

## What is the Comprehensive Transportation Plan?

The Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) represents a community's long-term vision for how the local transportation network should evolve to serve residents and employers in a growing region.



The CTP includes multiple modes of transportation, meaning that it will focus on highways, pedestrian facilities (sidewalks and trails), bicycle facilities, public transportation and rail. Attention to each of these transportation modes allows us to better provide for a broad range of transportation choices.

The CTP assesses the condition of the entire transportation network and serves as the framework for transportation planning efforts at the local and regional scale.

By including all modes of travel (not just cars), the CTP provides a comprehensive inventory of an evolving multi-modal transportation network to support CRTPO and its local partners as they plan to meet the needs of a growing and diversifying population.

The CTP does not include specific transportation projects or improvement schedules, but instead represents the status or completeness of the comprehensive transportation system that may be required to support anticipated growth and development.



## How Does the CTP Relate to the Thoroughfare Plan?

The CTP will ultimately replace the existing Thoroughfare Plan, but will serve the same purpose and in the same capacity as the Thoroughfare Plan has for over 50 years. The CTP is an enhanced plan as it focuses on multiple modes of transportation, as opposed to motor vehicles only, and it assesses the condition of the transportation network for each of the transportation modes.

## ADDITIONAL FEATURES OF A COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

	Comprehensive Transportation Plan	Thoroughfare Plan
Framework for transportation investment decisions	✓	✓
Basis for identifying projects for other planning efforts	✓	✓
Serves as a tool for coordinating land use and transportation planning	✓	✓
Includes Highways	✓	✓
Includes Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Public Transportation/Rail Facilities	✓	
Shows where changes are needed	✓	

### How was the CTP prepared?

Local jurisdictions in the CRTPO region determined the completeness of each segment of highway (or street), pedestrian facility, bike facility, or public transportation network, based in large part on locally adopted plans, policies, and expectations for the future. Segments were categorized as existing, needs improvement, or recommended. These categories are described below.

### What information is shown in the CTP for each mode?

The CTP includes four maps that illustrate how communities assess and envision their future transportation network.



1. **Highway/Street Map**  
Describes and assesses the transportation network for motor vehicles (not including local and subdivision streets)
2. **Pedestrian Map**  
Describes and assesses the network for sidewalks and trails
3. **Bicycle Map**  
Describes and assesses the network for bicycle lanes and trails
4. **Public Transportation and Rail Map**  
Describes and assesses the public transportation and freight rail networks

Transportation facilities are categorized as:

Existing

The existing facility is not expected to change. The facility may be considered adequate based on a variety of factors such as appropriate design, expected future traffic volumes, consistency with adopted plans, or livability objectives. The facility may also be considered adequate based on its context within the larger transportation network or because it is unbuildable due to physical constraints.

Needs Improvement

The existing facility or service is (or is expected to be) inadequate and should be changed to accommodate expected traffic volumes, improve inadequate design or identified safety issues, reflect pedestrian and bicycle facilities shown in adopted plans, improve poorly designed facilities, or fill in connectivity gaps.

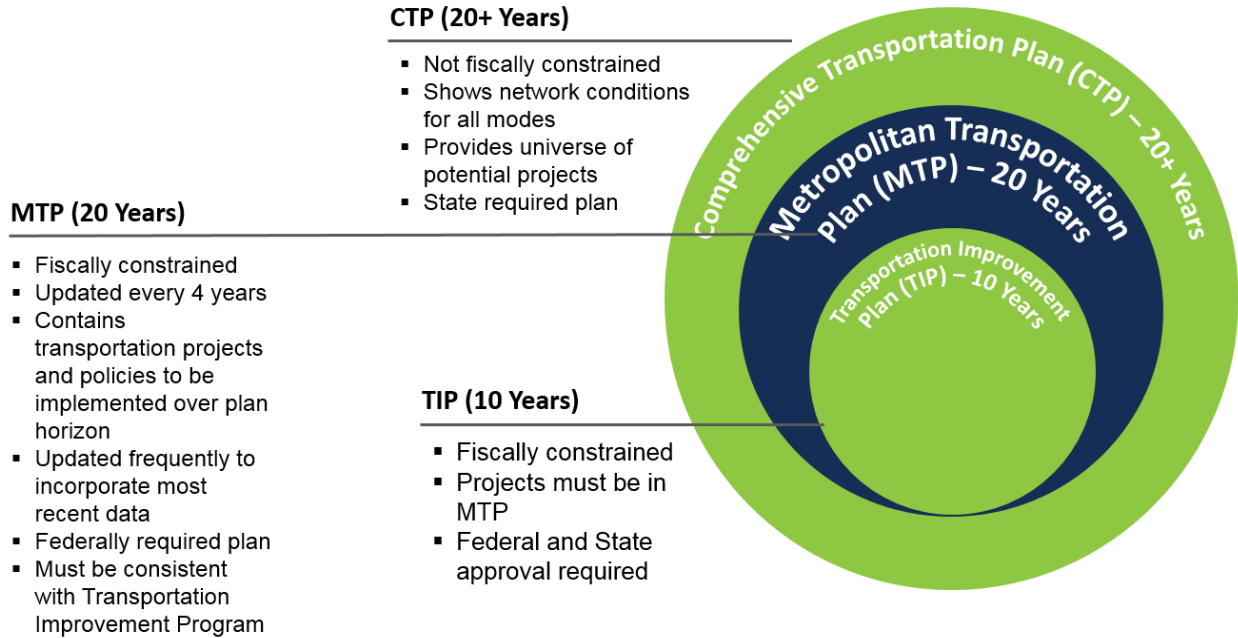
Recommended

There are no existing facilities or services and a new facility or service is needed.

## **How does the CTP impact future transportation plans and projects?**

By establishing the region’s future transportation needs, the CTP offers an organized way to identify, and eventually prioritize, the transportation projects that will be built in the communities that comprise CRTPO. Local governments may use the CTP to inform local land use decision-making and transportation planning initiatives and to more clearly communicate transportation expectations with residents, developers, and NCDOT.

The CTP also serves as a framework for selecting future transportation projects for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), which identifies transportation projects prioritized for funding over the next 20 years. Once projects are in the MTP, projects are then selected to be placed in the even shorter-term Transportation Investment Program (TIP) that NCDOT uses to program projects for construction.



## What will actually be adopted in 2016?

In 2016, the CRTPO policy board and the North Carolina Board of Transportation will be asked to mutually adopt the four locally-produced CTP maps.

After adoption, the multi-modal CTP will be used for MPO planning processes. The cities and towns that make up the CRTPO region will work locally to transition between the Thoroughfare Plan and the CTP.



## How will the CTP be implemented after adoption?

The CTP will be implemented in a variety of ways, since there are several methods by which highways, streets, pedestrian, bike, and public transit facilities get built. Transportation projects can be built or improved as public construction projects or in conjunction with land development projects.

Generally, segments shown as “Needs Improvement” or “Recommended” could become a project in the MTP, a locally-funded project, part of a development project, or may never become a project.

Each local jurisdiction will keep the thoroughfare plan in place for some time after the MPO adoption, as they work through their own implementation steps.

### ***How might local jurisdictions implement the CTP?***

- The CTP designations can help local jurisdictions develop, prioritize, and plan local projects;
- The CTP can assist with coordinating transportation planning efforts that fall within multiple jurisdictions;
- The CTP designations help jurisdictions more clearly communicate the local transportation vision by including multiple transportation modes; and
- Local jurisdictions can implement improvements through local ordinances or capital projects.



*The CTP strengthens connections between community Vision, adopted Land Development plans, and Transportation plans.*

### ***How will CRTPO implement the CTP?***

- The MTP will draw from the CTP for potential projects;
- The CTP maps and supporting documentation will be used to track historical information about the transportation network.
- The information in the CTP will help define expectations when the CRTPO is working with the State on project designs; and
- The CTP will serve as a source of information to ensure that future projects reflect the community's transportation vision.

### ***How will NCDOT implement the CTP?***

- NCDOT will use the CTP designations to develop future, funded transportation projects;
- The multi-modal CTP will help NCDOT better understand the comprehensive transportation vision for local jurisdictions and the CRTPO.



## How will changes be made to the CTP once it is adopted?

The CTP is a dynamic plan for the long-term future, and will evolve over time to reflect changing conditions, e.g. a street segment or sidewalk is built, or local plan and policy changes. Future amendments to the CTP will be made through a mutually agreed upon process in coordination with CRTPO and its member jurisdictions.

## What feedback is being requested and how will comments be used?

While you may be familiar with your local transportation vision, this is the first time that a regional, multi-modal vision has been prepared for adoption, and therefore, public comments are being requested. We would like your feedback on how highways, streets, sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and public transportation are categorized (existing, needs improvement, or recommended) and how your local transportation plans intersect with the wider network.

There are several ways you can provide input:

- 1) Visit the [CTP website](http://crtpo.org/comprehensive-transportation-plan) (<http://crtpo.org/comprehensive-transportation-plan>) to learn more about the CTP process, view regional maps (by mode), and provide comments and feedback.
- 2) Attend an Open House event near you (schedule on the [CTP website](http://crtpo.org/comprehensive-transportation-plan)).
- 3) Request a presentation for your community group (see the [CTP website](http://crtpo.org/comprehensive-transportation-plan) or [email](#)).

Your feedback will be used in the development of the CTP, and will be provided to your local transportation planning staff to inform the local transportation planning vision. Questions asked during the process will be answered through individual contact or through a “frequently asked questions” excerpt on the CTP website.

## How can I learn more?

If you would like to become more involved in the transportation planning process, please visit the [CTP website](http://crtpo.org/comprehensive-transportation-plan) (<http://crtpo.org/comprehensive-transportation-plan>) for details.