

7 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement is a key component of the metropolitan transportation development process. Title 23 of the United States Code, and 23 CFR part 450.316 require that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) establish and periodically review and update their public involvement processes. These processes should assure early and continued public awareness of and access to the transportation decision-making process. The development of plans and programs, and their amendments, shall meet all current Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) requirements.

The HPMPO strives to be proactive in soliciting public participation by providing complete information, timely public notices, and full public access to MPO activities at key stages of the decision-making process. The public participation policy attempts to ensure that communities most affected by particular plans or projects are afforded ample opportunity to participate in the development of these plans so that transportation decisions will reflect public priorities.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICY: MTP SECTION

To begin the planning process, a public information meeting will be held to provide information and the opportunity to make written and oral comments. Notice of the public information meeting will be given through various media outlets at least a week prior to the meeting.

At the conclusion of the planning process, the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) will review the draft MTP before releasing the document for a public review period of at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to adopting the MTP. The MTP document will be made available for public review in hardcopy at various locations throughout the MPO and online on the MPO website. Notice of the public review period with instructions on how to comment on the document will be given through various media outlets, such as newspaper, website, and social media.

A public hearing will be held at the conclusion of the public review period and will provide information and the opportunity for the public to make written and oral comments. Notice of the public hearing will be given through various media outlets at least a week prior to the meeting. Public comments received through the public involvement process will be documented and presented to the TAC at the public hearing for the MTP Review in summary form or verbatim at the MPO's discretion. Responses to public comments will be included as appropriate. Staff will take public comments into consideration when drafting the final MTP. The TAC will also consider public comments when deciding whether or not to approve the final MTP.

Additional strategies for informing and involving low income and minority communities will be used in addition to measures listed above that contribute to this objective such as newspaper advertising and the availability of documents in locations accessible to all citizens. Additional strategies will be tested, documented, and evaluated for inclusion in future Public Involvement Plan updates.

(For a copy of the complete HPMPO Public Participation Policy, contact the office at (336) 883-3225 or email HPMPO@HighPointNC.gov.)

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS FOR THE 2045 MTP

Public involvement for the 2045 MTP began on May 14, 2020 with a notice to inform the public that the MTP was being updated and to request that the public review the previous document and submit comments to help guide the development of the 2045 plan.

Once the DRAFT 2045 MTP was complete, staff offered a public review and comment period for the document from June 15, 2020 until July 31, 2020. A public advertisement was placed in all local papers and ran on the government channel of local cable access television. Notices were also dispersed on social media and email to subscribers. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions on public gatherings limited the ability to hold in-person meetings that were commonly held at libraries, community centers, and other public locations. However, staff provided an information table in the lobby of the High Point City Hall Municipal Building (211 S. Hamilton St, High Point) and were present from 8am to 4pm on Monday, July 13, 2020 through Friday, July 17, 2020 for the public to drop-in, ask questions, and leave comments.

To conclude the planning process, a final public hearing for the 2045 MTP was held at the regularly scheduled TAC meeting on August 25, 2020.

PUBLIC NOTICES

KICK OFF NOTICE (MAY 14, 2020)

Help Us Plan for the Future in Transportation

An essential part of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is learning what people think of transportation today and how it should serve us in the future. The 2045 MTP will look at the challenges and issues over the next 25-years. Key factors used to develop this plan include regional goals, projected population, job growth, transportation demand and public input. The HPMPO needs to know how people view the current transportation system as well as learn about people's ideas for future improvements. Go online to the High Point MPO website and view the existing 2040 MTP at <https://www.highpointnc.gov/287/Metropolitan-Transportation-Plan-MTP>.

Once we draft the 2045 MTP, we will make it available for public review and comment this summer (around June-July) with adoption anticipated to take place in August.

Given the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person meetings will not be held until we are approved to do so. All information will be provided through the MPO website and on social media. As we move forward in the planning process, there will be opportunities to present our Draft 2045 MTP to the public either in person or through videoconferencing. Those meeting times and locations will be advertised through local media, on our website, and on social media.

All information will be provided in an alternative form if requested.

For additional information please contact:

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High Point Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

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PUBLIC REVIEW NOTICE FOR THE DRAFT 2045 MTP (JUNE 15, 2020)

The High Point Metropolitan Planning Organization Seeks Public Review and Comment on the DRAFT Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) and the DRAFT 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

The CTP is a mutually adopted legal document between the state and the local area partner(s). When a CTP is adopted by NCDOT, it represents the state's concurrence with the identified transportation needs and proposed recommendations within the HPMPO area. The CTP is the element of the MTP that identifies all the transportation needs, but it is not constrained by funding or by year.

The MTP is a blueprint to guide the High Point Urban Area's transportation development over a 25-year period. Updated every five years to reflect changing conditions and new planning principles, the MTP looks at major urban transportation planning issues such as environmental/air quality; complete access to transportation; alternative transportation modes (i.e., transit, bicycle, and pedestrian); freight transportation; and highway traffic congestion. The MTP identifies major projects, their expected timing (horizon years), and estimated cost.

The High Point Urban Area MPO (HPMPO) will provide a public review and comment period for at least 30 days for both the Draft CTP and DRAFT 2045 MTP. The public review and comment period will end on July 31, 2020. Both Plans will be presented to the HPMPO Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) on August 25, 2020 for approval.

Both documents may be reviewed at the HPMPO website: <http://www.highpointnc.gov/hpmo/>.

Comments may be submitted electronically from the website or by email to hpmo@highpointnc.gov.

The public can also access both plans at the member jurisdictions offices and local libraries listed below:

City of High Point Transportation Department
City of Thomasville Engineering Department
City of Lexington Engineering Department
Town of Jamestown Planning Department
City of Archdale Planning Department
City of Trinity Planning Department
Town of Denton
Town of Wallburg
Davidson County Planning Department
Guilford County Planning Department
Randolph County Planning Department
Jamestown Public Library

High Point Public Library
Archdale Public Library
Lexington Public Library
West Davidson Public Library
North Davidson Public Library
Denton Public Library

Due to potential COVID-19 restrictions, the HPMPO will not hold in-person public meetings. There will be a staffed display in the lobby of the High Point City Hall Municipal Building (211 S. Hamilton St, High Point) from 8am to 4pm on Monday, July 13, 2020 through Friday, July 17, 2020 for the public to drop-in and ask questions about both plans.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Please identify which document you are reviewing: Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

What comments do you have about that document?
I really have to laugh loudly how the HPT MTPO caters and bend over the the private real estate and commerical land developers and special interests. first there is no need for an Airport Connector road and the butchering of Johnson St/Sandy Ridge roads. The mtpo should be changing hwy 68/Eastchester into a Airport connector road/ exactly like it was 35 years ago when it was a 4 land road and only stop lights were at Skeet Club and I-40. second, need to address the traffic congrestion at S main street and I40, and B85 intersection and I73/new 311, what an awful and dangerous intersection that should be a free flowing interchange grade seperated. just like all the work at Eastchester and I73/311 it should be a free flowing interchange with Collector streets to eliminate congestion and u

First Name bob

Last Name F

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awful waste of taxparer funds to benefit Koury Corp building the Jamestown bypass to benefit their commerical land use, was not needed. 2nd, no need to build a airport connector when the current highways should enter B85 to I74-Painterblvd/ GSO beltway to enter the airport from the north of the airport. next, the Johnson st/ Sandy ridge roads need turn lanes to allow traffic to pass freelt for autos avoiding the Hwy 68 Eastchester congestion caused by piss poor planning by the HPT mtpo, again and again. Also, in and around the city and towns, there is a desperate need tor

First Name bob

Last Name F

Good morning,

PUBLIC COMMENT RESPONSES

Thank you for providing comments on our 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for the High Point MPO. We really appreciate you taking the time to review our plans. The MTP is a long-range plan that has a horizon year of 2045, detailing projects that we have determined will be needed between now and 2045. The first project you refer to is the Airport Connector and the butchering of Johnson Street/Sandy Ridge Road. If you are referring to the North-South Connector, that project is in the plan to be completed sometime between 2035 and 2045. The project limits for this project are I-74 on the south end and Johnson Street/Sandy Ridge Road on the north end. If you are referring to the Johnson Street/Sandy Ridge Road project, a currently funded NCDOT project that extends from Skeet Club Road to I-40, it is scheduled for construction in 2023. Being as familiar as you are with this area you understand the need for this project with the current heavy volumes of traffic on an existing two-lane facility. This project has been on our plans for years. You reference how we “bend over the the private real estate and commercial land developers and special interest”. The HPMPO has nothing to do with how or when private property is developed, and you are aware of the time it takes for transportation projects to be constructed. There are times when development out paces the needed infrastructure improvements. Those decisions are made by our local jurisdictions elected officials, not the MPO.

There is a project to improve the intersection of Business 85 and south main street. You are correct that this is a badly needed improvement. We anticipate that this will be constructed beginning in 2022, depending on the funding issues with NCDOT.

If you would like to discuss any of our projects in more detail, please give me a call and I will be more than happy to go over them with you.

Again, thank you for your comments.

Greg Venable



CITY OF HIGH POINT

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