

# MACON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

## Steering Committee Meeting #4

June 27, 2019, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

SCC Groves Center, 44 Siler Farm Rd., Franklin NC

## Agenda

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- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 1:00 PM | Welcome and Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Public Input Survey</li><li>- CTP Study Roads</li></ul> |
| 1:10 PM | Review Growth Trends   |
| 1:20 PM | Future Growth Rate Discussion  |
| 1:30 PM | Review Base Year Mapping   |
| 2:00 PM | Break  |
| 2:10 PM | Macon County Demographics and Community Understanding  |
| 2:40 PM | Wrap-Up  |
| 2:50 PM | Adjourn  |

# MACON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

## Steering Committee Meeting #4 Summary

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June 27, 2019 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Southwestern Community College Groves Center, Franklin

### Attendees:

Name	Representing	Present
Joe Allen	Macon County Planning Dept.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kim Angel	Macon County Transit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mitchell Bishop	NCDOT Division 14	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Warren Cabe	Macon County Emergency Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ryan Dunn	Macon County Transit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer Garrett	Macon County Health Dept.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Todd Gibbs	Macon County Schools	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pete Haithcock	Macon County Airport Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tommy Jenkins	Macon County Economic Development Commission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ben Laseter	Mainspring Deputy Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cory McCall	Outdoor 76	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jack Morgan	Macon County Planning Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Justin Setser	Franklin Town Planner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kathy Tinsley	Macon County Planning Board	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michael Mathis	Highlands Town Planner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rose Bauguess	Southwestern Commission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Roger Castillo	NCDOT Transportation Planning Division	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
James Upchurch	NCDOT Transportation Planning Division	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Steve Williams	NCDOT Division 14	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Troy Wilson	NCDOT Division 14	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arron Alston	NCDOT Trainee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Olivia Stewman	Highlands Intern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Total attendees: 18

## Review of Previous Meeting

Following introductions, the Steering Committee reviewed the summary from the previous meeting held on May 30; no corrections were noted. The action items identified in the previous meeting were also reviewed to track progress; Rose Bauguess noted the Vision Statement action item was not completed and will be added to the list for today's meeting. All other action items were completed.

## Summary of Agenda Items

Participants reviewed the agenda and the desired outcomes for today's meeting. The following desired outcomes were identified:

1. Agree on Methodology for Growth Rate
2. Provide qualitative verification of base year data (traffic volume, truck volume, crash data)
3. Provide qualitative verification of demographic data

### Preview of Survey Responses

The Metroquest survey has been open for a little over a month. We reviewed the current response rate and discussed strategies to reach more people before the survey closes. Geographic distribution covers 29 zip codes. Age distribution is highest in the 35-65+ categories, and quite low in the -17-24 group. Committee members will make additional outreach efforts to the younger population.

### Future Growth Rate Methodology

Roger Castillo explained how traffic volume data are collected and how Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT) numbers are calculated for a road segment. He also explained how population and employment data can be used to project future traffic volumes. There are multiple data sources that provide different projected growth rates for future population and employment. Also, different areas of the county will grow at different rates, and so we will need to identify areas that may experience higher or lower traffic growth than other areas. A proposed methodology was presented to divide the county into areas with high, medium, or low potential for future growth. Areas identified for low growth potential would include public-owned lands such as U.S. Forest Service, steep slopes, and floodplains. Areas identified for higher growth potential would include privately-owned lands with lower slopes and potential expansion areas for water and sewer. All other areas would be classified as medium or average potential for growth. The Steering Committee suggested adding availability of broadband and/or cellular service to the high growth category, since these utilities are critical for growth. Otherwise the group thought this approach sounded reasonable, and the Core Team will pursue delineating these areas for their review.

### Review Base-Year (2017) Mapping

Roger presented base-year maps for traffic volumes, truck volumes, and crashes. The Steering Committee was asked to verify or challenge the data based on local experiences. Members had the following comments:

- Historic Growth Facilities Map
  - Skeenah Road seemed higher than expected
  - Downtown and northern section of Georgia Rd. are largely built out, so may not grow much more, unless development goes “up”.
- County Growth and Development
  - Geography is the biggest limiting factor for potential growth areas
  - Denser growth will be limited to areas where water and sewer can expand; potential for Cartoogechaye water plant expansion; development will likely occur prior to expansion;
  - Cell Phone and broadband coverage are also important factors in determining which areas will grow
  - Plans to relocate Angel Medical Center to a new location on US 441
  - Bypass may have more development between the new hospital location and Siler Road
  - Future High School plans are uncertain
- Truck percentage map
  - NC 28 looks higher than expected; very curvy and few destinations for trucks
  - Questions on truck classification; what size trucks are included in the percentages? Campers hauling boats; RVs? May explain truck volume on Wayah Rd. going to Nantahala Lake
  - Trucks are still being routed through the Cullasaja gorge, though prohibited
- Crash Analysis Maps
  - Crashes/fatalities may be related to volume or road structure (curves)
  - School bus issues at Prentiss Bridge Rd turning onto Georgia Rd.
  - Data from Crashes come from Highway Patrol Reports
  - Safety issues noted at several locations:
    - NC 28 and US441 intersection
    - Ellijay Rd.
    - Highlands Rd.
- Volume Maps
  - Maps showed Base year only and does not consider current projects

### Wrap-Up

The topics above used all the allotted meeting time, so the Macon County Demographics topic was postponed. The committee reviewed the desired outcomes identified at the beginning of the meeting. The first two desired outcomes were achieved, and the third was postponed.

## Summary of Action Items

The following action items were identified during the meeting:

- Develop Summary of Meeting #4 (Rose)

- Develop a map of Future Growth Potential areas
- Revise the Vision Statement and distribute to the Steering Committee for review (Rose)

## Next Steps

The next Steering Committee meeting will be held **Thursday, August 29, 2019**, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Southwestern Community College Groves Center Conference Room on Siler Farm Road. Tentative agenda items for the next meeting include:

- Review of Public Survey Results
- Review Bicycle and Pedestrian Data

**MACON COUNTY  
COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN  
Steering Committee Meeting #4**  
JUNE 27, 2019



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## Agenda

- 1:00 PM Welcome and Review
- 1:10 PM Review Growth Trends
- 1:20 PM Future Growth Rate Discussion
- 1:30 PM Review Base Year Mapping
- 2:00 PM Break
- 2:10 PM Macon County Demographics
- 2:40 PM Wrap-Up
- 2:50 PM Adjourn

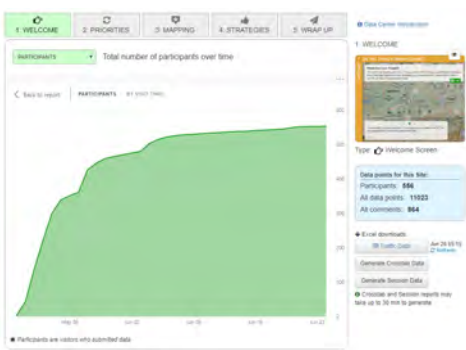
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## Desired Outcomes

1. Agree on Methodology for Growth Rate
2. Provide qualitative verification of current conditions:
  - Traffic volumes
  - Truck volumes
  - Crash data
3. Provide qualitative verification of demographic data

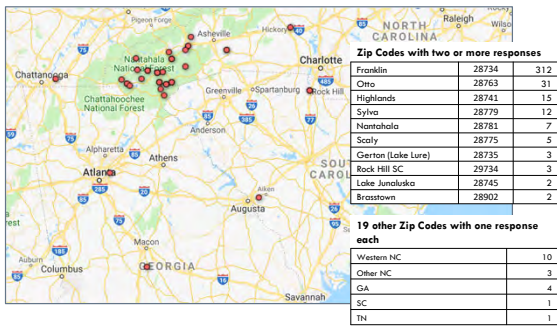
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## Survey Responses



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## Survey Responses



Zip Codes with two or more responses		
Franklin	28734	312
Otto	28763	31
Highlands	28741	15
Sylva	28779	12
Nantahala	28781	7
Scoley	28775	5
Carroll (Lake Lure)	28735	3
Rock Hill SC	29734	3
Lake Junaluska	28745	2
Brasstown	28902	2

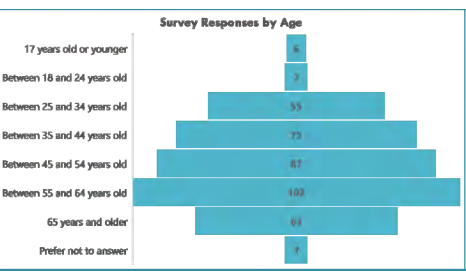
  

19 other Zip Codes with one response each		
Western NC		10
Other NC		3
GA		4
SC		1
TN		1

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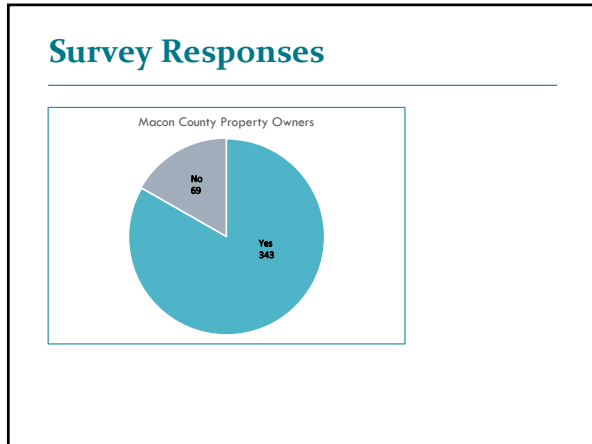
## Survey Responses

### Survey Responses by Age

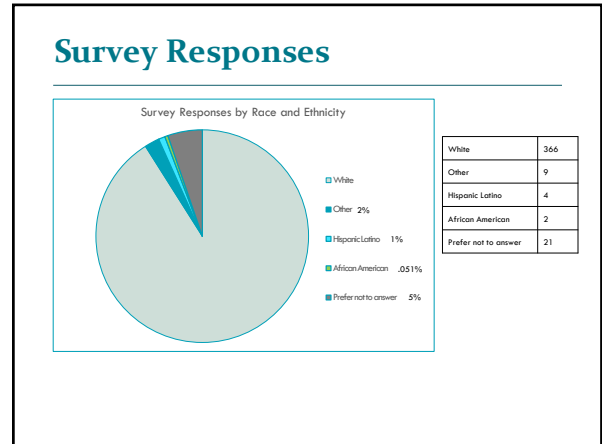


Age Group	Number of Responses
17 years old or younger	6
Between 18 and 24 years old	9
Between 25 and 34 years old	33
Between 35 and 44 years old	73
Between 45 and 54 years old	87
Between 55 and 64 years old	103
65 years and older	61
Prefer not to answer	8

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**NORTH CAROLINA**  
Department of Transportation

### Looking at Current Traffic Conditions

Roger Castillo  
June 27, 2019

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### Study Roads

**Added**

- Roller Mill Rd
- Siler Rd
- Otter Creek Rd
- Tellico Rd
- Belden Cir

**Removed**

- Leatherman Gap Rd
- Ned Hill Rd
- Ruby Mine Rd
- Cowee Creek Rd

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### Study Roads

**Marked Intersections**

- Wells Grove Rd and Clark Chapel Rd
- US 23/441 and Hunnicut Ln
- Bryson City Rd and Windy Gap Rd

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### Base Year → Future Year

- How is the county growing?
- Where are people going?
- What new locations will be added?
- How has traffic changed over time?

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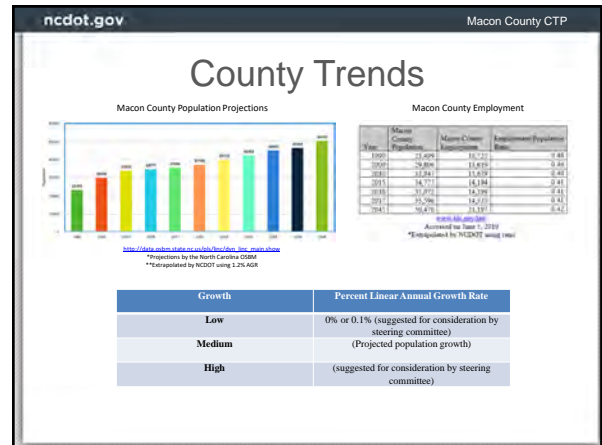
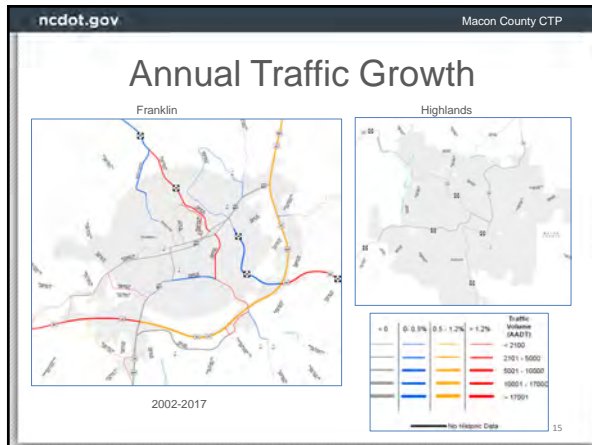
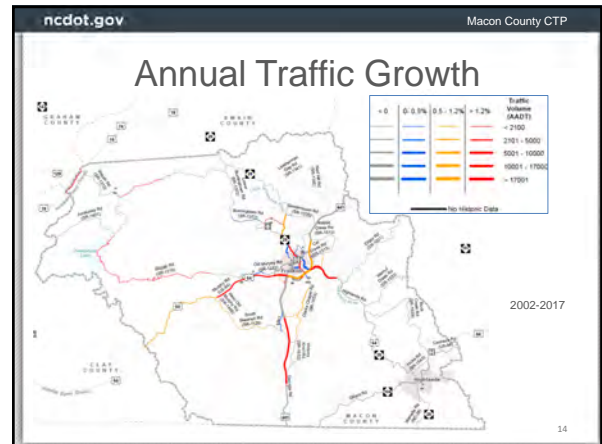
## What are AADT?

- Average Annual Daily Traffic
  - Average # of vehicles per day that year
- Traffic Data is collected using tube counts.
- Seasonal Times and Weekends are not collected.

System	Cycle	Stations
<b>Volume</b>		
Interstate Routes	Annual	3,300
Major Urban Area Routes	Biennial	14,600
Rural Primary Routes	Annual	7,800
Rural Secondary Routes	Biennial	21,700
<b>Class</b>		
Truck Routes	Triennial	3,200
	Total	50,600



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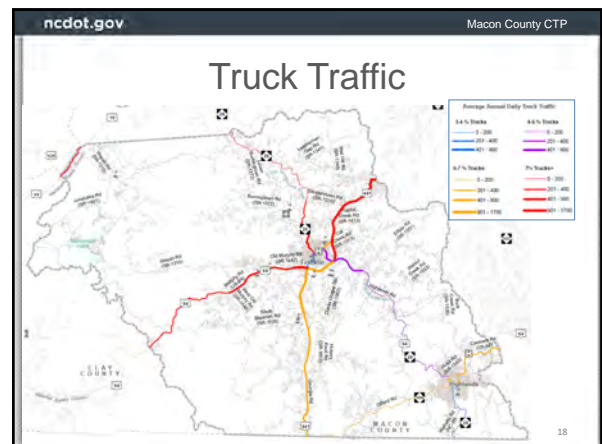
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## Planning for the Future

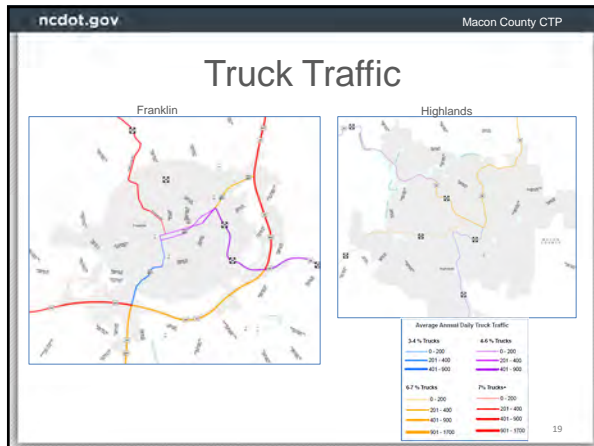
- What type of new development is planned in the County? (ex. New businesses, relocations, improvements)
- What are some highly trafficked seasonal areas? (common tourist areas, large county event locations)



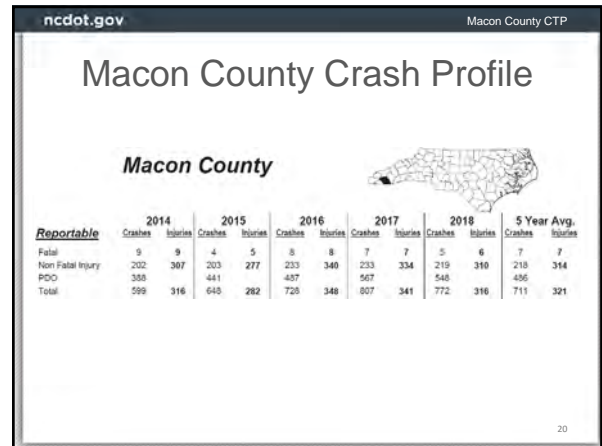
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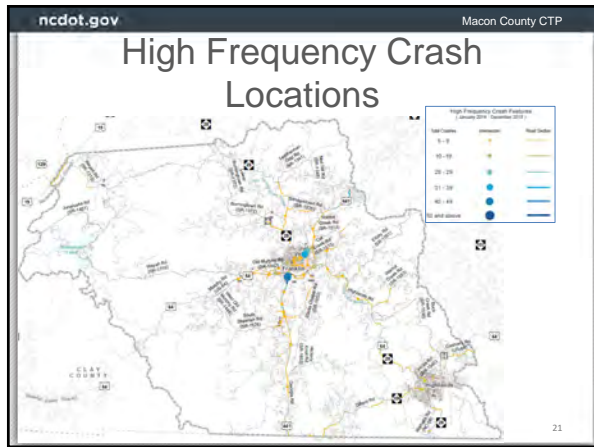




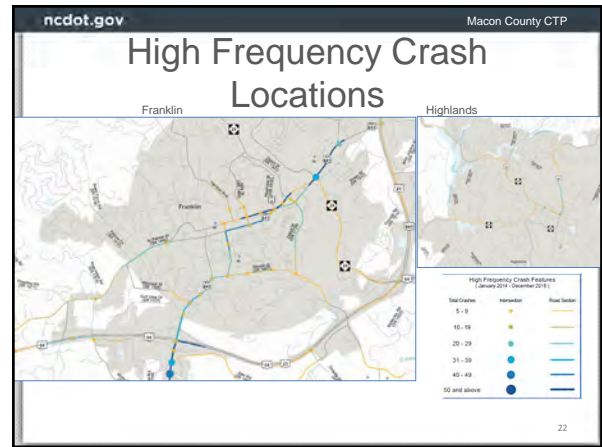
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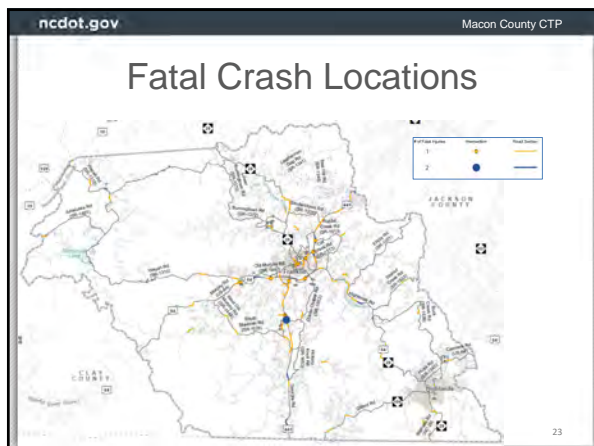
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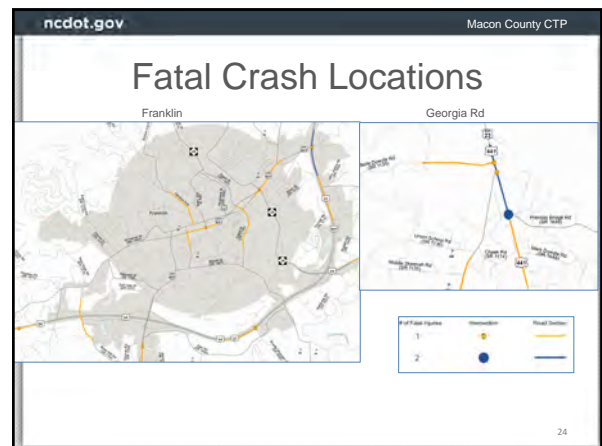
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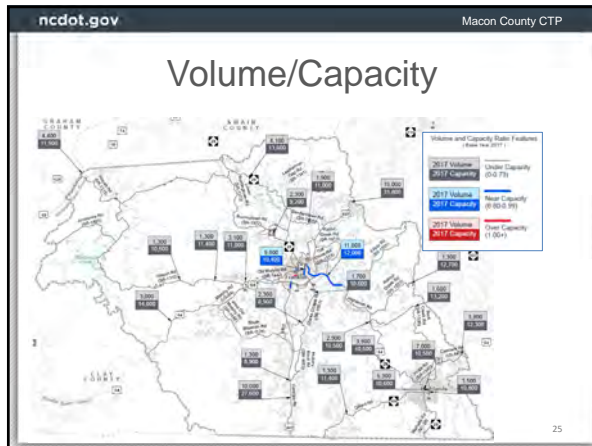
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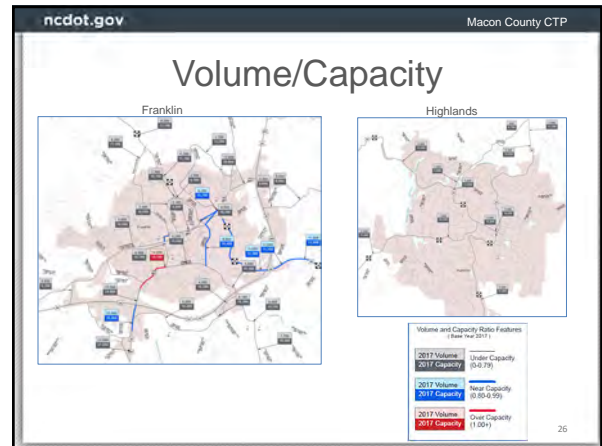
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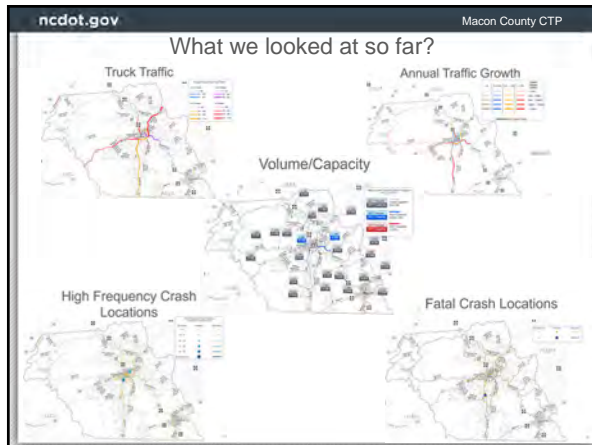
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## Wrap-up

### Next Steps

1. Refine Vision Statement via email
2. Meeting #5: August 29
  - Review Survey Results
  - Review Highway Future Conditions
  - Review Non-Highway Current Conditions
    - Bike
    - Pedestrian
    - Transit
  - Prioritization Overview

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