

Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)

Wednesday, July 22, 2026, 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 June 24, 2026 Meeting	Hank Guess	Attachment I	Approve Consent Agenda Items
B. Transportation Improvement Program Revisions for Release			
Transportation Improvement Program Revisions for Approval	Averi Ritchie	Attachment II	Adopt via Resolution
Prioritization 8: Regional Tier Local Input Points	Averi Ritchie & Casey Fullbright	Attachment III	Open for Public Comment
Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs) 2024 Estimates	Taylor Dellinger	Attachment IV	Approve via Consensus
Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs) Interactive Mapping Tool Demo	Casey Fullbright & Andrew Webb	Attachment V	Presentation
Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP) Discussion	GHMPO Staff	Attachment VI	Discussion
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	Nikki Elsheimer		
Reminders	Averi Ritchie		
Public Comment / Announcements	Hank Guess		
Adjournment			
Next Meeting: August 26, 2026	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, June 24th, 2026 @ 2:30 PM In-person meeting and via online participation

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

			VACANT		Sawmills
			VACANT		Rutherford College
			VACANT		Drexel
WPCOG, FHWA & GUEST			NC DOT STAFF		
Averi Ritchie - WPCOG			Travis Chrisawn - Div 11		
Casey Fullbright - WPCOG			Travis Jordan - Div 12		
Daniel Odom - WPCOG			Mark Stafford - Div 12		
Katelyn Smith - WPCOG			Tim Anderson - Div 13		
Anthony Starr - WPCOG			Stephen Sparks - Div 13		
Renee Carswell - City Clerk Morganton			Brendan Merithew - Div 13		
			Reuben Crummy - NC DOT TPD		
			Dean Leadbetter - Div 11 & 12		

Call to Order / Ethics Awareness / Introductions: Chairman Guess called the meeting to order and welcomed all present. Introductions were conducted.

Approval of Remote Participation: Online attendees were Stephen Sparks, Renee Carswell, and Reuben Crummy. Upon a motion made by Chairman Guess and seconded by Mrs. Patton, online participation was approved.

Action Items:

I. Approval of Consent Agenda: A motion was made to approve the consent agenda, which included the Minutes of the May 27, 2026 meeting and the Transportation Improvement Program Revisions for Release. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Patton and a second by Mrs. Beatty, the Committee approved the consent agenda.

II. Transportation Improvement Program Revisions for Approval: Upon a motion made by Mrs. Patton and seconded by Mrs. Beatty, the committee approved the revisions.

III. Locally Administered Project Program: Spring 2026 Project Applications: Mr. Odom presented the Locally Administered Project Program (LAPP) Spring 2026 Call for New Projects. Upon a motion made by Chairman Guess and seconded by Mrs. Beatty, the Committee approved the MPO Specific funding authorization. Upon a motion made by Chairman Guess and seconded by Mrs. Patton, the Committee approved the associated STIP Amendment.

IV. Results of the GHMPO Federal Recertification Review: Ms. Ritchie provided an overview of the 2026 Certification Review. The FHWA and FTA fully certified the MPO's transportation planning process for the next four years. Staff reviewed the recommendations provided by the federal agencies to ensure continued compliance and improvement.

V. 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan - Goals, Vision, and Policies: Ms. Ritchie introduced the "Goals, Vision, and Policies" chapter of the 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The update strategically reorganizes priorities into eight broader, outcome-based goal areas, aligning regional objectives with the ten federal planning factors mandated by the FHWA.

VI. Express Design Project Submittals & Statewide Tier Results: Ms. Ritchie and Mr. Fullbright presented the Express Design Project Submittals and Statewide Tier Results. The NCDOT Express Design program develops conceptual engineering layouts and refined cost estimates prior to formal scoring. The committee explicitly modified the project selections by rejecting the specific intersection design coded as an RCI on US 321 (SPOT ID H250621), citing high costs and lack of local support. Staff also confirmed that the approved major projects for the Statewide Mobility Tier have been programmed into the Prioritization 8.0 framework.

NCDOT Updates –

BOT: None.

Division 11: Mr. Chrisawn provided an update on specific resurfacing projects. Public comments for regional projects will open in July.

Division 12: Mr. Stafford provided updates regarding Church Road and NC 16, as well as NC 127 1st and 2nd. The I-5716 project on Lenoir Rhyne Blvd is advertised for bidding on July 21st.

Division 13: Mr. Anderson Burke Industrial Park access road is complete; crews are waiting on landscaping. Resurfacing efforts in Burke County were also noted.

NCDOT-TPD: None.

NCDOT-IMD: None.

Reminders: Ms. Ritchie reminded the committee to reach out to their respective divisions regarding local input points.

Public Comment/Announcements: None.

Adjournment: Upon a motion made by Chairman Guess and seconded by Mr. Morrow, the meeting was adjourned at 3:31 PM. The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 22, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hank Guess, TAC Chairman

Averi Ritchie, TAC Secretary

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

MEETING DATE: July 22, 2026

SUBJECT: Transportation Improvement Program Revisions for Release

PRESENTER: Averil Ritchie, Transportation Planning Director

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*

REVISIONS TO THE 2026-2035 STIP
HIGHWAY PROGRAM

GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

STIP ADDITIONS

* RX-2412F CATAWBA PROJ.CATEGORY DIVISION	- GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION	31ST STREET SW; NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILROAD CROSSING 729552H IN LONG VIEW. CONSTRUCT HIGHWAY-RAIL GRADE CROSSING SAFETY. <u>ADD PROJECT AT THE REQUEST OF THE RAIL DIVISION.</u>	CONSTRUCTION	FY 2027 -	\$650,000 (RR)
					\$650,000

STIP MODIFICATIONS

B-6041 CATAWBA PROJ.CATEGORY STATEWIDE	- GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION	I-40; BRIDGES 170177 AND 170178 OVER LYLE CREEK. REPLACE BRIDGES. <u>TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME FOR PLANNING AND DESIGN, DELAY RIGHT-OF-WAY FROM FY 26 TO FY 28.</u>	RIGHT-OF-WAY	FY 2028 -	\$232,000 (BFP)
				FY 2028 -	\$58,000 (T(M))
			CONSTRUCTION	FY 2032 -	\$3,874,000 (BFP)
				FY 2032 -	\$968,000 (T(M))
				FY 2033 -	\$5,810,000 (BFP)
				FY 2033 -	\$1,453,000 (T(M))
				FY 2034 -	\$4,950,000 (BFP)
				FY 2034 -	\$1,237,000 (T(M))
				FY 2035 -	\$3,658,000 (BFP)
				FY 2035 -	\$915,000 (T(M))
				AFTER FY 2035 -	\$3,228,000 (BFP)
				AFTER FY 2035 -	\$807,000 (T(M))
					\$27,190,000
* BR-0130 BURKE PROJ.CATEGORY STATEWIDE	- GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION	I-40; BRIDGES 110114 AND 110120 OVER SILVER CREEK. REPLACE BRIDGES. <u>ADD RIGHT-OF-WAY IN FY 27 NOT PREVIOUSLY PROGRAMED.</u>	RIGHT-OF-WAY	FY 2027 -	\$85,000 (BFP)
				FY 2027 -	\$21,000 (T(M))
			CONSTRUCTION	FY 2031 -	\$4,720,000 (BFP)
				FY 2031 -	\$1,180,000 (T(M))
				FY 2032 -	\$4,720,000 (BFP)
				FY 2032 -	\$1,180,000 (T(M))
					\$11,906,000

* INDICATES FEDERAL AMENDMENT

REVISIONS TO THE 2026-2035 STIP
HIGHWAY PROGRAM

GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

STIP MODIFICATIONS

U-6161	- GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN	US 321; SR 1002 (DUDLEY SHOALS ROAD) GRADE	RIGHT-OF-WAY	FY 2027 -	\$160,000	(NHP)
CALDWELL	PLANNING ORGANIZATION	SEPARATION. CONSTRUCT RAMP ONTO US 321		FY 2027 -	\$40,000	(T(M))
PROJ.CATEGORY		SOUTHBOUND.		FY 2028 -	\$560,000	(NHP)
DIVISION		<u>TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME FOR PLANNING AND</u>		FY 2028 -	\$140,000	(T(M))
		<u>DESIGN, DELAY RIGHT-OF-WAY AND UTILITIES FROM</u>		FY 2029 -	\$560,000	(NHP)
		<u>FY 26 TO FY 27.</u>		FY 2029 -	\$140,000	(T(M))
				FY 2030 -	\$160,000	(NHP)
				FY 2030 -	\$40,000	(T(M))
				FY 2031 -	\$160,000	(NHP)
				FY 2031 -	\$40,000	(T(M))
			UTILITIES	FY 2027 -	\$216,000	(NHP)
				FY 2027 -	\$54,000	(T(M))
			CONSTRUCTION	FY 2028 -	\$1,512,000	(NHP)
				FY 2028 -	\$378,000	(T(M))
				FY 2029 -	\$2,621,000	(NHP)
				FY 2029 -	\$655,000	(T(M))
				FY 2030 -	\$907,000	(NHP)
				FY 2030 -	\$227,000	(T(M))
					\$8,570,000	

* INDICATES FEDERAL AMENDMENT

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

MEETING DATE: July 22, 2026

SUBJECT: Transportation Improvement Program Revisions for Approval

PRESENTER: Averi Ritchie, Transportation Planning Director

ATTACHMENTS: Transportation Improvement Program Revisions for Approval

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: Recommend for approval.

Suggested Motion: *Motion to approve*

**REVISIONS TO THE 2026-2035 STIP
HIGHWAY PROGRAM**

STATEWIDE PROJECT

STIP DELETIONS

TC-0003 STATEWIDE PROJ.CATEGORY PUBLIC TRANS	- STATEWIDE PROJECT	NCDOT; VARIOUS LOCATIONS, FUNDING FOR 5311(B) CAPITAL FUNDING FOR RURAL PROJECTS. <u>REMOVE PROJECT AT THE REQUEST OF THE INTEGRATED MOBILITY DIVISION.</u>	CAPITAL	FY 2023 - \$137,000 (S) FY 2023 - \$137,000 (L) FY 2023 - <u>\$1,097,000</u> (5311) \$1,371,000
TC-0005 STATEWIDE PROJ.CATEGORY PUBLIC TRANS	- STATEWIDE PROJECT	STATEWIDE; VARIOUS LOCATIONS, FUNDING FOR 5339(B) DISCRETIONARY GRANT FOR FACILITY CONSTRUCTION. <u>REMOVE PROJECT AT THE REQUEST OF THE INTEGRATED MOBILITY DIVISION.</u>	CONSTRUCTION	FY 2022 - \$750,000 (L) FY 2022 - <u>\$3,000,000</u> (5339) \$3,750,000
TC-0006 STATEWIDE PROJ.CATEGORY PUBLIC TRANS	- STATEWIDE PROJECT	STATEWIDE; VARIOUS LOCATIONS, FUNDING FOR 5339(B) DISCRETIONARY GRANT FOR FACILITY CONSTRUCTION. <u>REMOVE PROJECT AT THE REQUEST OF THE INTEGRATED MOBILITY DIVISION.</u>	CONSTRUCTION	FY 2021 - \$84,000 (L) FY 2021 - \$335,000 (5339) FY 2022 - \$300,000 (L) FY 2022 - <u>\$1,100,000</u> (5339) \$1,819,000
TC-0007 STATEWIDE PROJ.CATEGORY PUBLIC TRANS	- STATEWIDE PROJECT	STATEWIDE; VARIOUS LOCATIONS, FUNDING FOR 5339(B) DISCRETIONARY GRANT FOR FACILITY CONSTRUCTION. <u>REMOVE PROJECT AT THE REQUEST OF THE INTEGRATED MOBILITY DIVISION.</u>	CAPITAL	FY 2021 - \$297,000 (L) FY 2021 - \$1,189,000 (5339) FY 2023 - \$490,000 (L) FY 2023 - <u>\$2,000,000</u> (5339) \$3,976,000

* INDICATES FEDERAL AMENDMENT

Thursday, June 4, 2026

REVISIONS TO THE 2026-2035 STIP HIGHWAY PROGRAM

STATEWIDE PROJECT

STIP DELETIONS

TC-0008	- STATEWIDE PROJECT	STATEWIDE; VARIOUS LOCATIONS, FUNDING FOR 5339(B) DISCRETIONARY GRANT FOR FACILITY CONSTRUCTION.	CONSTRUCTION	FY 2025 -	\$100,000	(L)
STATEWIDE				FY 2025 -	\$400,000	(5339)
PROJ.CATEGORY			CAPITAL	FY 2023 -	\$1,500,000	(L)
PUBLIC TRANS		<u>REMOVE PROJECT AT THE REQUEST OF THE INTEGRATED MOBILITY DIVISION.</u>		FY 2023 -	\$5,600,000	(5339)
				FY 2024 -	\$875,000	(L)
				FY 2024 -	\$350,000	(5339)
					\$8,825,000	
TC-0010	- STATEWIDE PROJECT	STATEWIDE; VARIOUS LOCATIONS, FUNDING FOR 5339(B) DISCRETIONARY GRANT FOR FACILITY CONSTRUCTION.	CONSTRUCTION	FY 2023 -	\$1,000,000	(L)
STATEWIDE				FY 2023 -	\$4,000,000	(5339)
PROJ.CATEGORY				FY 2024 -	\$900,000	(L)
PUBLIC TRANS		<u>REMOVE PROJECT AT THE REQUEST OF THE INTEGRATED MOBILITY DIVISION.</u>		FY 2024 -	\$3,600,000	(5339)
				FY 2025 -	\$1,400,000	(L)
				FY 2025 -	\$4,200,000	(5339)
					\$15,100,000	
TC-0011	- STATEWIDE PROJECT	NCDOT; VARIOUS LOCATIONS, FUNDING FOR 5339(B) DISCRETIONARY GRANT FOR FACILITY CONSTRUCTION.	CONSTRUCTION	FY 2023 -	\$719,000	(5339)
STATEWIDE			CAPITAL	FY 2021 -	\$598,000	(L)
PROJ.CATEGORY				FY 2021 -	\$2,391,000	(5339)
PUBLIC TRANS		<u>REMOVE PROJECT AT THE REQUEST OF THE INTEGRATED MOBILITY DIVISION.</u>		FY 2022 -	\$1,700,000	(L)
				FY 2022 -	\$4,000,000	(5339)
					\$9,408,000	
TC-0012	- STATEWIDE PROJECT	STATEWIDE; VARIOUS LOCATIONS, FUNDING FOR 5339(B) DISCRETIONARY GRANT TO PURCHASE ELECTRIC BUSES AND CHARGING STATIONS.	CAPITAL	FY 2024 -	\$625,000	(L)
STATEWIDE				FY 2024 -	\$2,500,000	(5339)
PROJ.CATEGORY					\$3,125,000	
PUBLIC TRANS		<u>REMOVE PROJECT AT THE REQUEST OF THE INTEGRATED MOBILITY DIVISION.</u>				

* INDICATES FEDERAL AMENDMENT

Thursday, June 4, 2026

**REVISIONS TO THE 2026-2035 STIP
HIGHWAY PROGRAM**

STATEWIDE PROJECT

STIP DELETIONS

TC-0013 STATEWIDE PROJ.CATEGORY PUBLIC TRANS	- STATEWIDE PROJECT	STATEWIDE; VARIOUS LOCATIONS, FUNDING FOR 5310 CAPITAL DISCRETIONARY GRANT AWARDED BY FTA. <u>REMOVE PROJECT AT THE REQUEST OF THE INTEGRATED MOBILITY DIVISION.</u>		FY 2021 - \$70,000 (S) FY 2021 - \$280,000 (5310) \$350,000
TM-0033 STATEWIDE PROJ.CATEGORY PUBLIC TRANS	- STATEWIDE PROJECT	NCDOT; VARIOUS LOCATIONS, 5311(F) INTERCITY BUS - STATE ADMIN. <u>REMOVE PROJECT AT THE REQUEST OF THE INTEGRATED MOBILITY DIVISION.</u>	ADMINISTRATIVE	FY 2022 - \$494,000 (5311) \$494,000
TU-0003 STATEWIDE PROJ.CATEGORY PUBLIC TRANS	- STATEWIDE PROJECT	NCDOT; VARIOUS LOCATIONS, H.O.P.E GRANT OPPORTUNITY FROM THE FTA. DISCRETIONARY GRANT AWARDED BY FTA. PLANNING AND DESIGN IN PREPARATION FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE DEPLOYMENT. <u>REMOVE PROJECT AT THE REQUEST OF THE INTEGRATED MOBILITY DIVISION.</u>	PLANNING	FY 2021 - \$12,000 (S) FY 2021 - \$110,000 (5312) FY 2023 - \$20,000 (S) FY 2023 - \$80,000 (5303) \$222,000

* INDICATES FEDERAL AMENDMENT

Thursday, June 4, 2026

REVISIONS TO THE 2026-2035 STIP HIGHWAY PROGRAM

GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

STIP ADDITIONS

* HS-2613C BURKE PROJ.CATEGORY DIVISION	- GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION	SR 1501 (HUFFMAN BRIDGE ROAD/ANTIOCH ROAD); SR 1512 (AMHERST ROAD) TO SR 1584 (MORGANTON LENOIR AIRPORT AVENUE). INSTALL RUMBLE STRIPS/STRIPE.	CONSTRUCTION	FY 2027 - \$126,000 (HSIP) FY 2027 - \$14,000 (T(M)) \$140,000
<u>ADD PROJECT BREAK AT THE REQUEST OF THE TRANSPORTATION MOBILITY AND SAFETY DIVISION</u>				
* HS-2613F BURKE PROJ.CATEGORY DIVISION	- GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION	SR 1653 (AIRPORT RHODISS ROAD); SR 1611 (RHODISS ROAD) TO SR 1625 (9TH AVE DRIVE NW); SR 1653 (HICKORY AIRPORT ROAD) FROM SR 1625 TO CATAWBA COUNTY. INSTALL RUMBLE STRIPS/STRIPE.	CONSTRUCTION	FY 2027 - \$108,000 (HSIP) FY 2027 - \$12,000 (T(M)) \$120,000
<u>ADD PROJECT BREAK AT THE REQUEST OF THE TRANSPORTATION MOBILITY AND SAFETY DIVISION</u>				
* HS-2613G BURKE PROJ.CATEGORY REGIONAL	- GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION	NC 18 (S. STERLING STREET); SR 1704 (BETHEL STREET)/BROUGHTON HOSPITAL ENTRANCE, AND AT BROUGHTON ROAD/POTEA STREET INTERSECTIONS IN MORGANTON. INSTALL PEDESTRIAN SIGNALS, CURB RAMPS, AND CROSSWALKS.	CONSTRUCTION	FY 2027 - \$418,000 (HSIP) FY 2027 - \$47,000 (T(M)) \$465,000
<u>ADD PROJECT BREAK AT THE REQUEST OF THE TRANSPORTATION MOBILITY AND SAFETY DIVISION</u>				

STIP MODIFICATIONS

BR-0151 BURKE PROJ.CATEGORY DIVISION	- GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION	SR 1002 (HENRY RIVER ROAD); SR1002 (HENRY RIVER ROAD) OVER I-40. REPLACE BRIDGE.	RIGHT-OF-WAY CONSTRUCTION	FY 2027 - \$500,000 (HFB) FY 2028 - \$416,000 (BGDA) FY 2028 - \$104,000 (L(M)) FY 2028 - \$312,000 (L) FY 2028 - \$11,568,000 (HFB) \$12,900,000
<u>TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME FOR PLANNING AND DESIGN, DELAY CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 27 TO FY 28.</u>				

* INDICATES FEDERAL AMENDMENT

Thursday, June 4, 2026

REVISIONS TO THE 2026-2035 STIP HIGHWAY PROGRAM

GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

STIP MODIFICATIONS

HB-0057 CALDWELL PROJ.CATEGORY DIVISION	- GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION	SR 1356 (OLD JOHNS RIVER ROAD); BRIDGE 130185 OVER JOHNS RIVER. REPLACE BRIDGE. <u>TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION, DELAY CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 26 TO FY 27. DP REPRESENTS RAISE GRANT FUNDS.</u>	CONSTRUCTION	FY 2027 - \$162,000 (DP) FY 2027 - \$10,000 (BGOFF) FY 2027 - \$6,000 (HFB) FY 2028 - \$822,000 (BGOFF) FY 2028 - \$537,000 (HFB) FY 2029 - \$159,000 (BGOFF) FY 2029 - \$104,000 (HFB) \$1,800,000
HB-0058 CALDWELL PROJ.CATEGORY DIVISION	- GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION	SR 1356 (OLD JOHNS RIVER ROAD); BRIDGE 130186 OVER JOHNS RIVER. REPLACE BRIDGE. <u>TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION, DELAY CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 26 TO FY 27. DP REPRESENTS RAISE GRANT FUNDS.</u>	CONSTRUCTION	FY 2027 - \$162,000 (DP) FY 2027 - \$8,000 (BGOFF) FY 2027 - \$6,000 (HFB) FY 2028 - \$720,000 (BGOFF) FY 2028 - \$589,000 (HFB) FY 2029 - \$63,000 (BGOFF) FY 2029 - \$52,000 (HFB) \$1,600,000
HB-0059 CALDWELL PROJ.CATEGORY DIVISION	- GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION	SR 1356 (OLD JOHNS RIVER ROAD); BRIDGE 130275 OVER JOHNS RIVER. REPLACE BRIDGE. <u>TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION, DELAY CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 26 TO FY 27. DP REPRESENTS RAISE GRANT FUNDS.</u>	CONSTRUCTION	FY 2027 - \$162,000 (DP) FY 2027 - \$9,000 (BGOFF) FY 2027 - \$6,000 (HFB) FY 2028 - \$811,000 (BGOFF) FY 2028 - \$590,000 (HFB) FY 2029 - \$71,000 (BGOFF) FY 2029 - \$52,000 (HFB) \$1,701,000
HB-0060 CALDWELL PROJ.CATEGORY DIVISION	- GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION	SR 1356 (OLD JOHNS RIVER ROAD); BRIDGE 130317 OVER JOHNS RIVER. REPLACE BRIDGE. <u>TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION, DELAY CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 26 TO FY 27. DP REPRESENTS RAISE GRANT FUNDS.</u>	CONSTRUCTION	FY 2027 - \$210,000 (DP) FY 2027 - \$9,000 (BGOFF) FY 2027 - \$8,000 (HFB) FY 2028 - \$863,000 (BGOFF) FY 2028 - \$765,000 (HFB) FY 2029 - \$76,000 (BGOFF) FY 2029 - \$68,000 (HFB) \$1,999,000

* INDICATES FEDERAL AMENDMENT

Thursday, June 4, 2026

**REVISIONS TO THE 2026-2035 STIP
HIGHWAY PROGRAM**

GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

STIP MODIFICATIONS

I-5990 BURKE PROJ.CATEGORY DIVISION	- GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION	I-40; SR 1761 (OLD NC 10) EXIT 118 INTERCHANGE. CONSTRUCT INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS. <u>TO ALLOW ADDITIONAL TIME FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION, DELAY CONSTRUCTION FROM FY 27 TO FY 29.</u>	RIGHT-OF-WAY	FY 2027 -	\$3,186,000	(NHP)
				FY 2027 -	\$797,000	(T(M))
				FY 2028 -	\$910,000	(NHP)
				FY 2028 -	\$227,000	(T(M))
				FY 2029 -	\$512,000	(NHP)
				FY 2029 -	\$128,000	(T(M))
			UTILITIES	FY 2030 -	\$512,000	(NHP)
				FY 2030 -	\$128,000	(T(M))
				FY 2027 -	\$360,000	(NHP)
				FY 2027 -	\$90,000	(T(M))
				FY 2028 -	\$360,000	(NHP)
				FY 2028 -	\$90,000	(T(M))
			CONSTRUCTION	FY 2029 -	\$5,386,000	(NHP)
				FY 2029 -	\$1,346,000	(T(M))
				FY 2030 -	\$6,494,000	(NHP)
				FY 2030 -	\$1,624,000	(T(M))
				FY 2031 -	\$3,960,000	(NHP)
				FY 2031 -	\$990,000	(T(M))
					\$27,100,000	

* INDICATES FEDERAL AMENDMENT

Thursday, June 4, 2026



**GREATER HICKORY
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)**
1880 2nd Avenue NW, PO Box 9026
Hickory, NC 28603



**RESOLUTION ADOPTING MODIFICATIONS TO THE
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FY 2026-2035**

A motion was made by _____ and seconded by _____ for the adoption of the following resolution, and upon being put to a vote was duly adopted.

WHEREAS, the following modifications have been proposed for FY 2026-2035
Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):
See page 1 of this Attachment

WHEREAS, the MPO certifies that these TIP modifications are consistent with the intent of the adopted 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP);

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved, by the Greater Hickory MPO Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) that the TIP FY 2026-2035 be modified as listed above on this, the 22nd day of July, 2026.

Hank Guess
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: July 22, 2026

SUBJECT: Prioritization 8: Regional Tier Local Input Points

PRESENTER: Averil Ritchie, Transportation Planning Director

ATTACHMENTS: Prioritization 8 Regional Tier Scoring Spreadsheet

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

As part of Prioritization 8, MPO staff evaluated Regional Impact projects using the Greater Hickory MPO's adopted Local Input Point Assignment Methodology. The methodology assigns points based solely on two factors: the project's quantitative score and public support. The resulting scores provide an objective ranking of projects and serve as the basis for staff's recommendations for the assignment of local input points.

The attached spreadsheet summarizes each Regional Impact project's score according to the adopted methodology and illustrates the resulting project rankings. Staff is requesting the Transportation Coordinating Committee's recommendation and the Transportation Advisory Committee's approval to release for public comment.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: n/a

Suggested Motion:

n/a, release for public comment

**Draft 2028-2037 STIP Estimated Funding Availability
for Selecting Projects from Prioritization 8.0**
As of May 28, 2026

STI Funding Category	Funding Availability
Region A (Divisions 1 & 4)	\$100M
Region B (Divisions 2 & 3)	\$150M
Region C (Divisions 5 & 6)	\$551M
Region D (Divisions 7 & 9)	\$236M
Region E (Divisions 8 & 10)	\$246M
Region F (Divisions 11 & 12)	\$432M
Region G (Divisions 13 & 14)	\$122M
Division 1	\$228M
Division 2	\$159M
Division 3	\$31M
Division 4	\$29M
Division 5	\$125M
Division 6	\$186M
Division 7	\$106M
Division 8	-\$21M
Division 9	\$80M
Division 10	\$97M
Division 11	\$15M
Division 12	\$47M
Division 13	\$190M
Division 14	\$257M

Values are as of May 28, 2026, and will change due to, but not limited to:

- Variance adjustments (also known as the lookback law)
- Additional funding for ongoing activities
- Bid adjustments
- Cost changes for future projects
- Schedule changes
- Changes in anticipated revenues (including federal transportation re-authorization)

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

MEETING DATE: July 22, 2026

SUBJECT: Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs) 2024 Estimates

PRESENTER: Taylor Dellinger, Senior Data Analyst

ATTACHMENTS: Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs) 2024 Estimates Powerpoint

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

As part of the development of the 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), MPO staff has completed the collection and estimation of 2024 baseline Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) data for housing, population, and employment throughout the Greater Hickory MPO planning area. Population and housing estimates were developed using 2020 Census data and regional building permit information, while employment estimates were developed using Data Axle business data and verified by MPO staff. Additional demographic and transportation-related data were also compiled to support future travel demand modeling. The attached presentation summarizes the data collection methodology and presents the resulting 2024 baseline estimates.

Approval of the 2024 baseline TAZ data is requested prior to beginning the 2055 housing and employment projection process. Once approved, MPO staff will work with local governments to develop future growth projections using the MPO's web-based TAZ projection tool. These projections will serve as the foundation for the regional travel demand model and future transportation planning efforts associated with the 2055 MTP and Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP).

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: Approve via consensus



Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs) 2024 Estimates

Greater Hickory MPO TAC and TCC Meetings
July 22, 2026

What is a Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ)?

A TAZ is a group of census blocks that has at least one major thoroughfare going through it or touching the zone boundary that can be used for transportation modeling and other purposes. Data is collected on population/housing and employment for the traffic demand model.



TAZ Methodology-2024 Estimates

2024 Population/Housing Data Collection

- First, population and housing data from the 2020 Census was collected for each TAZ in the region.
- Regional building permit data was used to determine the number of housing units added in each TAZ between 2020 and 2024. This information was used to determine the additional population in each TAZ.

Western Piedmont (Hickory MSA) Site Built Single-Family Permits, 2022-2024

● Site-Built
Single-Family Permits



Municipal Limits



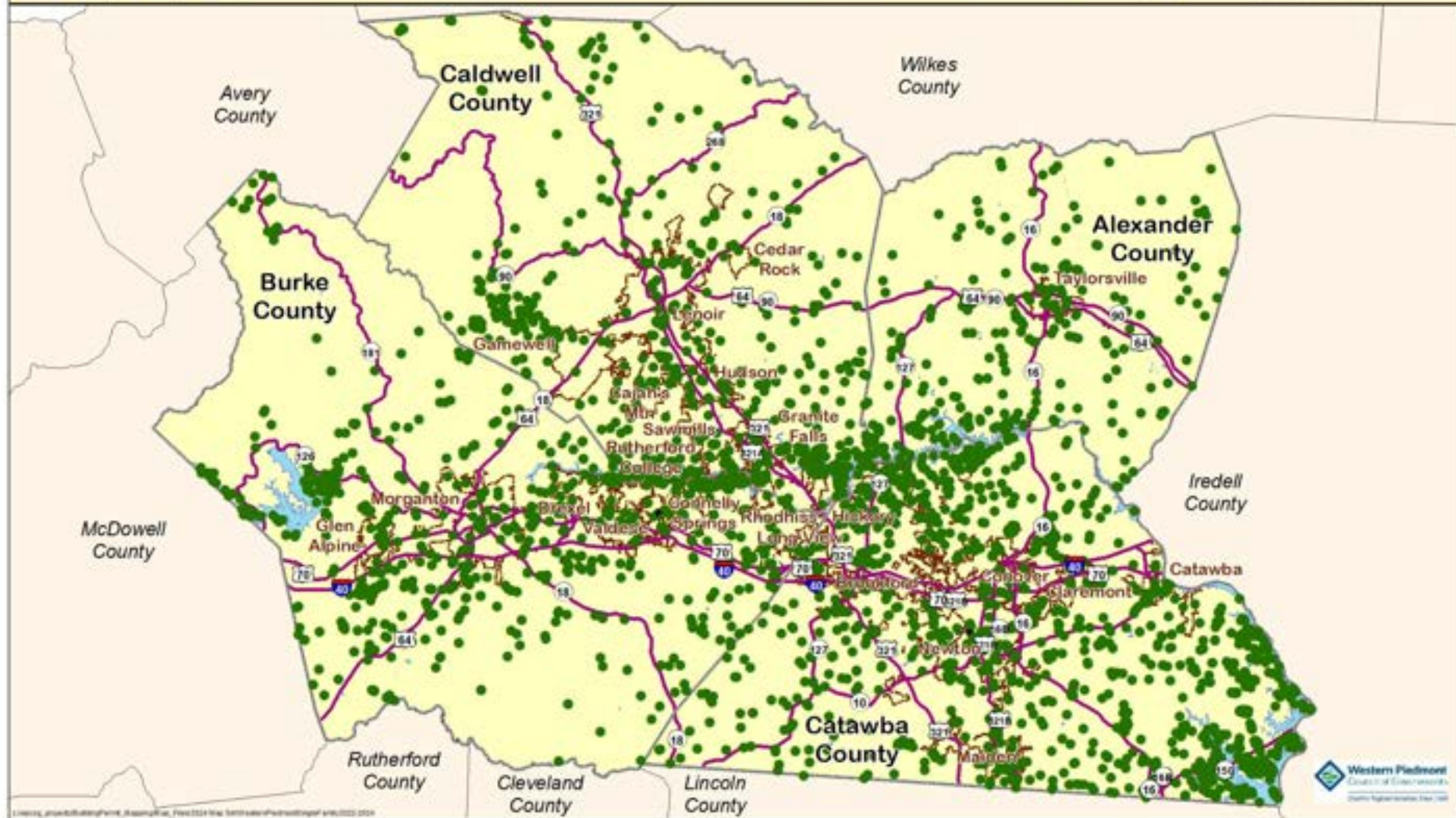
Major Roads



Other Roads



0 1.5 3 6 Miles



TAZ Methodology-2024 Estimates

2024 Population/Housing Data Collection

- The additional growth from 2020 to 2024 was added to the 2020 Census base data to achieve the 2024 TAZ estimates.
- The regional totals were compared to estimates from the NC Office of Budget and Management for accuracy. The TAZ population estimate for 2024 is within 1% of NCOMB's population total.

TAZ Methodology-2024 Estimates

2024 Employment Data Collection

- There is no Census data available pertaining to the number of employees per business. Data Axle employment data was therefore collected for each TAZ in the region.
- Once the Data Axle data is entered into GIS, staff made corrections to the location of employers and the number of employees as needed.
- Common errors to be corrected include changing a business location from a PO BOX to a physical address, eliminating closed businesses, or eliminating business that appear twice in the file.

TAZ Methodology-2024 Estimates

Additional Data Collection

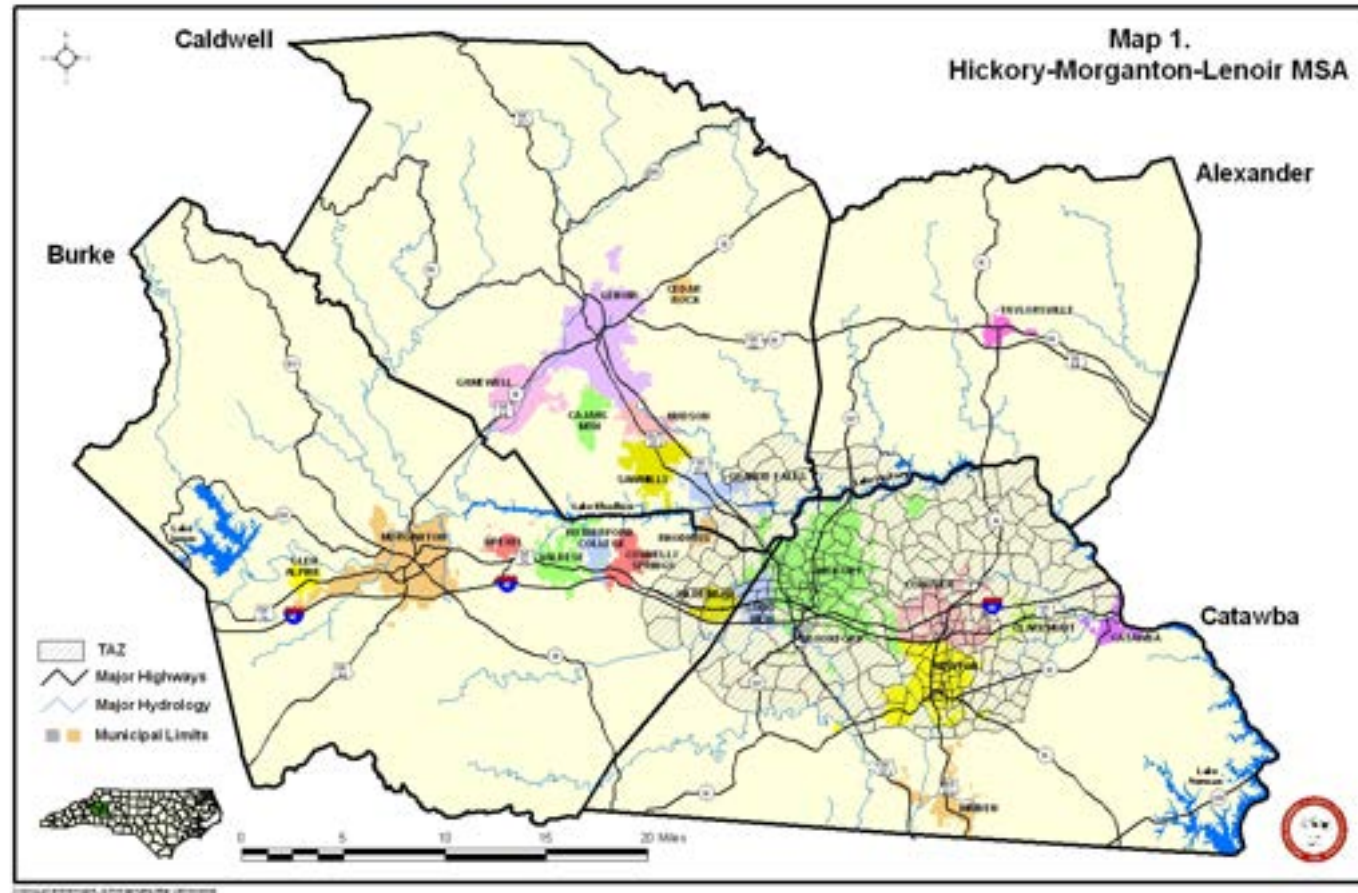
- Besides collecting housing/population and employment information, additional data is required to more accurately complete the transportation modeling process.
- Additional data for the TAZs was collected by using data from the 2020-2024 5-Year American Community Survey, school system enrollment data, regional road network data, regional sidewalk data and other sources.

TAZ Methodology-2024 Estimates

Additional Data Collection

- Employed Persons per Household
- Median Household Income
- Vehicles per Household
- K-12 Enrollments (Public, Private and Charter Schools) and Lenoir-Rhyne/ASU-Hickory/Community College Enrollments
- Special Employment Generators (Large Employers)

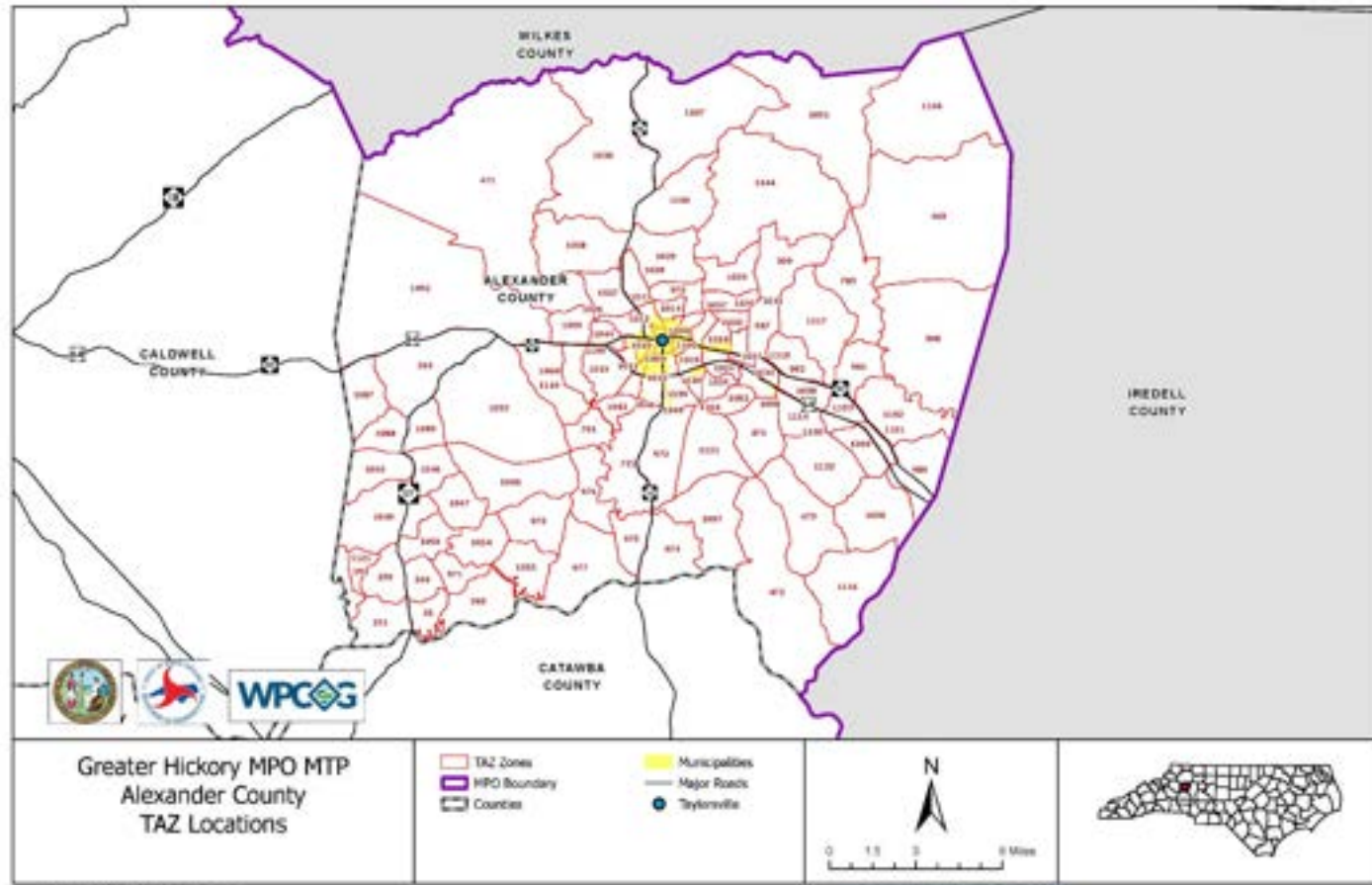
Original Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ) for the Hickory-Newton-Conover MPO (286 Zones in 1984)

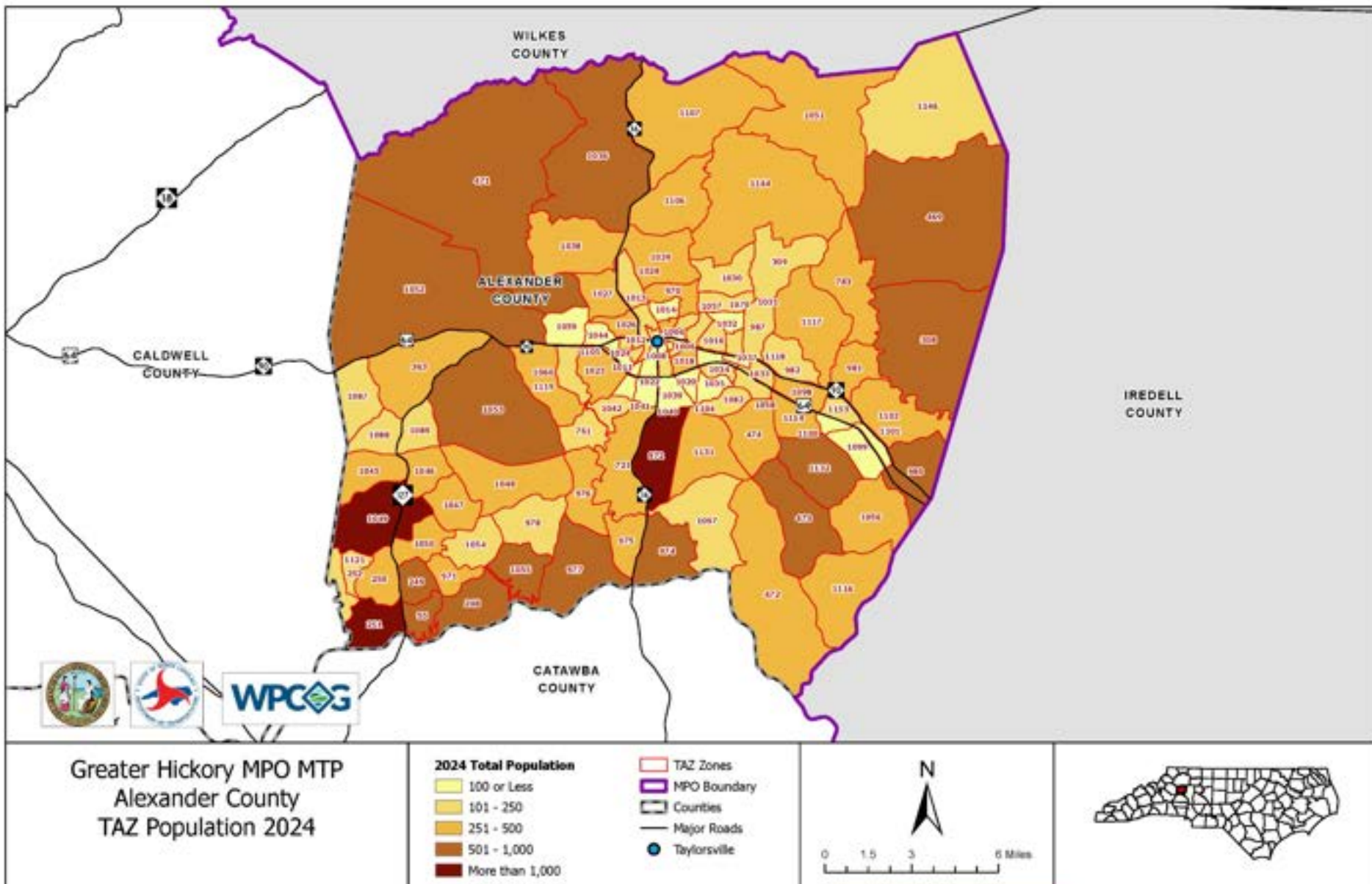


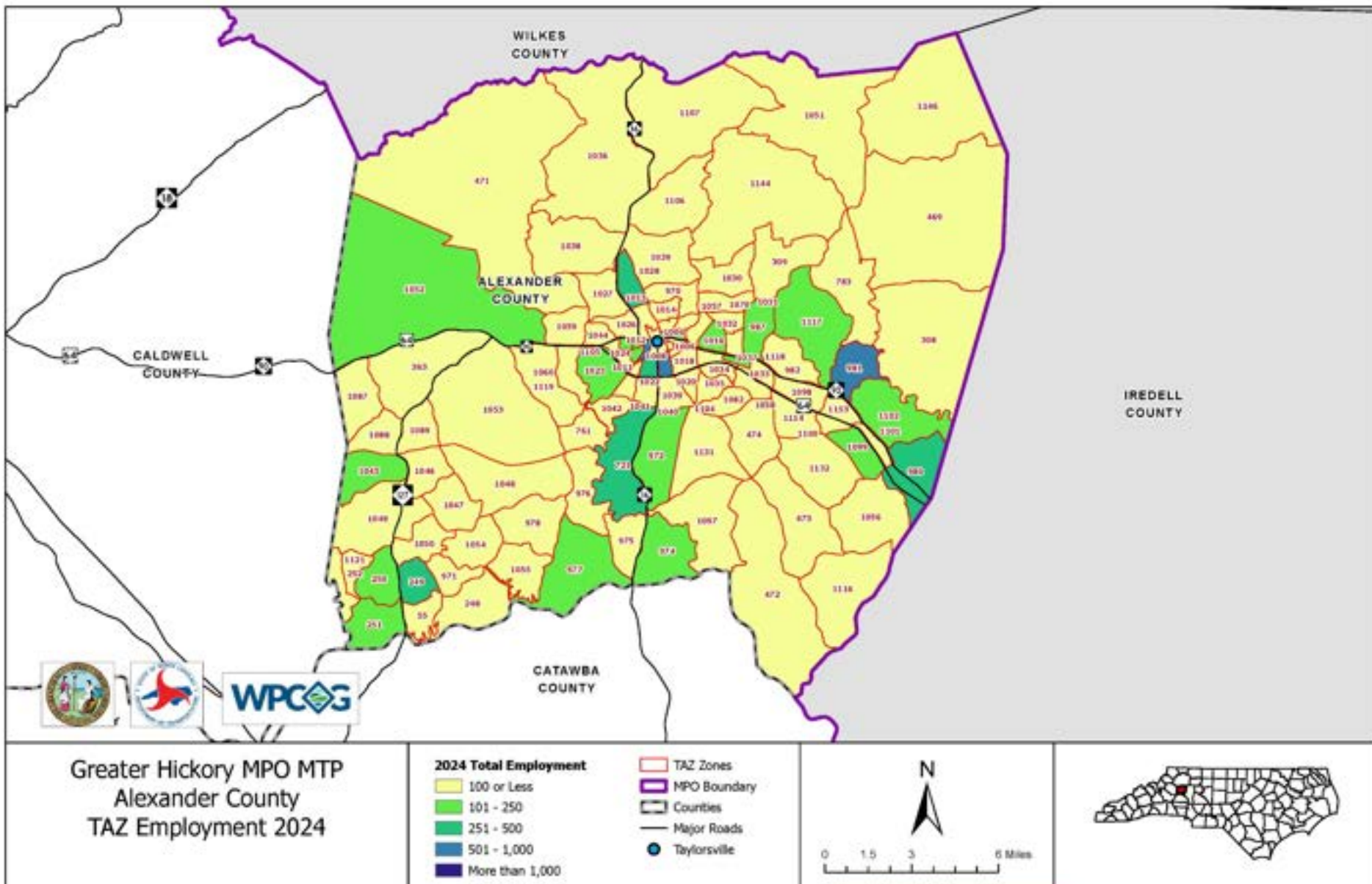
As of 2026 there are 1,141 TAZ Zones in the Greater Hickory MPO covering the entire four county region.

2024 TAZ Results

Alexander County Maps

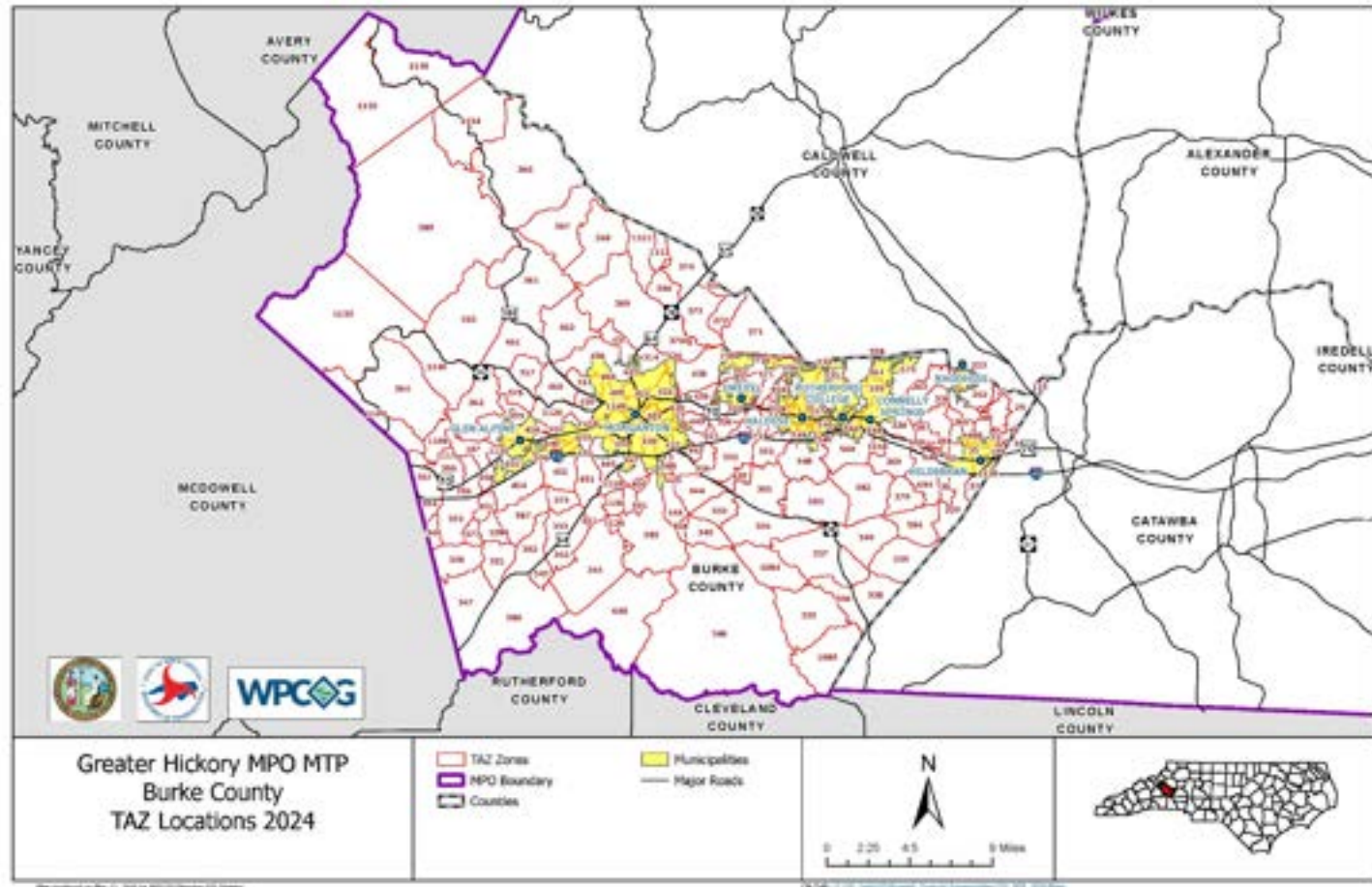


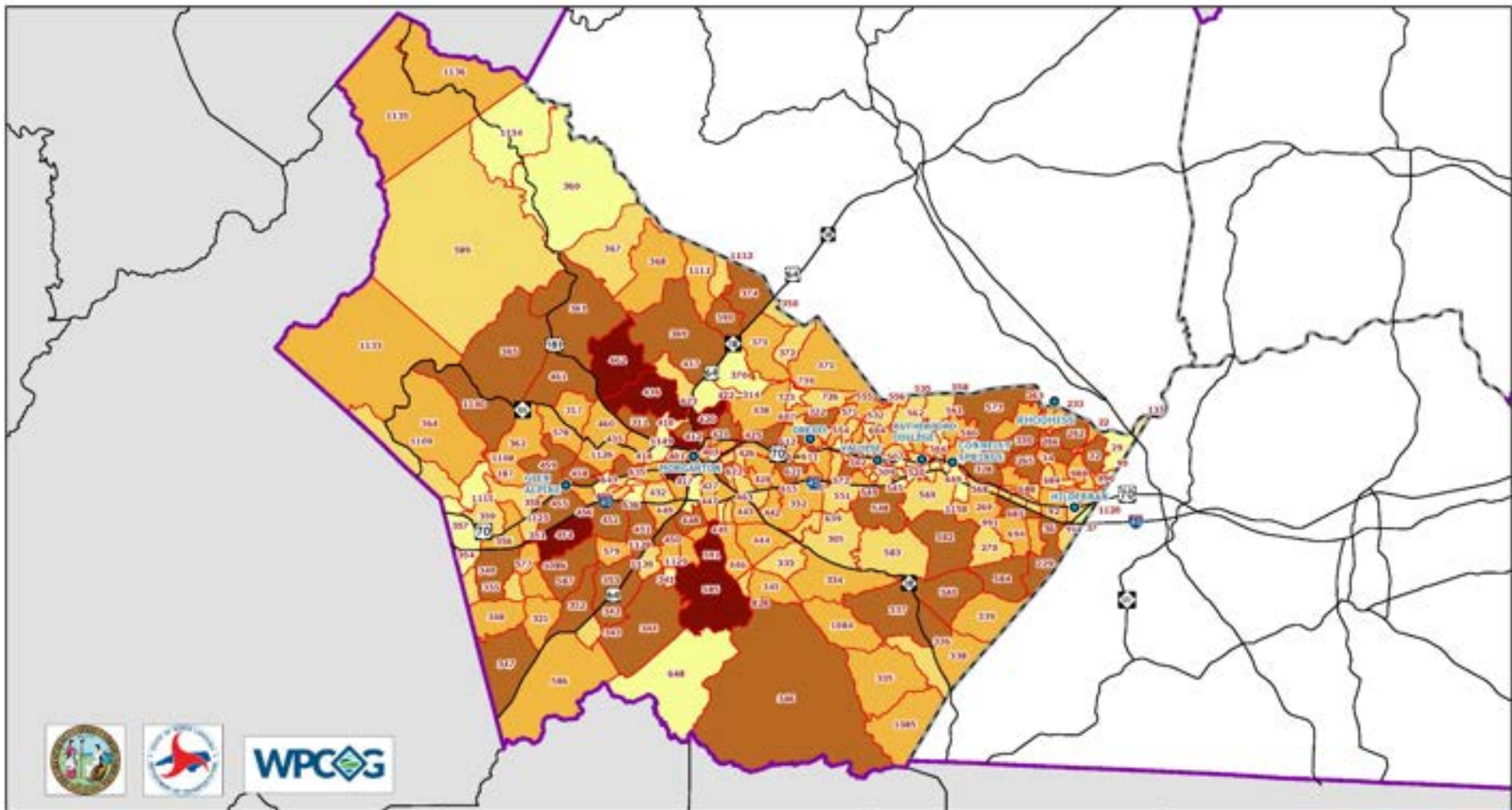




2024 TAZ Results

Burke County Maps



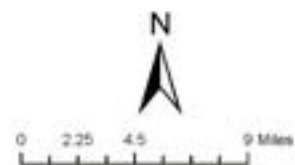


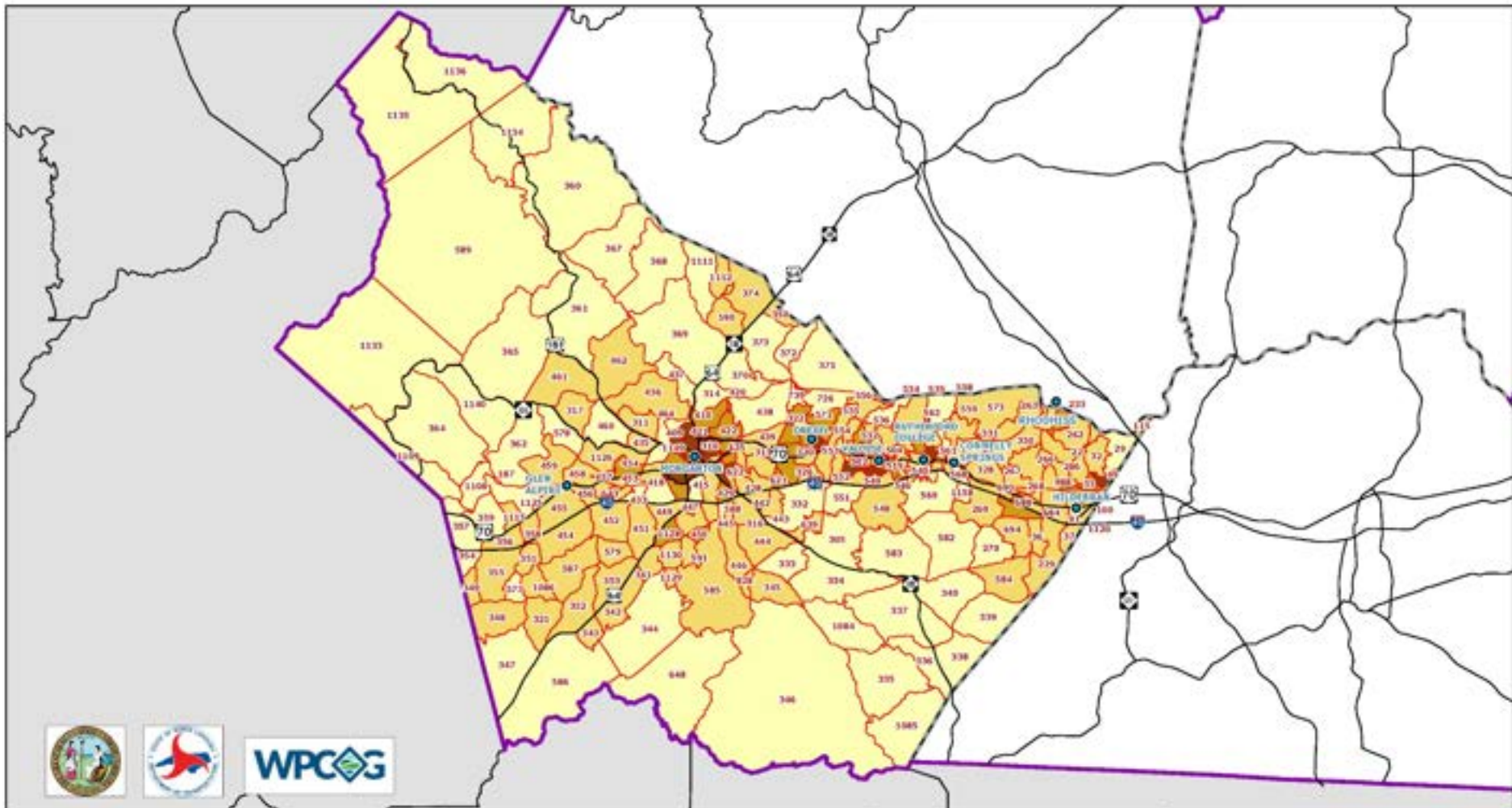
Greater Hickory MPO MTP Burke County TAZ Population 2024

2024 Total Population



- TAZ Zones
- MPO Boundary
- Counties
- Major Roads
- Municipalities



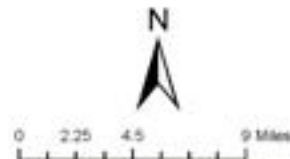


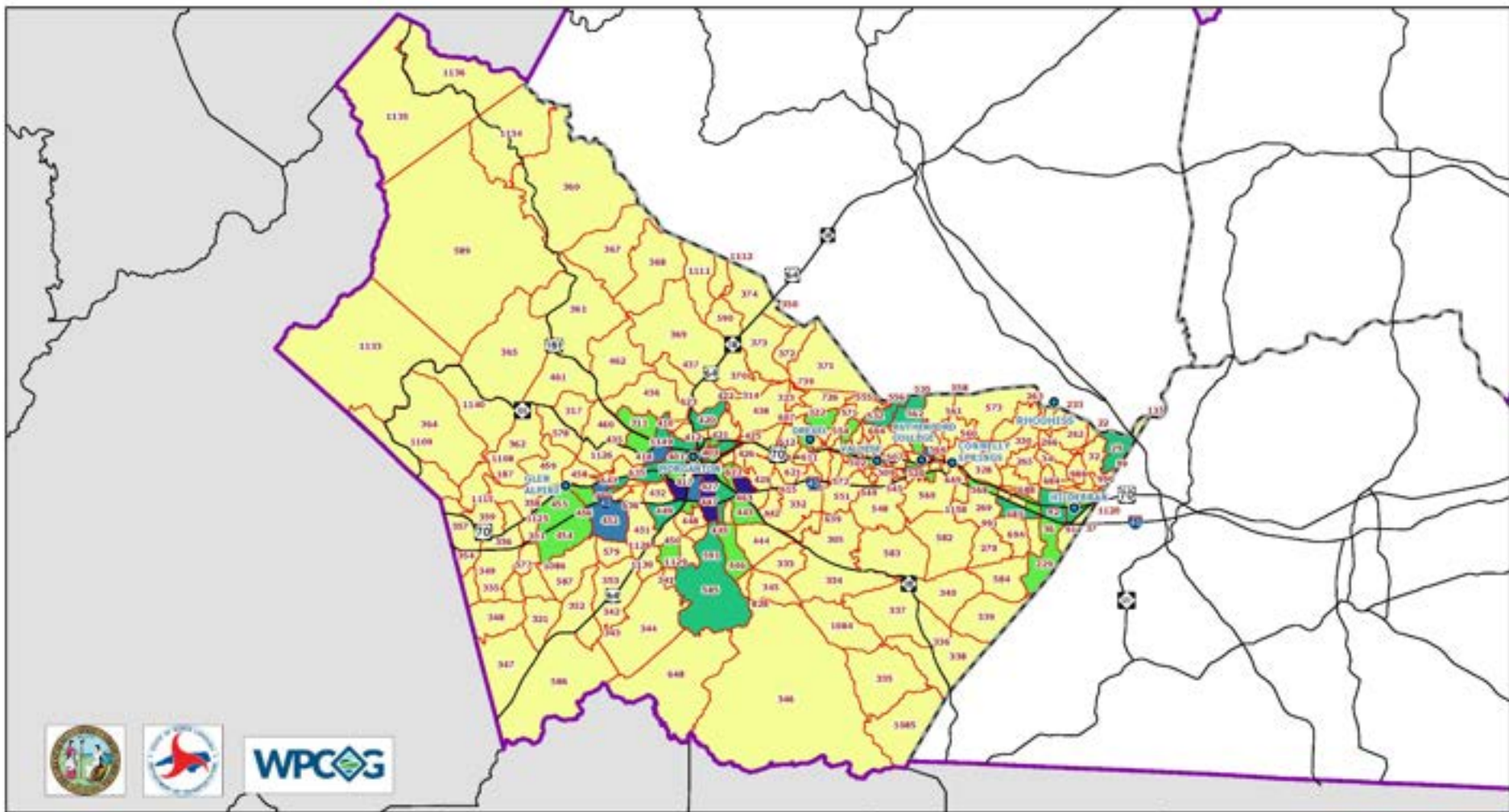
Greater Hickory MPO MTP
Burke County
TAZ Population Density 2024

**Population Density 2024
(Person Per Square Miles)**

- 100 or Less
- 101 - 500
- 501 - 1,000
- 1,001 - 2,000
- More than 2,000

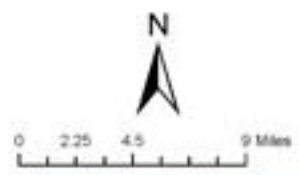
- TAZ Zones
- MPO Boundary
- Counties
- Major Roads
- Municipalities





Greater Hickory MPO MTP Burke County TAZ Employment 2024

- 2024 Total Employment**
- Less than 100
 - 101 - 250
 - 251 - 500
 - 501 - 1,000
 - More than 1,000
- TAZ Zones
MPO Boundary
Counties
Major Roads
Municipalities

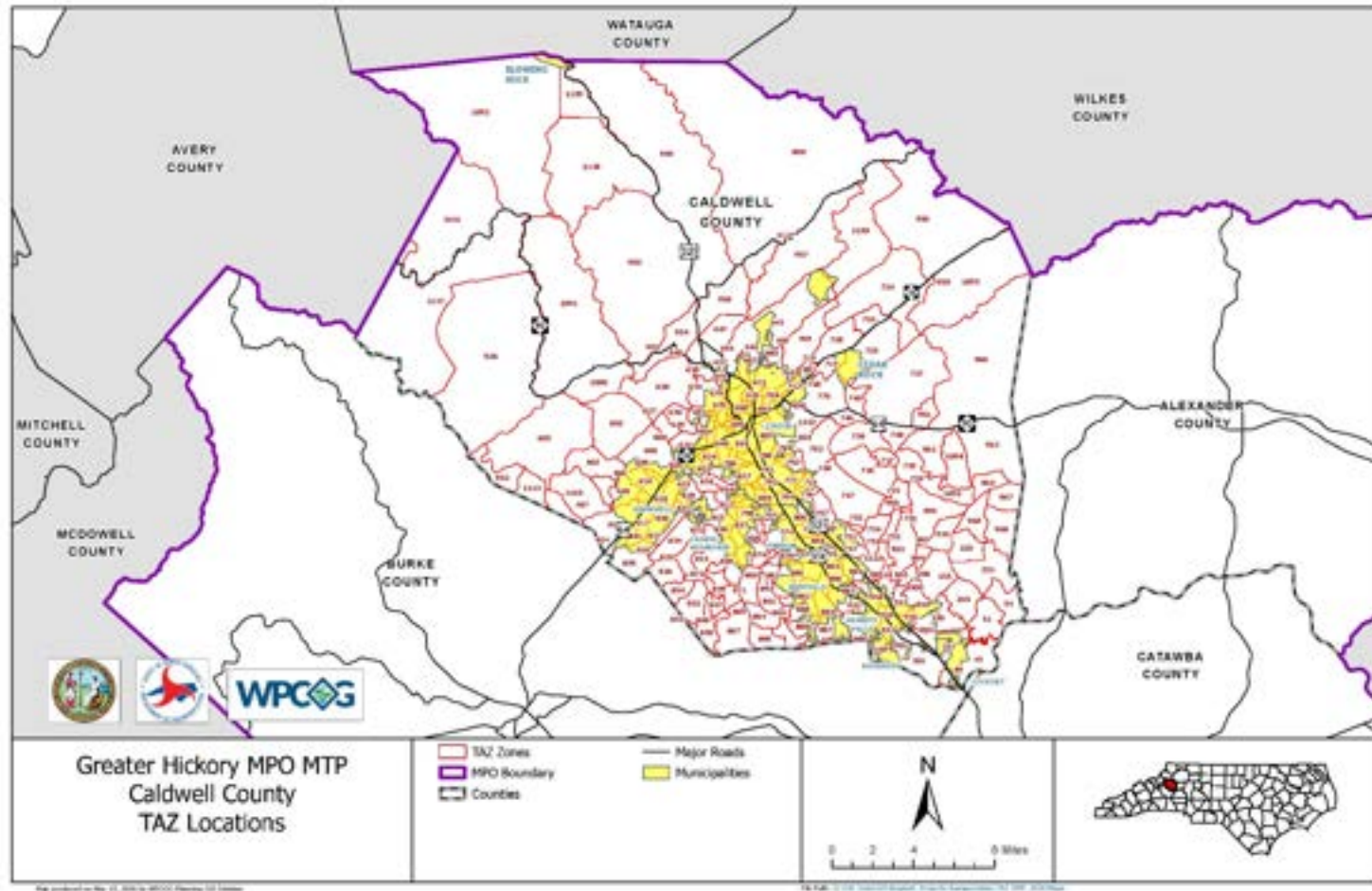


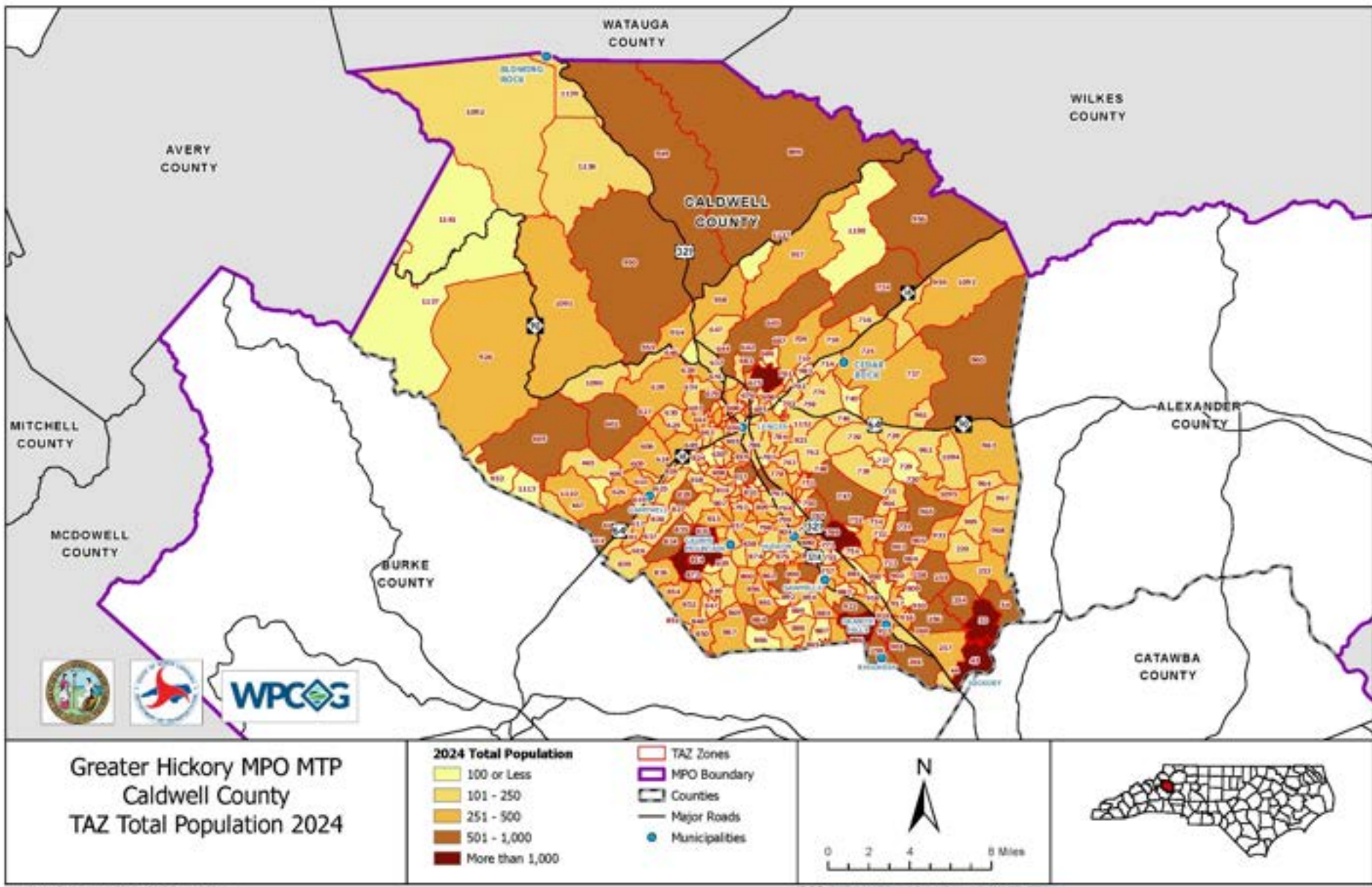
Map produced on May 11, 2024 by WPCOG Planning and Design

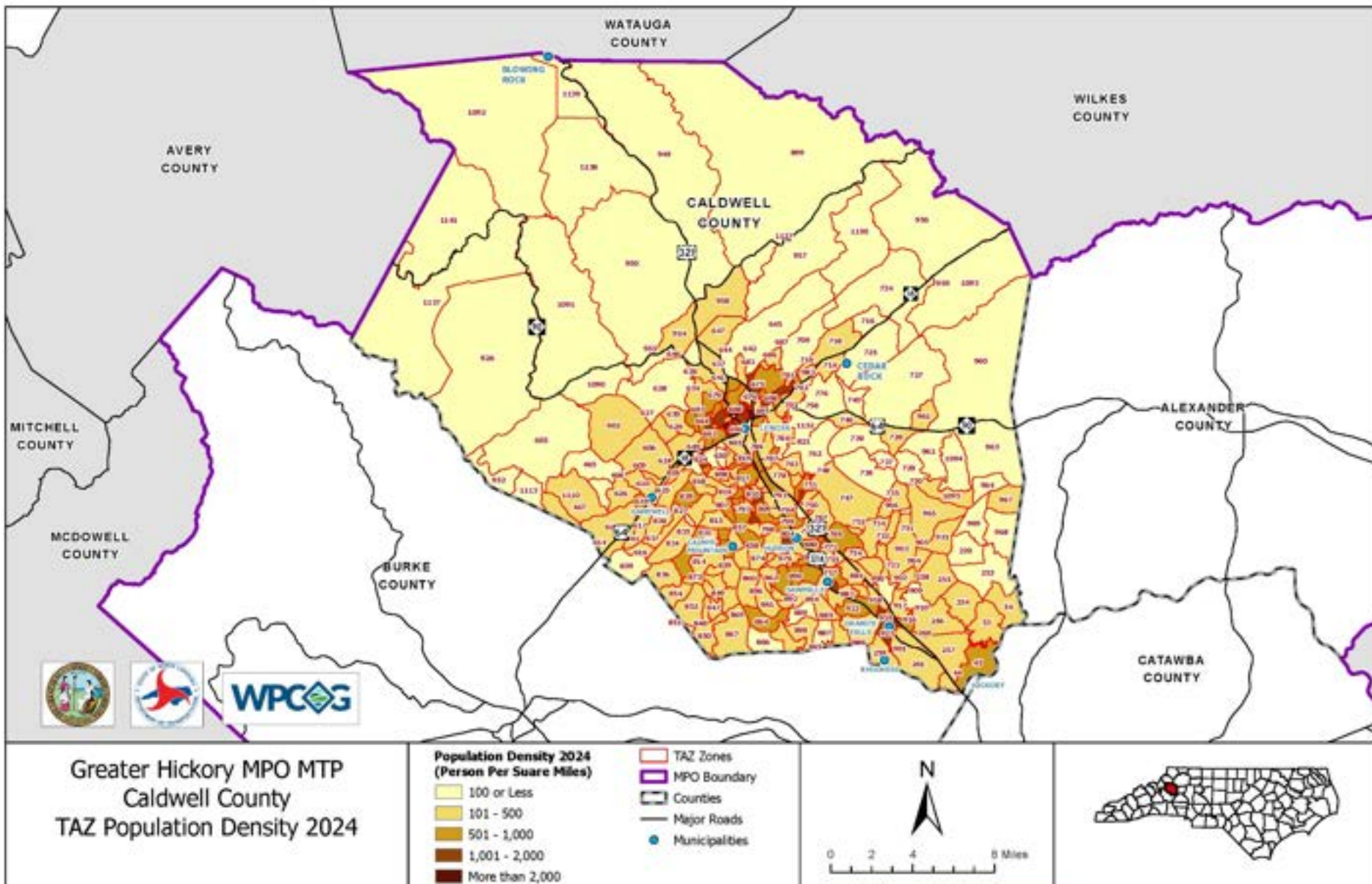
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2024 TAZ Results

Caldwell County Maps

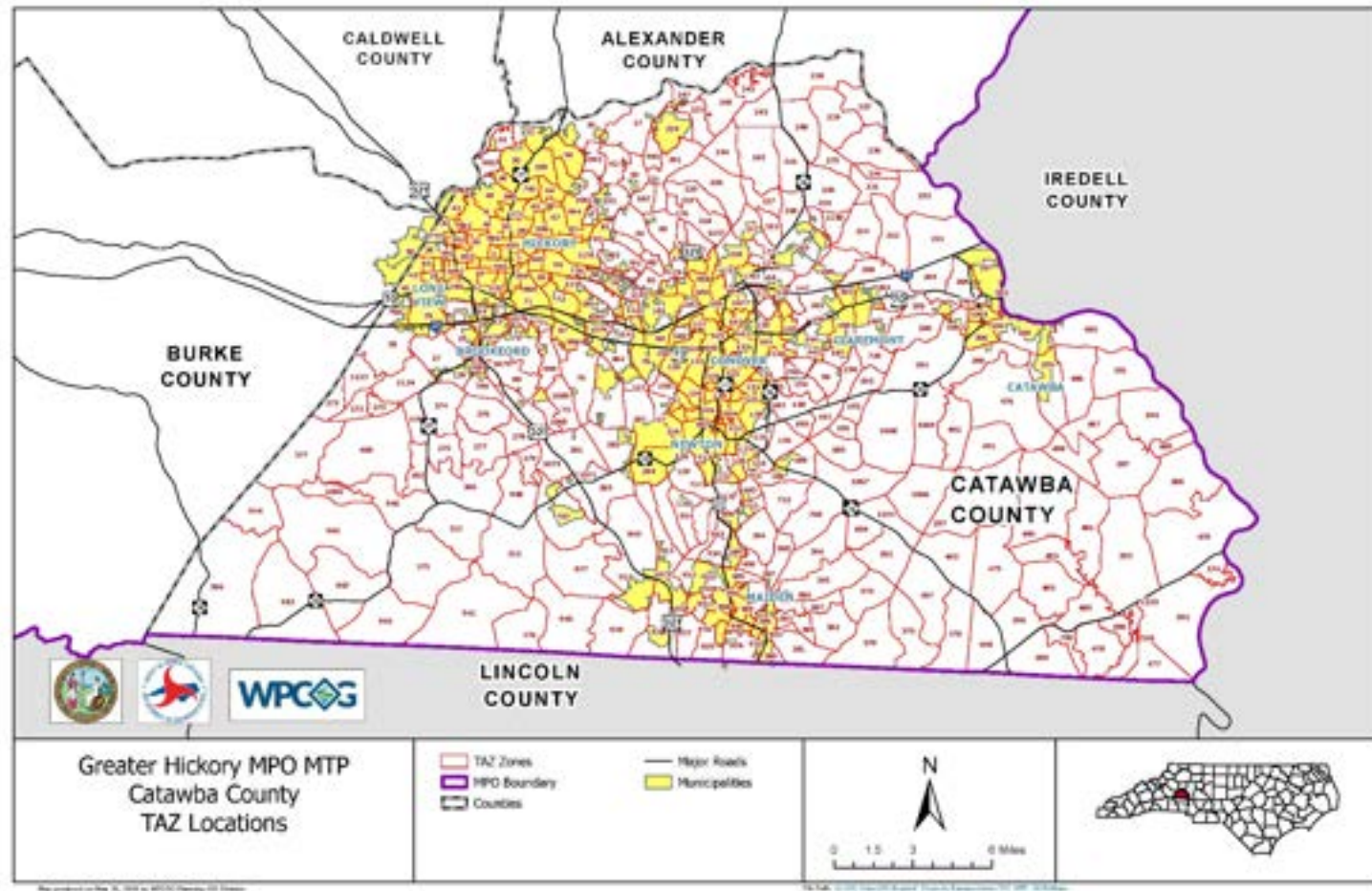






2024 TAZ Results

Catawba County Maps



Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) Results

2024 Population and Housing Estimates

County	2024 Housing Units	2024 Households	2024 Population in Households	2024 Group Quarters Population	2024 Total Population
Alexander	16,502	14,893	34,850	1,499	36,349
Burke	41,133	36,595	85,378	2,922	88,300
Caldwell	38,145	34,278	79,561	1,126	80,687
Catawba	77,693	70,931	167,827	2,941	170,768
Greater Hickory MPO	173,473	156,697	367,616	8,488	376,104

Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) Results

2024 Employment Estimates

County	2024 Industrial Employ.	2024 Retail Employ.	2024 Highway Retail Employ.	2024 Service Employ.	2024 Office Employ.	2024 Special Generator Employ.	2024 Total Employ.
Alexander	3,157	1,558	680	3,098	1,042	0	9,535
Burke	6,886	3,943	2,560	10,627	2,814	4,566	31,396
Caldwell	5,018	4,576	2,129	9,357	2,783	1,480	25,343
Catawba	21,811	14,416	7,962	29,722	6,709	6,376	86,996
Greater Hickory MPO	36,872	24,493	13,331	52,804	13,348	12,422	153,270

TAZs Next Steps-2055 Projections

- Local Government will aid GHMPO staff with generating 2055 housing unit and employment projections.
- A web app has been created to help LGs generate the projections.
- The following presentation will introduce the app, and a training will be provided to assist creating the projections.

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

MEETING DATE: July 22, 2026

SUBJECT: Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs) Interactive Mapping Tool Demo

PRESENTER: Casey Fullbright, Transportation Planner & Andrew Webb, GIS Specialist

ATTACHMENTS: Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs) Mapping Tool (link available after meeting)

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Following approval of the 2024 baseline Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) data, MPO staff will begin the 2055 housing and employment projection process in coordination with local governments throughout the region. To facilitate this effort, staff has developed an interactive, web-based TAZ projection tool that allows local government representatives to review existing conditions and enter projected housing units and employment growth for each Traffic Analysis Zone through the year 2055.

The interactive mapping tool has been designed to be intuitive and user-friendly, allowing participants to efficiently develop projections while viewing existing land use, transportation infrastructure, and other supporting mapping layers. MPO staff will host training sessions for local government representatives prior to the start of the projection process to demonstrate the tool's functionality, answer questions, and ensure consistency in the development of future growth projections. These projections will serve as a critical input to the regional travel demand model and the development of the 2055 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP).

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: n/a

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

MEETING DATE: July 22, 2026

SUBJECT: Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP) Discussion

PRESENTER: GHMPO & WPCOG Staff

ATTACHMENTS: Discussion item

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

MPO and COG staff will facilitate a discussion regarding potential policies and administrative practices that may be considered for the Greater Hickory MPO's Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP). As the program continues to grow, staff has identified several topics for consideration that could help improve consistency, transparency, and program administration. In developing these discussion items, staff has also reviewed policies and practices utilized by other North Carolina MPOs to identify common approaches and best practices.

This item is intended for discussion only. Staff is seeking feedback from the Transportation Coordinating Committee and Transportation Advisory Committee on potential policy concepts and administrative considerations that may help guide future updates to the Greater Hickory MPO's LAPP program.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: n/a

Greater Hickory MPO
Transportation Update
July 2026

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).	2026	2027	\$464,000	Planning	Division	F
BL-0065	NS	Lenoir Greenway, Harper Avenue to Morganton Boulevard. Extend multi-use path.	2028	2029	\$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	2028	\$1,575,000	Utilities	Division	S
BP11-R025	SR 1927 (OLD MORGANTON ROAD)	Replace Bridge 130332 on SR 1927 over Abington Creek in Caldwell County	2026	2029	\$1,475,000	R/W	Division	S
BP11-R040	SR 1719 (CEDAR VALLEY CHURCH ROAD)	Replace Bridge 130048 on SR 1719 over Upper Little River in Caldwell County	2025	2028	\$1,175,000	February 2026 Let	Division	S
BP11-R042	SR 1328 (BROWN MOUNTAIN BEACH ROAD)	Replace Bridge 130322 on SR 1328 over Este Mill Creek in Caldwell County	2028	2029	\$950,000	Planning	Division	S
BP11-R048	SR 1571	Replace Bridge 130342 on SR 1571 over Kings Creek in Caldwell County	2026	2027	\$1,735,000	Planning	Division	S
HB-0056	SR 1514	SR 1514, REPLACE BRIDGE 130 OVER YADKIN RIVER.	2025	2026	\$2,050,000	R/W	Division	F
HB-0057	SR 1356	SR 1356, REPLACE BRIDGE 185 OVER JOHNS RIVER.	2025	2027	\$2,100,000	R/W	Division	F
HB-0058	SR 1356	SR 1356, REPLACE BRIDGE 186 OVER JOHNS RIVER.	2025	2027	\$1,820,000	R/W	Division	F
HB-0059	SR 1356	SR 1356, REPLACE BRIDGE 275 OVER JOHNS RIVER.	2025	2027	\$1,860,000	R/W	Division	F
HB-0060	SR 1356	SR 1356, REPLACE BRIDGE 317 OVER JOHNS RIVER.	2025	2027	\$2,330,000	R/W	Division	F

Greater Hickory MPO
Transportation Update
July 2026

HB-0061	SR 1574	SR 1574, REPLACE BRIDGE 349 OVER JONES CREEK.	2025	2026	\$1,380,000	R/W	Division	F
R-3430CA	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.	2029	2033	\$73,507,000	Planning	Central	F
R-3430CB	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.	2030	2034	\$69,292,000	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	2026	\$8,620,000	September 2026 Let	Division	F
U-4700CB	US 321	AT SR 1809/1952 (PINE MOUNTAIN ROAD). UPGRADE INTERSECTION TO SUPERSTREET DESIGN.	2019	2026	\$17,000,000	September 2026 Let	Division	F
U-6034	US 321 ALT	DUKE STREET TO PINEWOODS ROAD	2025	2029	\$46,300,000	R/W	Division	F
U-6157	SR 1130 (CAJAH MOUNTAIN ROAD)	SR 1130 (CAJAH MOUNTAIN ROAD) FROM SR 1001 (CONNELLY SPRINGS ROAD) TO US 321A	2025	2029	\$68,300,000	R/W	Division	F
U-6161	US 321	US 321 FROM SR 1002 (DUDLEY SHOALS ROAD) GRADE SEPARATION. CONSTRUCT RAMP ONTO US 321 SOUTHBOUND.	2027	2028	\$8,570,000	Planning	Division	F

Greater Hickory MPO
Transportation Update
July 2026

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>
C204844	CALDWELL	U-6036	SR 1109 (PINWOOD ROAD)	FROM US 321 TO SR-1252 (BERT HUFFMAN ROAD)	\$11,480,140.98	JAMES R VANNOY & SONS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INC	54 %	7/27
C204840	CALDWELL	U-4700CC	US 321 and SR 1108 (Mission Road)	INTERSECTION AT US-321 AND SR-1108 (MISSION RD).	\$13,348,559.10	HEI CIVIL CAROLINAS LLC	16 %	4/28
DK00436	CALDWELL	DF18311. 2014030.PR	SR 1358 (Edgemont Church Place)	REPLACE BRIDGE NO. 161 OVER WILSON CREEK	\$1,641,926.67	JAMES R VANNOY & SONS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INC	17 %	4/27