,000	August Let	Division	F
U-4700CB	US 321	AT SR 1809/1952 (PINE MOUNTAIN ROAD). UPGRADE INTERSECTION TO SUPERSTREET DESIGN.	2019	2025	\$12,500,000	August Let	Division	F
U-4700CC	US 321	AT SR 1108 (MISSION ROAD). UPGRADE INTERSECTION TO SUPERSTREET DESIGN	2019	2025	\$8,850,000	August Let	Division	F
U-6034	US 321 ALT	DUKE STREET TO PINEWOODS ROAD	2025	2027	\$25,600,000	R/W soon	Division	F
U-6157	SR 1130 (CAJAH MOUNTAIN ROAD)	SR 1130 (CAJAH MOUNTAIN ROAD) FROM SR 1001 (CONNELLY SPRINGS ROAD) TO US 321A	2024	2027	\$47,101,000	R/W soon	Division	F
U-6161	US 321	US 321 FROM SR 1002 (DUDLEY SHOALS ROAD) GRADE SEPARATION. CONSTRUCT RAMP ONTO US 321 SOUTHBOUND.	2025	2027	\$5,000,000	Planning	Division	F

Greater Hickory MPO
Transportation Update
April 2025

Division 11 Projects Under Construction								
<u>Contract Number</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>TIP#</u>	<u>Route</u>	<u>Location Description</u>	<u>Contract Amount</u>	<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Construction Progress %</u>	<u>Completion Date</u>
DK00259	CALDWELL	R-5775	US 321	IMPROVE INTERSECTION AT US 321 (HICKORY BLVD) AND SR 1109 (PINEWOOD ROAD EXT)	\$1,682,361.75	TRI-COUNTY PAVING INC	93 %	8/24
C204844	CALDWELL	U-6036	SR 1109 (PINEWOOD ROAD)	FROM US 321 TO SR-1252 (BERT HUFFMAN ROAD)	\$11,480,140.98	JAMES R VANNOY & SONS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INC	7 %	3/27

April 2025 Progress Report for Division 12 Projects in GHMPO

Active Construction Projects for Alexander and Catawba Counties

Contract/ TIP #	County	Route	Project Description	Status	% Complete
DL00307	Alexander	NC 90, NC 16 and 7 Sections of Secondary Roads	Resurfacing for 14.5 miles.	Underway.	34%
C204348/ R- 2307B	Catawba, Iredell	NC 150 from SR 1840 (Greenwood Road) in Catawba County to US 21 in Iredell County.	Widen Roadway to 4/ 6 Lanes and reconfigure interchange at I- 77.	Underway.	6%
DL00332, B- 2412EC, BO- 2412F	Catawba, Lincoln	Various	Division 12 Program to Upgrade Intersections to Comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) using Transportation Alternatives (TA) Funds.	Underway.	82%
C204919	Catawba	One section of US-70, and twenty four sections of secondary roads.	Resurfacing for 19.747 miles.	Underway.	20%
DL00321/ HA- 0007	Catawba	ARC Fairgrove Industrial Access	Construct 0.26 mile access road to cul-de-sac.	Project Complete.	100%
DL00325	Catawba, Lincoln	Various	Resurfacing for 32.52 miles.	Underway.	63%

Active Construction Projects for Burke County in Division 13

Contract/ TIP #	County	Route	Project Description	Status	% Complete
C204406	Burke	B-6011, B-6013 & B-6014	Bridge replacement. One each in Buncombe, Burke, McDowell and Mitchell Counties.	Underway.	73%
C204716	Burke	B-5869/ Bridge #99 over Norfolk Southern Railroad on Us-64/ US 70 in Morganton.	Bridge Replacement.	Underway.	39%
DM00440	Burke	Various Primary and Secondary Routes.	Resurfacing for 13.62 miles	Underway.	53%
DM00441	Burke	Various Secondary Routes.	Resurfacing for 17.16 miles	Underway.	62%
DM00449/ R-5967	Burke	SR 1625 (9th Ave Dr NW)	9th Ave Dr NW widening at Goat Farm Rd 0.6 miles	Underway.	29%

Active Projects Under Development in Alexander and Catawba Counties

Contract/ TIP #	County	Route	Project Description	Status	% Complete
U-4700 A	Catawba	US 321	Widen to six lanes from north of US 70 in Hickory to US 321A. Length 3.2 miles.	Right-of-Way acquisition underway. Work on multiple disciplines also underway. The projected schedule for Construction let is August of 2026.	NA
U-5777	Catawba	NC 127	Add turn lanes from 1st Ave SE to 2nd Ave SE.	Right of Way acquisition in progress. Redesign to shorten turn lane to reduce impacts to adjacent properties and reduced vertical profile to facilitate constructability. Let date scheduled for May of 2025.	NA
U-6041	Alexander	US 64 at SR 1124 (Church Rd)	Add left turn lanes on westbound US 64/ NC 90.	The projected schedule for Right of Way and Construction is in FY 2025. Engineering work is ongoing. Right of Way has started.	NA
R-3603A	Alexander	NC 127	Widen to multi-lanes from SR 1400 (Cloninger Mill Rd) in Catawba County to SR 1156 (Richey Rd) in Alexander County.	The projected schedule for Right of Way and Construction is in FY 2025 and FY 2028 respectively. Design work in progress.	NA
U-2530A	Catawba	NC 127	Widen to multi-lanes from SR 1132 (Huffman Road) to SR 1008 (Zion Church Road).	The projected schedule for Right of Way and Construction is in FY 2025 and FY 2028 respectively. Engineering work is ongoing. Public meeting held on March 21, 2024.	NA
U-2307B	Catawba	East Side Thoroughfare (McDonald Parkway)	Widen to Multi-lanes.	The projected schedule for Right of Way and Construction is in FY 2026 and FY 2029. respectively. Planning and Design is ongoing. Public Meeting held on 11/19/2024.	NA
I-5716	Catawba	I-40	Interchange Improvements at SR 1007 (Lenoir Ryne Blvd) and construct ramp in Northeast quadrant.	The projected schedule for Construction is in FY 2026. Planning and Design underway.	NA
B-5847	Catawba	SR 1709 (Rock Barn Road)	Replace Bridge 170173 over I-40.	The projected schedule for Right of Way, Utility relocation and Construction is in FY 2023, FY 2028 and FY 2030 respectively. Public Meeting held on July 12, 2022 in Conover. The project proposes roundabout at the ramp terminals and also considering a multiuse path and sidewalks over I-40. Right of Way in progress.	NA



Advanced Technology Committee

Meeting Summary Report

DATE: 04/02/2025

TIME: 3:45 P.M.

LOCATION: EIC/Microsoft Teams Meeting

Committee Summary:

The Advanced Technology Committee met on April 02, 2025. The committee received a report from Lauri Brady from Kapsch TrafficCom.

1. V2X & Connected Vehicle Technology

Lauri Brady, Vice President, Sales and Business Development |North America, Kapsch TrafficCom USA, Inc.

Lauri provided an in-depth presentation covering vehicle-to-everything technology and connected vehicles. Lauri presented hardware and data management solutions Kapsch is deploying in pilot programs and test areas across the country.

Lauri also discussed:

- Connected Vehicle Hardware
- Corridor Management
- Orchestrated Connected Corridors
- Use Cases
- Connected Intersections
- Connected Highways
- Advanced Driver Assistance Systems
- Pilot Programs
- The board asked a series of questions throughout the presentation. These questions included clarification of acronyms, the technology used to collect data, use of LiDAR, and use cases in North Carolina.



Finance Committee

Meeting Summary Report

DATE: 4/2/25

TIME: 10:30 A.M.

LOCATION: Room 150/Microsoft Teams Meeting

Committee Summary:

Providing the Finance Committee with monthly financial updates.

1. Financial and Spend Plan Update

Mark Newsome, CFO

Monthly updates on NCDOT's financial status and where NCDOT stands with the approved Spend Plan.

- **Available Cash as of February 28, 2025**
 - Highway Fund and Highway Trust Fund's available cash combined are \$2,689M.
 - Days of available cash on hand are 120.5.
 - Available cash as a percentage of open commitments is 27.2%.
 - Local Government Commission (LGC) approved GARVEE issuance for May of 2025.

2. Hurricane Helene Recovery Financial Update and Proposed 2025 Spend Plan Amendment

Mark Newsome, CFO

Monthly updates on NCDOT's financial status impacted by storm recovery efforts and the proposed Spend Plan Amendment 2 for SFY 2025.

- **Hurricane Helene Recovery Financial Overview as of March 31, 2025**
 - The Department incurred \$574M in storm related expenditures.
 - The Department received \$85M in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and \$45M in Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) receipts.
- **Helene Recovery Model: Forecast As of February 2025**
 - Total projected spend is \$4,953M with an anticipated federal share of \$4,036M and an anticipated State share of \$917M.
- **Proposed Spend Plan Amendment 2 for SFY 2025**
 - Revenues and Other Receipts are projected to increase by \$57M.
 - Expenditures are projected to increase by \$456M mainly due to Helene recovery spend.



Finance Committee

Meeting Summary Report

- Closing Cash Balance is expected to decrease by \$228M mainly due to Helene recovery spend.

3. 2025-2027 Consensus Revenue Forecast for Governor's Budget

Amna Cameron, Deputy Director- SIPS

General update on the revenue forecast

- **Preliminary Motor Fuels Tax (MFT) Consensus Forecast for Governor's Budget (January)**
 - January forecast assumptions - Population grows roughly 1.15% a year; Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) grows 1.5%-2.0% a year; Tax rate fluctuates with economy.
 - Forecast Update - Consumer confidence is declining. Fuel economy was anticipated to improve but tariffs and Electric Vehicles (EV) changes will slow lower projections
- **Preliminary Highway Use Tax (HUT) Consensus Forecast for Governor's Budget (January)**
 - January forecast assumptions- Strong inventories for new vehicle prices remain at record highs; EV sales grew 15% year over year.
 - Forecast Update - Tariffs will create market instability; manufacturers will cut production; layoffs may ensue; and analysts estimate a \$12K increase in new personal vehicle prices. Commercial vehicle sales are likely to be significantly impacted
- **Preliminary Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) Consensus Forecast for Governor's Budget (January)**
 - January forecast assumptions - DMV fees remain steady and quadrennial reset occurred on July 1, 2024.
 - Forecast Update - Title fee revenues will decline. Federal EV tax credits eliminated; pause on National Electronics Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program, and policy changes to the USDOT fuel economy standards (CAFÉ) and EPA emissions standards will affect vehicle sales. Due to tariffs and other policies from the current administration, vehicle production could drop by as much as 30% by 2027.
- **Preliminary Sales Tax Consensus Forecast for Governor's Budget (January)**



Finance Committee

Meeting Summary Report

- January forecast assumptions – Sales tax has highest rate of growth; Consumer spending is strong; New fee on transportation network companies effective July 1, 2025.
- Forecast Update - Sales tax is highly susceptible to economic climate. Changes in consumer sentiment indicate a slowdown in discretionary spending.



Highways Committee

Meeting Summary Report

DATE: 4/2/2025

TIME: 2:45 P.M.

LOCATION: Room 150/Microsoft Teams Meeting

Committee Summary:

The Highways Committee heard one presentation.

1. NCDOT Wildflower Program History

Jeremy A. Goodwin, PE -State Roadside Environmental Engineer

The NCDOT Wildflower Program History

- **It started with a letter**
 - In 1982, First Lady Dottie Martin, wife of Governor Jim Martin, envisioned the NC Wildflower Program when she read an article in the Wall Street Journal and asked, "What can we do to get this sort of thing going in N.C.?". Shortly afterwards, the Wildflower program was created in 1985.
- **Funding**
 - Landscaping funds were not available when the Wildflower Program began. Part of the \$1.2 - \$1.4M Personalized License Plate Program funds help the wildflower program.
- **History**
 - The Wildflower Program began on twelve acres. When it started, there were no vendors for this project. NCDOT in the late 1980s started working with nurseries for the project. During the first three years, not a lot was occurring. NCDOT planted seeds and soil, and it was a tough time getting it started. It was also very labor intensive, but after the first three years NCDOT began seeing progress.
 - The Garden Club of North Carolina continues to be the lead sponsor of the Wildflower Program. Other important partners like Coca-Cola, NC State University, North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Consumer Services, and Bayer CropScience have also been sponsors of the program.
 - In 2007, The Garden Club came together to participate in judging Division Wildflower beds. There were many awards for this program including best photos, best color etc. The Garden Club with their master judges have gone through several hours of training to judge this program across the state.
 - Currently, NCDOT has 609 beds of wildflowers totaling 738 acres. Among the flowers planted are North Carolina native species; Claspig Coneflower, Bur-



Highways Committee

Meeting Summary Report

Marigold (Bidens), and Maximilian Sunflower. Due to Hurricane Helene, things have slowed down a bit this year.

- This program is one of NCDOT's most popular initiatives and receives hundreds of letters, notes, and comments from across the state on the flower beds and the program. NCDOT gets a lot of accolades from the public and visitors in the state with letters from citizens who appreciate the program along with donations which are unsolicited. The program brings together endless roads of color.

- **Helping Pollinators**

- Research has shown that when compared to non-mown rights-of-way, wildflower beds have:
 - 6 times more pollinator bees
 - 2.5 times more pollinator flies
 - 5 times more pollinator butterflies
 - 37 times more pollinator wasps
- In 2015, the program received a \$150,000 donation from Bayer CropScience for pollinator habitat plantings. Wildflower beds are a great habitat for pollinators

- **What does it take to develop a Wildflower bed site**

- The route must be highly traveled
- The site targeted is an acre or more
- Safety so that staff can go out and maintain them
- Best results for fertilizing the beds
- The cost of the weed management for the Wildflower beds is about \$2000-\$3000

- **Daylily Beds**

- At one point, 2.5M Daylilies were planted throughout the state. The intent was to provide a pop of color during the summer months.
- Initially, these plants were very labor intensive to manage, now they plant themselves.



Inspector General Committee

Meeting Summary Report

DATE: 04/02/25

TIME: 9:30 A.M.

LOCATION: EIC/Microsoft Teams Meeting

Committee Summary:

The Inspector General committee discussed the items listed below.

1. Opening remarks & updates

Lonnetta Raynor, Inspector General

Lonnetta Raynor welcomed everyone and gave a brief update on activities in the Office of Inspector General.

- **Audits**

- We are continuing to complete audits on our current audit plan
- The EAGLE audit is underway
- Jefferson Wells is the third party conducting the EAGLE audit

- **Vacancies**

- OIG has filled one of two vacancies

2. Updates

Michael Mahabir, CPA, Investigative Auditor - Investigations

Michael gave a brief update on investigation activities

- **Investigations – currently open**

- 5 in the Division of Highways, 1 in the Ferry Division, 1 in Right of Way

3. Updates

Wayne Davenport, Manager – Internal Audit

Wayne gave an update on internal audit and single audit activities

- **Audits/Engagements**

- Division 5 Equipment Shop underway (fieldwork phase)
- Environmental Analysis Unit underway (fieldwork phase)
- NCDMV Dealer License Change Management Process completed
 - Incomplete documentation
 - Missing signatures
 - Lack of formalized & documented time frames
 - No fees charged for processing dealer name changes



Inspector General Committee

Meeting Summary Report

- Currently conducting research to determine next audit
- **Attestation Reports**
 - 01-31-25 quarterly report filed on time with OSBM
 - 04-30-25 quarterly report is our next report due to OSBM
- **Single Audit**
 - Consultant conducting desk reviews to wrap up fiscal year 2022
 - Will soon begin fiscal year 2023
- **Compliance Supplements**
 - Emailed 108 documents to the Local Government Commission (LGC)
 - Documents used to assist CPA's when conducting required audits



Multi-Modal Committee

Meeting Summary Report

DATE: 04/02/25

TIME: 2:45 P.M.

LOCATION: EIC/Microsoft Teams Meeting

Committee Summary:

The Multi-Modal Committee heard three presentations which provided an overview of the following:

- The North Carolina General Assembly's appropriation of nearly \$300 million to 37 airports for capital improvement projects for SFY 2024.
- Update from the Aviation director on the background, the division role, and expenditures to date for these funds.
- Perspective of the Burlington Alamance Regional Airport.
- Perspective of the Statesville Regional Airport.

1. Update: 2024 Transportation Reserve Directed Funds (TRDF) Expenditures

Nicholas Short, Interim Aviation Division Director

2. Burlington Alamance Regional Airport Perspective

Dan Daniely, President & CEO

3. Statesville Regional Airport Perspective

John M. Ferguson, Airport Director



Road/Bridge/Ferry Naming Committee

Meeting Summary Report

DATE: 4/2/2025

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

LOCATION: Board Room #150/Microsoft Teams

Committee Summary:

The Road/Bridge/Ferry Naming Committee approved an honorary designation and an amendment to the current policy.

1. RBFN Application Packets Summary / Shelly Heath

- **Senator Elizabeth Dole Highway**
 - I-85 within Salisbury city limits near Exit 75 to Bringle Ferry Road (D9)

2. Honorary Designations of State Transportation Assets, Employee Memorial Program Policy

- Policy amendment delegating exception approval to technical advisor to bring municipal law enforcement/emergency responder bridge naming to Road/Bridge/Ferry Naming Committee.

3. Upcoming Events / Brianna Couture

- **Patrolman Ralph Arnold Bridge**
 - Tuesday, April 8 at 10 a.m. in Division 4
- **Patrolman Paul Smith Bridge**
 - Friday, April 11 at noon in Division 10



Workforce Committee

Meeting Summary Report

DATE: 04/02/25

TIME: 3:45 P.M.

LOCATION: Room 150/Microsoft Teams Meeting

Committee Summary:

The Workforce Development Committee heard one presentation.

1. NCDOT Mental Health Training Update

John Eley, Assistant HR Director – HR Services

Gave an update of the NCDOT Mental Health training. NCDOT has suffered an uptick in employee suicides. As a result, DOT Leadership took a strong interest and proactive steps in providing resources for our employees.

- **Suicide Prevention Emphasis:**
 - Provide resources on Inside NCDOT
 - Share monthly communications with all employees
 - Identify training resources for employees through MYgroup
 - Work with MYgroup and Cary Psychology for suicide training
 - MDR, FFDEs, and Critical Incident Response
 - Human Resources working with employees and family members
- **Courses Provided in 2024 with MYgroup:**
 - Recognizing the Troubled Employee (147 participants 2024): Addresses the sensitive subject of suicide and is designed to ease the anxiety as well as provide managers with guidance on the triggers to watch (in-person/virtual).
 - Building Better Mental Health (82 participants 2024): Focuses on looking at our mental and emotional well-being (virtual).
 - Building Your Resiliency Muscles (57 participants 2024): Teaches the basic elements of building resiliency to deal with stress or loss (virtual).
- **Courses Added in 2025 with MYgroup:**
 - Leveraging Generational Diversity: Focuses on multi-generational teams and the challenges they bring (virtual).
 - Adapting and Thriving Through Change: Explores feelings, thoughts, and actions as it relates to change and offers strategies for coping (virtual).
- **In- Person/Required Mental Health Awareness Training with Teia Poulin – Certified Counselor of Cary Psychology:**



Workforce Committee

Meeting Summary Report

- Understanding trauma and how what you don't know can hurt you
- Increasing awareness and taking steps to improve your overall health, coping, and self-regulation skills
- Providing in-person training to all employees
- Building resiliency
- Recognizing where we are and what to do about it
- Identifying signs/symptoms of the suicidal employee and what to do
- 1498 in-person participants since April 2, 2025, across the Divisions and Department



N.C. Board of Transportation Update

April 2025

NCDMV Updates

- The N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles is extending service hours again.
- Beginning April 7, 42 driver license offices will join 50 others opening an hour earlier at 7 a.m., offering an additional hour for appointments and services.
- Additionally, NCDMV's Saturday summer walk-in service hours will return later this year. In 2024, nearly 17,000 transactions were processed at 16 offices during the 12 Saturdays of the season.
- This year, 20 offices will offer Saturday service from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. from June 7 to Aug. 23. The new Saturday locations are Elizabeth City, Clayton, Durham East, and Kenersville.
- The DMV self-service kiosk pilot also hit a significant milestone recently.
- Since its launch last March, 25,000 customers have used the kiosks for DMV services at select Harris Teeters in Wake, Mecklenburg and Cumberland counties.
- Nine kiosks are in place with a tenth planned for the Soldier Support Center on base in Fayetteville with more kiosks to be added as certain transaction thresholds are achieved.
- For DMV updates visit this [webpage](#).

Summer Accelerator Program

- With summer approaching, it's a good time to remind everyone about the department's upcoming Summer Accelerator program.
- This two-week course prepares high school students for careers in transportation construction. Our On-the-Job Training program partners with school districts to

enhance construction programs and is part of the Office of Civil Rights.

- For more info, visit ncdot.gov and search "On the Job Training."

St Patrick's Day Booze It & Lose It

- Last month, the GHSP held its St. Patrick's Day Booze It & Lose It campaign with the NCSHP.
- The annual campaign features increased patrols and checkpoints to increase safety for drivers.
- This year saw nearly 2,000 total checkpoints and patrols leading to over 35,000 traffic and criminal violations. Among those were 783 DWI charges.
- The department thanks the Highway Patrol and local law enforcement for their efforts always in keeping our roads and communities safe.
- And as always we remind everyone to not drink and drive. For your safety and for others – it's simply not worth it.

Rockingham Special

- NC By Train is offering a one-day "Rockingham Special" on April 19 for NASCAR fans.
- The train will depart Raleigh at 9 a.m., with stops in Cary and Southern Pines, arriving at Rockingham Speedway. After the race, it departs at 7:30 p.m. and stops again in Southern Pines and Cary before returning to Raleigh by 9:30 p.m.
- Tickets are \$25 each way, available on Amtrak's website. Don't miss this convenient, safe, and affordable option.