



Western Piedmont Council of Governments

Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization

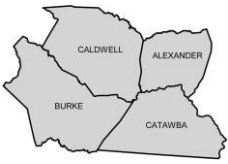
Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

Wednesday, May 28, 2025, 1:00 PM

WPCOG Offices—1880 2nd Ave NW

wpcog.org/metropolitan-planning-org

Agenda Item	Presenter	Attachment	Action
Call to Order /Introductions	Randy Williams		
Consent Agenda Items:			
A. Minutes of April 30, 2025 Meeting	Randy Williams	Attachment I	Approve Consent Agenda Items
B. Transportation Improvement Program Revisions for Release			
Transportation Improvement Program Revisions for Approval	Averi Ritchie	Attachment II	Recommend for Approval
Locally Administered Projects Program - New Project Recommendations for Release	Daniel Odom	Attachment III	Release for Public Comment
NCDOT Updates			
Division 11	Sean Sizemore		
Division 12	Anil Panicker		
Division 13	Hannah Smith		
Transportation Planning Division	Reuben Crummy		
Integrated Mobility Division	Bryan Lopez		
Reminders	Averi Ritchie		
Public Comment / Announcements	Randy Williams		
Adjournment			
Next Meeting: June 25, 2025	Randy Williams		



GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

1880 2nd Avenue NW, PO Box 9026

Hickory, NC 28603



MINUTES

GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (GHMPO)

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TCC)

Wednesday, April 30th, 2025 @ 1:00 PM In-person meeting and via
Zoom

Present			Absent		
First Name	Last Name	Representing	First Name	Last Name	Representing
Randy	Williams	City of Newton	Bonnie	Caudie	Town of Gamewell
Jon	Hogan	City of Lenoir	Patrick	Reach	Alexander County
Karen	Dickerson	City of Hickory	Brian	Burgess	Alexander/Taylorsville
Erik	Schlichting	City of Conover	Patrick	Creech	Alexander County
John	Marshall	City of Hickory	Randy	Feirabend	Town of Cajah's Mtn
Jon	Greer	Town of Hudson	Chris	Timberlake	Catawba County
Caroline	Kone	City of Hickory	Dustin	Milsap	Town of Sawmills
Laurie	LoCicero	Catawba County	Alan	Glines	Burke County
Hannah	Williams	City of Lenior	Greg	Wilson	Town of Granite Falls
Bryce	Carter	City of Claremont	Nathan	Hester	Town of Taylorsville
Bradley	Kirkley	Burke County	Shelly	Stevens	Caldwell County
Blake	Wright	Town of Maiden	Chris	Timberlake	Catawba County
Danny	Hipps	Town of Catawba	Steve	Miller	City of Hickory
Daniel	Cobb	Town of Granite Falls	Rick	Justice	Town of Rhodhiss
Logan	Shook	Town of Hildebran	Wilson	Elliott	City of Hickory

Bill	Carroll	Town of Drexel	Amy	Bucknam	Alexander County
Michael	Berley	City of Morganton	Wendy	Smith	Town of Morganton
<u>WPCOG, FHWA & GUEST</u>			<u>NC DOT STAFF</u>		
Alison Alexander – WPCOG			Dean Ledbetter – Div 11 & 12		
Averi Ritchie – WPCOG			Randy Steskal – Div 11 & 12		
Daniel Odom – WPCOG			Ruben Crummy – NC DOT TPD		
Casey Fullbright – WPCOG			Sean Sizemore – Div 11		
Jordan Powell - VHB			Brandon Whitaker – Div 11		
			Kenny Heavner – Div 11		
			Travis Jordan – Div 12		
			Anil Panicker – Div 12		
			Hannah Smith – Div 13		
			Stephen Sparks – Div 13		
			Brendan Merithew – Div 13		

Call to Order/ Introductions: Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM and welcomed all present. Introductions were conducted, followed by the Introduction of online viewers.

Action Items:

- I. Approval of Consent Agenda:** Chair Williams called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. There being no objections, the consent agenda was approved unanimously, the board unanimously approved the consent agenda.
- II. FY 26 Transportation Dues Revision:** Ms. Ritchie informed the Board of the repeal of the additional dues previously assessed for the Service Development Plan associated with the Salisbury-to-Asheville passenger rail project. These dues had been instituted as part of the required local match for the project. However, the State has since committed to funding the local match, and as a result, the additional dues will be removed from the local dues structure beginning in Fiscal Year 2026. Upon a motion made by Mr. Greer and a second by Mr. Marshall, the board unanimously approved the FY 26 Transportation Dues Revision.
- III. Western Piedmont Transportation Safety Plan:** Mr. Powell presented the 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. Upon a motion by Mrs. LoCicero and a second by Mr. Marshall, the board unanimously approved the adoption of the Western Piedmont Transportation Safety Plan.
- IV. R-3430C- Connelly Springs Road Project Segmenting:** Ms. Ritchie provided an update on proposed modifications to the R-3430C roadway project along Connelly Springs Road. The discussion focused on the project timeline and the potential to expedite construction by segmenting the project. Under the proposed plan, the northern segment of the project, located nearer to the City of Lenoir, would have its schedule accelerated, while the southern segment would proceed according to its current programming. The division of the segments would occur at the intersection with Cahaj's Mountain Road. DOT Division 11, Caldwell County, and the surrounding municipalities are all in agreement with the proposed segmentation. Upon a motion by Mr. Greer, seconded by Mr. Marshall, the Board unanimously approved the segmentation of Project R-3430C.

NCDOT Update –

- **Division 11:** Mr. Sizemore provided project updates within the packet for Division 11.
- **Division 12:** Mr. Panicker provided project updates within the agenda packet for Division 12 & Division 13.
- **Division 13:** Mrs. Smith had no new updates for Division 13.

- **NCDOT-TPD:** Mr. Crummy reminded the board of the multimodal planning program, with a deadline of May 12th for project submittals.
- **NCDOT-IMD:** No updates
- **FHWA:** No updates

Reminders: Ms. Ritchie reminded members of the June 26th closing date for SS4A applications, she also provided a reminder regarding funeral services for TAC board member Bruce Eckard.

Public Comment/Announcements: None

Adjournment: Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 28th, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Williams, MPO/TCC Chair

Averi Ritchie, TAC Secretary

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

MEETING DATE: May 28, 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*

**CITY OF CONOVER
RESOLUTION 15-25**

**RESOLUTION TO WITHDRAW THE 1ST STREET EAST & WEST BICYCLE AND
PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENT PLAN (C-5624) FROM THE STATEWIDE
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN (STIP)**

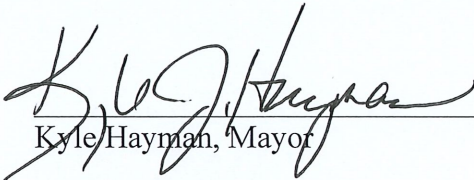
WHEREAS, the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization (GHMPO) awarded the City of Conover funding for engineering and construction of bicycle and pedestrian facilities along 1st Street East (US Hwy 70-A) and 1st Street West (US Hwy 70) from I-40 to NC 16, including a lane reduction along a four-lane portion of said road, identified as project C-5624; and

WHEREAS, the City of Conover, over the course of preliminary engineering, has determined that the project will require unanticipated right of way acquisition, utility relocation and easement acquisition, raising the cost and lengthening the timeline of the project.


WHEREAS, the City of Conover is returning \$1,943,000 in CMAQ funds and \$2,123,000 in STBG-ANY funds to the GHMPO's discretionary funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Conover City Council requests that the GHMPO withdraw the 1st Street East & West Bicycle & Pedestrian Project (C-5624) from the STIP.

Resolved, this the 5th day of May, 2025.



Kyle Hayman, Mayor



Stephanie Watson, City Clerk



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

MEETING DATE: May 28, 2025

SUBJECT: Transportation Improvement Program Revisions for Approval

PRESENTER: Averil Ritchie, Transportation Planning Manager

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*

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

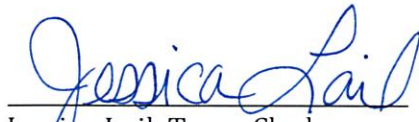
WHEREAS, the Town of Valdese is returning \$1,144,800 in Surface Transportation Block Grant - Direct Attributable (STBG-DA) funds to GHMPO's LAPP discretionary funding.

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)





**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 2024-2033**

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 2024-2033 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 FYs 2024-2033 be modified as listed above on this, the 28th day of May, 2025.

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: May 28, 2025

SUBJECT: Locally Administered Project Program – Supplemental Funding Requests

PRESENTER: Daniel Odom, Transportation Projects Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS: LAPP 2025 – Project Applications and Funding Proposal

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) and Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization (GHMPO) receive roughly \$3.5 million annually in federal transportation grant funding for multimodal projects (pedestrian, transit, small intersection). These funds are managed through the Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP). The GHMPO holds a yearly call for new projects and supplemental requests in early Spring of the Calendar Year. The Target investment amount for the Spring 2025 call for projects is \$4.6 million dollars in Federal STBG-DA funds.

The GHMPO received five (5) project applications for consideration. Those projects are:

- 1. Conover Boulevard Sidewalk and Corridor Improvements (City of Conover)**
 - a. Total Cost: \$831,825.00
 - b. Total Score: 75
- 2. US-70/4th Street Intersection Improvements (City of Hickory)**
 - a. Total Cost: \$500,000.00
 - b. Total Score: 69
- 3. Kenworth Sidewalk Additions (City of Hickory)**
 - a. Total Cost: \$3,500,000.00
 - b. Total Score: 43
- 4. Massel Avenue Sidewalk (Town of Valdese)**
 - a. Total Cost: \$950,000.00
 - b. Total Score: 43
- 5. Laurel Street Sidewalk (Town of Valdese)**
 - a. Total Cost: \$600,000.00
 - b. Total Score: 41

Based on funding availability (\$4.6MM) and project scores, GHMPO staff are presenting a funding proposal that funds four (4) of the five (5) project applications

received, with a total proposed funding value of \$4.625M in federal dollars. Those projects are:

- 1. Conover Boulevard Sidewalk (City of Conover)**
- 2. US-70/4th Street Intersection Improvements (City of Hickory)**
- 3. Kenworth Sidewalk Additions (City of Hickory)**
- 4. Massel Avenue Sidewalk (Town of Valdese)**

Project Applications and the Proposed Funding Selections are being released for public comment at the May 28, 2025, MPO meeting. The Proposed Funding Selections will be available for MPO Committee action at the June 25, 2025, MPO meeting.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: Release for Public Comment

Suggested Motion: None



Western Piedmont
Council of Governments

Creative Regional Solutions Since 1968

Locally Administered Project Program: Spring 2025 Project Applications

GHMPO TCC and TAC

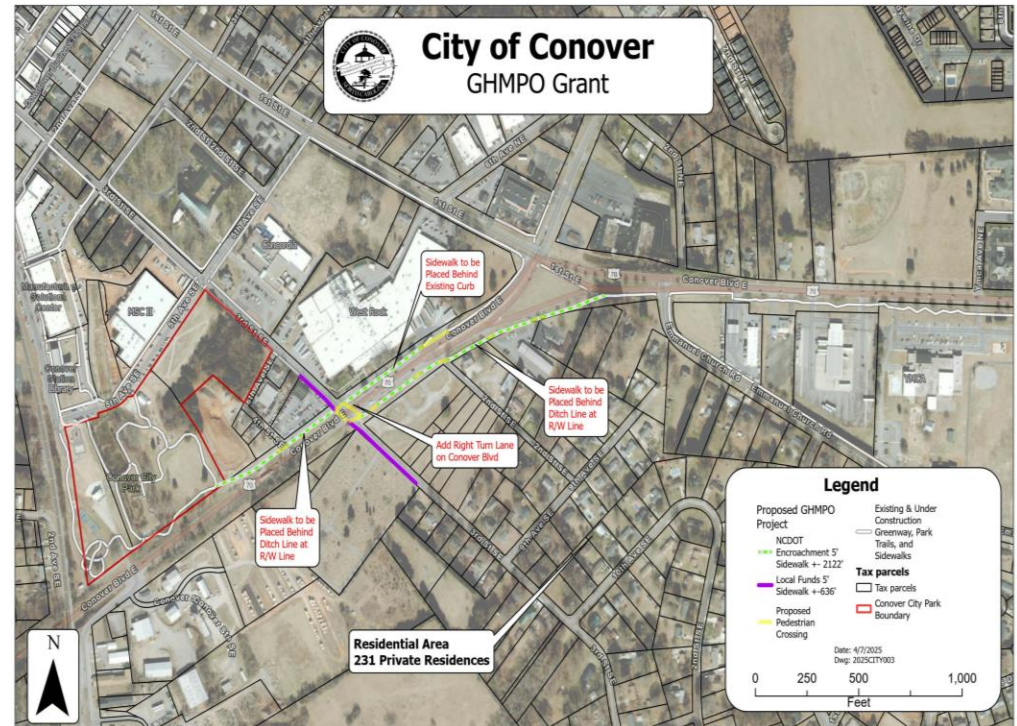
May 28, 2025

New Project Applications

- **City of Conover**
 - Conover BLVD Sidewalk and Corridor Improvements
- **City of Hickory**
 - Kenworth Sidewalk Addition
 - HL-0002 Supplemental (US-70/4th Street Intersection)
- **Town of Valdese**
 - Massell Avenue Sidewalk
 - Laurel Street Sidewalk

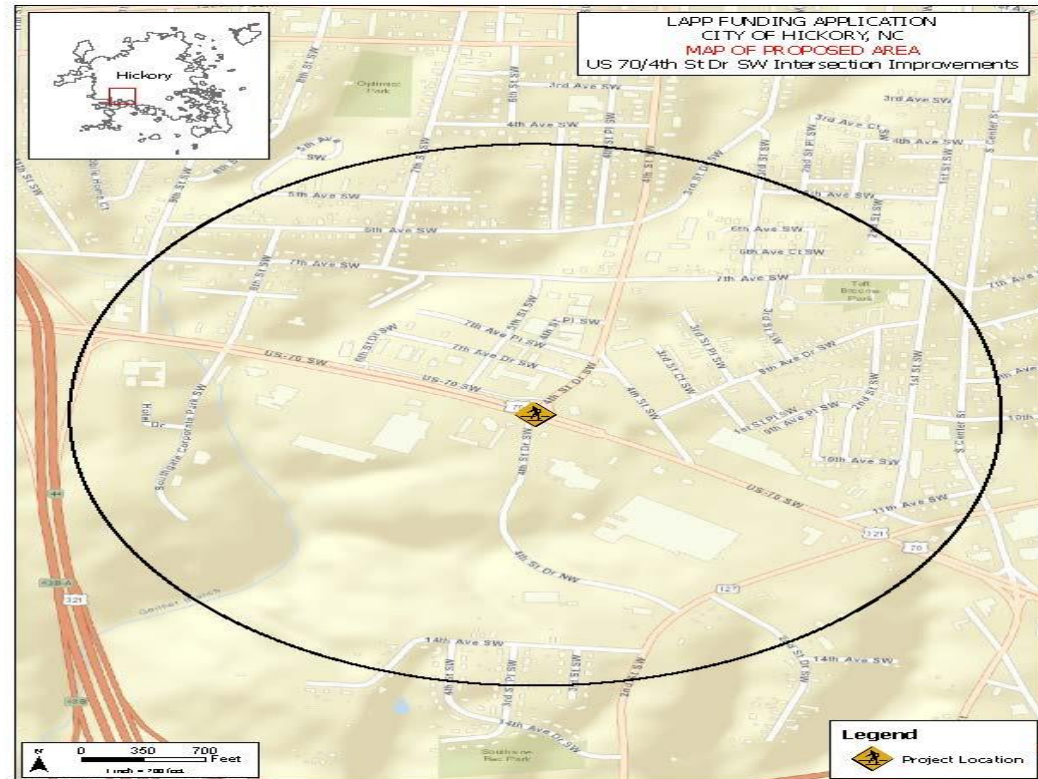
Conover BLVD Sidewalk and Corridor Improvements

- **Description:** Project constructs corridor improvements including sidewalks, pedestrian signalization, and a turn lane improvement along Conover BLVD East, from Conover City Park to 1st Street SE.
- **Total Federal Funding:** \$665,460.00
- **Total Cost:** \$831,825.00
- **Project Score:** 75



US 70/4th Street Intersection Improvements

- **Description:** Supplemental funding for both vehicular and pedestrian intersection improvements at US-70/4th Street intersection.
 - **Total Federal Funding:** \$400,000.00
 - **Total Cost:** \$500,000.00
 - **Project Score:** 69
- 
- The image shows a map of the proposed area for the US 70/4th St Dr SW Intersection Improvement. The map is titled "LAPP FUNDING APPLICATION CITY OF HICKORY, NC MAP OF PROPOSED AREA US 70/4th St Dr SW Intersection Improvement". It shows a street grid with US 70 running horizontally and 4th Ave running vertically. The intersection is highlighted. Other streets shown include 7th St, 6th St, 5th St, 3rd Ave, and 2nd Ave. A red box on the map indicates the proposed area. The map is labeled "Hickory" and "Optimus Truck".



Kenworth Sidewalk

- **Description:** Project constructs sidewalk along 10th Ave SE, 3rd Street SE, and 8th Ave SE, creating a continuous connection from NC 127 to 5th Street SE and 3rd Ave Drive SE.
- **Total Federal Funding:** \$2,800,000.00
- **Total Cost:** \$3,500,000.00
- **Project Score:** 43



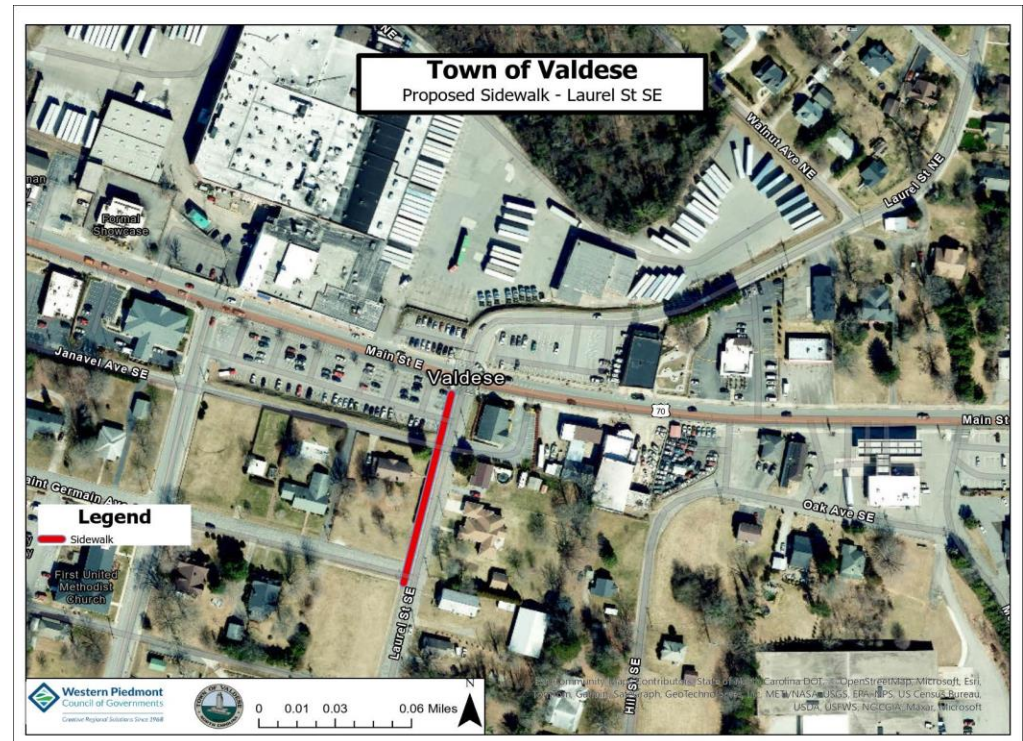
Massell Avenue Sidewalk

- **Description:** Project constructs new sidewalk from existing sidewalk at Rodoret St S to Carolina Street SE
- **Total Federal Funding:** \$760,000.00
- **Total Cost:** \$950,000.00
- **Project Score:** 43



Laurel Street Sidewalk

- **Description:** Project constructs sidewalk from existing sidewalk on Laurel Street to Main Street East in Valdese.
- **Total Federal Funding:** \$480,000.00
- **Total Cost:** \$600,000.00
- **Project Score:** 41



Proposed Funding Scenario

Project Title	Score	Total Federal Funding	Total Local Match	Total Project Funding
Conover BLVD/3rd Street Imp.	75	\$665,460.00	\$166,365.00	\$831,825.00
HL-0002	69	\$400,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$500,000.00
Kenworth Sidewalk	43	\$2,800,000.00	\$700,000.00	\$3,500,000.00
Massell Avenue	43	\$760,000.00	\$190,000.00	\$950,000.00
TOTAL		\$4.625MM	\$1.156MM	\$5.782MM

Funding Outlook

Funding Source	Total Amount
STBG-DA	\$5.69M
CMAQ	\$1.55MM

- Fall 2025 Call for Projects
 - o \$2MM Available
- Spring 2026 Call for Projects
 - o \$5MM Available



Western Piedmont
Council of Governments

Creative Regional Solutions Since 1968

Questions?

May 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.	39%
C204348/ R- 2307B79	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.	Project Complete.	100%
C204919	Catawba	One section of US-70, and twenty four sections of secondary roads.	Resurfacing for 19.747 miles.	Underway.	33%
DL00325	Catawba, Lincoln	Various	Resurfacing for 32.52 miles.	Underway.	79%
DL00349	Catawba	Bridge No. 55 on SR 1139 (Finger Bridge Road)	Bridge Replacement.	Underway.	6%

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.	74%
C204716	Burke	B-5869/ Bridge #99 over Norfolk Southern Railroad on Us-64/ US 70 in Morganton.	Bridge Replacement.	Underway.	45%
DM00440	Burke	Various Primary and Secondary Routes.	Resurfacing for 13.62 miles	Underway.	76%
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.	33%

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.	Engineering work is ongoing. Right of Way has started. Project Scheduled to be Let in June 2025.	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 FY 2025 and 2028 respectively. Engineering work is ongoing. Right of Way acquisition to begin this Summer 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.	NA
B-5954	Alexander	NC 127	Replace Bridge over Duck Creek.	The projected schedule for Right of Way and Construction is in FY 2025 and FY 2028 respectively.	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. 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