Problem Statement (PS) Guidance
Frequently Asked Questions

1) *The PS guidance states that information that pertains to the entire CTP study is contained elsewhere in the CTP report. What categories of information are found elsewhere in the CTP report and where are they located?*

Type of Information	Location in CTP Report
CTP Study Area Boundary	Figure 1: Comprehensive Transportation Plan
Multi-modal Analysis	Ch.1, 'Public Transportation and Rail' and 'Bicycles and Pedestrians'' sections
Land Use related to CTP	Ch.1, 'Land Use' section
Environmental Considerations	Ch.1, 'Consideration of the Natural and Human Environment' section
Public Involvement	Appendix H, 'Public Involvement'
Alternatives/ Scenarios Analysis	Appendix I, 'Alternatives & Scenarios Studied'

2) *What is the purpose of the 'Problem Statement that References and Purpose and Need Underway'?*

Since every project proposal in the CTP should have some PS information in the CTP report, this is basically just a 'placeholder' for those projects that already have Purpose and Need completed or underway. It is just a statement that directs the reader to contact NCDOT- Project Development and Environmental Analysis (PDEA) for the latest documentation.

3) *The PS guidance states that when selecting proposed projects for which a Full PS will be developed, higher priority should be given to 'major' new location, 'major' multi-lane widening, and other 'major' projects from all modes. How is 'major' defined?*

Major is intentionally not defined more specifically in the criteria for project selection, in part because the number of projects selected is dependent on available resources. The intent is for the CTP project engineer to have the flexibility to use their judgment, in concert with the other criteria, to determine what level of PS to develop for each proposed project.

4) *Why is so much supporting information being provided, some of which relates more closely to alternatives than Problem Statement?*

In the CTP report (and PS requests from PDEA), it is important to document everything considered during long range planning in the development of the CTP project proposal. The format provides two sections, titled 'Identified Problem' and 'CTP Project Proposal'. The 'CTP Project Proposal' is intended to provide

supporting information about the selected CTP alternative. It contains information that has been identified as "good to know" when making decisions about the Purpose and Need (PN) for a project. It is not intended to provide information for decisions related to alternatives analysis (this will be included in Appendix I 'Alternatives & Scenarios Studied'). In the 'Identified Problem' section there should be no description of a project or any discussion that would limit possible alternatives for consideration (i.e. no mention of widening, new location, etc.).

5) *The PS provides information related to the selected CTP alternative but only mentions the analysis of other alternatives. Where is further documentation on the alternatives analysis conducted as part of the CTP study?*

CTP alternatives analysis information is in **Appendix I 'Alternatives & Scenarios Studied'** of the CTP report.

6) *What information related to community characteristics and indirect and cumulative effects assessment will be included in the CTP report?*

There are currently Integration Implementation Teams working to develop best practices and documentation standards related to addressing these issues in long range planning.

7) *What other information is available in the CTP report related to environmental considerations?*

The 'Consideration of the Natural and Human Environment' section in Chapter 2 of the report contains documentation of the type assessment conducted as part of the CTP study, including a list of environmental features examined and an environmental features map.

8) *For Problem Statements requested from PDEA, what drives the 12-week typical timeframe for delivery of the Problem Statement?*

The 12-week timeframe is intended to allow for the TPB engineer to fit the PS assignment into their current workload. It includes some process steps in addition to the actual development of the PS, such as assignment of the PS to the engineer, the TPB engineer coordinating with the requestor, and review of the draft product. (Refer to the Procedures for more information).

9) *Where will public involvement be documented for a CTP study and how does this relate to the "Public Involvement" section in the Problem Statement?*

The public involvement information located in the PS only provides details from the public involvement process that relate specifically to the proposed project.

Additional information related to the overall public involvement in the CTP process is documented in **Appendix H 'Public Involvement'** of the CTP Study Report. Appendix H will include the following information for every CTP:

- Listing of committee members;

- Vision statements;

- G/O survey with summation of results; and

- Summary of each public involvement opportunity including the types of information presented, number of attendees, and any major/potentially controversial issues.

10)   *At what point in the CTP process should the Problem Statements be drafted?*

Ideally the problem statement would be developed in two phases. The first section "Identified Problem" should be developed as part of the deficiency analysis. This is where you are truly identifying the "problem" without regard to a potential solution. During alternatives analysis you would identify solutions to address your problems. The second section "CTP Project Proposal" should be drafted with the development of the DRAFT CTP maps once you have identified the selected long range planning alternative, called the 'CTP Project Proposal'.

By documenting the problem early in the process it enables the public to know (and contribute information to) the problems that you are trying to address in alternatives analysis. Drafting the problem statements concurrently with the DRAFT CTP maps will also provide additional information to assist decision makers in the process.