

# MACON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

## Steering Committee Meeting #6

October 3, 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   |
| 1:10 PM | Finalize Vision Statement<br>Introduce Goals and Objectives                      |
| 1:30PM  | Macon County Transit Overview  |
| 2:00 PM | Break  |
| 2:10 PM | Confirm Population and Employment Projections<br>Confirm Growth Rate Methodology |
| 2:30 PM | Review Environmental Features Map<br>Review Deficient Bridge Map                 |
| 2:40 PM | Wrap-Up and Next Steps   |
| 2:50 PM | Adjourn  |

# MACON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

## Steering Committee Meeting #6 Summary

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October 3, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mitchell Bishop	NCDOT Division 14	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Warren Cabe	Macon County Emergency Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jennifer Garrett	Macon County Health Dept.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Todd Gibbs	Macon County Schools	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tommy Gilbert	Macon County Transit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pete Haithcock	Macon County Airport Authority	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tommy Jenkins	Macon County Economic Development Commission	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ben Laseter	Mainspring Deputy Director	<input checked="" 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 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"/>

Total attendees: 16

## Review of Previous Meetings

Rose Bauguess provided an overview of the previous five meetings and where we are in the overall process. It may seem like we are jumping around a lot, and we are. Topics that are introduced in earlier meetings are later revisited to complete the topic. We are making good progress, but it is not always linear or step-by-step.

## Summary of Agenda Items

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

1. Finalize Vision Statement
2. Approve Population projections
3. Approve Employment projections
4. Approve Growth Rate Methodology

### Finalize Vision Statement

Rose provided a handout to be added to the Vision Process Document distributed during Meeting #2 in May. The handout completes the process documentation of refining and finalizing the Vision Statement. The Steering Committee endorsed the following Vision Statement for the CTP:

*Macon County envisions a safe and reliable multi-modal transportation network that accommodates all users and connects our people with the goods and services they need to thrive.*

*This transportation system supports economic development opportunities, promotes healthy communities, and adapts to changing technologies while also preserving the natural beauty and rural character of our county.*

### Introduce Goals and Objectives

Now that the Vision Statement has been finalized, the Steering Committee needs to develop Goals and Objectives to document how Macon County will achieve the vision you want to achieve. The goals are more general in nature and will separate the Vision Statement into themes. The Objectives are more specific and lay out what actions are necessary to achieve each goal. The results of the public survey will also inform the goals and objectives. The committee reviewed the themes for developing the goals. The Core Team will draft some goals and objectives for the Steering Committee to refine.

### Macon County Transit Overview

Tommy Gilbert and Kim Angel provided an overview of the services provided by Macon County Transit. Macon County Transit has been around for 20 years and has grown from nothing to a robust agency in that time, with a fleet of 16 vehicles. The CTP will include plans for the next 20 years of transit planning for the future needs of the county. Transit will play a vital part of the transportation network for all users who either choose not to drive a personal vehicle or don't have access to one.

### Confirm Population and Employment Projections

Roger Castillo presented historical trends and future projections for Macon County population and employment data. These projections are important for forecasting future traffic volumes. Multiple sources for population data were consulted and compared, including the NC Office of Budget and Management (OSBM) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Macon County's historical growth rate averages approximately 1.2%, so this rate was used to extrapolate the 2045 population. The employment to population ratio for Macon County averages about 0.42%, and this was used to extrapolate the 2045 employment numbers. A growth rate of 1.2% yields a population increase of approximately 427 persons per year.

Year	Macon County Population	Macon County Employment
Base Year 2017	35,596	14,535
Future Year 2045 (1.2%)	47,556	19,974

The Steering Committee was asked to verify or challenge these projections based on local knowledge and experiences. Members had the following comments:

- Growth will be limited by the topography and the ability to expand water and sewer
- Macon County's average age of population is increasing, which will decrease the percentage of the population that is in the workforce
- Young people continue to move away for college or work and don't come back
- Many industries have left the county
- Tourism and outdoor recreation are growing sectors

The Steering Committee gave approval for the population and employment projections, but overall, they felt that the projections were on the high side. Based on this feedback, the growth rate was lowered to 1.0%, which would yield a population increase of approximately 356 persons per year.

Year	Macon County Population	Macon County Employment
Base Year 2017	35,596	14,535
<b>Future Year 2045 (1.0%)</b>	<b>45,563</b>	<b>19,136</b>

### Confirm Growth Rate Methodology

Roger reviewed how the population employment projections will be applied to the Base Year (2017) traffic volumes to determine Future Year (2045) traffic volumes. Because the growth will not be evenly distributed across the county and across all roads, the county was divided geographically into areas that have a high, low, or medium potential for growth. The following growth rates for traffic volume were proposed:

Growth Potential	Traffic Volume Growth Rate
Low	0.1%
Medium	1.2%
High	1.5%

Roger showed maps of these areas and asked for feedback. The Steering Committee approved the growth rate methodology and had the following comments:

- Facilities with higher growth potential include:
  - US 23/US 441 northeast of Franklin
  - Cat Creek, Holly Springs, Rabbit Creek, Bethel Church
  - US 23/US 441 south of Franklin
  - Siler Road
  - Well's Grove Rd, Clark's Chapel Rd
  - Old Murphy Rd
  - US 64 West to Carson's Crossing
- Facilities with lower growth potential include:
  - Highlands and Franklin are largely built-out
  - Airport area is unlikely to get water/sewer
  - Northern Macon including Nantahala and Burningtown

Roger will utilize this information when developing traffic volumes for the future year of 2045.

### Wrap-Up

The topics above used all the allotted meeting time, so the Environmental Features Map and Deficient Bridge Map were not reviewed. The committee reviewed the desired outcomes identified at the beginning of the meeting. All four desired outcomes were achieved.

## Summary of Action Items

The following action items were identified during the meeting:

- Develop Summary of Meeting #6
- Develop Draft Goals and Objectives for review
- Develop Future Year Traffic Volumes and Capacities

## Next Steps

The next Steering Committee meeting will be held **Thursday, November 7, 2019**, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Southwestern Community College Groves Center Conference Room on Siler Farm Road. Tentative agenda items for the next meeting include:

- Develop Goals and Objectives
- Confirm Future Year Volumes and Capacities

## MACON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

### Steering Committee Meeting #6

OCTOBER 3, 2019



1

## Agenda – Meeting #6

- 1:00 PM Welcome and Review
- 1:10 PM Finalize Vision Statement  
Introduce Goals and Objectives
- 1:30 PM Macon County Transit Overview
- 2:00 PM Break
- 2:10 PM Confirm Population and Employment Projections  
Confirm Growth Rate Methodology
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Review Deficient Bridge Map
- 2:40 PM Wrap-Up and Next Steps
- 2:50 PM Adjourn

2

## Desired Outcomes

1. Finalize Vision Statement
2. Approve Population projections
3. Approve Employment projections
4. Approve Growth Rate Methodology

3

## Review

### Meeting #1 – March 26, 2019

- Intro to CTP
- Roles and Responsibilities
- From Planning to Implementation
- Visioning Exercise

### Meeting #2 – May 2, 2019

- Stakeholder Representation Matrix
- Vision Statement
- Draft Public Input Survey

### Meeting #3 – May 30, 2019

- Survey Distribution and Marketing Plan
- Facility Types and CTP Study Roads
- Macon County Commuting Patterns

### Meeting #4 – June 6, 2019

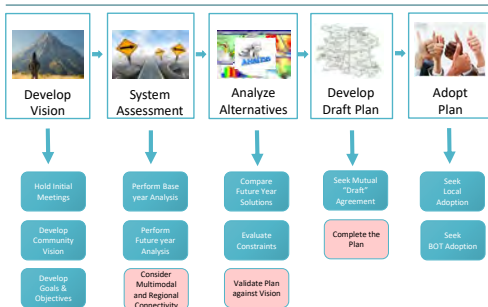
- Future Growth Rate Methodology
- Review Base-Year Highway Maps
  - Volume
  - Truck Volume
  - Crashes

### Meeting #5 – August 27, 2019

- Public Survey Results
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Crash Data
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Existing Plans
- Macon County Demographics Quiz

4

## Review



5

## Vision

*Macon County envisions a safe and reliable multi-modal transportation network that accommodates all users and connects our people with the goods and services they need to thrive.*

*This transportation system supports economic development opportunities, promotes healthy communities, and adapts to changing technologies while also preserving the natural beauty and rural character of our county.*

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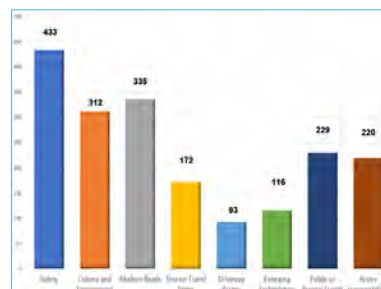
## Goals and Objectives

Goals and Objectives document **how** your county will achieve the Vision you want to achieve. Validated by the Public Survey results.

- GOALS:
- more general
  - separate Vision statement into *themes*
- OBJECTIVES:
- more specific
  - what *action* is necessary to achieve the goal
  - measurable
  - reasonable
  - time-bound

7

## Vision, Goals, Objectives



8

## Goals and Objectives

**Vision:** Macon County envisions a **safe** and reliable multi-modal transportation network that accommodates all users and connects our people with the goods and services they need to thrive.

**Goal:** Provide a **safe** transportation network.

**Objective 1:** Replace two-way left turn lanes with medians on the roads with highest crash rates. Construct at least 10 miles of median-divided roadway by year 2045.

**Objective 2:** Construct rumble strips on roads with high rate of run-off-the-road crashes. Complete 50 miles of rumble strips by year 2045.

9

## Themes for Goals

- Safe
- Reliable
- Multi-Modal
- Accommodating of all users
- Connecting people with destinations
- Support economic development
- Promote healthy communities
- Adapt to changing technologies
- Preserve natural beauty and rural character

Macon County envisions a **safe** and reliable multi-modal transportation network that accommodates all users and connects our people with the goods and services they need to thrive.

This transportation system supports economic development opportunities, promotes healthy communities, and adapts to changing technologies while also preserving the natural beauty and rural character of our county.

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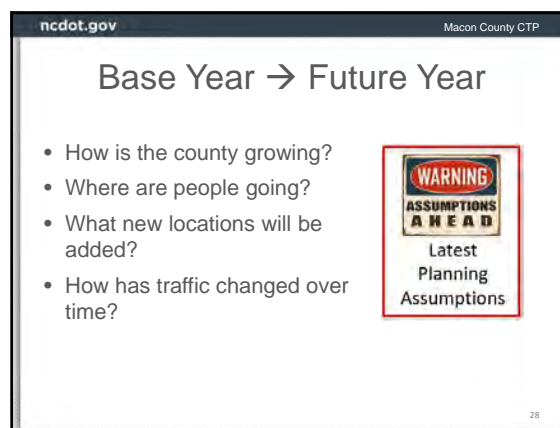
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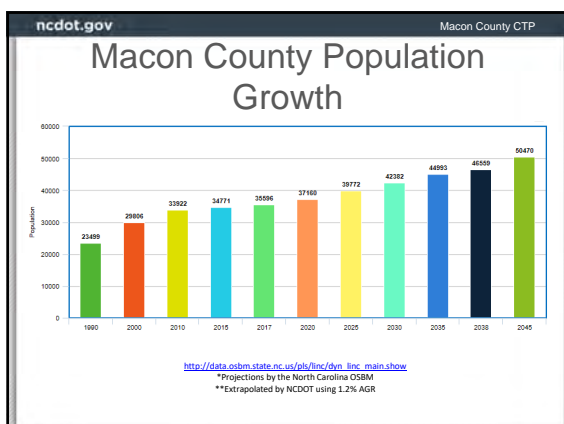
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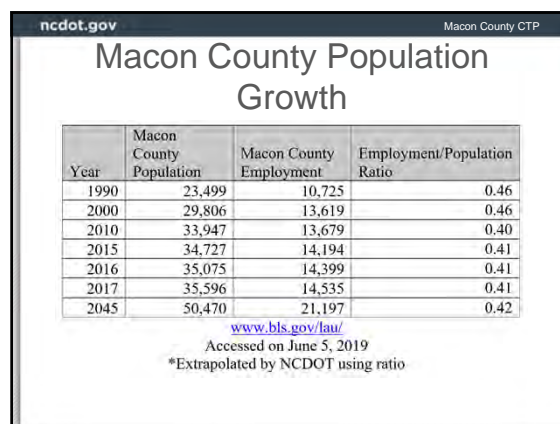
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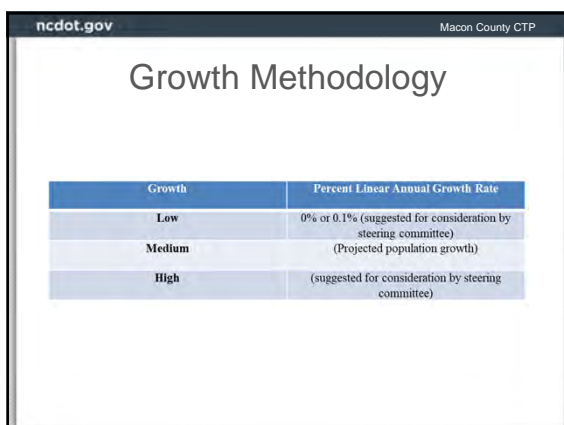


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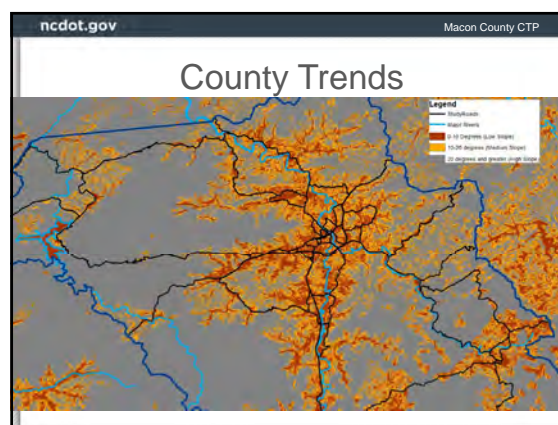


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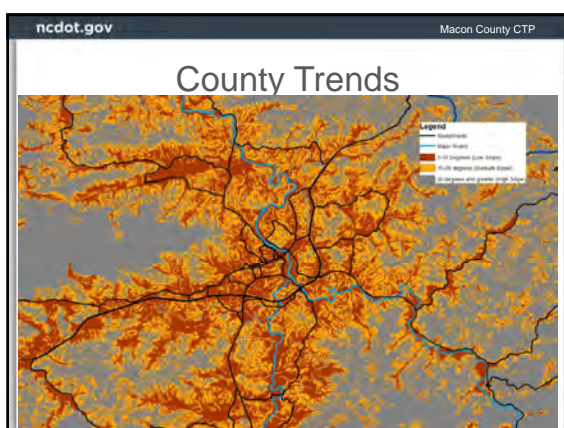




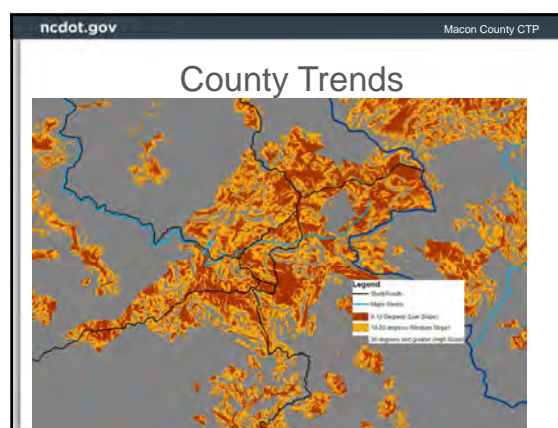
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## Planning for the Future

- 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)

35

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## Contacts

- NCDOT Transportation Planning Division (TPD)
  - Roger Castillo, [ricastillo@ncdot.gov](mailto:ricastillo@ncdot.gov), (919) 707-0942 (Project Engineer)
- Southwestern Rural Planning Organization (RPO)
  - Rose Bauguess, [rose@regiona.org](mailto:rose@regiona.org), (828) 586-1962 x 213
- NCDOT Division 14 Planning Engineer
  - Steve Williams, [sjwilliams@ncdot.gov](mailto:sjwilliams@ncdot.gov), (828) 631-1170

36

36

## Wrap-up

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### Desired Outcomes Achieved?

1. Finalize Vision Statement
2. Approve Population projections
3. Approve Employment projections
4. Approve Growth Rate Methodology

37

## Wrap-up

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### Next Steps

1. Meeting #7: October 31 or November 7?
  - *Goals and Objectives*
  - *Highway Future-Year Volumes*
  - *Highway Future-Year Capacity*

38