

Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization

Memorandum of Understanding

Effective Date: [Date to be determined]

Endorsed by the
Charlotte Regional
Transportation Planning Organization
July 17, 2024

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
FOR**

COOPERATIVE, COMPREHENSIVE, AND CONTINUING TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
AMONG

THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,
THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE, TOWN OF CORNELIUS, TOWN OF DAVIDSON, TOWN OF
FAIRVIEW, TOWN OF HUNTERSVILLE, TOWN OF INDIAN TRAIL, IREDELL COUNTY, TOWN
OF MARSHVILLE, VILLAGE OF MARVIN, TOWN OF MATTHEWS,
MECKLENBURG COUNTY, TOWN OF MINERAL SPRINGS, TOWN OF MINT HILL, CITY OF
MONROE, TOWN OF MOORESVILLE, TOWN OF PINEVILLE,
TOWN OF STALLINGS, CITY OF STATESVILLE, TOWN OF TROUTMAN, UNION COUNTY,
TOWN OF WAXHAW, TOWN OF WEDDINGTON, VILLAGE OF WESLEY CHAPEL, TOWN OF
WINGATE, and the METROPOLITAN TRANSIT COMMISSION,
(hereinafter, the State, the Municipalities, the Counties, and the MTC)

IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WITNESSETH THAT:

WHEREAS, Section 134(a) of Title 23 of the United States Code states in relevant part:

“It is in the national interest—(1) to encourage and promote the safe and efficient management, operation, and development of surface transportation systems that will serve the mobility needs of people and freight, foster economic growth and development within and between States and urbanized areas better connect housing and employment, and take into consideration resiliency needs while minimizing transportation-related fuel consumption and air pollution through metropolitan and statewide transportation planning processes identified in this chapter; and (2) to encourage the continued improvement and evolution of the metropolitan and statewide transportation planning processes by metropolitan planning organizations, State departments of transportation, and public transit operators”;

WHEREAS, a transportation planning process includes the operational procedures and working arrangements by which short and long-range transportation plans are soundly conceived and developed and continuously evaluated in a manner that will:

1. Assist governing bodies and official agencies in determining courses of action and in formulating attainable capital improvement programs in anticipation of community needs; and,
2. Guide private individuals and groups in planning their decisions, which can be important factors in the pattern of future development and redevelopment of the area;

WHEREAS, Chapter 136, Article 3A, Section 136-66.2(a) of the General Statutes of North Carolina requires that:

“Each MPO, with cooperation of the Department of Transportation, shall develop a comprehensive transportation plan in accordance with 23 U.S.C. § 134. In addition, an MPO may include projects in its transportation plan that are not included in a financially constrained plan or are anticipated

to be needed beyond the horizon year as required by 23 U.S.C. § 134. For municipalities located within an MPO, the development of a comprehensive transportation plan will take place through the metropolitan planning organization. For purposes of transportation planning and programming, the MPO shall represent the municipality's interests to the Department of Transportation.”;

WHEREAS, Chapter 136, Article 3A, Section 136-66.2(b) and (b2) – (b4) of the N.C. General Statutes provides in relevant part that:

“After completion and analysis of the plan, the plan shall be adopted by both the governing body of the municipality or MPO and the Department of Transportation as the basis for future transportation improvements in and around the municipality or within the MPO. The governing body of the municipality and the Department of Transportation shall reach agreement as to which of the existing and proposed streets and highways included in the adopted plan will be a part of the State highway system and which streets will be a part of the municipal street system. As used in this Article, the State highway system shall mean both the primary highway system of the State and the secondary road system of the State within municipalities.

The municipality or the MPO shall provide opportunity for public comments prior to adoption of the transportation plan.

For portions of a county located within an MPO, the development of a comprehensive transportation plan shall take place through the metropolitan planning organization.

To complement the roadway element of the transportation plan, municipalities and MPOs may develop a collector street plan to assist in developing the roadway network. The Department of Transportation may review and provide comments but is not required to provide approval of the collector street plan.”;

WHEREAS, Chapter 136, Article 3A, Section 136-66.2(d) of the N.C. General Statutes provides in relevant part that:

“For MPOs, either the MPO or the Department of Transportation may propose changes in the plan at any time by giving notice to the other party, but no change shall be effective until it is adopted by both the Department of Transportation and the MPO.”;

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the State, the Municipalities, the Counties, and the MTC, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, that their previously established continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation planning process, as set forth in their Memorandum of Understanding effective as of October 10, 2013, be amended and restated to comply with 23 U.S.C. § 134 (Federal Highway Administration), 49 U.S.C. §§ 5303, 5305, 5306, and 5307 (Federal Transit Administration), and N.C. Gen. Stat. § 136-200.2; and

WHEREAS, the effective date of this document shall be the date on which it is signed by the Governor of the State of North Carolina, or his designee.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Memorandum of Understanding is amended and restated to read as follows:

SECTION I. It is hereby agreed that the State, the Municipalities, the Counties, and the MTC, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Transportation, will participate in a continuing transportation planning process with responsibilities and undertakings as related in the following paragraphs:

- A. The Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization, hereinafter referred to as the CRTPO, is hereby established and shall include the State, the Municipalities, the Counties, the

MTC, and the various agencies and units of local, State, and Federal government participating in the transportation planning for the area and listed as a non-voting members in Section I.H below.

- B. The area involved will consist of the Charlotte Urban Area as defined by the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, in addition to that area beyond the Charlotte Urban Area that is expected to become urban within a twenty-year planning period (collectively referred to as the Planning Area).

Portions of the Charlotte Urban Area located in the following counties are by agreement with adjacent metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) not part of the Planning Area: Cabarrus, Catawba, Gaston, Lancaster, Lincoln and York. The responsibility for implementing a continuing transportation planning process shall be the responsibility of those MPOs, as noted in the mutually adopted agreements between the CRTPO and the adjacent MPOs.

- C. The continuing transportation planning process will be a cooperative one and all planning discussions will be reflective of and responsive to the comprehensive plans for growth and development of the Planning Area.
- D. The continuing transportation planning process will be conducted in accordance with the intent, procedures, and programs of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended.
- E. The CRTPO shall maintain a centralized information repository including, but not limited to, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan; the Comprehensive Transportation Plan; the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP); air-quality conformity analysis; the Bylaws and membership lists of CRTPO and its Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC); copies of all final environmental studies, public hearing maps, roadway corridor official maps, and noise reports on projects within the Planning Area; copies of adopted transportation project alignments; the Transportation Improvement Program (local and state); and any other appropriate archival information. The CRTPO shall endeavor, through the affected local governments and appropriate technological means, to make this information easily available to local governments, residents, and individuals involved in land development and real estate transactions.
- F. A Policy Board is hereby established with responsibility for cooperative transportation planning decision making for the CRTPO and coordinating transportation policy of the Municipalities and Counties within the Planning Area.
- G. The duties and responsibilities of the Policy Board are as follows:
 - 1. The Policy Board, in cooperation with the State and publicly owned operators of mass transportation services, shall be responsible for carrying out the urban transportation planning process specified by the U.S. Department of Transportation.
 - 2. The Policy Board shall be the forum for cooperative decision-making by elected officials of the Municipalities and Counties and by the other members of the Policy Board. However, this shall not limit the Policy Board's local responsibility for (a) ensuring that the transportation planning process and the plans and improvement projects that emerge from that process are consistent with the policies and desires of the Municipalities and Counties; nor, (b) serving as a forum for the resolution of conflicts that arise while developing the UPWP, Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and Transportation Improvement Program.

3. The Policy Board shall review and approve the UPWP, Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and Transportation Improvement Program (or any amendments thereto).
4. The Policy Board shall be responsible for adopting and amending the Comprehensive Transportation Plan. Action of the Policy Board in this regard (and this regard only) shall be construed as definitive action of any and all affected Municipalities and shall meet the statutory requirement of G.S. 136-66.2(b) without further action of the Municipality(ies).
5. The Policy Board shall have the responsibility for: keeping the Boards of the Municipalities and Counties informed of the status and requirements of the transportation planning process; assisting in the dissemination and clarification of the decisions, inclinations, and policies of those Boards; and ensuring meaningful resident participation in the transportation planning process.
6. The Policy Board shall review, approve, and endorse changes to the Federal-Aid Urban Area System and Boundary, in conformance with Federal regulations.
7. The Policy Board shall review, approve, and endorse a Prospectus for transportation planning that defines work tasks and responsibilities for the various governing bodies and agencies participating in the transportation planning process.
8. The Policy Board shall conduct the transportation planning process in conformance with the Clean Air Act, as amended.

The Policy Board is responsible for conducting public involvement and technical analyses to determine the preliminary alignments for transportation projects included in the Comprehensive Transportation Plan and Metropolitan Transportation Plan. For mass transit projects, CRTPO will work in cooperation with the Charlotte Area Transit System and the Metropolitan Transit Commission, or any other relevant governmental agency that has jurisdiction in the CRTPO planning area. These alignments will be used by local jurisdictions through their land development ordinances for right-of-way protection purposes. Once the Policy Board has adopted an alignment, it can be modified only by official Policy Board action as outlined in the Bylaws of the CRTPO and the TCC and in accordance with any applicable procedures detailed in the Public Involvement Plan.

The Policy Board will adopt an alignment for right-of-way purposes even if it was produced through a State or locally funded environmental study process.

All Policy Board alignment decisions are subject to the voting rules contained in Section I.I of this Memorandum of Understanding.

9. Each Municipality's or County's member of the Policy Board shall be responsible for instructing the clerk of his/her local government to submit certified and sealed copies of minutes or resolutions to the secretary of the CRTPO when formal action involving the Comprehensive Transportation Plan is taken by his/her local government.
10. The Policy Board is responsible for the distribution of funds allocated to the CRTPO under the provisions of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and successor legislation.

- 11. The Policy Board shall adopt a set of Bylaws for the CRTPO. Amendments to the Bylaws shall be approved by a vote according to Section I.I.6 below.
 - 12. The Policy Board shall have the primary responsibility for facilitating resident input into the continuing transportation planning process.
 - 16. Any other duties the Policy Board identifies as necessary to further facilitate the transportation planning process.
- H. The Policy Board shall consist of both voting and non-voting members. The Policy Board shall have a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson elected in accordance with the CRTPO Bylaws and shall meet in accordance with the Bylaws.

Voting membership: The voting members of the Policy Board shall consist of the Chief Elected Official (or a single representative designated by the Chief Elected Official) of each Municipality and County, as well as two members from the North Carolina Board of Transportation (as specified below) and one member representing the MTC. The Chief Elected Official of each Municipality and County is strongly encouraged to designate an alternate, in accordance with the rules contained within the CRTPO Bylaws.

Each voting member shall have the indicated number of votes below for its respective governing body or agency for all voting purposes:

Unit	Number of votes
City of Charlotte	31
Town of Cornelius	2
Town of Davidson	1
Town of Fairview	1
Town of Huntersville	3
Town of Indian Trail	2
Iredell County	3
Town of Marshville	1
Village of Marvin	1
Town of Matthews	2
Mecklenburg County	3
Town of Mineral Springs	1
Town of Mint Hill	2
City of Monroe	2
Town of Mooresville	3
Town of Pineville	1
Town of Stallings	1
City of Statesville	2
Town of Troutman	1
Union County	3
Town of Waxhaw	2
Town of Weddington	1
Village of Wesley Chapel	1
Town of Wingate	1
N.C. Board of Transportation (Division 10)	1
N.C. Board of Transportation (Division 12)	1
Metropolitan Transit Commission	1
Total	74

Voting members will vote on matters pursuant to the authority granted by their respective governmental bodies. The term of any voting member that is designated by a Chief Elected Official shall be one calendar year from the date of designation.

Any municipality that does not act to adopt this Memorandum of Understanding by its effective date, and is otherwise eligible for voting membership, may still qualify to have a voting member on the Policy Board if it adopts this Memorandum of Understanding within three months after its effective date. The effective date shall be defined as the date on which the Governor of the State of North Carolina, or his designee, signs this Memorandum of Understanding.

A municipality within the Planning Area must have a local land use plan and development ordinance in place in order to be a voting member. A county other than Iredell, Mecklenburg, and Union that becomes part of the Planning Area in whole or in part with at least 5,000 persons in the unincorporated area will also be eligible to have a voting member on the Policy Board if such county adopts this Memorandum of Understanding and its membership is approved by the Policy Board.

Non-voting membership: One representative from each of the following bodies will serve as a non-voting member of the Policy Board:

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission
Iredell County Planning Board
Union County Planning Board
U.S. Department of Transportation – FHWA, FTA

Other local, State, or Federal agencies impacting transportation in the Planning Area, as well as municipalities in the Planning Area that do not otherwise qualify for voting membership, can become non-voting members upon invitation by the Policy Board.

I. Policy Board Voting Rules

1. Quorum for Policy Board meetings shall be established in accordance with the CRTPO Bylaws.
2. Each voting member of the Policy Board shall be eligible to vote and shall qualify as an “Eligible Member”; provided, however, a Municipality or County must be in good standing, as defined in Section I.L of this document, for its voting member to be an Eligible Member.
3. At Policy Board meetings where a quorum is present, an affirmative vote of the Eligible Members having at least a simple majority of the total votes cast by Eligible Members (according to the table in Section I.H above) shall determine all issues, except as provided in paragraphs 4, 5, and 6 below.
4. When any transportation project concerns a road that does not carry an Interstate, U.S., or N.C. route designation, and is totally contained within a single Municipality’s corporate limits or sphere of influence, its alignment shall not be determined by the Policy Board without the consent of such Municipality.

5. When any transportation project concerns a road that does not carry an Interstate, U.S. or N.C route designation and is within a Municipality's corporate limits or sphere of influence, the Policy Board cannot override the position of such Municipality about the alignment of the road only within its corporate limits or sphere of influence, but not outside its corporate limits or sphere of influence. However, the position of such a Municipality can be overridden by an affirmative vote of the Eligible Members having at least a $\frac{3}{4}$ supermajority of the total votes held by Eligible Members (according to the table in Section I.H above). Such vote must occur at a Policy Board meeting where a quorum is present.
6. Amendments to this Memorandum of Understanding or the CRTPO Bylaws require an affirmative vote of the Eligible Members having at least a $\frac{3}{4}$ supermajority of the total votes held by Eligible Members (according to the table in Section I.H above). Such vote must occur at a Policy Board meeting where a quorum is present.

J. A Technical Coordinating Committee, also referred to herein as the TCC, shall be established with the responsibility for (1) general review, guidance, and coordination of the transportation planning process for the Planning Area; (2) making recommendations to the respective local and State governmental agencies and the Policy Board regarding any necessary actions relating to the continuing transportation planning process; (3) facilitating coordination and communication between the State, the Municipalities, the Counties, the MTC, and other member agencies of the TCC; (4) facilitating coordination of transportation planning with other planning efforts, such as those concerning land use, public utilities, and maintenance of air quality; and (5) facilitating public involvement and resident participation regarding transportation planning issues. The TCC shall also be responsible for the development, review, and recommendation for approval of the Prospectus, UPWP, Comprehensive Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, Federal-Aid Urban System and Boundary, and Metropolitan Transportation Plan, and planning resident participation.

Membership of the TCC shall be defined according to the TCC's Bylaws and shall include technical representation from all local, county and State governmental agencies directly related to and concerned with the transportation planning process for the Planning Area.

A TCC member (or alternate) cannot be an elected official of any Municipality or County. TCC members from the Municipalities shall be the chief administrative officers (i.e. city/town managers) or their designees. TCC members from other entities may be their chief administrative officers or their designees. TCC members must be employees of the governing body or agency they represent. Each TCC member shall have one vote.

K. Administrative coordination for the Policy Board and TCC will be performed by the Charlotte Planning, Design & Development Department's Regional Transportation Planning Division Manager (Division Manager), in collaboration with the Chairperson of the Policy Board. Administrative support shall be furnished by the Director of the Charlotte Planning, Design & Development Department. The Division Manager shall supervise additional CRTPO staff as necessary and approved in the annual work program. The Division Manager, or their designee, will serve as the Secretary for the Policy Board and TCC with the responsibility for such functions as follows:

1. Arranging meetings and agendas
2. Maintaining minutes and records
3. Preparing the Prospectus and UPWP

4. Assembling and publishing the Transportation Improvement Program
5. Preparing the Metropolitan Transportation Plan
6. Collecting from Municipalities and Counties certified and sealed minutes and resolutions that document transportation plan revisions and submitting these for mutual adoption by the North Carolina Department of Transportation annually or more often if deemed necessary by the Policy Board or the Municipalities or Counties involved.
7. Monitoring the transportation planning process to ensure its execution is in accordance with the CRTPO's goals and objectives
8. Performing other coordinating functions as assigned by the Policy Board
9. Taking lead responsibility for structuring public involvement in the transportation planning process
10. Preparing the quarterly reimbursement requests for Section 104(f) planning funds and Section 5303 funds.
11. Supervising CRTPO staff

The Division Manager shall be hired by the Director of the Charlotte Planning, Design & Development Department. The Division Manager shall regularly report to the Policy Board and TCC on coordination activities and shall electronically or in writing inform interested parties of actions scheduled for consideration by the Policy Board and TCC.

L. Federal Aid Transportation Planning Grant Funds

1. All transportation and related Federal Aid planning grant funds available to promote the cooperative transportation planning process will be expended in accordance with the UPWP adopted by the Policy Board.
The required local match for Section 5303 funds shall be paid by the Municipality or County that is using such funds. The required local match for Section 104(f) planning funds shall be shared among all Municipalities and Counties pro rata based on population. The population totals used to calculate a Municipality's or County's pro rata share shall be based upon the most recent decennial Census.
2. A Municipality or County providing its share of the local-match funding by the beginning of the next Federal fiscal year shall be considered in good standing. Any Municipality or County not providing its share of the funding by the beginning of the next Federal fiscal year shall not be in a good standing during the next two Federal fiscal years.

Administration of funding in support of the transportation planning process on behalf of the CRTPO will be conducted by the City of Charlotte, which will execute appropriate agreements with funding agencies as provided by the UPWP.

SECTION II. The State, the Municipalities, the Counties, and the MTC may terminate their participation in the continuing transportation planning process and the CRTPO by giving 30 calendar days written notice to the Policy Board Chairperson prior to the date of termination. When annexation occurs and a Municipality's boundaries extend beyond the Planning Area, the newly expanded boundaries will automatically become part of the Planning Area and will be so designated on the Comprehensive Transportation Plan within 60 calendar days of the annexation. It is further agreed that the State, the Municipalities, the Counties, and the MTC will assist in the transportation planning process by providing planning assistance, data, and inventories in accordance with the Prospectus. Additionally, the Municipalities and Counties shall coordinate zoning and subdivision approval in accordance with the adopted Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

SECTION III. In witness whereof, the Division Administrator (Federal Highway Administration), on behalf of the United States Department of Transportation, and the Secretary of Transportation, on behalf of the Governor of the State of North Carolina, have signed this Memorandum of Understanding and the other parties to this Memorandum of Understanding have authorized appropriate officials to sign the same, the City of Charlotte by its Mayor, the Town of Cornelius by its Mayor, the Town of Davidson by its Mayor, the Town of Fairview by its Mayor, the Town of Huntersville by its Mayor, the Town of Indian Trail by its Mayor, Iredell County by the Chair of its Board of Commissioners, the Town of Marshville by its Mayor, the Village of Marvin by its Mayor, the Town of Matthews by its Mayor, Mecklenburg County by the Chair of its Board of Commissioners, the Town of Mineral Springs by its Mayor, the Town of Mint Hill by its Mayor, the City of Monroe by its Mayor, the Town of Mooresville by its Mayor, the Town of Pineville by its Mayor, the Town of Stallings by its Mayor, the City of Statesville by its Mayor, the Town of Troutman by its Mayor, Union County by the Chair of its Board of Commissioners, the Town of Waxhaw by its Mayor, the Town of Weddington by its Mayor, the Village of Wesley Chapel by its Mayor, the Town of Wingate by its Mayor, and the Metropolitan Transit Commission by its Chair.