

## Appendix C – Public Involvement for 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan

In order for transportation planning to be effective, MPOs must take active steps to encourage public participation. The Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization (GHMPO) has been focusing its efforts to include the public in five key ways:

1. Website and Social Media
2. Surveys
3. Flyers
4. Developing Diverse Contact Lists
5. Conducting Public Events and Meetings

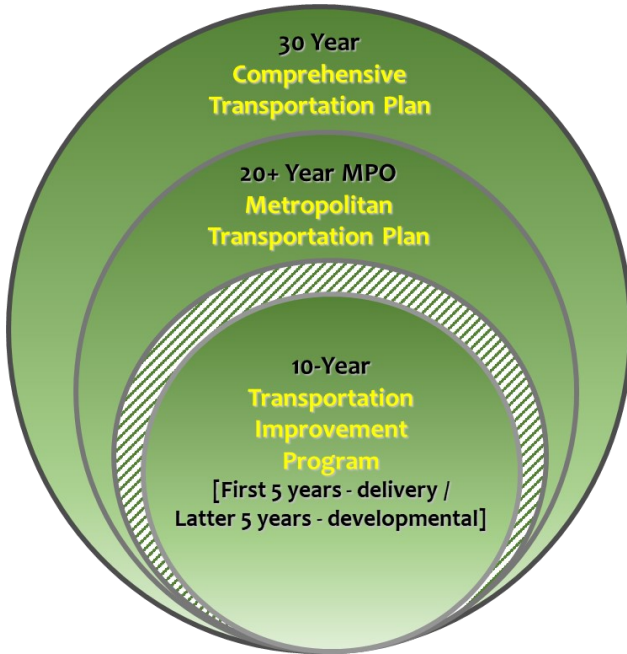
While many of the more important GHMPO events were included in the “Public Involvement” chapter, the GHMPO has since conducted several meetings specifically focused on public input for the draft MTP. Aside from surveys and presentations made to the Transportation Advisory Committee, the GHMPO also conducted five public input meetings and a public hearing shortly before MTP adoption. These meetings covered all chapters and materials included in the MTP. All comments were considered and included in the final MTP.

The following includes:

- Flyers distributed before each meeting
- MTP Public Hearing Notice
- MTP Open House sign-in sheets
- Comments received through surveys and in-person
- The survey analyses of the *2045 Metropolitan Plan Survey* and the *Public Comment of Draft MTP Survey*
- The voluntary Title VI Public Involvement form offered at each public meeting

## Draft Plans for Public Comment MTP 2045 & CTP

Everyone who uses the transportation system (a road, a railroad, a bike path, a sidewalk, or a transit route) has a role in developing the area's key transportation plans, including the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) and the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).



**On the web:**

<http://www.wpcog.org/transportation>

## Community Information Meeting

**Your input is important—  
We Need Your Participation!**

Join us for an open house at  
**Ridgeview Library**  
Monday, June 25, 3-5pm

**Can't make the meeting?  
Go online for a survey:**



[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/  
GHMPO2045](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GHMPO2045)



**Do You Need Auxiliary Aids,  
Translation, or Interpretive  
Services?**

*The Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG) is committed to nondiscrimination and ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in any WPCOG program or activity based on race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Meetings must be accessible to all participants and reasonable accommodations and language assistance services will be made available to anyone who wishes to participate.*

*Please let an WPCOG staff member at this meeting know if you need assistance with auxiliary aids, translation, or any interpretive services. We want to make sure everyone gets the information they need and knows they play an important role in planning the area's transportation future.*



**WPCOG**  
Planning & Transportation

**A Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) serves as** an area's defining vision for future transportation needs for expected growth and development over a 25 year period. The plan is updated every 5 years.

To find out more information about regional transportation planning, please contact:

**Brian Horton**

**Averi Ritchie**

**828-485-4225**

**828-485-4248**

**brian.horton@**

**averi.ritchie@**

**wpcog.org**

**wpcog.org**

**On the web:**

**[www.wpcog.org/transportation](http://www.wpcog.org/transportation)**

**DRIVING**



**WALKING AND BIKING**



**RIDING THE BUS OR TRAIN**



**ARE ALL INCLUDED IN A METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

**A Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is important because:**

- It is **required** by both state and federal law
- It **helps local officials** make informed decisions about land use
- It positions the area's transportation system to **best serve the community** as it grows and develops.
- It helps keep the transportation system **safe, efficient, and effective** by identifying where future travel demand will generate the need for improvements.
- It is the **first step** in competing for limited **transportation funding**.
- It **balances** local priorities with regional and statewide goals



**Community input is needed from you throughout the process!**

# Hickory Daily Record

## Advertising Affidavit

Account Number

3178075

PO Box 968  
Hickory, NC 28603

Date

June 27, 2018

WESTERN PIEDMONT COUNCIL OF GV  
PO BOX 9026  
HICKORY, NC 28603



Date	Category	Description	Ad Number	Ad Size
06/27/2018	Legal Notices	Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization will host a	0000477194	2 x 10 L

GREATER HICKORY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION will host a public hearing for the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) on Wednesday, July 25, at 10:00 AM. The 2045 MTP guides Federal transportation funding for the four-county region recommending over \$2 billion in projects through 2045. The draft plan is available online at [wpcog.org/transportation](http://wpcog.org/transportation). For more information contact, Brian Horton at 828-322-9191.

Publish: June 27, 2018.

### Publisher of Hickory Daily Record Catawba County

Before the undersigned, a Notary Public of Iredell County, North Carolina, duly commissioned, qualified, and authorized by law to administer oaths, in said County and State; that he/she is authorized to make this affidavit and sworn statement; that the notice or other legal advertisement, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the Hickory Daily Record on the following dates:

06/27/2018

and that the said newspaper in which such notice, or legal advertisement was published, was a newspaper meeting all the requirements and qualifications of Section 1-597 of the General Statutes of North Carolina.

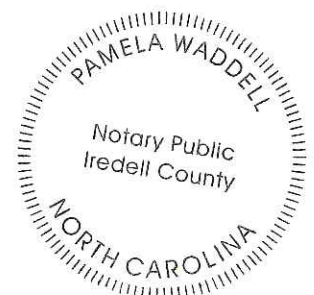
Assistant Bookkeeper

Newspaper reference: 0000477194

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 28 day of June, 2018

Notary Public

My Commission expires: May 27, 2022



THIS IS NOT A BILL. PLEASE PAY FROM INVOICE. THANK YOU



**Meeting Date:** June 7, 2018 (4-6pm)

**Location:** Taylorsville CVCC – Rm. 103

[illegible]

# Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) and Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Open House

## Sign In Sheet

6/12/2018 – Ridgeview Library in Hickory  
(Please Print)

Name	Organization/Address	E-Mail Address	Phone (with area code)
1. JOHN MARSHALL	CITY of Hickory	jmarshall@hickorync.gov	828-323-7534
2. HANK GUESS	CITY of Hickory	hguess@hickorync.gov	323-7412
3. Vidal Sipe	Hickory PD	vsipe@hickorync.gov	323-7066
4. Parna Cook	NC DOT		
5. Averi Ritchie	GTHMPD		
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			



**Meeting Date:** June 13, 2018 (4-6pm)

**Location:** Morganton City Hall

[illegible]



**Meeting Date:** June 21, 2018 (4-6pm)

**Location:** Caldwell Public Library

[illegible]



# MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Topic: MTP / CTP / P5 Meeting - Catawba County

Meeting Date: 6/25/18

Facilitator: GHMPO

Location: Ridgeview Library

Name	Organization	Phone	E-Mail
I. B. Clough			jblairclough@aol.com
JERRY THOMPSON	5180-WRIGHT DR 28602	828-294-2080	
Genie Yang			
Debra Horie			
Dan Williams			
Hank Guess	City of Hickory		hguesse@hickorync.gov
John Marshall	City of Hickory	828 323 7534	jmarshall@hickorync.gov
DALE CORNWELL	DR NE 4277 ARROWHEAD	828-256-5153	
TONY JAMES		828 328 9449	
Ross Zelenka	CoH	828 323 7496	
Pam Cook	NCDOT-TPD		

County	Comment on Draft Plan	MTP Action	Notes
Alexander	Realign intersection of Alspaugh Dam Road and NC 16	Modernization of NC 16 recommended by 2035	Comment also forwarded to NCDOT
	Consider safety improvements to Bethlehem School Rd	Widening of NC 127 may realign Bethlehem School Rd	
	Ensure NC 127 widening isn't delayed beyond current TIP	R/W in 2021; Construction in 2023	
	Extensive widening of NC 127 is not necessary and could benefit from a middle turn lane	Widening is planned by 2025, but environmental process will look at alternatives	NCDOT is currently in the design phase of this project. All comments are forwarded.
	NC 127 needs 2 bridges over Lake Hickory	Widening of NC 127 would result in four lanes over Lake Hickory	NCDOT is currently in the design phase of this project. All comments are forwarded.
	Upgrade Rink Dam Rd and/or Teague Town Rd between NC 16 & 127	Modernization of each added to CTP	
	Pave Lackey Rd between Hiddenite Church and Sulphur Springs Rds	Not on CTP system	Forwarded to NCDOT
	Alternate access to Barret Mountain from Blackenship Rd	Not on CTP system	To be evaluated by Alexander County Planning
	Safety improvements to Millersville Road and NC 16 intersection	Modernization of NC 16 recommended by 2035	Comment also forwarded to NCDOT
	More sidewalks and caution lights along US 64/NC 90	Safety improvements and modernization is recommended by 2035	
Burke	Additional bus stops near Morganton public housing	New service included in MTP	New route modified to increase housing access
	Incorrect project limits for US 70 widening to Icard	Updated CTP project limits to Icard School Rd	
Caldwell	Curves along NC 268 are unsafe	Modernization of NC 268 recommended by 2045	Smaller interim project to be evaluated by NCDOT
	Future interchange desired on US 321 at River Bend Dr	Expressway classification but superstreet planned by 2035	
	US 321 / NC 127 connector needs to be removed	Retained in draft CTP, but not funded by 2045	
	US 321 / NC 127 connector is needed	Future connection in CTP	Feasibility Study underway
	Need Public Transit	Included as a Performance Goal in the "Performance Measures" chapter of the MTP	
	5 Points intersection in Dudley Shoals needs attention	Construction for roundabout set for 2019/ROW 2018	Currently being addressed by NCDOT
	More pedestrian and bike friendly streets in Lenoir	Proposed bike and pedestrian improvements along US 321	
	US 321 from the I-40 interchange past Lenoir would benefit from a bypass	Feasibility Study recommended by 2045 for Southwest Blvd/Creekway Drive Bypass	
Catawba	Keep left-turn access on NC 127 in Viewmont	5- to 4-lane conversion recommended by 2035	Highest scoring local project in Regional Impact round of STI
	Need additional bike routes	Crossings included in US 321 and NC 127 projects	Bike loop in planning with City of Hickory
	NC 127 Mountainview description lacked bike-ped facilities	Project description updated	Early environmental work has started
	Upgrade streets to allow Lenoir Rhyne University growth	Immediate area streets not recommended for roadway improvements	Bike improvements being evaluated by NCDOT and Hickory
	Look at signal timing	Timing of signals covered by operations	Comment forwarded to NCDOT
	Address speed limits in residential areas	Speed limits covered by operations	Comment forwarded to NCDOT
	Highway 70 in Hickory needs more consistent sidewalks and safer pedestrian crossings	Proposed pedestrian improvements on roads connecting to US 70	Comment forwarded to NCDOT
	McDonald Parkway needs to connect to NC 127 with 4 lanes	29th Ave Extension proposed for 2035	
	Address speed limits on NC 16 from Newton to existing 4 lane section at Tower Rd.	Speed limits covered by operations	Comment forwarded to NCDOT
	Taylor Ridge Road needs gravel	Not on CTP system	Comment forwarded to NCDOT

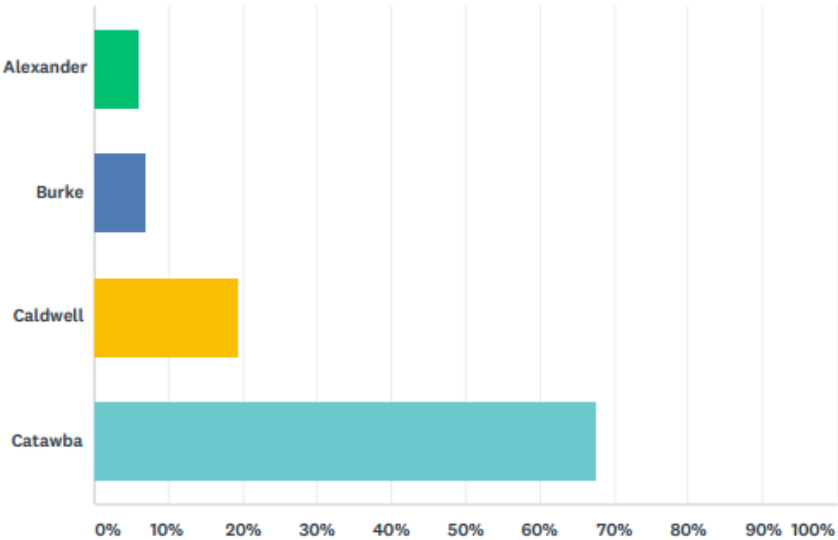
## 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Survey

Surveys serve as a useful public input tool for the GHMPO. The GHMPO frequently uses Survey Monkey to gather input, gauge the public’s general interest in potential projects and determine public sentiment regarding transportation issues. The GHMPO released the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Survey to determine the needs and wants of citizens throughout the development of the MTP. This information was used to better prioritize investments and projects in the coming years.

The following is an analysis of the “2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan” Survey Results:

### Q1 What county do you live in?

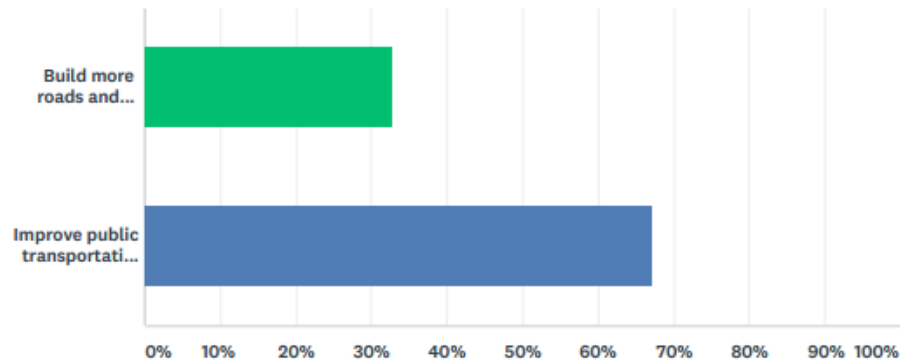
Answered: 665   Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Alexander	6.02%	40
Burke	6.92%	46
Caldwell	19.55%	130
Catawba	67.52%	449
TOTAL		665

Q2 Which of the following two options do you feel is the best to increase the overall quality of life in the area?

Answered: 657 Skipped: 15



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Build more roads and expand existing roads	32.88%	216
Improve public transportation, and make walking and biking easier and safer	67.12%	441
TOTAL		657

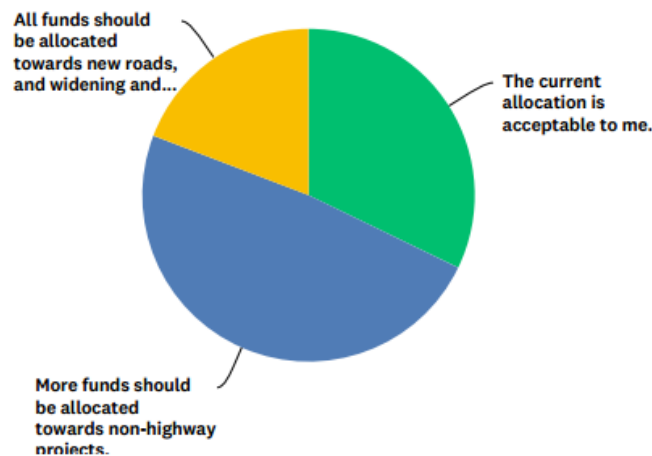
The following “word cloud” displays the most popular trends throughout open-ended responses. The larger the word, the more responses that word received. 430 respondents provided open-ended responses.

Q3 Think of a time you have visited another town or city. Did you notice anything transportation-related that you would like to see in the region? If so, please provide details below.



Q4 The Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) Law workgroup's policy, (with agreement with the NCDOT Board of Transportation), has agreed that at least 4% (and no more than 10%) of regional and division transportation money should be spent on non-highway projects (bike, pedestrian, public transit), with the remaining funds to be spent on highways projects. Which of the following best describes your general view on how transportation funds are allocated?

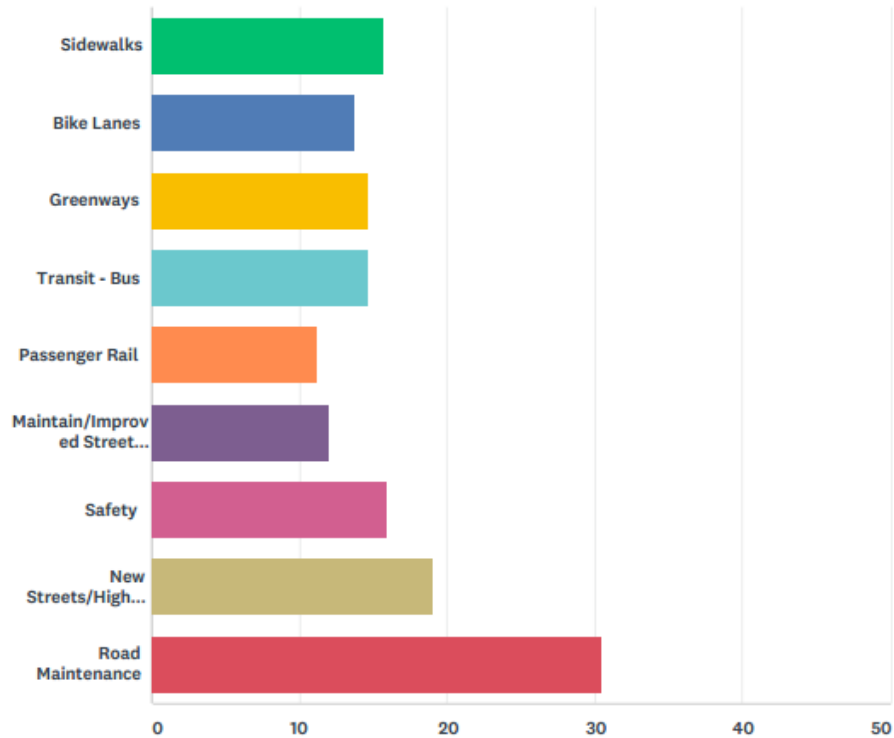
Answered: 631 Skipped: 41



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
The current allocation is acceptable to me.	32.17%	203
More funds should be allocated towards non-highway projects.	48.65%	307
All funds should be allocated towards new roads, and widening and upgrading existing roads.	19.18%	121
TOTAL		631

Q5 If you had \$100 to spend on the following transportation improvements, how would you spend it?. Remember, you can only spend \$100. Please provide a numerical value (minus the \$ sign) in the boxes below. These numbers should add up to 100.

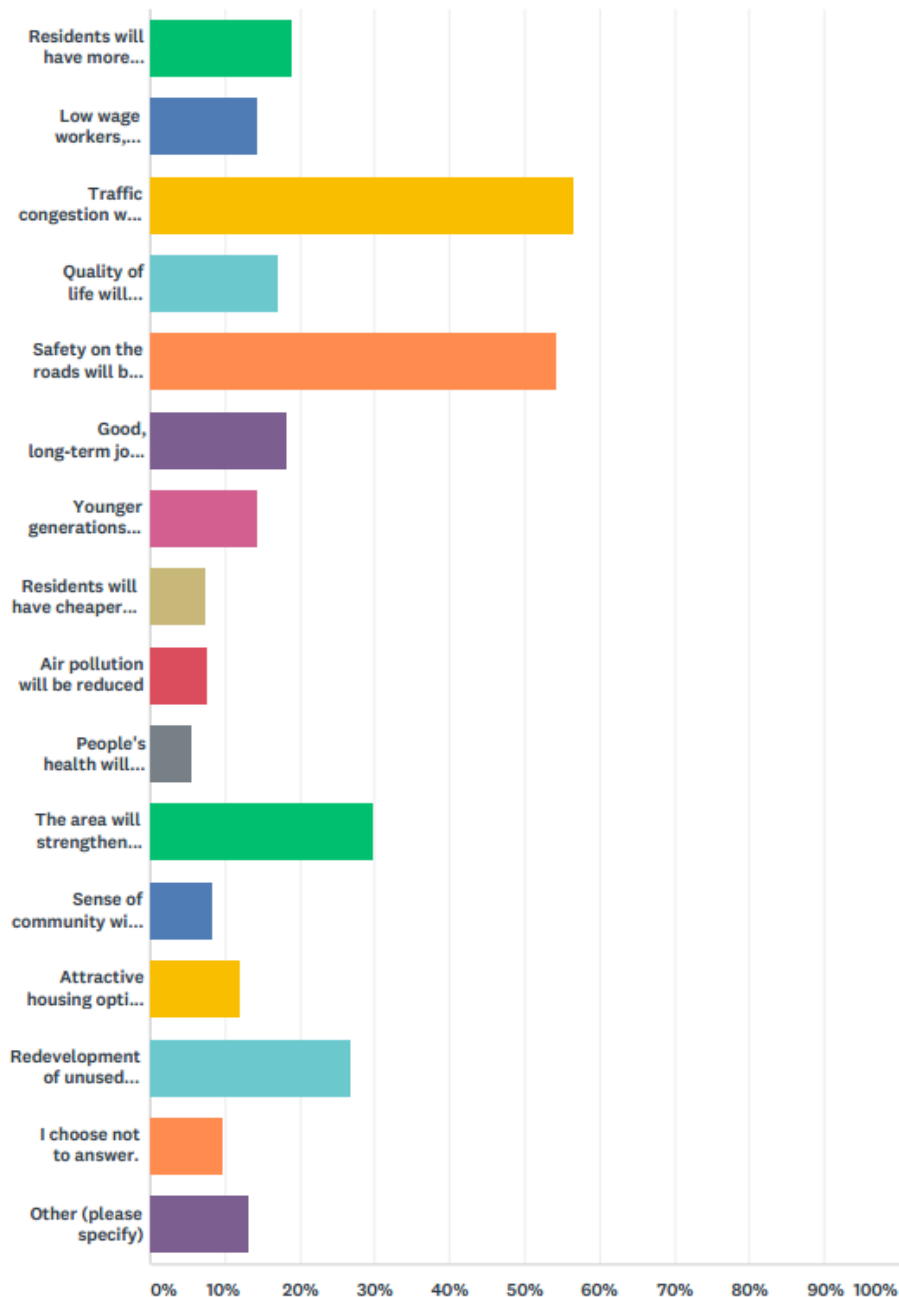
Answered: 596 Skipped: 76



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
Sidewalks	16	7,172	456
Bike Lanes	14	5,450	399
Greenways	15	5,854	400
Transit - Bus	15	5,281	360
Passenger Rail	11	3,044	272
Maintain/Improved Street Appearance	12	4,530	377
Safety	16	6,441	406
New Streets/Highways	19	6,594	346
Road Maintenance	30	15,234	500
Total Respondents: 596			

Q6 In a hypothetical scenario, if 100% of funding were allocated towards only highway improvements for the next five years, which of the following would be a likely outcome? Please check all that apply.

Answered: 591 Skipped: 81



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Residents will have more transportation options	18.78%	111
Low wage workers, seniors, and the disabled will have an easier time getting where they need to go	14.21%	84
Traffic congestion will be reduced	56.51%	334
Quality of life will improve	17.26%	102
Safety on the roads will be improved	54.15%	320
Good, long-term jobs will be created and maintained	18.27%	108
Younger generations will be attracted to the area	14.21%	84
Residents will have cheaper transportation options	7.28%	43
Air pollution will be reduced	7.45%	44
People's health will improve	5.41%	32
The area will strengthen economically	29.61%	175
Sense of community will heighten	8.46%	50
Attractive housing options will be created	11.84%	70
Redevelopment of unused and/or decayed properties will occur.	26.73%	158
I choose not to answer.	9.64%	57
Other (please specify)	13.20%	78

A word cloud was used to analyze responses in the “Other” category:

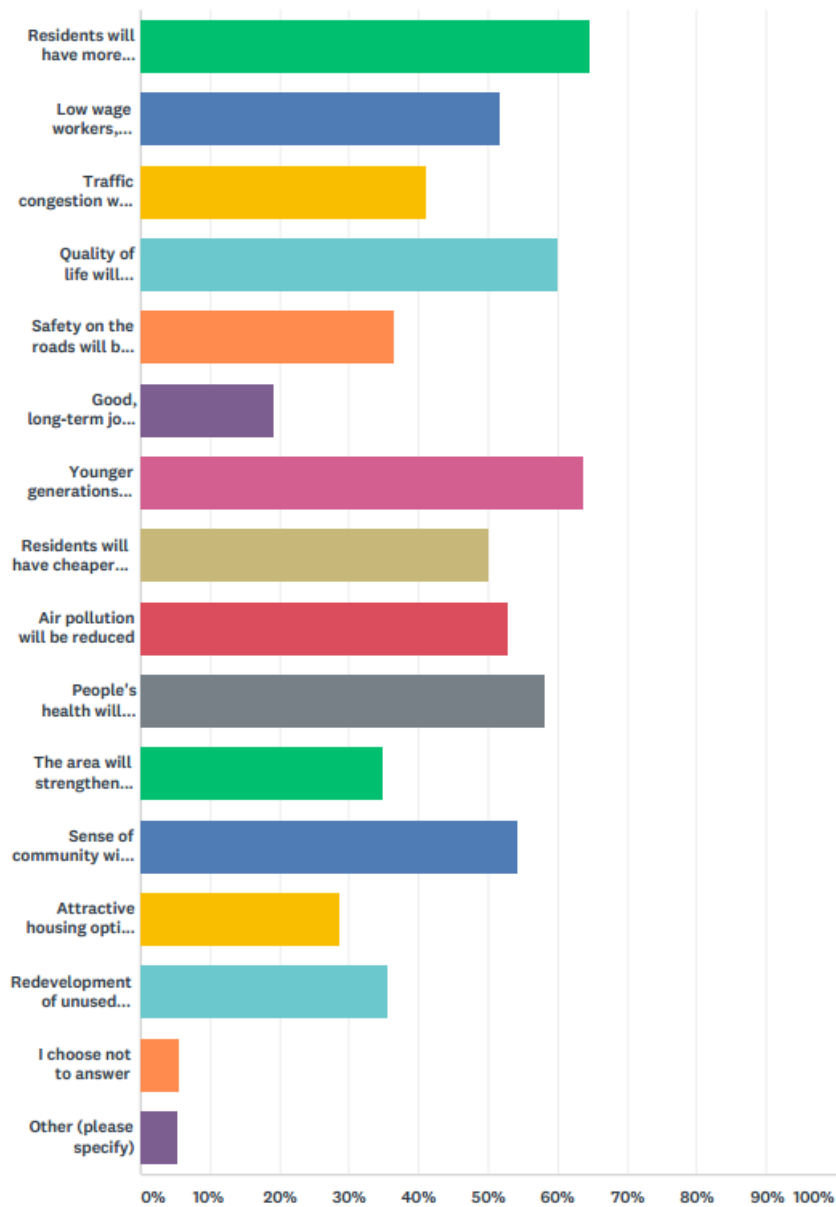
Q6 In a hypothetical scenario, if 100% of funding were allocated towards only highway improvements for the next five years, which of the following would be a likely outcome? Please check all that apply.

occur use funds reduces area happen None community roads  
congestion highway opposite will think improvements  
options traffic need question transportation

Q7 In a hypothetical scenario, if 100% of funding were allocated towards non-highway improvements (including bike, rail, public transportation, sidewalks, greenways, safety, aesthetics) for the next five years, which of the following would be a likely outcome? Please check all that apply.

Answered: 581 Skipped: 91





ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Residents will have more transportation options	64.54%	375
Low wage workers, seniors, and the disabled will have an easier time getting where they need to go	51.64%	300
Traffic congestion will be reduced	40.96%	238
Quality of life will improve	60.07%	349
Safety on the roads will be improved	36.32%	211

Good, long-term jobs will be created and maintained	19.28%	112
Younger generations will be attracted to the area	63.51%	369
Residents will have cheaper transportation options	49.91%	290
Air pollution will be reduced	52.84%	307
People's health will improve	58.18%	338
The area will strengthen economically	34.77%	202
Sense of community will heighten	54.22%	315
Attractive housing options will be created	28.74%	167
Redevelopment of unused and/or decayed properties will occur	35.63%	207
I choose not to answer	5.68%	33
Other (please specify)	5.16%	30

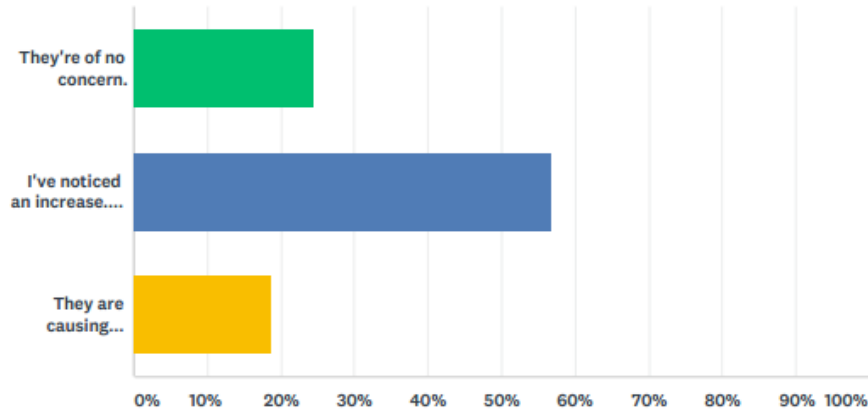
A word cloud was used to analyze responses in the “Other” category:

Q7 In a hypothetical scenario, if 100% of funding were allocated towards non-highway improvements (including bike, rail, public transportation, sidewalks, greenways, safety, aesthetics) for the next five years, which of the following would be a likely outcome? Please check all that apply.

existing roads roads people want non viable area improve will etc options  
younger need bike highway improvements

Q8 Due in part to advancing technologies and the rise of e-commerce (think Amazon) highway freight is expected to increase 44% nationally over the next 25 years. What is your general attitude about the amount of commercial trucks in the area?

Answered: 567 Skipped: 105



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
They're of no concern.	24.51%	139
I've noticed an increase. They cause slight inconveniences, but nothing major.	56.79%	322
They are causing congestion and increasing my travel time.	18.69%	106

A word cloud was used to analyze responses in the "Other" category:

Q8 Due in part to advancing technologies and the rise of e-commerce (think Amazon) highway freight is expected to increase 44% nationally over the next 25 years. What is your general attitude about the amount of commercial trucks in the area?

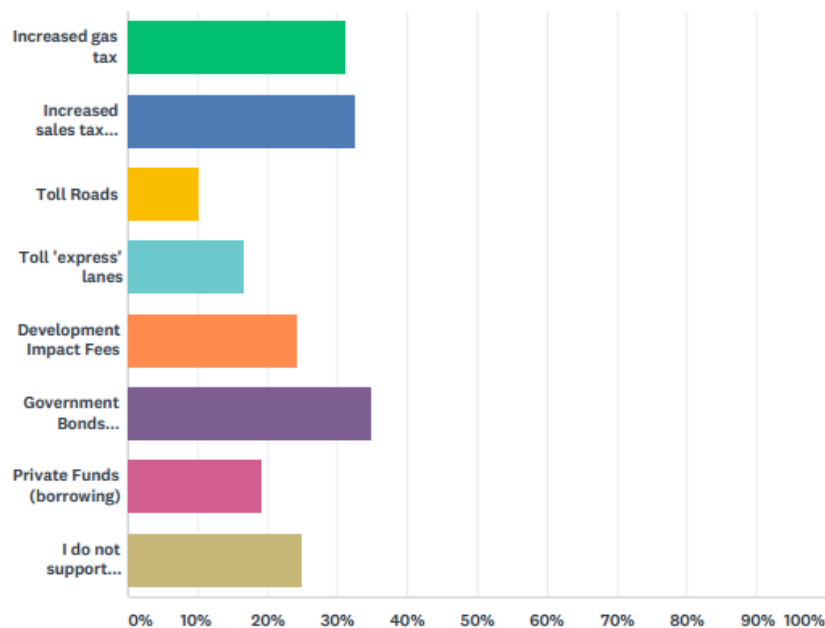
area noticed better will traffic travel increase freight  
roads use trucks drive need drivers lane delivery  
highway congestion rail commercial

Q9 In the space below, please provide any thoughts or concerns in regards to aviation in the area.

think service use nice Hickory airport None Hickory fly  
 area commercial airport options need air  
 aviation planes flights concerns Charlotte see

Q10 If additional money is needed for improvements, which of the following would you support, if any (check all that apply)?

Answered: 551 Skipped: 121



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Increased gas tax	31.22%	172
Increased sales tax dedicated to transportation	32.49%	179
Toll Roads	9.98%	55
Toll 'express' lanes	16.52%	91
Development Impact Fees	24.32%	134
Government Bonds (borrowing)	34.66%	191
Private Funds (borrowing)	19.24%	106
I do not support additional money. I want to only use existing funds	24.86%	137

A word cloud was used to analyze responses in the “Comments” category:

Q10 If additional money is needed for improvements, which of the following would you support, if any (check all that apply)?

transportation fuel toll better funds state money will roads gas  
tax issue increase projects use think local help government  
pay

Q11 Thank you for your time! Please provide any additional comments or concerns in the box below.

money going Hickory survey city transportation people traffic  
need public transportation area see roads make will sidewalks  
good community also improve

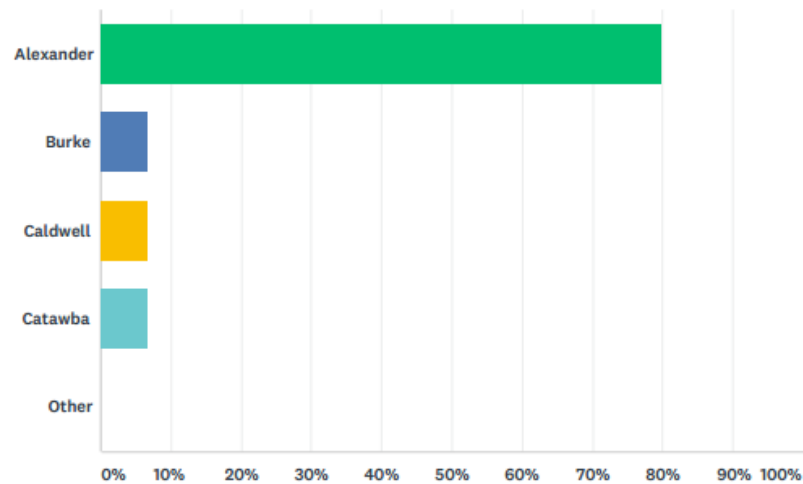
# Public Comment of Draft MTP

After draft MTP Chapters were completed and presented to the Transportation Advisory Committee, a survey was completed for public input for any changes or additions to chapters.

The following is an analysis of the “Public Comment of Draft MTP Survey Results”:

## Q1 What county do you live in?

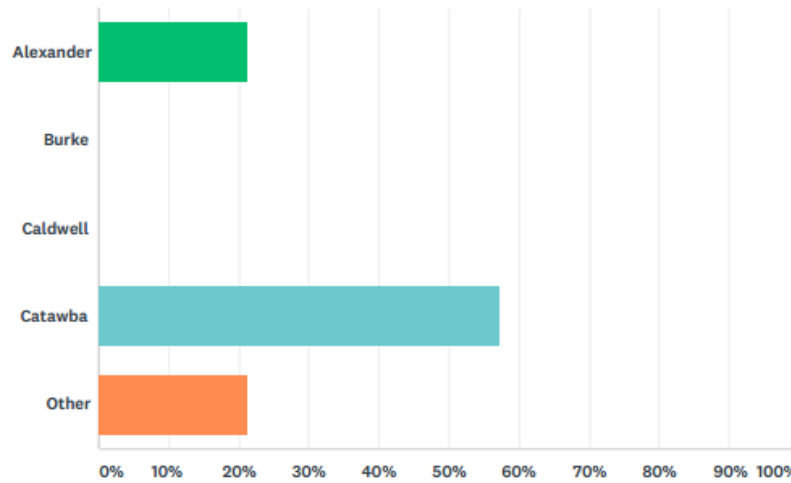
Answered: 15    Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Alexander	80.00%	12
Burke	6.67%	1
Caldwell	6.67%	1
Catawba	6.67%	1
Other	0.00%	0

## Q2 What county do you work in?

Answered: 14 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Alexander	21.43%	3
Burke	0.00%	0
Caldwell	0.00%	0
Catawba	57.14%	8
Other	21.43%	3

## Q3 In the space below, please provide any thoughts or concerns in regards to the MTP recommended projects in Alexander County.

Answered: 5 Skipped: 10

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Extensive widening of 127 is not necessary. A simple middle turn lane would be sufficient for many, many years in the future. Bethlehem does not have that much room to grow.	6/8/2018 12:43 PM
2	Need 2 NC 127 bridges over Lake Hickory	6/8/2018 11:07 AM
3	HWY 127 needs to be widened and the bridge across to Catawba county needs replacement	6/7/2018 8:14 AM
4	127 expansion must be completed sooner. Must accommodate bike riders with their own lanes.	6/6/2018 1:33 PM
5	They need more sidewalks.and. more cautions light .specialist on 64 90.	6/6/2018 11:45 AM

**Q4 In the space below, please provide any thoughts or concerns in regards to the MTP recommended projects in Burke County.**

Answered: 1   Skipped: 14

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	More playground for the kids	6/6/2018 11:46 AM

**Q5 In the space below, please provide any thoughts or concerns in regards to the MTP recommended projects in Caldwell County.**

Answered: 1   Skipped: 14

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	None	6/6/2018 11:46 AM

**Q6 In the space below, please provide any thoughts or concerns in regards to the MTP recommended projects in Catawba County.**

Answered: 1   Skipped: 14

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	McDonald parkway needs to be connected to HWY 127 with 4 lanes	6/7/2018 8:15 AM

**Q7 Thank you for your time! Please provide any additional comments or concerns in the box below.**

Answered: 2   Skipped: 13

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Need to speed up NC 16 from Newton to Existing 4 lane section at Tower Rd Citizens have waited long enough Thank You	6/8/2018 11:09 AM
2	you should take a look at taylor ridge rd it could use some gravel so they will stop driving through my yard to miss the holes	6/6/2018 1:03 PM





## TITLE VI PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FORM

Completing this form is **completely voluntary**. You are not required to provide the information requested in order to participate in this meeting.

<b>Meeting:</b> <b>Location:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related authorities, the Greater Hickory Metropolitan Planning Organization (GHMPO) assures that no person(s) shall be excluded from participation in any of its programs or activities based on their race, color, national origin, disability, age, gender, or income.

**Completing this form helps us meet our data collection and public involvement obligations and will help us to better serve you.**

Please place your completed form on the sign-in table, hand it to an MPO/RPO official or mail it to the Western Piedmont Council of Governments, 1880 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave NW, Hickory, NC 28601. All forms will remain on file at the GHMPO as part of the public record.

<b>Zip Code:</b> _____	<b>Gender:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
<b>Street Name:</b> (i.e. Main Street) _____	<b>Age:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 18 <input type="checkbox"/> 45-64 <input type="checkbox"/> 18-29 <input type="checkbox"/> 65 and older <input type="checkbox"/> 30-44
<b>Total Household Income:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$12,000 <input type="checkbox"/> \$47,000 – \$69,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$12,000 – \$19,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$70,000 – \$93,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000 – \$30,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$94,000 – \$117,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$31,000 – \$46,999 <input type="checkbox"/> \$118,000 or greater	<b>Have a Disability:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Race/Ethnicity:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African American <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian/Alaskan Native <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____	<b>National Origin:</b> (if born outside the U.S.) <input type="checkbox"/> Mexican <input type="checkbox"/> Central American: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> South American: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rican <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese <input type="checkbox"/> Korean <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
<b>How did you hear about this meeting?</b> _____	

For more information regarding Title VI or this request, please contact Averi Ritchie at 828.485.4248, or by email at [averi.ritchie@wpcog.org](mailto:averi.ritchie@wpcog.org).

Thank you for your participation!