

What is a CTP?

North Carolina General Statute 136-66.2 requires each municipality, county, or Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), with the cooperation of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), to develop a Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) serving the present and anticipated travel demand in and around the municipality or MPO. The plan shall be based on the best information available including, but not limited to, population growth, economic conditions and prospects, and patterns of land development in and around the municipality, and shall provide for the safe and effective use of the transportation system.

Five Sheets of the CTP:

(Together these sheets create the CTP)



Adoption Sheet

This sheet contains the legend for all of the CTP sheets and shows the adoption dates of the local governments, the Rural Planning Organization (RPO), and the NCDOT.



Highway Map

This sheet contains road categories that progress from high mobility, low access (freeway) to low mobility, high access (minor thoroughfare).



Public Transportation and Rail Map

At a minimum, this sheet shows existing rail corridors, operational strategies [high occupancy vehicle (HOV)] and intermodal connectors. However, opportunities exist to show future bus routes and park and ride facilities.



Bicycle Map

This sheet shows on-road and off-road bicycle facilities of state significance such as the proposed Lake Norman Bicycle Route.

Pedestrian Map

The Transportation Planning Branch is waiting to see the results of the pedestrian planning grant products, which will help identify criteria to show in the pedestrian map of the CTP.



What is included in a CTP document?

The CTP document includes acknowledgements, CTP maps, an executive summary, an introduction, multi-modal recommendations, population, land use and existing transportation systems, environmental screening, conclusion, and appendices. The CTP supplemental technical report includes supporting information on how the study was completed along with cost estimates and detailed information on public involvement.



Land Development

North Carolina General Statute 136-66.2 also requires that a local government have a land development plan or policy adopted within the last five years or be in the process of developing a land development plan in order for the NCDOT to participate in the development and adoption of a new or updated transportation plan.



Types of Analyses Used in the Metrolina Region

There are various types of analysis that can be used in a CTP study. The priority of a study is based on the type of analysis needed.

STEP UP (Simple Traffic Estimation Procedure Using Population) method is used for county studies.

Population counts and traffic count volumes are used. This tool analyzes the relationship between growth in population and traffic volumes. This analysis results in a percent growth rate that can be used to project traffic volumes.

The manual allocation method is used for an area with a population of 5,000 or less. General information regarding housing, employment, and population data is used. The resulting trips are distributed in the planning area on major roads based on observed and anticipated travel patterns. This distribution is done by hand on a map, hence, a “manual” allocation. The Troutman CTP was developed using the manual allocation method.

A “model” study is used for an area with a population greater than 5,000. A model study uses the computer software TransCAD to simulate actual travel patterns. A model study uses population, employment, and housing data along with commercial vehicle data and possible surveys of housing and other types of related data to assist in simulating these travel patterns. However, a model study can be costly and time consuming as it is heavily data driven, but it can show the effects of

different development patterns on the transportation network. The Statesville Thoroughfare Plan was developed using a model.

CTP study priorities

Each RPO, as part of their annual planning work program, is required to develop a priority list of CTPs within its planning area.

This priority list ranks the priority of municipalities or counties that are next in line for the initiation of a CTP study. This list also contains contact information for each jurisdiction and the date of the last land use plan developed for that jurisdiction.

This CTP study priority list is compiled by the Lake Norman RPO staff and presented to the Lake Norman Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) for their recommendation. After recommendation, this list will go before the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) for their adoption. As a matter of rule, this recommendation process must occur each time that a priority is revised. The adopted list is sent to the NCDOT for future work assignments.

The Metrolina Planning Group Supervisor assigns the prioritized CTP studies based on the availability of staff. Once assigned, the study usually takes 18 to 24 months to complete. This time frame may be longer or shorter depending on the type and complexity of the study.

Current CTP study priorities are the City of Shelby, the City of Kings Mountain, the City of Statesville, and the Town of Boiling Springs.