



Gaston County CTP Board of County Commissioners Work Meeting

April 14, 2026

RS&H

Presentation Outline

- CTP Background
- CTP Process
- Stakeholder and Public Engagement
- CTP Recommendations



CTP Background

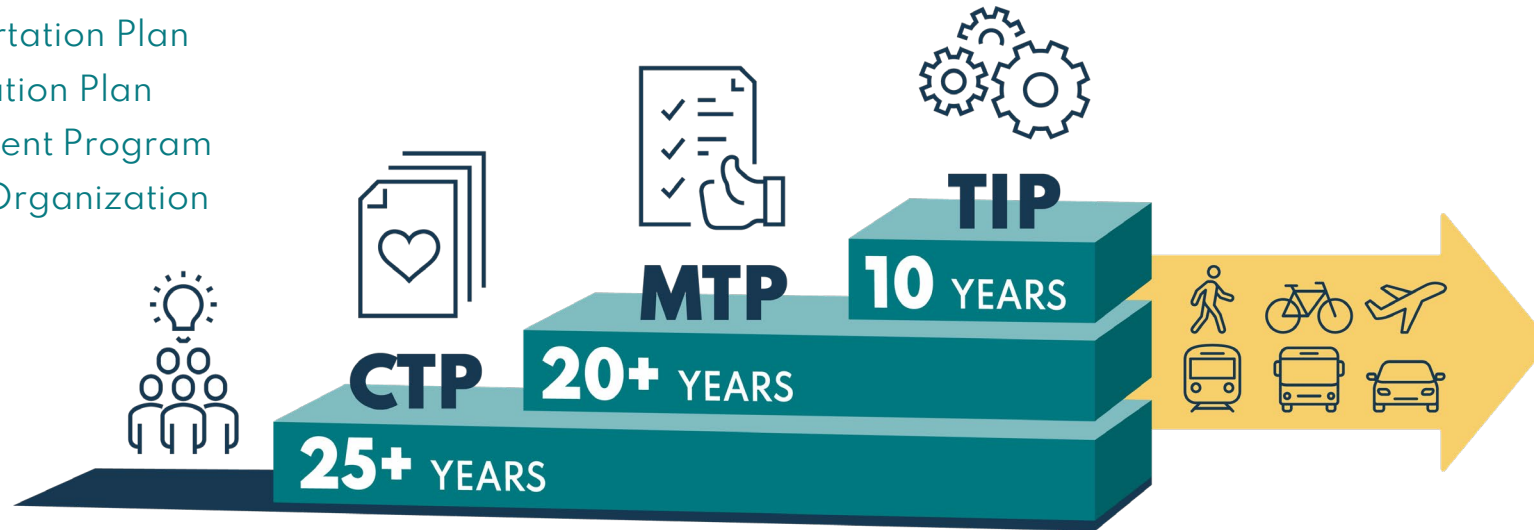
What is a CTP?

- Long-range, multi-modal plan
- Long-term vision for the local transportation network
- Required by and mutually adopted by NCDOT



What is a CTP?

CTP – Comprehensive Transportation Plan
MTP – Metropolitan Transportation Plan
TIP – Transportation Improvement Program
MPO – Metropolitan Planning Organization



CTP

- Non-fiscally constrained
- Required by NCDOT
- Starting point for identifying and documenting transportation needs
- Framework for selecting future transportation projects
- Minor updates as needed; full update ~every 10 years by county, MPO, or NCDOT

MTP

- Required by FHWA
- Fiscally constrained
- Identifies transportation projects prioritized for funding over next 20+ years
- Updated every 4 years by MPO

TIP

- MPO's short-term programming document (includes schedule and funding source)
- Updated and approved by MPO every 2 years
- Incorporated into the state TIP

Why Develop a CTP?

- Identify existing and future transportation needs
- First step in the NCDOT project delivery process
- Projects must be reflected in the CTP before County can submit them for future funding available through NCDOT and GCLMPO
- NCDOT refers to CTP when implementing its Complete Streets Policy

NCDOT PROJECT DELIVERY PROCESS

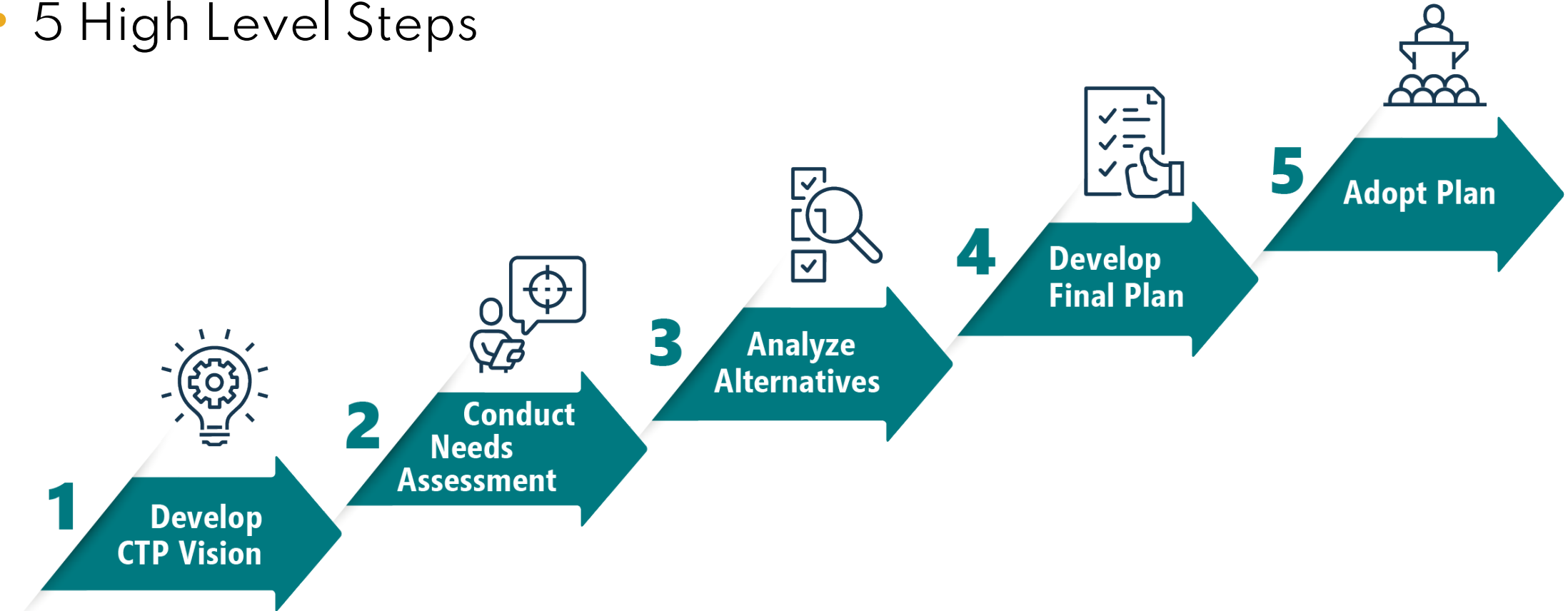




CTP Process

CTP Process

- 5 High Level Steps



Step 1 – Develop CTP Vision

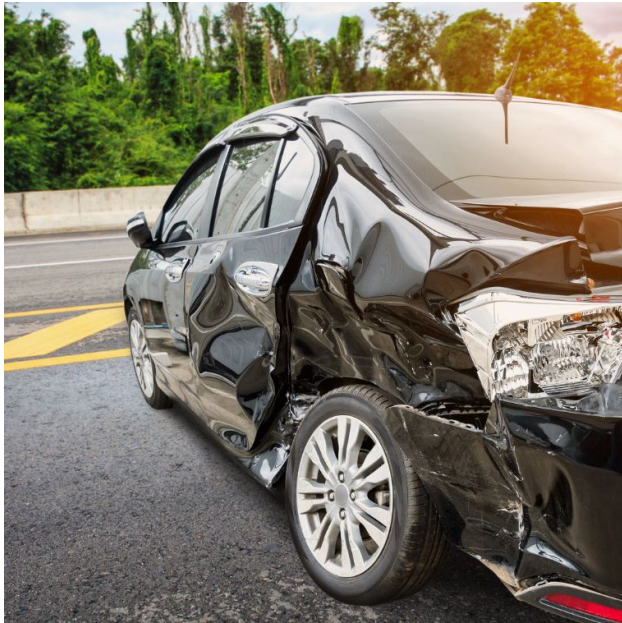
- Vision Statement

“Gaston County envisions a multimodal transportation network that seamlessly moves people and goods, connecting users to economic and social opportunities while ensuring safety, reliability, accessibility, and environmental preservation.”

- County Intentionally Aligned with GCLMPO 2055 MTP Goals and Objectives
 - Consistency between plans and counties
 - Minimizes confusion for public
 - Supports federally-required planning factors

Step 2 - Conduct Needs Assessment

- Identified Needs and Deficiencies by Mode
- Created Needs List by Mode





Step 3 – Analyze Alternatives

- Developed and Evaluated Solutions to Meet Identified Needs
- Conducted Environmental Screening to Identify Potential Environmental Impacts
- Selected Preferred Alternative for Inclusion in Plan

Variable	Alt 1	Alt 2
Safety		
Traffic Operations		
Natural Environment Impacts		
Human Environment Impacts		
Alignment with Vision		
Stakeholder Input		



Poor



Fair



Good



Better

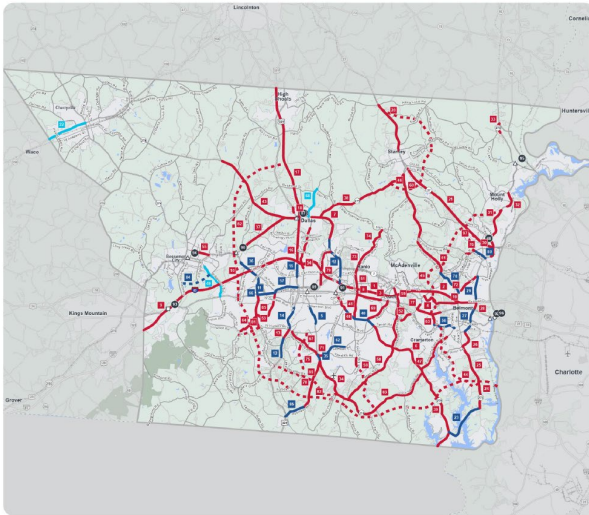


Best



Step 4 – Developed Final Plan

- Main Document
- Appendix
- Maps
- Project Recommendations List
- Project Sheets



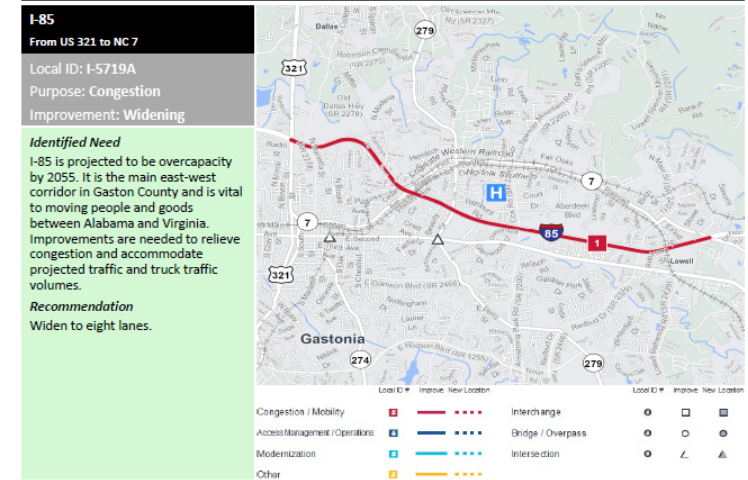
Legal Disclaimer:
These concepts are not additional studies to meet state and federal environmental requirements, to determine final location, and design, and to be funded for implementation. Local zoning or subdivision ordinances may require the submission of applications to the appropriate authority for review and approval. The information is provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used for any other purpose. Based on N.C.G.S. § 136-002 and § 136-003.16.

WORKING COPY
Plan Date: April 02, 2026

Gaston County Highway Recommendations

- 1 I-85, I-5719A:**
From US 321 to NC 7 | 6.19 miles
Widen to eight lanes.
- 2 I-85, I-5719B:**
From NC 7 to NC 273 | 3.63 miles
Widen to eight lanes.
- 3 US 29/74, U-6043:**
From Cox Rd (SR 2200) to 400 ft E of Lineberger Rd | 1.22 miles
Widen the eastbound travel lanes on US 29/74 from east of Cox Rd (SR 2200)/Armstrong Park Rd to 400 feet east of Lineberger Rd from two to three lanes and add a sidewalk on the south side.
- 4 US 29/74, U-6146:**
From Market St to Alberta Ave (SR 2015) | 1.23 miles
Widen to six lanes, replace Bridge 350082 over the South Fork of the Catawba River, and add a multiuse path on the north side and a sidewalk on the south side.
- 5 NC 274, U-5961:**
From Osceola St to Niblick Dr | 1.0 miles
Redesign to a four-lane boulevard with sidewalk and multiuse path.
- 6 NC 279, U-5821:**
From Titman Rd (SR 2478) to Union New Hope Rd (SR 2435) | 3.78 miles
Widen to a four-lane divided facility with multiuse paths.
- 7 NC 279, U-2523B:**
From Robinson Clemmer Rd (SR 2275) to N Gaston St (SR 2278) | 1.92 miles
Widen to multi-lanes with sidewalks and improve the intersection of NC 279 and NC 275.

Highway Class: Congestion Access Management Modernization Other (Safety, etc.) Bridge/Intersection



Proposal At A Glance		2023 Base Year		2055 Future Year	
Highway Class	Congestion & Mobility	Improved Route	Existing	Without Proposal	With Proposal
Facility Type	Freeway	Facility Type	Freeway	Freeway	Freeway
Typical Section	08 B	Travel Lanes	6	6	8
Section Options	-	Volume (vpd)	95500-139000	56200-162100	73900-98600
Length (miles)	6.20	Capacity (vpd)	77400-82200	77400-82200	125800
Existing ROW (feet)	130-145				
Safety Risk Score	89				

Capacity Data:	Year
Facility will be Approaching Capacity (>80%)	2023
Facility will be Over Capacity (>=100%)	2023





Step 5 – Adopt Plan

- GCLMPO – May
- NCDOT – After County adopts Land Use Plan





Stakeholder and Public Engagement

Project Website

15

Welcome to the Gaston Comprehensive Transportation Plan!

The Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) is a long-term vision for multimodal transportation in Gaston County that provides the foundation for what will become the transportation priorities over the next 25+ years. Gaston County is currently in the process of updating its CTP, which includes reviewing and analyzing the transportation network using the most recent data available, to ensure the improvements included in the plan represent the vision and goals of the County and its communities.

This update process involves extensive community engagement to gather input from residents and stakeholders. The plan aims to address current transportation challenges while anticipating future growth and development. Ultimately, the CTP will guide investments in infrastructure to enhance connectivity, safety, and sustainability across the region.



Why the CTP is important to you?

A Comprehensive Transportation Plan is crucial because it combines project recommendations that aim to improve many aspects of the county, such as:

Improve Mobility It ensures that people and goods can move efficiently and safely, reducing congestion and travel times.	Economic Growth By enhancing connectivity, it supports local business and attracts new investments, boosting the economy.	Environmental Benefits A well-planned transportation system can reduce emissions and promote sustainable modes of transport like cycling and public transit.	Quality of Life It improves access to essential services, such as healthcare and education, and enhances overall community well-being.	Safety It addresses traffic safety issues, reducing accidents and fatalities.

What is the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)?	▼
Who develops the CTP?	▼
What modes of transportation are included in the CTP?	▼
How is the CTP used in Planning?	▼
How often is the CTP updated?	▼
What information is shown in the CTP for each mode?	▼
How does the CTP impact local development?	▼
How are changes made to the CTP?	▼
What are the benefits of a CTP?	▼
Where can I find more information about my community's CTP?	▼

Share Your Thoughts!

The second and final round of public input is NOW CLOSED.

For any questions or comments about the Gaston Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP), please contact gastonctp@gastonnc.gov.

You may also click the button below.

Community Feedback

Stay Informed

Want to stay up-to-date on the progress of the CTP? Click the button below to sign up for email updates.

Public Survey

The Gaston CTP Public Survey is now closed and no longer accepting responses. Thank you to everyone who participated and shared feedback for the plan.

Timeline

- Phase 1 | CTP Set-Up
December 2024 through January 2025
- Phase 2 | Develop Vision
January and February 2025
- Phase 3 | System Assessment
February through April 2025
- Phase 4 | Analyze Alternatives
April through December 2025
- Phase 5 | Develop Draft Plan
December 2025 through January 2026
- Phase 6 | Adopt Plan
January 2026 through March 2026
- Phase 7 | CTP Close-Out
March 2026

See less

Project Timeline



Gaston Comprehensive Transportation Plan

LEARN about the CTP, PARTICIPATE in upcoming public meetings, and PROVIDE input to help shape the plan



<https://engagegaston.com/gaston-CTP>



Stakeholder Engagement

- 30+ Member Stakeholder Committee
 - Four (4) meetings
 - Local government representation
 - Public Health, Emergency Management, Schools, Economic development
- Stakeholder Interviews
 - Go Gastonia
 - Bike Ped Advisory Committee
 - Parks and Recreation



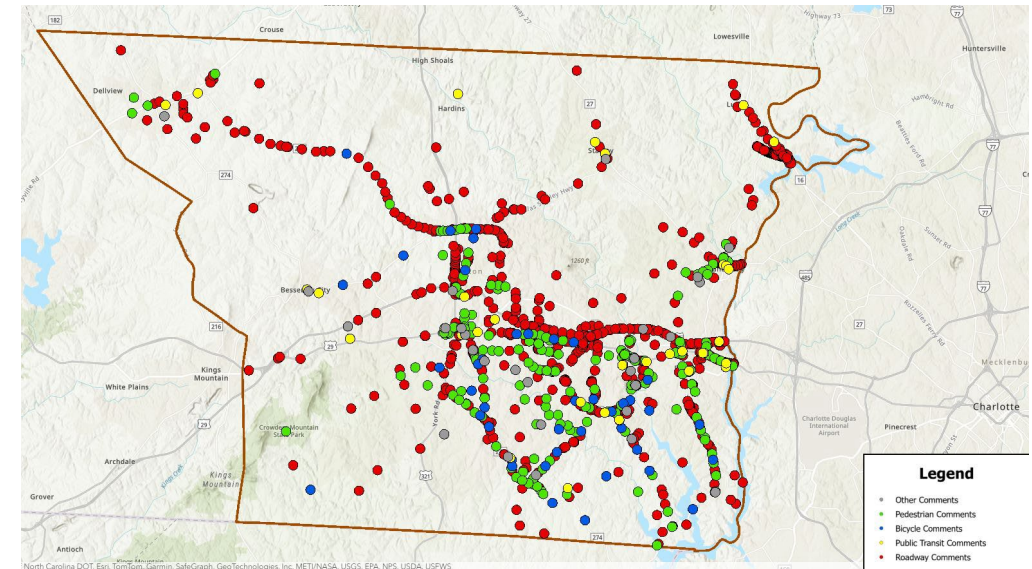
Public Engagement

- Round 1
 - Focused on identifying transportation needs, desires, and concerns
 - Public Engagement Survey
 - Get to Know Gaston Event
- Round 2
 - Feedback on draft recommendations
 - Public Engagement Survey
 - In-Person Joint Meeting with Envision Gaston 2050 Comprehensive Plan



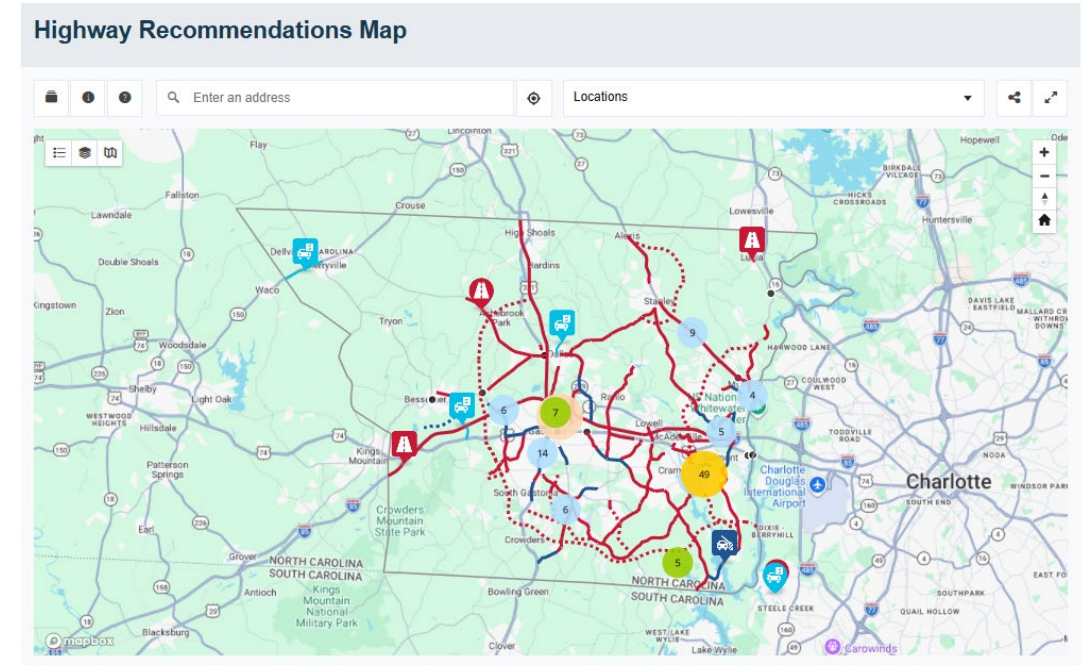
Round 1

- 436 survey responses from Gaston County residents / employees
- Interactive maps online and at in-person event
 - Allowed users to place markers where they had transportation concerns
- Takeaways
 - Strong support for road and intersection improvements
 - Desire for more local and regional transit, including passenger rail
 - Need for more sidewalks and off-road bike facilities



Round 2

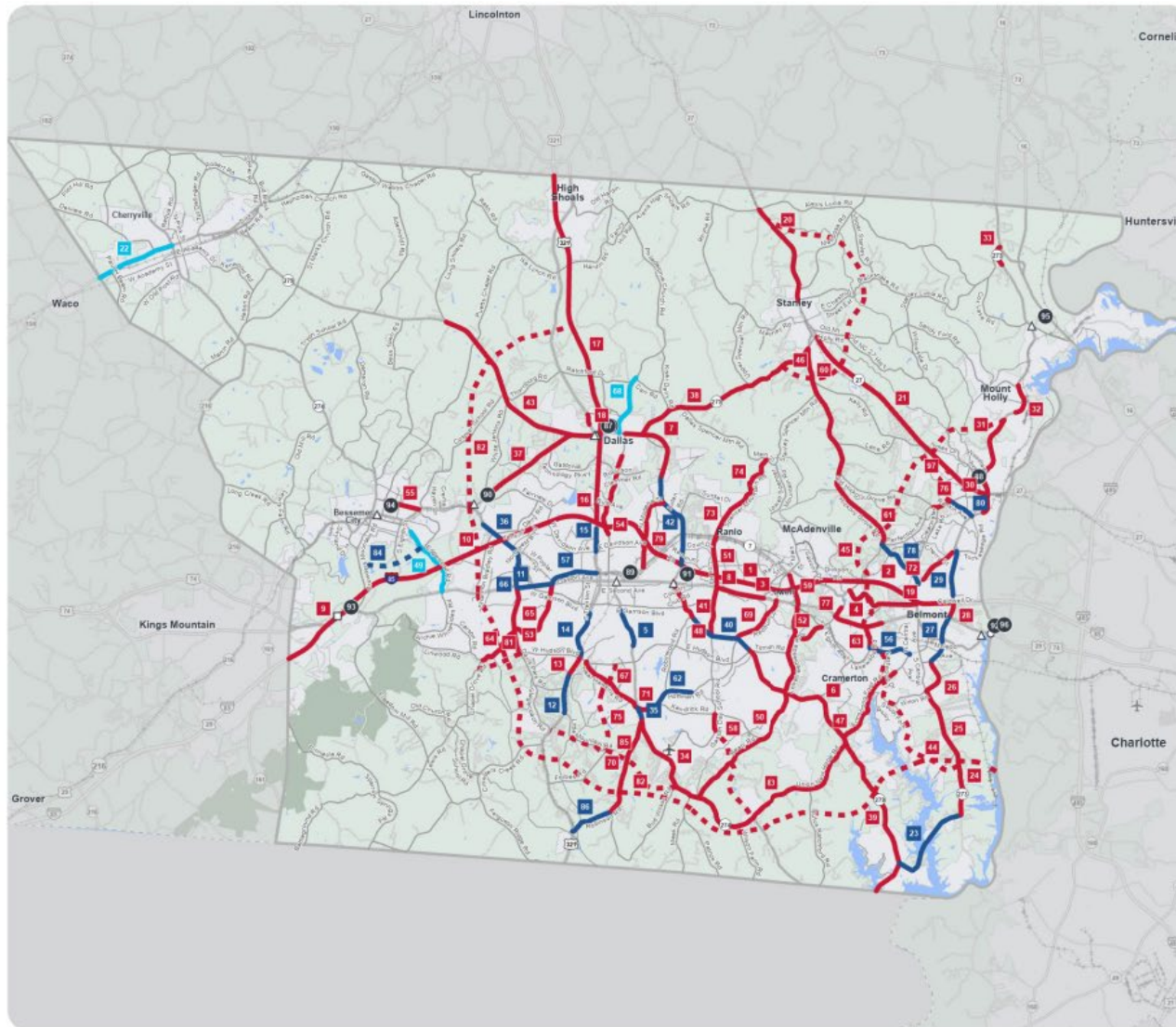
- 1,465 comments and votes
- Interactive maps online and at in-person event
 - Allowed users to comment and vote on the draft recommendations
- Key Takeaways
 - General support for most projects
 - Desire for congestion relief
 - Strong support for bike/ped safety





CTP Recommendations

Highway Recommendations Map



HIGHWAY RECOMMENDATIONS

Proposals that address identified needs through 2055



GASTON COUNTY

Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Highway Features

	Proposal ID #	Recommended On Existing	Recommended New Location
Congestion / Mobility (e.g., add lanes)	1	—	---
Access Management / Operations (e.g., add median)	2	—	---
Modernization (e.g., widen lanes, add turn lanes)	3	—	---
Other (e.g., safety, economic development)	4	—	---
Interchange	5	□	■
Bridge / Overpass	6	○	●
Intersection	7	△	▲

Other Features

Studied Roads



<https://tinyurl.com/GCL-CTP>



0 0.75 1.5 3 4.5 6 Miles

Sheet 2 of 4

Base map date: November 20, 2024

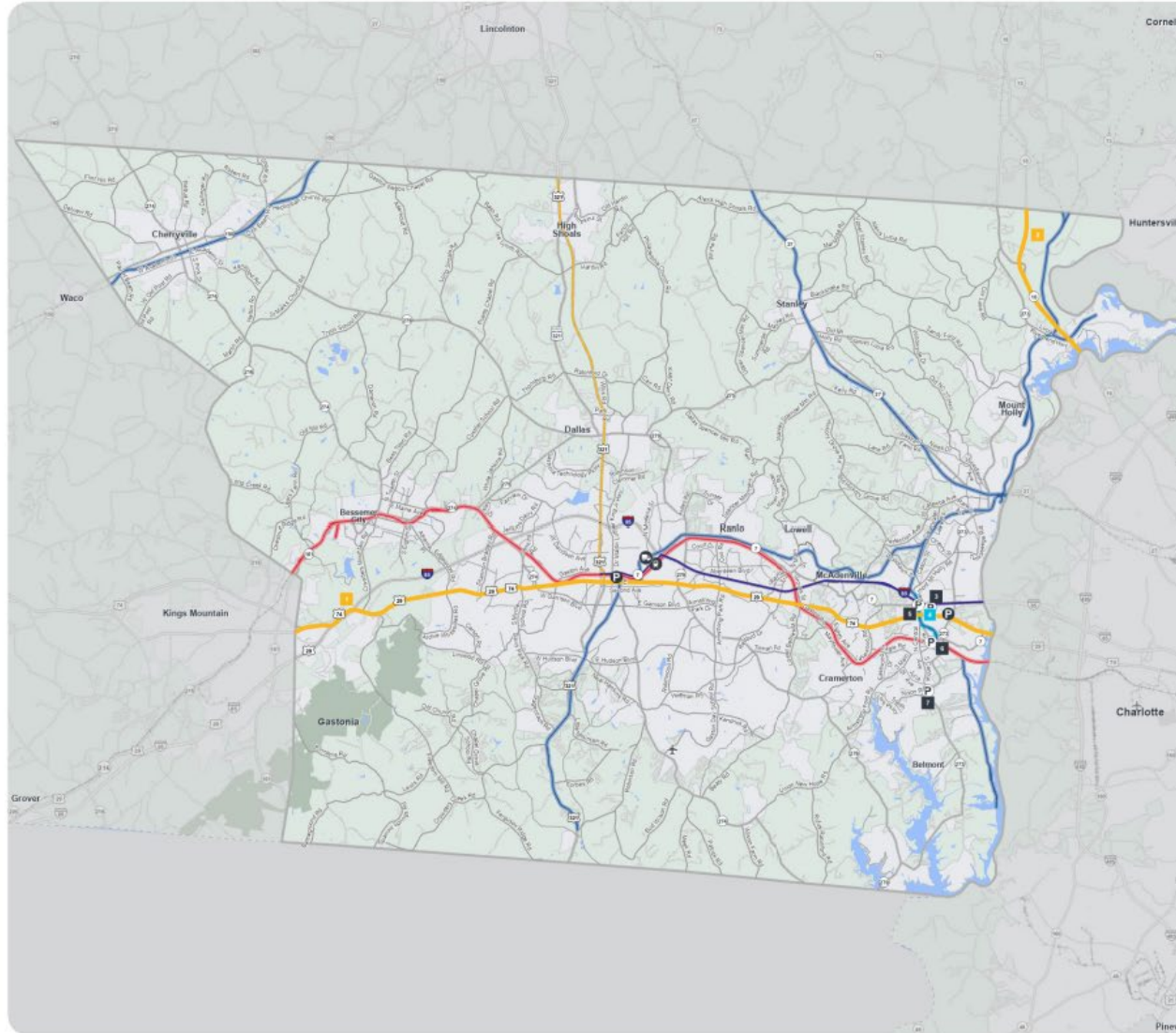
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Plan Date: April 02, 2026



Public Transportation and Rail Recommendations Map



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND RAIL RECOMMENDATIONS

Proposals that address identified needs through 2055



GASTON COUNTY

Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Public Transportation and Rail Features

	Proposal ID #	Existing	Recommended New Location
Urban Fixed Bus Corridors	P		
Regional Bus Corridors	Q		
Rural Fixed Bus Corridors	R		
Fixed Guideway	T		
Amtrak / Freight Route	S		
Current Railroad	U		
Transit Facility	A		
Park and Ride Lot	B		
Amtrak Station	C		
Intermodal Terminal	D		

Studied Roads

Denotes Highway Incidental ★

Note: Microtransit operates within the City of Gastonia



<https://tinyurl.com/GCL-CTP>



Sheet 3 of 4

Base map date: November 20, 2024

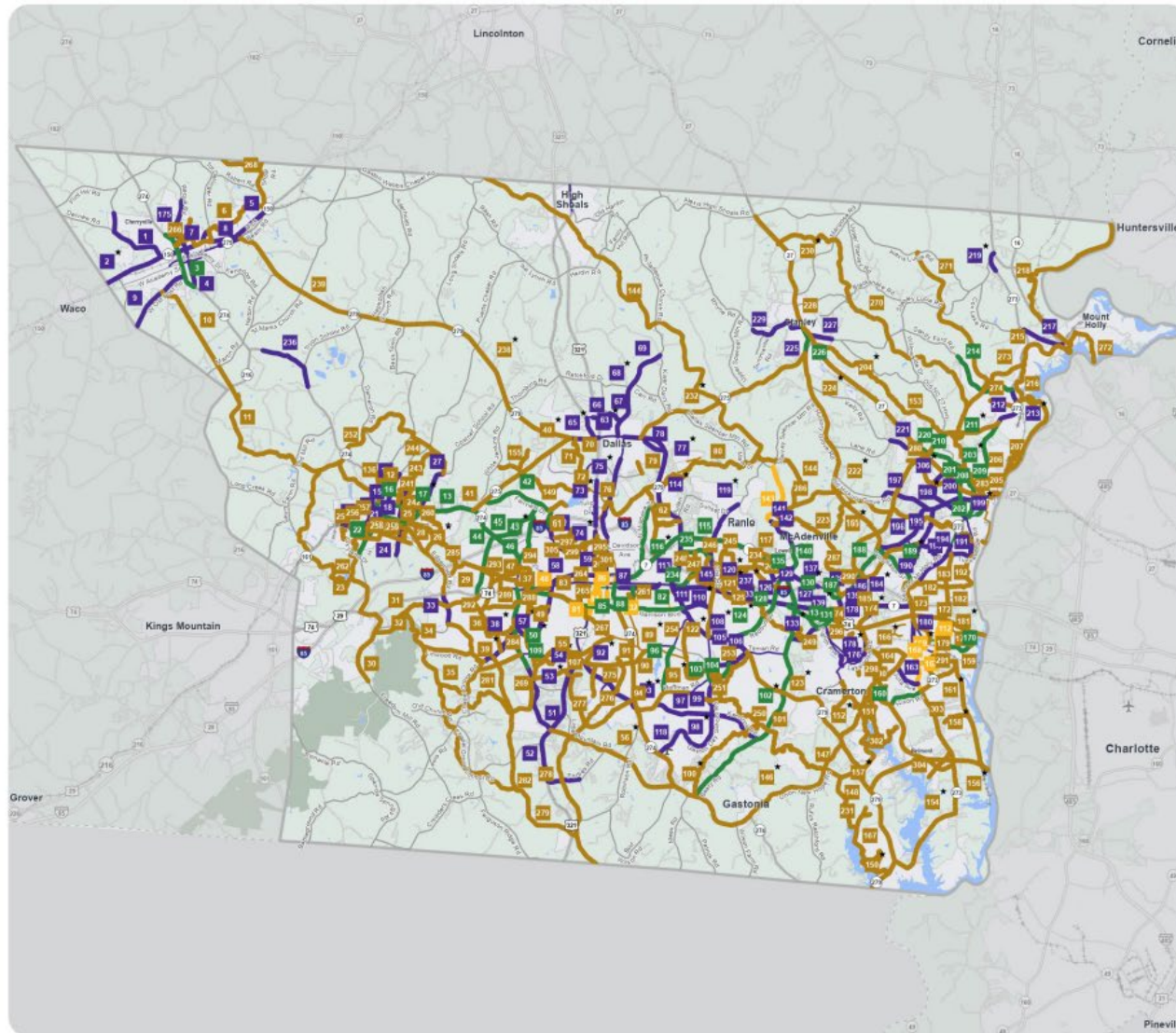
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Bicycle and Pedestrian Recommendations Map



BICYCLE / PEDESTRIAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Proposals that address identified needs through 2055



GASTON COUNTY

Comprehensive Transportation Plan

Bicycle and Pedestrian Features

	Proposal ID #	Existing	Recommended New Location
Bicycle	1	2	3
Pedestrian	4	5	6
Bicycle and Pedestrian	7	8	9
Multiuse Path	10	11	12
Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge	13	14	15
Denotes Highway Incidental	16	17	18

Other Features

Studied Roads



<https://tinyurl.com/GCL-CTP>



0 0.75 1.5 3 4.5 6 Miles

Sheet 4 of 4

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Project Recommendations List

GASTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

April 2026

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HIGHWAY RECOMMENDATIONS

PAGE 1



GASTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

April 2026

Gaston County Bicycle and Pedestrian Recommendations

- 1** **Delview Rd (SR 1651):** 
From NC 150 to Black Rock School Rd (SR 1638) | 1.5 miles
Add sidewalk to connect residential areas to commercial uses on NC 150.
Black Rock School Rd (SR 1638): 
From Delview Rd (SR 1651) to Cherryville city limit | 0.49 miles
Add sidewalk to improve sidewalk connections between residential areas and Downtown Cherryville.
- 2**  **NC 150:** 
From Cleveland County line to NC 274 | 2.03 miles
Add a center turn lane, widen to 12-foot lanes, and add sidewalks.
- 3** **NC 274:** 
From S Pink St (SR 1428) to Ridge Ave | 1.6 miles
Add bicycle lanes and fill sidewalk gaps on both sides, improving north-south connectivity in Cherryville.
- 4** **N Pink St / S Pink St:** 
From NC 274 to NC 274 | 1.68 miles
Add sidewalks to connect Downtown Cherryville to residential areas, Cherryville Senior High School, and Cherryville City Park.
- 5** **NC 150:** 
From N Pink St to Bud Black Rd (SR 1002) | 2.72 miles
Add sidewalks on both sides, filling gaps and improving sidewalk connections between residences, shopping, fast-food restaurants, and Cherryville High School sports stadiums.
- 6** **Cherryville Connector:** 
From Downtown Cherryville to the Lincoln County Line | 4.4 miles
Add a multiuse path to connect Downtown Cherryville and Lincoln County.

Bike/Ped Class:  Bicycle  Pedestrian  Bike and Ped  Multiuse Path  Bike/Ped Bridge
★ Denotes Highway Incidental

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN
RECOMMENDATIONS

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GASTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

April 2026

Gaston County Public Transportation and Rail Recommendations

- 1** **US 74 West High Capacity Transit Corridor:** 
From Belmont to Kings Mountain | 18.49 miles
This is a proposed High-Capacity Transit Corridor in CONNECT Beyond. The corridor is shown as Proposed Commuter Bus, but could be light rail, bus rapid transit, express bus, or commuter rail. Future studies are needed.
- 2** **NC 16 Northwest High Capacity Transit Corridor:** 
From Uptown Charlotte to Lowesville | 4.18 miles
This is a proposed High-Capacity Transit Corridor in CONNECT Beyond. The corridor is shown as Proposed Commuter Bus, but could be light rail, bus rapid transit, express bus, or commuter rail. Future studies are needed.
- 3** **Belmont Park and Ride:** 
Walmart, 701 Hawley Ave | 0.0 miles
This Park and Ride lot replaces the existing Park and Ride at Abbey Plaza.
- 4** **Belmont Trolley:** 
From Belmont Abbey College to Downtown Belmont | 0.17 miles
The Belmont Trolley runs parallel to the Belmont Rail Trail, shuttling commuters, residents, and visitors between Belmont Abbey College and Downtown Belmont.
- 5** **Belmont Park and Ride - McAdenville Rd:** 
Main St/McAdenville Rd | 0.0 miles
Proposed Park and Ride along CATS 85X route and proposed Belmont Trolley.
- 6** **Belmont Park and Ride - Trolley Car Barn:** 
Terminus of Proposed Belmont Trolley | 0.0 miles
Proposed Park and Ride as a central destination and downtown hub.

Public Trans/Rail Class:  Urban Bus Corridor  Regional Bus Corridor  Rural Bus Corridor  Fixed Guideway
 Amtrak/Freight Route  Park and Ride or Multimodal  Amtrak/Light Rail Station or Intermodal Terminal
★ Denotes Highway Incidental

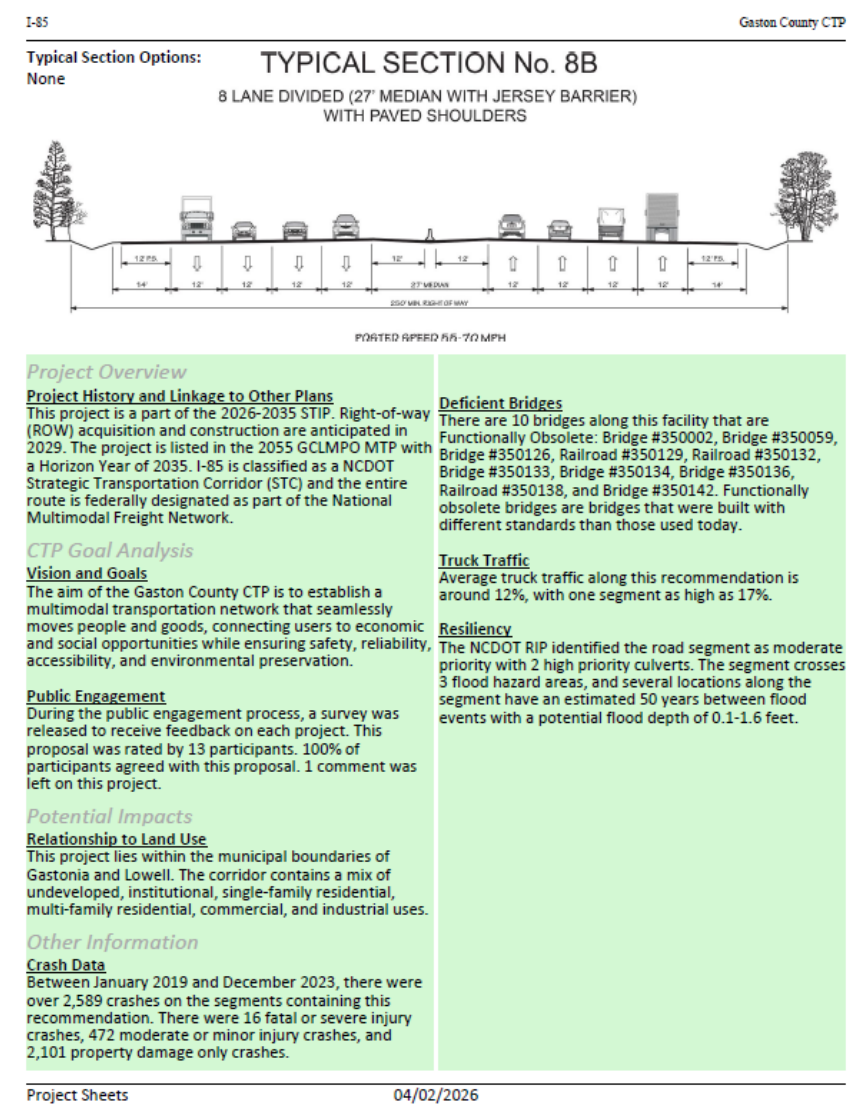
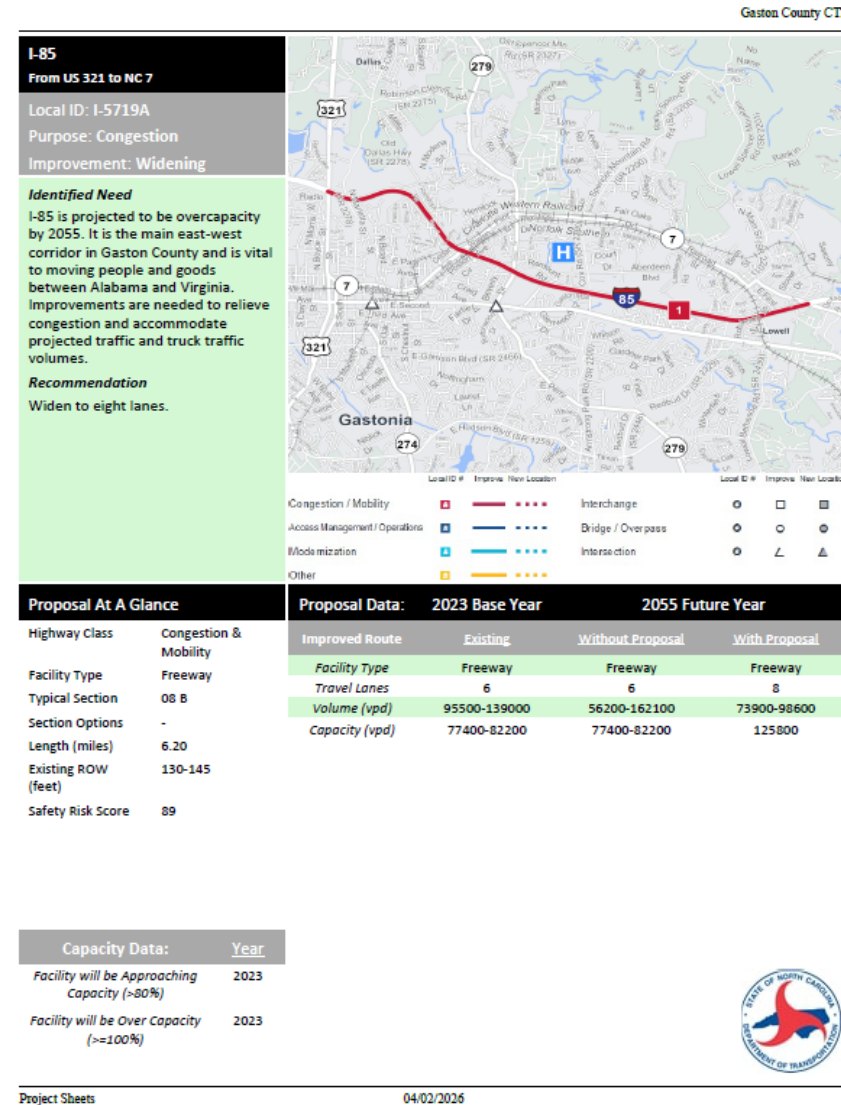
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND RAIL
RECOMMENDATIONS

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Project Sheets

- Highway Projects
 - STIP Projects
 - Widening Projects
 - New Location Projects



CTP Contact Information

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