
Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

Orientation Session
March 5, 2014

Agenda

- Introductions
- About the GCLMPO
- Federal Highway Administration role
- NCDOT role
- Elected official and staff committees' role
- What is in store for 2014?

What is a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)?

“The forum for cooperative transportation decision making for the metropolitan planning area” - 23 CFR Part 450.104

- Based on urbanized areas defined by the U.S. Census
- Covers every urbanized area with over 50,000 population
- Approximately 400 MPOs in the US
- 19 MPOs in North Carolina

Greater Charlotte Transportation Planning Organizations



Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization

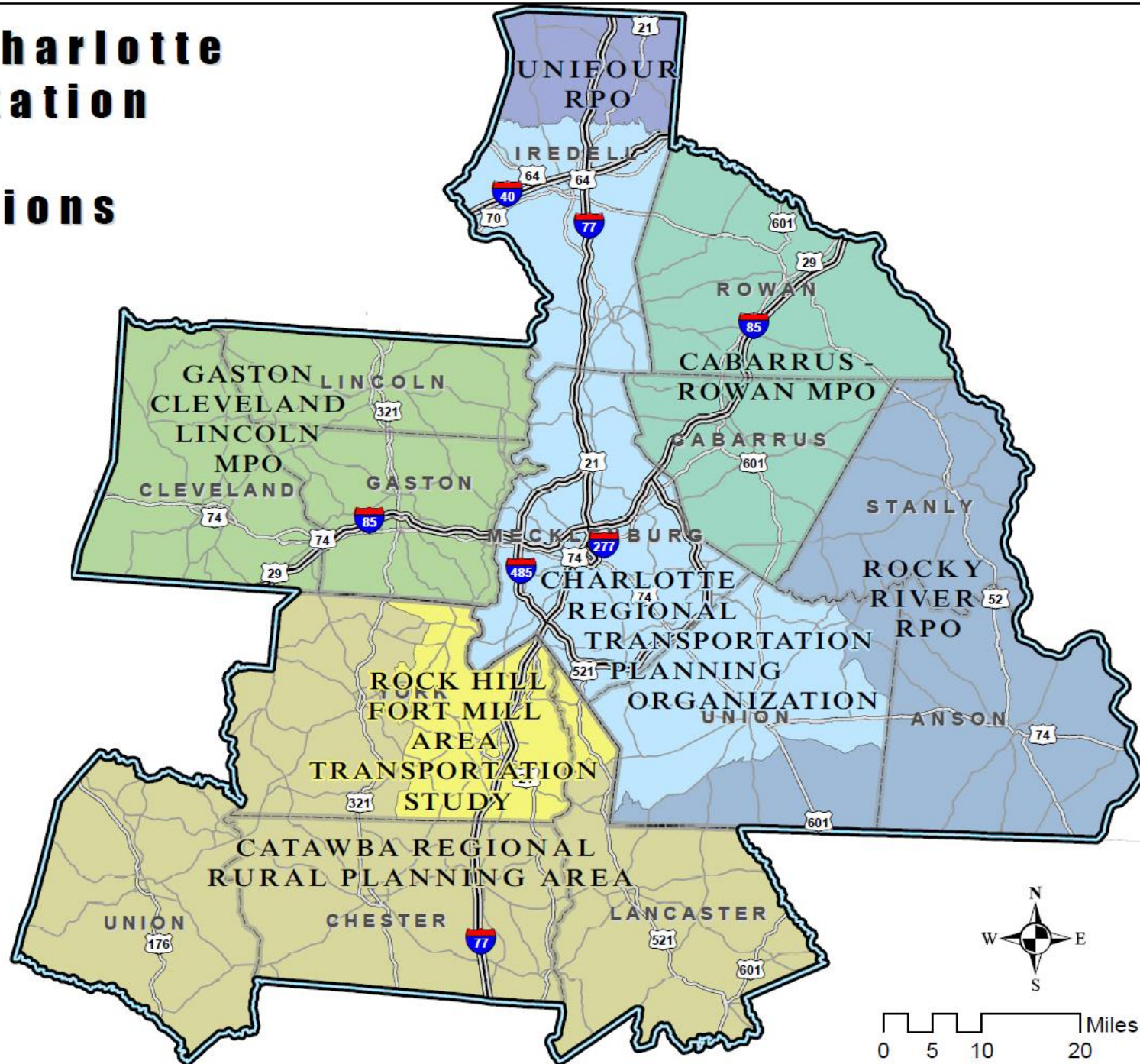


GASTON-CLEVELAND-LINCOLN



Map Created October 2013 by
Centralina Council of Governments

M:\PLANNING SHARED PROJECTS\Gaston MPO\MAPS



North Carolina

Metropolitan and Rural Planning Organizations with NCDOT Division Boundaries

Western Planning Unit

Eastern Planning Unit

Mountains Planning Group

- High Country RPO
- Isothermal RPO
- Land-of-Sky RPO
- Southwestern RPO
- Unifour RPO
- Greater Hickory MPO
- French Broad River MPO

Triad Planning Group

- Northwest Piedmont RPO
- Piedmont Triad RPO
- Burlington-Graham MPO
- Greensboro MPO
- High Point MPO
- Winston-Salem-Forsyth MPO

Triangle Planning Group

- Kerr-Tar RPO
- Triangle Area RPO
- Upper Coastal Plain RPO
- Capital Area MPO
- Durham-Chapel Hill-Carboro MPO
- Rocky Mount MPO

Northeast Planning Group

- Peanut Belt RPO
- Albemarle RPO
- Mid-East RPO
- Down-East RPO
- Greenville MPO
- Jacksonville MPO
- New Bern MPO

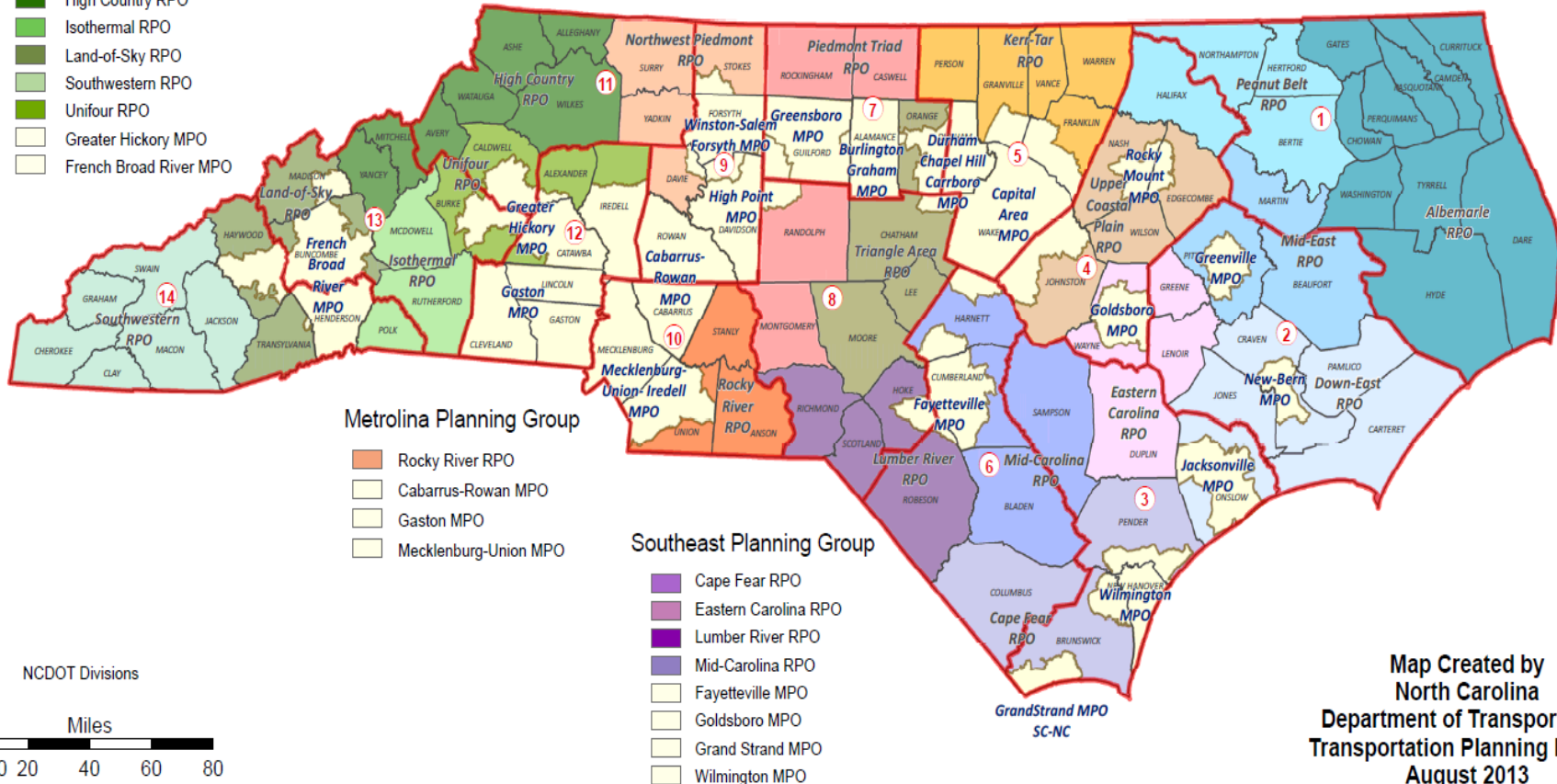
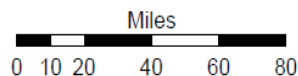
Metrolina Planning Group

- Rocky River RPO
- Cabarrus-Rowan MPO
- Gaston MPO
- Mecklenburg-Union MPO

Southeast Planning Group

- Cape Fear RPO
- Eastern Carolina RPO
- Lumber River RPO
- Mid-Carolina RPO
- Fayetteville MPO
- Goldsboro MPO
- Grand Strand MPO
- Wilmington MPO

NCDOT Divisions



Map Created by
North Carolina
Department of Transportation
Transportation Planning Branch
August 2013

About the GCLMPO Region

- **Size:** 1,140 square miles- two percent of North Carolina by size.
- **Population:** 384,836- four percent of North Carolina. This number is expected to grow to over 500,000 by 2040. The fastest growing areas are in eastern Gaston and Lincoln counties.
- **Commuting Patterns:** Gaston and Lincoln counties send over one-quarter of their workers to Mecklenburg County. Cleveland County has the highest-percent of its workers actually working within their home county, at 66 percent, while only 44 percent of Lincoln County workers actually work in their home county.
- **Public Transportation:** Eight inter-city, fixed-route, and demand-response services in the three counties
- **Travel Modes:** The predominant mode for travel in the three counties is via privately-operated vehicles. Two out of every three trips in the MPO is made by people driving their own vehicles. An additional ¼ of all trips are made as passengers in privately-operated vehicles.
- **Vehicle Miles Travelled:** Vehicles traveling in and through the three counties add up to over 10 million miles per day. Approximately 40 percent of this traffic takes place on I-85, US 321 north of I-85, and US 74 west of I-85.
- **Air Quality Status:** The MPO is a part of the greater Charlotte region. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) currently designates the eastern two-thirds of Lincoln County and all but the northwestern portion of Gaston County to be in violation of current Ozone standards. The two areas are expected to meet the current standards by the end of 2015.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Functions

- Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
- Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)
- Locally Coordinated Public Transportation Plan
- Air Quality Conformity
- Demographic Projections
- STI Project Solicitation and Prioritization

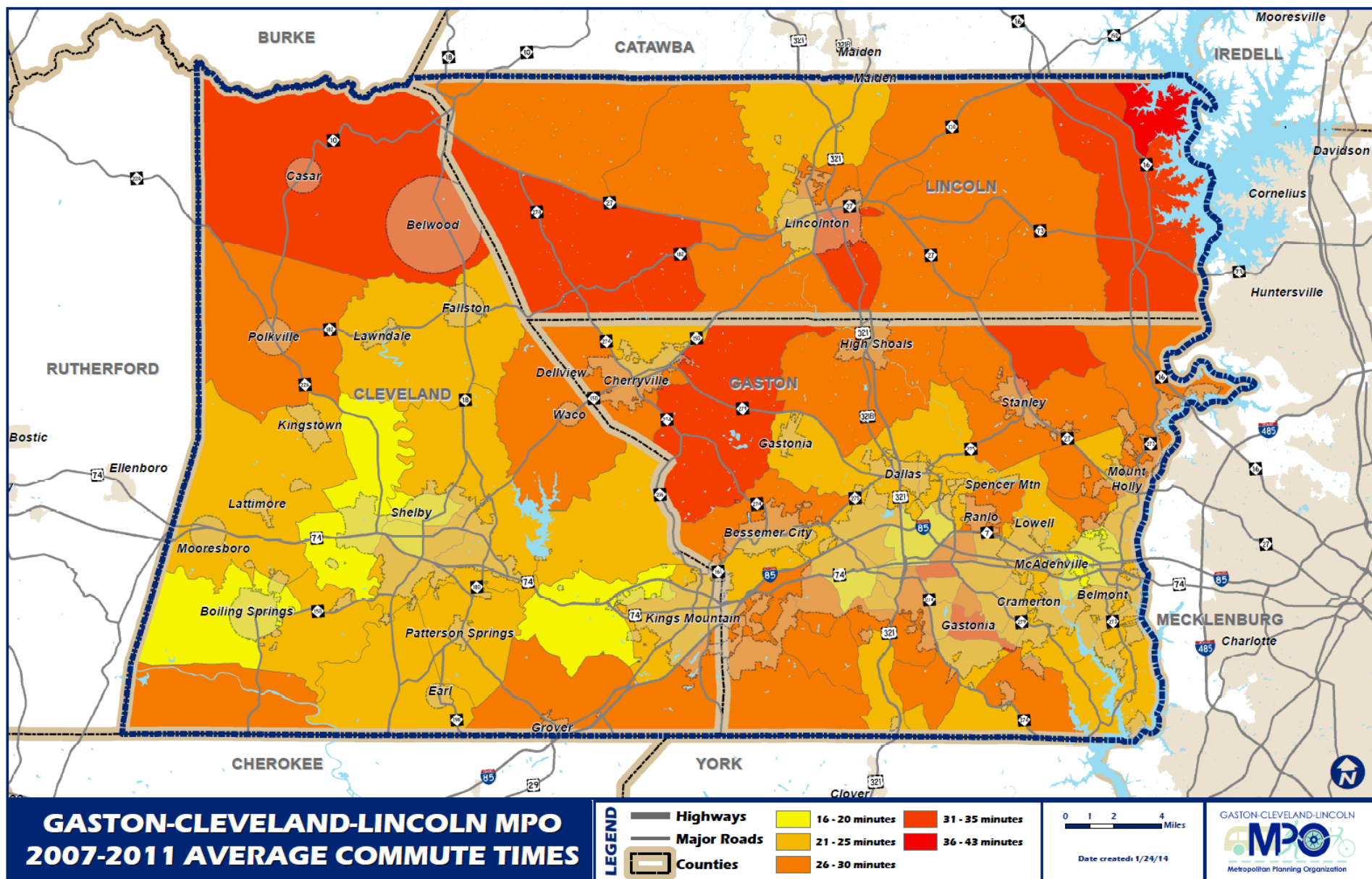
Lead Planning Agency Functions

- Transportation planning services
- MPO Administration
- Coordination of committee meetings
- Ensuring compliance with federal planning requirements
- Technical analysis
- Coordination with NCDOT
- Coordination with transit service providers
- Coordination of public involvement process

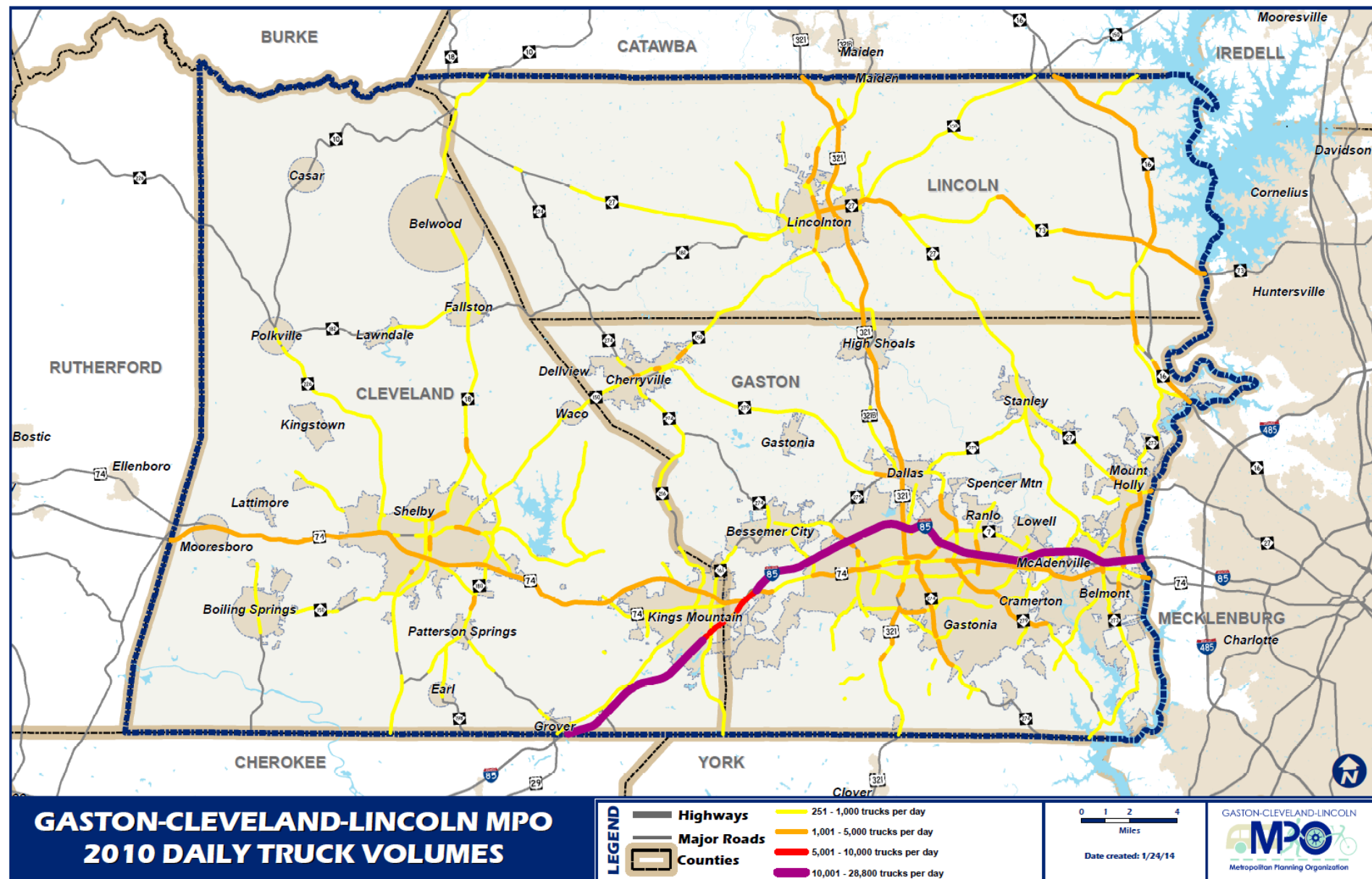
Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- Programs planning funds (~\$500,000 per year)
- Updated yearly
- Identifies work tasks for the fiscal year
 - ★ Inventories
 - ★ Modeling
 - ★ Plan Development
 - ★ TIP Development
 - ★ MPO Administration
 - ★ Public Involvement
- Approved by TCC and Board

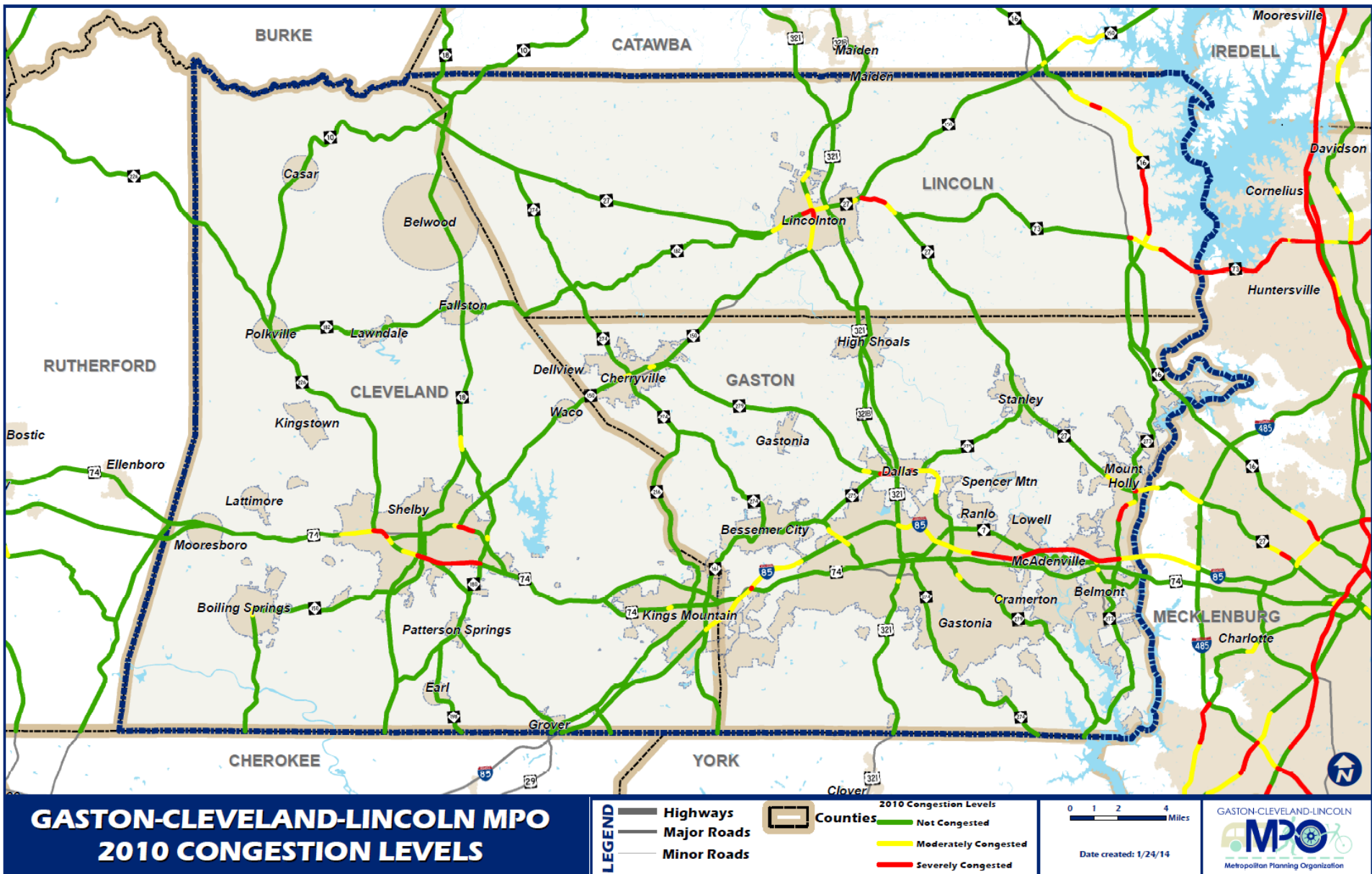
Do we focus on improving commutes?



Ordo we focus on moving freight?



Ordo we focus on congestion?



Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

- Sets priorities for study area
- 25-year planning horizon
- Must be fiscally constrained
- Must project costs in “future year dollars”
- Updated every four years
- Forms “universe” of projects for submittal for state for consideration in Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- Ten-year ***funded*** project list
- Updated every two years
 - ★ Year 1 – Priority needs and TIP development
 - ★ Year 2 – Public review of draft TIP
- “Ideally” a subset of MTP projects
- Development and ranking guided by Strategic Transportation Investments process
- Mutually adopted by NCDOT (STIP) and MPO (MTIP)

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch, Division of Aviation, and Public Transportation Division

NCDOT-Division 12

GCL MPO Board

- Formerly known as the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
- Establishes policy for the MPO
 - ★ Elected officials from counties, municipalities, and NCDOT
 - ★ Approves all plans, prioritizations, budgets, and policies for the MPO
 - ★ Voting members are subject to the State Ethics Act

GCLMPO TCC

Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)-
Comprised of appointed representatives from
municipalities, counties, and others:

- ◆ NCDOT Staff
- ◆ Public Transportation Agencies
- ◆ FHWA and FTA

Makes recommendations to the Board based
on technical evaluations

Meeting Format and Purpose

- All TCC and Board meetings are advertised to the public
- MPO staff work with chairman and vice-chairman to establish agenda
- MPO Board follows UNC School of Government's "Suggested Rules of Procedure for Small Local Government Boards"
- TCC follows Robert's Rules of Order
- All agenda packets sent out a week in advance of meeting
- TCC Reviews and takes position on items being considered by Board

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- Approved by all participating local governments
- Establishes Board and TCC Membership
- Sets Voting Procedures
- Defines Roles and Responsibilities
- Sets framework for regional cooperation
- Provides for local input

What is in Store for 2014?

April- 2040 MTP adoption

May- 14-15 Unified Planning Work Program

July- Adopt MPO prioritization point assignments

October- MAP-21 expires