



Volume 3, Issue 2

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charlotte regional **transportation** planning organization

# NEWSLETTER

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August 19, 2015

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## CRTPO Leadership

### Chairman

Sarah McAulay  
Town of Huntersville

### Vice-Chairman

Brad Horvath  
Village of Wesley Chapel

### TCC Chairman

Danny Pleasant  
City of Charlotte  
Department of Transportation

### TCC Vice-Chairman

Joseph Lesch  
Union County

Contact, Website  
and MPO Members

[www.crtpo.org](http://www.crtpo.org)



# WORK CONTINUES ON THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

has begun on the DRAFT 2016-2025 Transportation Improvement Program

During the June 17 meeting, CRTPO's Policy Board voted to begin a 30-day public comment period on the DRAFT Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the associated 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) amendments, and Air Quality Conformity Determination Report that are associated with this process. The public comment period will begin on July 1 and will end on July 31. Prior to the June 17 CRTPO meeting, a joint MPO/TCC workshop was held to answer member questions regarding the DRAFT TIP. The workshop was open to the public.

CRTPO's TIP is a subset of NCDOT's State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and public involvement efforts should be similar in scope. The Strategic Transportation Investments legislation has created a quantitative, data-driven approach to develop the STIP, and process has limited public involvement to the local input point's assignment process. Feedback will be targeted to the process and geographic diversity of projects in CRTPO's MTIP. FHWA requires public involvement as part of MPOs adoption of the TIP, MTP amendments, and Air Quality Conformity Determination.

## TWO OPPORTUNITIES

### TO PROVIDE YOUR COMMENTS

- 1. Comments can be submitted via e-mail by clicking [HERE](#), or by mail to the address below:

CRTPO  
600 East Fourth Street, 8th floor  
Charlotte, NC 28202

- 2. In addition, the July 15 MPO meeting will serve as an opportunity for public comment on the DRAFT TIP. CRTPO will consider adopting the DRAFT TIP, 2040 MTP amendments, and making an Air Quality Conformity Determination at its August 19 meeting.

## VIEW PROJECTS IN CRTPO'S DRAFT TIP

The projects shown in the DRAFT TIP have originated through NCDOT's Prioritization 3.0 Process, or are discretionary funds (STP-DA and Bonus Allocation) that CRTPO has approved for inclusion in this document.

DRAFT TIP PROJECTS can be viewed in the maps and lists by county or by project category shown below:

<u>Iredell County:</u>		
<u>Mecklenburg County:</u>		
<u>Union County:</u>		
<u>Non-Highway:</u>		
<u>Public Transit:</u>	---	

## 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendments

Following the release of the DRAFT STIP by NCDOT, and the prioritization and programming of Bonus Allocation and STP-DA funds, a series of amendments to the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) were required to ensure that the plan was consistent with CRTPO's DRAFT TIP. Amendments were required to the 2040 MTP for the following reasons:

- To add new projects that were not previously in the 2040 MTP, but were identified in the DRAFT MTIP
- To move projects to a different horizon year in the 2040 MTP
- To change project extents in the 2040 MTP to match the limits in the DRAFT TIP.
  - » The CRTPO's DRAFT TIP is a subset of the 2040 MTP and both documents must match.

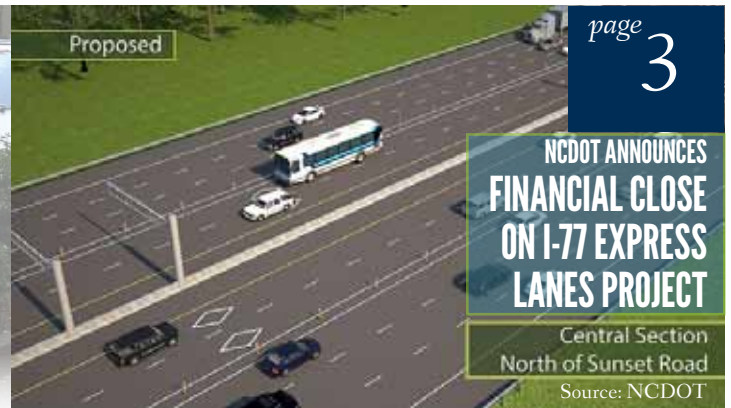
Click on the links below to view a map and list of proposed 2040 MTP amendments.

[MAP](#)

[LIST](#)

## Air Quality Conformity Process for the DRAFT TIP

The Clean Air Act requires CRTPO to demonstrate that its Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) conform to the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Transportation conformity is an important part of CRTPO's planning process. The Air Quality Conformity Determination Report can be viewed [HERE](#) and certifies that the projects proposed within the TIP and 2040 MTP are within the prescribed limits for air quality within the Charlotte region.



NCDOT and I-77 Mobility Partners announced that they had achieved financial close on the [I-77 Express Lanes Project](#) on Wednesday, May 20. Construction is slated to begin this summer on the innovative public-private partnership that will reduce congestion and provide reliable travel time to one of the state's most congested corridors.

Financial close means that both I-77 Mobility Partners and NCDOT have completed financing requirements necessary for the project to move forward. That process includes months of review by the Local Government Commission (that includes the State Treasurer, State Auditor, Secretary of State and Secretary of Revenue) and the Federal Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Credit Council. NCDOT received approval from both and secured funding at historically low interest rates.

Source: Excerpts from a NCDOT PRESS RELEASE, Wednesday, May 20, 2015

## NCDOT PRIORITIZATION 4.0 UPDATE

The Prioritization 4.0 (P4.0) Work Group has concluded with its final meeting on May 18. Throughout a nine-month period the Work Group evaluated the methodologies and criteria used in scoring projects in all modes during P3.0, and made recommendations to NCDOT to improve the overall process leading into P4.0. The North Carolina Board of Transportation will consider taking action to approve the recommendations at its July meeting. A summary of the P4.0 Work Group recommendations for the highway mode can be viewed by clicking on the link to view a map and list of proposed 2040 MTP amendments. [RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY](#).

CRTPO's involvement in the P4.0 process will begin this summer. During the month of July, CRTPO member jurisdictions and staff will be tasked with completing the following items:

- Evaluation of projects that are proposed for removal from the NCDOT database prior to P4.0 based upon a set of criteria defined by the P4.0 Work Group. Some of these projects could be added back to the NCDOT database using one of CRTPO's 20 project submittal windows.
- Identification of projects in the NCDOT database that are no longer needed. Removal of these projects will result in an additional project submittal for CRTPO.
- Modification of project scope and limits of current projects within the NCDOT database to ensure that they are accurate and competitive in the P4.0 process.

Staff will need to have an approved list of P4.0 projects by the end of October. Beginning in November and continuing until March of 2016, NCDOT will review and calculate quantitative scores for all projects throughout North Carolina.

# I-485 UPDATES

## WIDE PAVED SHOULDER

CRTPO's Policy Board took action on Tuesday, April 7 on the matter of the wide paved shoulder on I-485 between I-77 and Johnston Road.

The board determined that, because an HOV lane would be open to vehicular travel for only nine months, the costs associated with opening it outweighed any benefits. The lane would have to close due to the start of construction of managed lanes between I-77 and US 74 (Independence Boulevard) beginning in 2016. The board's action was consistent with a recommendation made by the CRTPO's Technical Coordinating Committee.



Source: NCDOT

## FINAL SEGMENT OPENS

The final 5.7 mile segment of the 67-mile I-485 Outer Loop opened on June 5 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The eight lane segment will link I-77 to I-85, and will provide an important regional mobility link. The I-485 project, along with the I-485 and I-85 interchange, and the I-85 Widening Project utilized a design-build process which results in significant cost savings and reduces the amount of time to complete these projects.



Source: NCDOT

## CONSULTANT SELECTED FOR THE GREATER CHARLOTTE REGION FREIGHT MOBILITY PLAN

The Centralina Council of Governments announced that CDM Smith, Inc. has been selected as the consultant for the Greater Charlotte Region Freight Study. This plan will address a number of logistical, infrastructure, land use and economic impact issues that have been previously identified through a series of public and private sector planning partnerships and economic development initiatives within the past decade.

The final outcome resulting from the development of a Greater Charlotte Regional Freight Mobility Plan will be a set of strategic recommendations and guidance that outlines decision-making processes and targeted regional actions and policies for priority investments within both urban and rural environments of the Greater Charlotte Region. This plan will be completed by the end of 2016.

## CRTPO members

- Charlotte
- Cornelius
- Davidson
- Fairview
- Huntersville
- Indian Trail
- Iredell County
- Marshville
- Marvin
- Matthews
- Mecklenburg County
- Metropolitan Transit Commission
- Mineral Springs
- Mint Hill
- Monroe
- Mooresville
- NCDOT
- Pineville
- Stallings
- Statesville
- Troutman
- Union County
- Waxhaw
- Weddington
- Wesley Chapel
- Wingate

## Website

Please visit our website for more information [www.crtpo.org](http://www.crtpo.org)

## Contacts

(704) 336-2205

If you know anyone who would like to be added to our mailing list, please e-mail us [info@crtpo.org](mailto:info@crtpo.org)



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