



Western Piedmont Council of Governments

Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization

Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)

Wednesday, June 25, 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 May 28, 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	Adopt by Resolution
Locally Administered Projects Program - Project Recommendations for Approval	Daniel Odom	Attachment III	Adopt by Resolutions
Resolutions of Support for Safe Streets for All Program	Averi Ritchie	Attachment IV	Adopt by Resolutions
Prioritization 8 Updates and Prioritization 9 Discussion	Averi Ritchie	Attachment V	Discussion Topic
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: July 23, 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, May 28th, 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
John	Marshall	City of Hickory	Patrick	Reach	Alexander County
Alan	Glines	Burke County	Brian	Burgess	Alexander/Taylorsville
Erik	Schlichting	City of Conover	Patrick	Creech	Alexander County
Wendy	Smith	Town of Morganton	Randy	Feirabend	Town of Cahj's Mtn
Jon	Greer	Town of Hudson	Daniel	Cobb	Town of Granite Falls
Hannah	Williams	City of Lenior	Dustin	Milsap	Town of Sawmills
Bradley	Kirkley	Burke County	Caroline	Kone	City of Hickory
Blake	Wright	Town of Maiden	Logan	Shook	Town of Hildebran
Danny	Hipps	Town of Catawba	Nathan	Hester	Town of Taylorsville
Chris	Timberlake	Catawba County	Shelly	Stevens	Caldwell County
Bill	Carroll	Town of Drexel	Chris	Timberlake	Catawba County
Greg	Wilson	Town of Granite Falls	Steve	Miller	City of Hickory
			Rick	Justice	Town of Rhodhiss
			Wilson	Elliott	City of Hickory
			Amy	Bucknam	Alexander County

			Karen	Dickerson	City of Hickory
			Jon	Hogan	City of Lenoir
			Laurie	LoCicero	Catawba County
			Bryce	Carter	City of Claremont
			Michael	Berley	City of Morganton
<u>WPCOG, FHWA & GUEST</u>			<u>NC DOT STAFF</u>		
Averi Ritchie – WPCOG			Dean Ledbetter – Div 11 & 12		
Daniel Odom – WPCOG			Ruben Crummy – NC DOT TPD		
Casey Fullbright – WPCOG			Sean Sizemore – Div 11		
Rusty Bost – LaBella Associates			Kenny Heavner – Div 11		
			Anil Panicker – Div 12		
			Hannah Smith – Div 13		
			Stephen Sparks – Div 13		

Call to Order/ Introductions: Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 1:01 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. Upon a motion made by Mr. Wright and a second by Mr. Schlichting, the board unanimously approved the consent agenda.
- II. Transportation Improvement Program Revisions for Approval:** Ms. Ritchie informed the Board of two separate programming modifications to the Transportation Improvement Program. The first modification involves withdrawing funding for the 1st Street East & West Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Project in Conover due to unanticipated right-of-way and utility relocation issues. The second modification pertains to the withdrawal of funding for the Lovelady Rd. Sidewalk Phase I Project in Valdese, following a determination that the project's cost exceeded the town's budget. Upon a Motion made by Mr. Wright and seconded by Mrs. Smith, the board unanimously approved the Transportation Improvement Program Revisions.
- III. Locally Administered Projects Program – New project Recommendations for Release:** Mr. Odom presented the Spring 2025 project applications under the Locally Administered Project Program, which include Conover Boulevard Sidewalk and Corridor Improvements, Kenworth Sidewalk, US 70/4th Street Intersection supplemental funding, Massell Avenue Sidewalk, and Laurel Street Sidewalk. The total funding for these projects is approximately \$5.78 million, with federal funding totaling \$4.625 million and a local match of \$1.156 million. Mr. Odom also explained that there's \$2 million available for the Fall 2025 Call for Projects and \$5 million for Spring 2026, with funding sources including STBG-DA and CMAQ.

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. She will be leaving her position and her replacement is currently being sought.
- **NCDOT-TPD:** Mr. Crummy informed the board about the upcoming NCDOT Freight Plan updates starting in June.
- **NCDOT-IMD:** No updates
- **FHWA:** No updates

Reminders: Ms. Ritchie reminded members to submit recommendations for the bike and pedestrian plan as well as the upcoming workshop for the locally coordinated plan. It was noted that the NC Bike Walk Summit will be hosted in Hickory from September 7th through September 9th.

Public Comment/Announcements: None

Adjournment: Chair Williams adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 25th, 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: June 25, 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*

**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)**

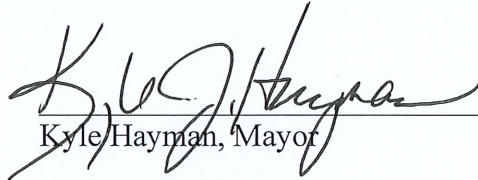
WHEREAS, the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization (GHMPO) awarded the City of Conover funding for engineering and construction of bicycle and pedestrian facilities along 1st Street East (US Hwy 70-A) and 1st Street West (US Hwy 70) from I-40 to NC 16, including a lane reduction along a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





**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 25th day of June, 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: June 25, 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. The selected 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)**

Selected Projects and the Proposed Funding Scenario are available for Committee action at the June 25, 2025, MPO meeting.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: Staff request that the Technical Coordinating Committee and Transportation Advisory Committee approve the Locally Administered Projects/Funding Proposal, AND Staff request that the Technical Coordinating Committee and Transportation Advisory Committee approve the corresponding STIP amendments to authorize funding.

Suggested Motion: 1. I move that the committee approve the Locally Administered Projects and Funding Proposal, as presented. 2. I move that the committee approve the necessary STIP amendment to allow the release of of LAPP funding.



Western Piedmont
Council of Governments

Creative Regional Solutions Since 1968

Locally Administered Project Program: Spring 2025 Project Applications

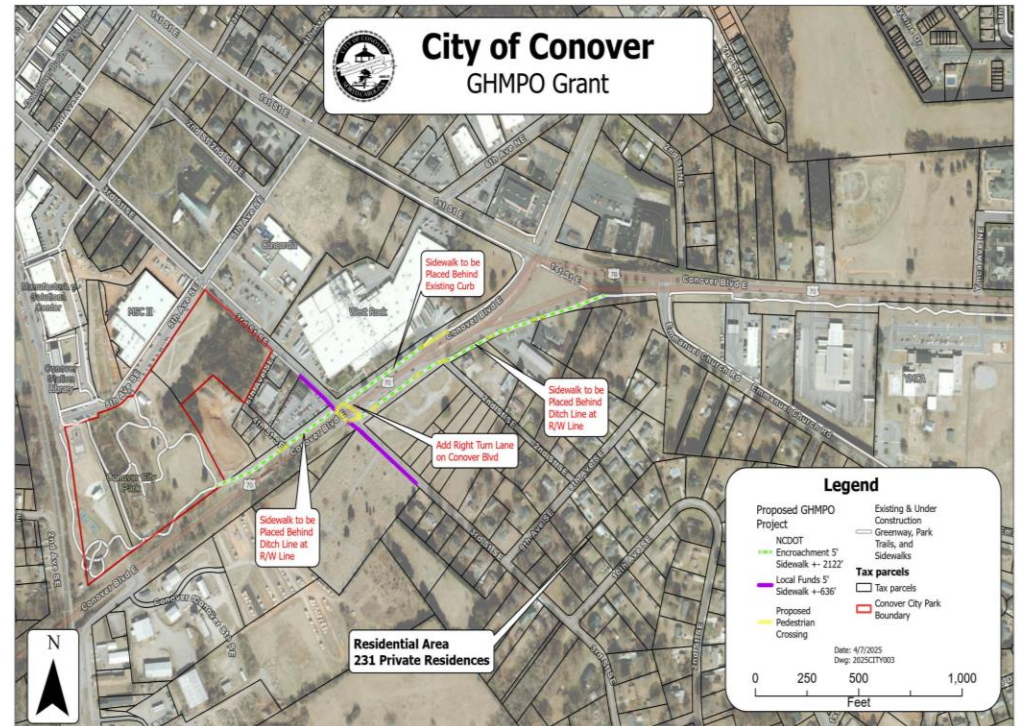
GHMPO TCC and TAC
June 25, 2025

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

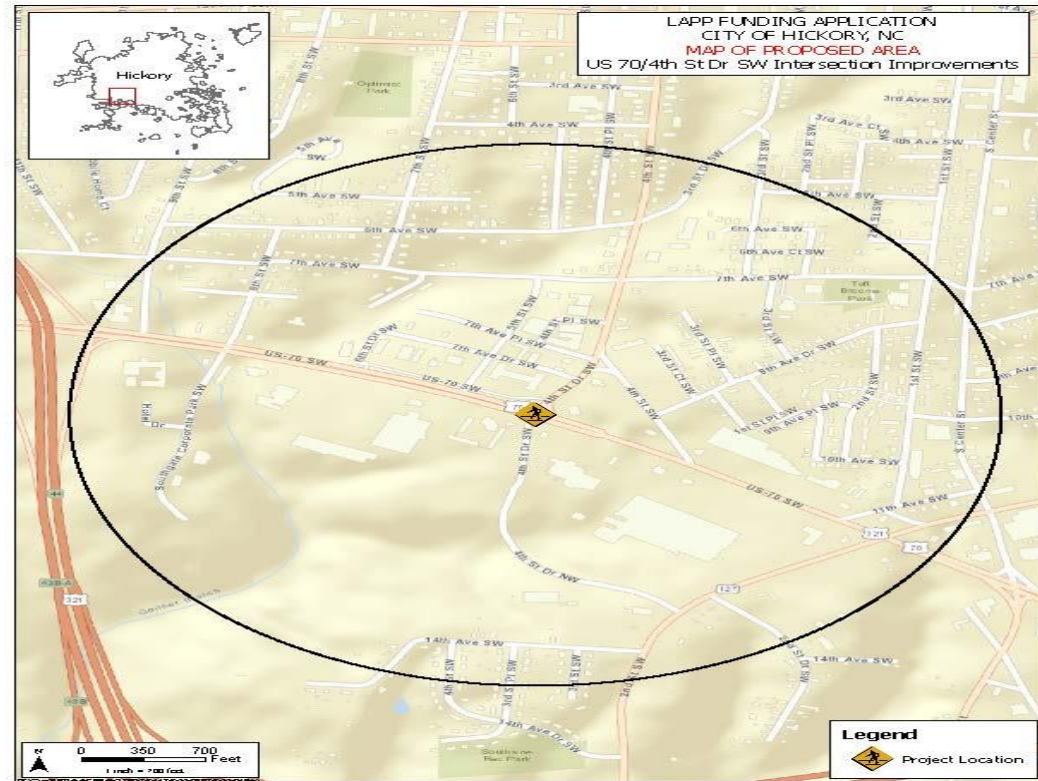
Conover BLVD Sidewalk and Corridor Improvements

- **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



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



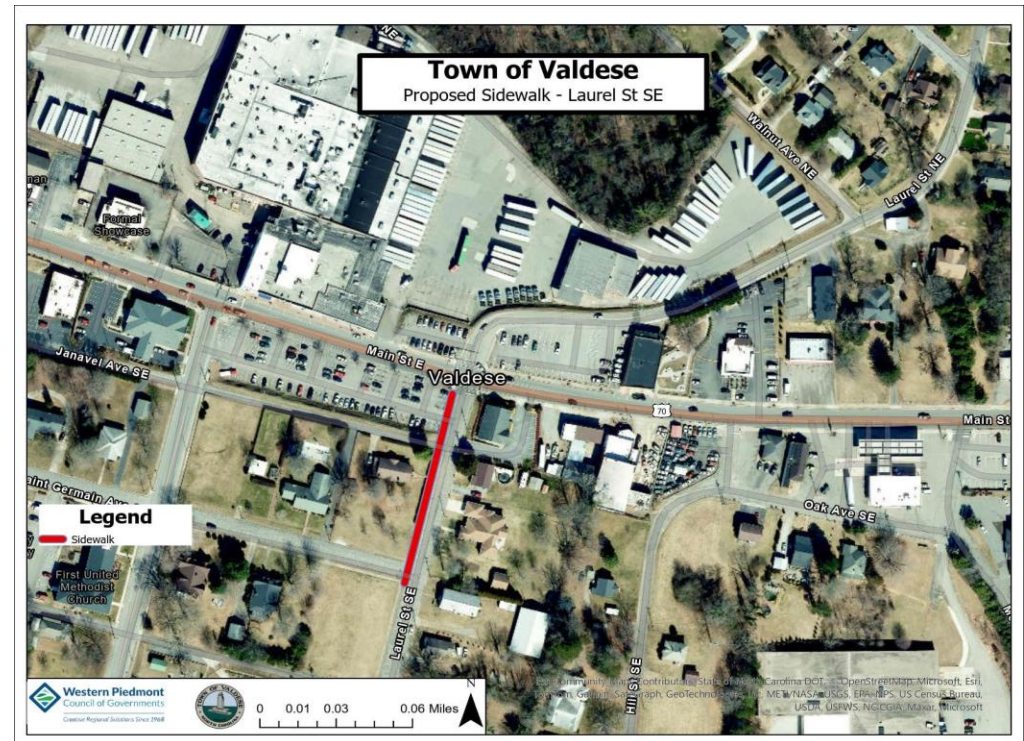
Massell Avenue Sidewalk

- **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

Requested Actions to Award Funds

1. Approval of the presented Project Applications and Funding Scenario.
2. Approval of STIP Amendments, corresponding with the presented funding amounts, to allow LAP funds to be programmed within the State Transportation Improvement Program.



Western Piedmont
Council of Governments

Creative Regional Solutions Since 1968

Questions?



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

1880 2nd Avenue NW, PO Box 9026
Hickory, NC 28603



**RESOLUTION DIRECTING STBG-DA AND TAP-DA FUNDS TO LOCAL
PRIORITY PROJECTS**

A motion was made by _____ and seconded by TAC Member _____
To adopt the following resolution, and upon being put to a vote was duly adopted.

WHEREAS, the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a Transportation Management Area and has the authority to direct available Federal Highway program Surface Transportation Block Grant – Direct Attributable (STBG-DA), Transportation Alternatives Program – Direct Attributable (TAP-DA), Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) obligation authority to MPO area local projects; AND

WHEREAS, the above funding sources are included in the Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP); AND

WHEREAS, allocation of the above funding sources enable work on four area priority projects, to proceed totaling \$4.6 million in federal dollars (to be distributed among the funding sources by the Department of Transportation) as shown in the Locally Administered Projects Program Presentation at the June 25, 2025, TAC Meeting; AND

WHEREAS, the proposed project recommendations and recommended actions have been developed in coordination with the North Carolina Department of Transportation; AND

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved, by the Greater Hickory MPO Transportation Advisory Committee, to approve the direction of \$4.6 million in LAPP funds on this, the 25th day of June, 2025.

Hank Guess
Greater Hickory MPO TAC Chair

Averi Ritchie
Greater Hickory MPO TAC Secretary



**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 _____ to adopt the following resolution, and upon being put to a vote was duly adopted

WHEREAS, the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a Transportation Management Area and has the authority to direct available Federal Highway program Surface Transportation Block Grant – Direct Attributable (STBG-DA), Transportation Alternatives Program – Direct Attributable (TAP-DA), Carbon Reduction Program (CRP), and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) obligation authority to MPO area local projects; AND

WHEREAS, the above funding sources are included in the Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP); AND

WHEREAS, allocation of the above funding sources enable work on four area priority projects to proceed totaling \$4.6 million in federal dollars (to be distributed among the funding sources by the Department of Transportation) as shown in the Locally Administered Projects Program Presentation at the June 25, 2025, TAC Meeting; AND

WHEREAS, the following projects have been proposed for inclusion in the FY 2026-2035 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); AND

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

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved, by the Greater Hickory MPO Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) that the TIP FYs 2026-2035 be modified as listed above on this, the 25th day of June, 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: June 25, 2025

SUBJECT: Resolutions of Support for Safe Streets for All Program, Averi Ritchie, Transportation Planning Manager

ATTACHMENTS: Resolutions of Support for Safe Streets for All Program – City of Hickory and City of Lenoir

SUMMARY OF REQUEST: The *Safe Streets for All (SS4A)* program is a discretionary grant initiative administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The program aims to improve roadway safety by supporting comprehensive strategies and implementation projects that prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.

SS4A provides two types of funding:

- **Planning and Demonstration Grants**, which help local and regional entities develop Action Plans to address safety risks;
- **Implementation Grants**, which fund projects and strategies identified in qualifying safety plans to reduce crashes and improve safety for all road users, including pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists.

To be eligible for SS4A Implementation Grants, applicants must have a U.S. DOT-compliant safety action plan in place. In April 2025, the Greater Hickory MPO formally adopted the **Western Piedmont Transportation Safety Plan**, which qualifies the region for SS4A Implementation Grant funding.

For the 2025 grant cycle, two local jurisdictions within the GHMPO region have submitted SS4A Implementation Grant applications:

- **City of Hickory:** Proposing safety improvements at the high-crash intersection of Catawba Valley Boulevard and Startown Road;
- **City of Lenoir:** Seeking funding for multimodal safety upgrades along Harper Avenue, a corridor identified for its crash history and access needs.

Both projects are consistent with regional goals outlined in the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Comprehensive Transportation Plan, and Western Piedmont Transportation Safety Plan, and represent a strong alignment with SS4A program priorities.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: Motion to Approve

Suggested Motion: *Motion to approve the City of Hickory SS4A Resolution. Motion to approve the City of Lenoir SS4A Resolution.*



GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

City of Hickory 2025 Safe Streets for All Implementation Grant Application

WHEREAS, the City of Hickory is applying for federal funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2025 Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Implementation Grant program to address critical safety needs at the intersection of Catawba Valley Boulevard and Startown Road; and

WHEREAS, this intersection serves nearby neighborhoods, Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC), and a growing number of commercial businesses, and has experienced a high frequency of crashes, including one pedestrian fatality, nine injury crashes, and numerous property damage incidents between March 1, 2020, and February 28, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hickory is actively developing a local safety plan through its 2023 SS4A Planning Grant, while the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization (GHMPO) adopted a regional Comprehensive Safety Action Plan in April 2025, both of which identify this intersection as a priority location based on crash history and multimodal safety concerns; and

WHEREAS, the proposed safety improvements—including new sidewalks, enhanced pedestrian crossings, ADA-compliant curb ramps, pedestrian refuge islands, and upgraded signal infrastructure—are expected to reduce crashes, improve visibility, and increase safe mobility options for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists; and

WHEREAS, the project is consistent with and supports the adopted goals and priorities of the GHMPO's 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP), and the Western Piedmont Transportation Safety Plan, particularly the objectives to improve multimodal safety, enhance pedestrian infrastructure, and reduce regional crash rates; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby expresses its strong support for the City of Hickory's 2025 SS4A Implementation Grant application and urges the U.S. Department of Transportation to give this application full and favorable consideration.

Adopted this 25th day of June, 2025.

Hank Guess
Chair, Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization

Averi Ritchie
Secretary, Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization



RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF LENOIR'S 2025 SAFE STREETS FOR ALL (SS4A) IMPLEMENTATION GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the City of Lenoir is seeking federal funding through the United States Department of Transportation's Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Implementation Grant Program to fund critical safety improvements along Harper Avenue; and

WHEREAS, Harper Avenue is a key transportation corridor in Lenoir, serving multiple neighborhoods and local businesses, and has been identified as a high-priority area for safety improvements due to a history of crashes and multimodal safety concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization (GHMPO) adopted its Comprehensive Safety Action Plan in April 2025, identifying the segment of Harper Avenue between Norwood Street and US-321 as a priority corridor based on crash risk and inclusion in the regional High Injury Network; and

WHEREAS, data-driven analysis demonstrates that this corridor has elevated risk scores for severe crash types, including lane departure, bicycle and pedestrian incidents, speed-related crashes, and intersection-related collisions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lenoir's proposed project includes streetscape enhancements, new sidewalks, ADA-compliant curb ramps, upgraded pedestrian crossings, driveway access management, and drainage improvements—all of which are designed to reduce conflict points and enhance safety for all modes of travel; and

WHEREAS, this project is consistent with the regional goals and priorities established in the Greater Hickory MPO's 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP), and the Western Piedmont Transportation Safety Plan, all of which emphasize the importance of improving multimodal safety and reducing crashes; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements will enhance safety, support connectivity, promote economic development, and improve the quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors in the region;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby expresses its full support for the City of Lenoir's 2025 SS4A Implementation Grant application and urges the United States Department of Transportation to give this important project full and fair consideration.

Adopted this 25th day of June, 2025.

Hank Guess
Chair, Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization

Averi Ritchie
Secretary, Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization



Western Piedmont
Council of Governments

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

MEETING DATE: June 25, 2025

SUBJECT: Prioritization 8 Updates and Prioritization 9 Discussion, Averi Ritchie,
Transportation Planning Manager

ATTACHMENTS: Prioritization 8 Updates

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

North Carolina's **Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) Law**, enacted in 2013, established a data-driven process for selecting and funding transportation projects through a recurring process known as **Prioritization**. Administered by the **North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)**, this process evaluates highway, bicycle/pedestrian, transit, rail, and aviation projects every two years.

The current cycle, **Prioritization 8.0 (P8.0)**, is part of the development of the **2026–2035 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)**. Under P8.0, candidate projects are scored and ranked based on quantitative data, local input, and planning consistency. Projects are evaluated within three funding tiers:

- **Statewide Mobility** (100% data-driven),
- **Regional Impact** (70% data-driven, 30% local input),
- **Division Needs** (50% data-driven, 50% local input).

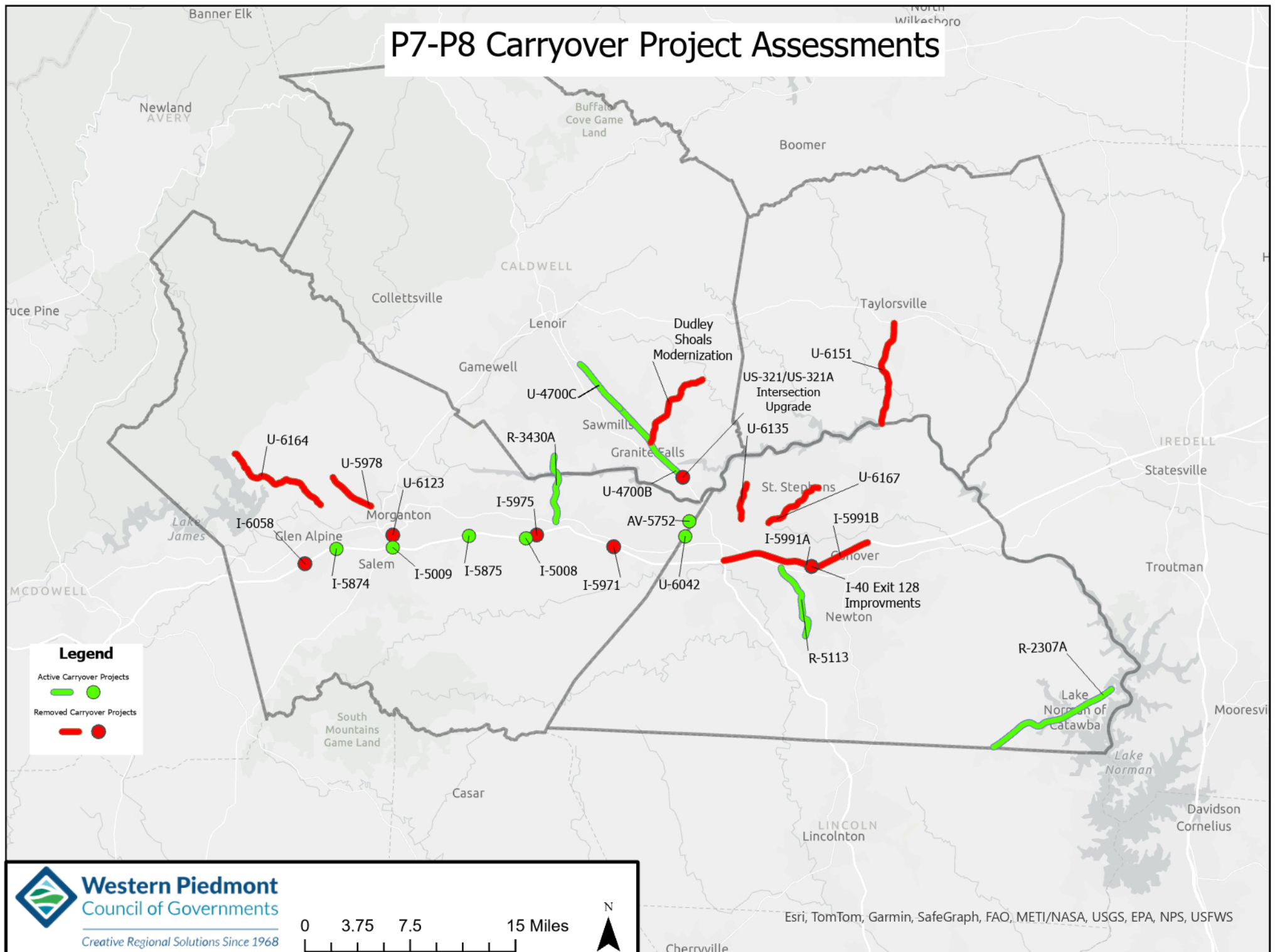
The Greater Hickory MPO (GHMPO) plays a critical role in P8.0 by submitting candidate projects, assigning local input points, and ensuring that projects align with regional plans such as the **2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)** and **Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)**.

P8.0 emphasizes project readiness, cost-effectiveness, and alignment with statewide and regional goals. The results of this prioritization cycle will influence which transportation projects are programmed for funding in the next STIP.

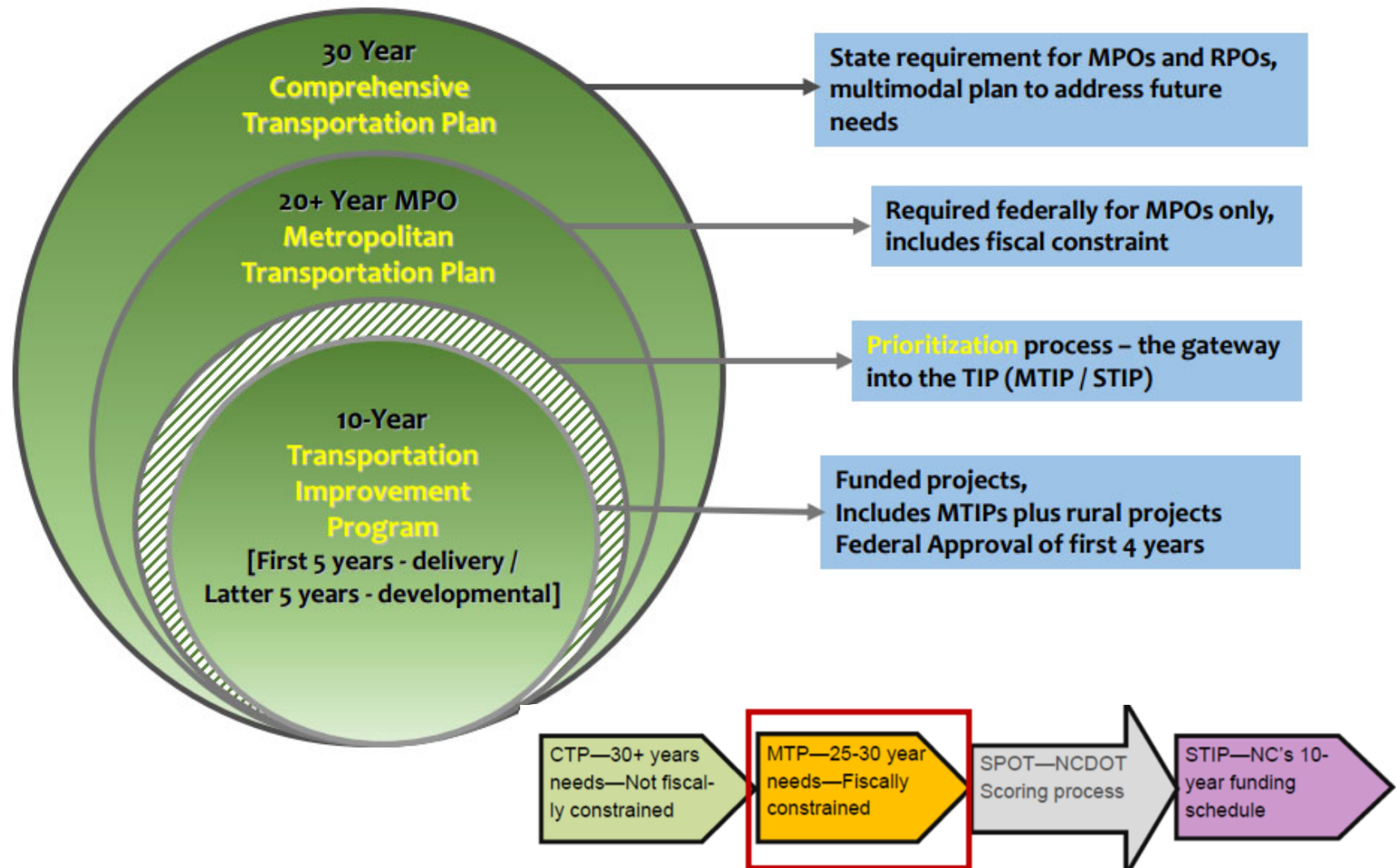
BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion Item

Suggested Motion: None.

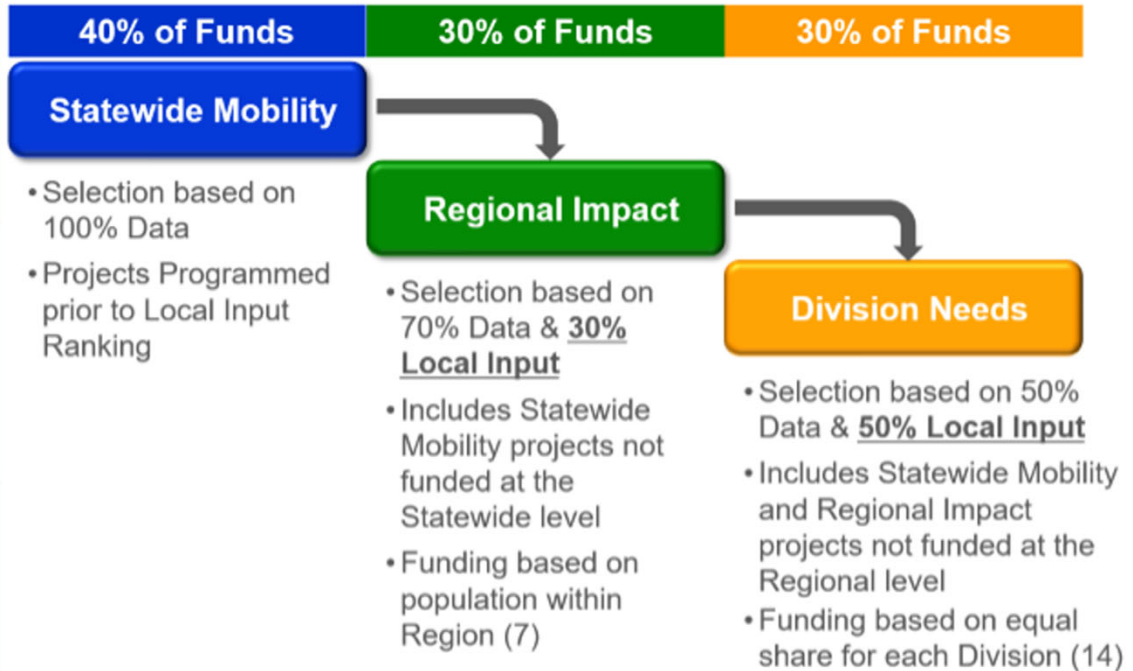
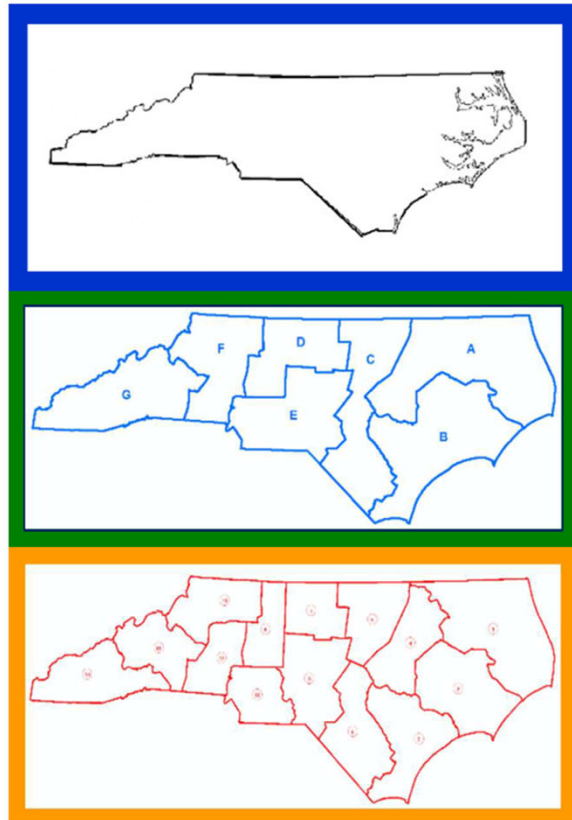
P7-P8 Carryover Project Assessments



MPO Planning Responsibilities

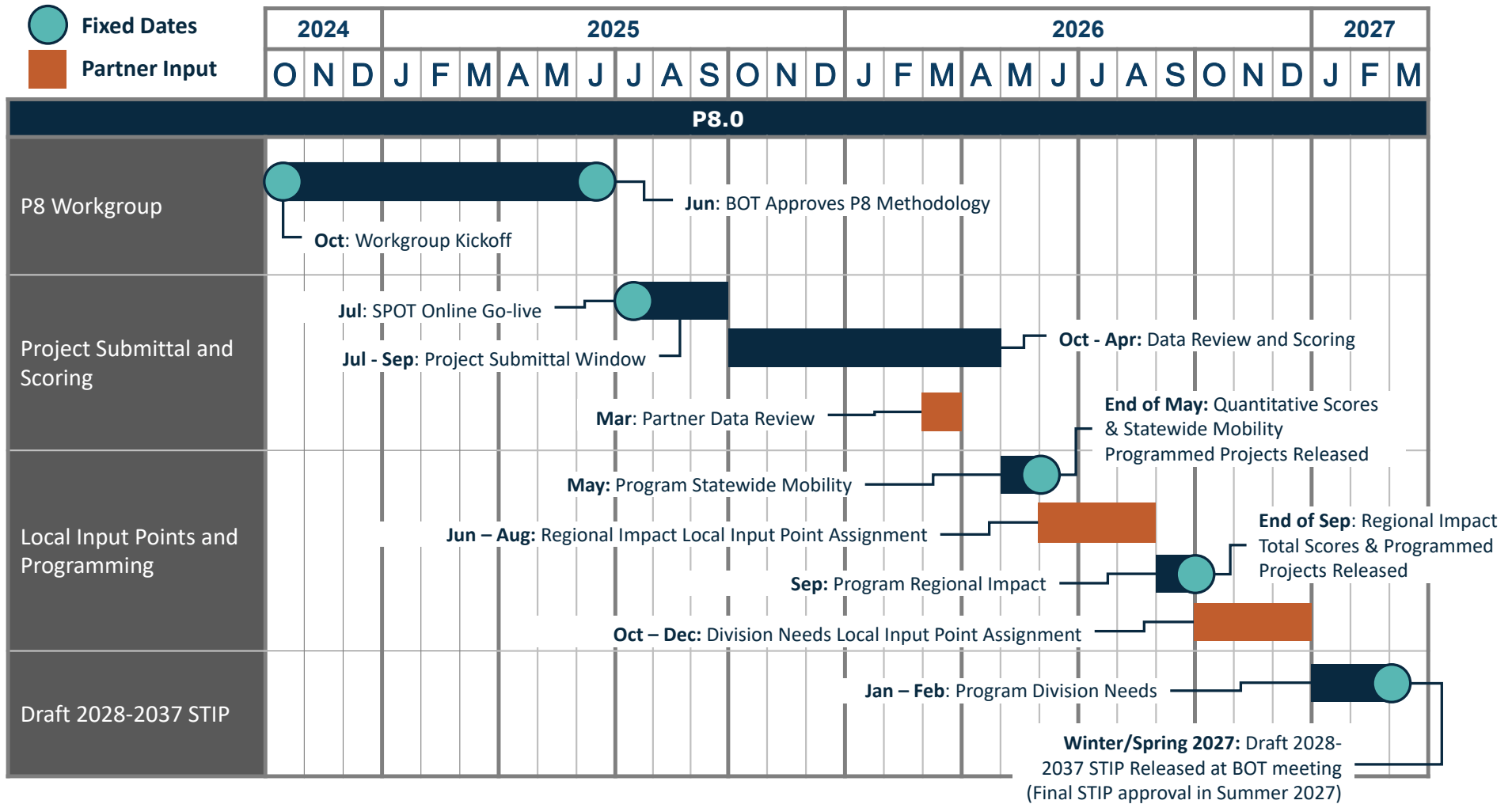


Prioritization Process



P8 Schedule

October 2024



P8 Submittal Allotments (Per Mode)

April 2025 - recommended by P8 Workgroup

MPO/RPO Name	P8 Population	P8 Pop rounded to nearest 50K	P8 Add'l Submittals Based on Population	2024 Centerline Miles	Centerline Miles rounded to nearest 500	P8 Add'l Projects based on Centerline Miles	INITIAL P8 Submittal Allotment	Submittal Allotment (30% reduction, unrounded)	P8 Submittal Allotment (per mode)
Albemarle RPO	174,219	150,000	3	2,942	3,000	6	21	14.70	15
Burlington-Graham MPO	176,195	200,000	4	1,043	1,000	2	18	12.60	13
Cabarrus-Rowan MPO	352,583	350,000	7	1,994	2,000	4	23	16.10	16
Cape Fear RPO	133,153	150,000	3	2,172	2,000	4	19	13.30	13
Capital Area MPO	1,345,849	1,350,000	27	4,715	4,500	9	48	33.60	34
Central Pines RPO	163,547	150,000	3	2,503	2,500	5	20	14.00	14
Charlotte Regional TPO	1,494,627	1,500,000	30	3,690	3,500	7	49	34.30	34
Down East RPO	94,026	100,000	2	1,567	1,500	3	17	11.90	12
Eastern Carolina RPO	169,863	150,000	3	2,967	3,000	6	21	14.70	15
Fayetteville Area MPO	440,763	450,000	9	1,873	2,000	4	25	17.50	18
Foothills RPO	132,825	150,000	3	2,078	2,000	4	19	13.30	13
French Broad River MPO	426,072	450,000	9	2,383	2,500	5	26	18.20	18
Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO	404,464	400,000	8	3,012	3,000	6	26	18.20	18
Goldsboro Urban Area MPO	90,276	100,000	2	599	500	1	15	10.50	11
Grand Strand Area Transportation Study	55,658	50,000	1	337	500	1	14	9.80	10
Greater Hickory MPO	367,982	350,000	7	3,174	3,000	6	25	17.50	18
Greensboro Urban Area MPO	406,916	400,000	8	1,606	1,500	3	23	16.10	16
Greenville Urban Area MPO	140,982	150,000	3	468	500	1	16	11.20	11
High Country RPO	212,443	200,000	4	4,157	4,000	8	24	16.80	17
High Point Urban Area MPO	291,390	300,000	6	1,835	2,000	4	22	15.40	15
Jacksonville Urban Area MPO	198,377	200,000	4	912	1,000	2	18	12.60	13
Kerr-Tar RPO	165,829	150,000	3	2,839	3,000	6	21	14.70	15
Land-of-Sky RPO	68,566	50,000	1	1,374	1,500	3	16	11.20	11
Lumber River RPO	221,710	200,000	4	3,348	3,500	7	23	16.10	16
Mid-Carolina RPO	125,588	150,000	3	2,760	3,000	6	21	14.70	15
Mid-East RPO	110,738	100,000	2	2,140	2,000	4	18	12.60	13
New Bern Area MPO	54,294	50,000	1	255	500	1	14	9.80	10
Northwest Piedmont RPO	166,565	150,000	3	2,987	3,000	6	21	14.70	15
Peanut Belt RPO	113,183	100,000	2	2,630	2,500	5	19	13.30	13
Piedmont Triad RPO	260,674	250,000	5	3,977	4,000	8	25	17.50	18
Rocky Mount Urban Area MPO	77,662	100,000	2	488	500	1	15	10.50	11
Rocky River RPO	103,648	100,000	2	2,104	2,000	4	18	12.60	13
Sandhills MPO	57,707	50,000	1	242	0	0	13	9.10	9
Southwestern RPO	143,270	150,000	3	2,617	2,500	5	20	14.00	14
Triangle West TPO	458,128	450,000	9	1,358	1,500	3	24	16.80	17
Upper Coastal Plain RPO	227,569	250,000	5	3,049	3,000	6	23	16.10	16
Wilmington Urban Area MPO	296,302	300,000	6	836	1,000	2	20	14.00	14
Winston-Salem Area TPO	449,926	450,000	9	1,490	1,500	3	24	16.80	17
Total							824		581

Division	INITIAL P8 Submittal Allotment	Submittal Allotment (30% reduction, unrounded)	P8 Submittal Allotment (per mode)
01	14	9.80	10
02	14	9.80	10
03	14	9.80	10
04	14	9.80	10
05	14	9.80	10
06	14	9.80	10
07	14	9.80	10
08	14	9.80	10
09	14	9.80	10
10	14	9.80	10
11	14	9.80	10
12	14	9.80	10
13	14	9.80	10
14	14	9.80	10
Total	196		140

Notes on Formula and Initial Calculations:

Each MPO and RPO receives a base of 12 submittals.
Each MPO and RPO receives 1 additional submittal for every 50,000 in population.
Each MPO and RPO receives 1 additional submittal for every 500 centerline miles.

Each Division receives 14 submittals.

Population sourced from 2020 census data.
Centerline miles sourced from Q1 2025 LRS.
MPO/RPO calculations use official boundaries as of February 2025.

Overview of Carryover Projects

Under **NCDOT's Strategic Prioritization 8.0 (P8.0)** process, *Carryover Projects* are projects that were evaluated in the previous prioritization cycle and will automatically be re-evaluated in the current cycle **without counting against an MPO's or RPO's submittal allotment**.

These projects are carried forward into the P8.0 scoring process **without requiring resubmittal** and are tracked for potential inclusion in the **2026–2035 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)**.

Definition of Carryover Projects

A project qualifies as a **Carryover** if it meets one of the following criteria:

- **Included in the Current STIP but Not Scheduled for Delivery**
(Delivery defined as Right-of-Way, Construction, or Letting not yet underway)
 - **Environmental Documentation Completed or In Progress**
(Includes NEPA or SEPA documentation that is actively being developed or finalized)
 - **Sibling Project to a Programmed Project**
(Typically a segment or phase of a larger, already programmed project)
 - **Any committed projects (scheduled for delivery)** that are currently included in the 2024-2033 STIP as of Jan. 1, 2025 *(As of this time, there are no projects that meet this requirement.)*.
-

Important Notes

- These projects will be **automatically scored** during the P8.0 cycle.
- **No local points are required for resubmittal**, though local input scoring will still apply where relevant.
- MPO partners should **review all carryover projects** to confirm accuracy and ensure alignment with current local priorities.

Carryovers

										Test Scores		
County	Project Type	Funding Tier	Route	From / Cross Street / Location	To/Cross Street	Project Description	Improvement Type	Statewide Score	Regional Score	Division Score		
Alexander	Carryover	Regional Impact	NC 16	County Line	US 64	Upgrade and modernize two-lane roadway	16 - Modernize Roadway or 26		39.85	31.86		
Burke	Carryover	Division Needs	SR 1001 (Malcolm Blvd / Connelly Springs Rd)	US 70	SR 1115 (Dry Ponds Rd)	Widen to 4-lane divided and construct parallel river bridge	1 - Widen Existing Roadway			28.98		
Caldwell	Carryover	Statewide Mobility	US 321	US 321A	SR 1108 (Mission Rd)	Add additional lanes	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	57.2215	33.739	24.495		
Caldwell	Carryover	Statewide Mobility	US 321	SR 1108 (Mission Rd)	SR 1933 (Southwest Blvd)	Add additional lanes	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	65.7655	45.49	36.0685		
Caldwell	Carryover	Division Needs	SR 1002 (Dudley Shoals Rd)	US 321	SR 1746 (Bowman Rd)	Upgrade and modernize two-lane roadway	16 - Modernize Roadway			31.95		
Catawba	Carryover	Statewide Mobility	I-40	SR 1476 (Fairgrove Church Rd - Exit 128)	NC 16 (Exit 132)	Widen expressway to six lanes	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	69.502	38.32	22.973		
Catawba	Carryover	Regional Impact	NC 127 (Viewmont)	8th Avenue NE	SR 1327 (30th Avenue NW)	Convert 5-lane to 4-lane divided	11 - Access Management		40.318	30.6305		
Catawba	Carryover	Division Needs	SR 1005 (STARTOWN ROAD)	US 70	NC 10	US 70 TO NC 10. WIDEN TO MULTI-LANES.	1 - Widen Existing Roadway					
Catawba	Carryover	Division Needs	SR 1124 (33RD STREET SW)	Main Ave. Drive NW	2nd Ave. SW	SR 1124 (33RD STREET SW) AND (34TH STREET NW). REALIGN INTERSECTION.	21 - Realign Offset Intersections					
Catawba	Carryover	Regional Impact	NC 150	Relocated NC 16	SR 1902 (Harvel Road)	RELOCATED NC 16 (STIP PROJECT R-2206) TO EAST OF SR 1840 (GREENWOOD ROAD). WIDEN TO 4-LANES WITH A BYPASS OF THE TERRELL HISTORIC DISTRICT.	1 - Widen Existing Roadway					
Catawba	Carryover	Statewide Mobility	I-40 Exit 128	SR 1476 (Fairgrove Church Rd)		Construct roundabouts at both ramp terminals	8 - Improve Interchange	65.6575	37.214	26.829		
Burke	Carryover	Statewide Mobility	I-40 SR 1147 (Causby Road) - Exit 98	Redesign interchange and remove two-way traffic on ramp.		I-6058	8 - Improve Interchange	53.32	32.35	21.66		
Caldwell	Carryover	Statewide Mobility	US 321	US 321 Alternate (South Main Street) /Riverbend Drive		Upgrade to Interchange	9 - Upgrade At-grade Intersection to Interchange or Grade Separation	77.3925	55.589	40.2535		
Catawba	Carryover	Regional Impact	Hickory Signal System			Upgrade signal equipment	13 - Citywide Signal System		46.14	34.16		
Catawba	Carryover	Statewide Mobility	I-40	US 321 (Exit 123)	SR 1476 - Fairgrove Church Road (Exit 128)	US 321 TO SR 1476 (FAIRGROVE CHURCH ROAD). WIDEN TO SIX LANES.	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	data requested				
Catawba	Carryover	Division Needs	SR 1453 (16TH STREET NE, 12TH AVE NE, SPRINGS ROAD	9th Avenue NE	SR 1504 (Charlotte Street)	9TH AVENUE NE TO SR 1504 (CHARLOTTE STREET). CONSTRUCT ACCESS MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS.	11 - Access Management	data requested				
Burke	Carryover	Regional Impact	NC 181	SR 1440 (Spainhour Rd)	SR 1419 (Bost Rd)	SR 1440 TO SR 1419. WIDEN TO 3-LANES.	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	data requested				
Burke	Carryover	Statewide Mobility	I-40	SR 1744 (Mineral Springs Mountain Rd.), SR 1744 (Eldred St. SE) - Exit 112		SR 1744 (MINERAL SPRINGS MOUNTAIN ROAD)/SR 1744 (ELDRED STREET SE) - EXIT 112. CONSTRUCT INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS.	8 - Improve Interchange	data requested				
Burke	Carryover	Statewide Mobility	I-40	SR 1761 (Old Highway NC 10) - Exit 116		SR 1761 (OLD HIGHWAY NC 10) - EXIT 116. UPGRADE INTERCHANGE AND REMOVE TWO-WAY TRAFFIC.	8 - Improve Interchange	data requested				
Burke	Carryover	Statewide Mobility	I-40 - Exit 103	US 64 (BURKEMONT ROAD) - Exit 103			8 - Improve Interchange	data requested				
Burke	Carryover	Statewide Mobility	I-40 - Exit 100	SR 1142 (JAMESTOWN ROAD) - EXIT 100			8 - Improve Interchange	data requested				
Burke	Carryover	Statewide Mobility	I-40 - Exit 111	SR 1734 (CAROLINA STREET SE)/SR 1826 - EXIT 111			8 - Improve Interchange	data requested				
Burke	Carryover	Statewide Mobility	I-40 - Exit 107	SR 1712 (Drexel Road) - Exit 107		BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY TO SR 1274 (SUMMIT AVENUE). WIDEN TO 3-LANES.	8 - Improve Interchange	data requested				
Burke	Carryover	Regional Impact	NC 126	Fish Hatchery Road	Watermill Road	Modernization	16 - Modernize Roadway					
Burke	Carryover	Regional Impact	US 64 (BURKEMONT AVENUE)	US 70 (W. Fleming Drive)		US 70 (W. FLEMING DRIVE) INTERSECTION. IMPROVE INTERSECTION.	10 - Improve Intersection	G	13	Greater Hickory		

SPOT ID	Mode	TIP	Project Category	Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improvement Type	Funding Region(s)	Division(s)	MPO(s)/RPO(s)	County(s)	P8.0 Type of Carryover
A130218	Aviation	AV-5752	Division Needs	HICKORY REGIONAL AIRPORT (HKY)	N/A	N/A	Land needs to be acquired and obstructions removed to allow for a safe glide path for the existing runway and preparation for 600 foot extension of Runway 06	0100- Runway Approach	F, G	12, 13	Greater Hickory MPO	Catawba, Burke	Active NEPA/SEPA
H090041	Highway	I-5008	Division Needs*	I-40	SR 1734 (Carolina Street SE)/SR 1826 - Exit 111	N/A	Revise interchange to Diamond Configuration.	8 - Improve Interchange	G	13	Greater Hickory MPO	Burke	Active NEPA/SEPA
H090042	Highway	I-5009	Statewide Mobility	I-40	US 64 (Burkement Road) - Exit 103	N/A	Improve interchange	8 - Improve Interchange	G	13	Greater Hickory MPO	Burke	Active NEPA/SEPA
H090084-A	Highway	R-2307A	Regional Impact	NC 150	Relocated NC 16	SR 1902 (Harvel Road)	RELOCATED NC 16 (STIP PROJECT R-2206) TO EAST OF SR 1840 (GREENWOOD ROAD). WIDEN TO 4-LANES WITH A BYPASS OF THE TERRELL HISTORIC DISTRICT.	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	F	12	Greater Hickory MPO	Catawba	Currently funded for PE Only in the 2026-2035 STIP
H090235-A	Highway	R-3430A	Division Needs	SR 1001 (Malcolm Boulevard)	US 70	Catawba Rivere	Widen facility from US 70 in Rutherford College to Dry Ponds Road in Caldwell County.	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	G	13	Greater Hickory MPO	Burke	Sibling of a funded project in the 2026-2035 STIP
H090315	Highway	R-5113	Division Needs	SR 1005 (STARTOWN ROAD)	US 70	NC 10	US 70 TO NC 10. WIDEN TO MULTI-LANES.	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	F	12	Greater Hickory MPO	Catawba	Currently funded for PE Only in the 2026-2035 STIP
H090332-B	Highway	U-6042	Division Needs	SR 1124 (33RD STREET SW)	Main Ave. Drive NW	2nd Ave. SW	SR 1124 (33RD STREET SW) AND (34TH STREET NW). REALIGN INTERSECTION.	21 - Realign Offset Intersections	F	12	Greater Hickory MPO	Catawba	Currently funded for PE Only in the 2026-2035 STIP
H090474-B	Highway	U-4700B	Statewide Mobility	US 321	US 321 Alternate (South Main Street)	SR 1108 (Mission Road)	Add Additional Lanes.	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	F	11	Greater Hickory MPO	Caldwell	Sibling of a funded project in the 2026-2035 STIP
H090474-C	Highway	U-4700C	Statewide Mobility	US 321	SR 1108 (Mission Road)	SR 1933 (Southwest Boulevard).	Add Additional Lanes.	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	F	11	Greater Hickory MPO	Caldwell	Sibling of a funded project in the 2026-2035 STIP
H141130	Highway	I-5874	Division Needs*	I-40	SR 1142 (Jamestown Road) - Exit 100	N/A	Upgrade interchange	8 - Improve Interchange	G	13	Greater Hickory MPO	Burke	Active NEPA/SEPA
H141920	Highway	I-5875	Division Needs*	I-40	SR 1712 (Drexel Road) - Exit 107	N/A	SR 1712 (Drexel Raod). Upgrade Interchange.	8 - Improve Interchange	G	13	Greater Hickory MPO	Burke	Active NEPA/SEPA

June 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.	60%
DL00338	Alexander	SR 1108, SR 1110, SR 1150, SR 1235, SR 1409, SR 1422	Resurfacing for 13.17 miles.	Underway.	6%
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.	7%
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.	Project Complete.	100%
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.	78%
C204716	Burke	B-5869/ Bridge #99 over Norfolk Southern Railroad on Us-64/ US 70 in Morganton.	Bridge Replacement.	Underway.	47%
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.	35%

Active Projects Under Development in Alexander and Catawba Counties

Contract/ TIP #	County	Route	Project Description	Status	% Complete
U-4700A	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 2027.	NA
U-5777	Catawba	NC 127	Add turn lanes from 1st Ave SE to 2nd Ave SE.	Project has been let and awarded on May 20, 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 2030 and FY 2034 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 2029 respectively. Engineering work is ongoing. Right of Way acquisition to begin this Summer.	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
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 Construction in FY 2031. Right of Way in progress.	NA