



# Remnants of Tropical Cyclone Zeta to Cause Significant Impacts to the Region through Thursday

6:00 PM EDT – Wednesday, October 28, 2020

*Prepared by: WFO Greenville-Spartanburg, SC*

## **What Has Changed:**

- Tropical Storm Warnings issued and expanded
- Wind speeds have increased with gusts of 45-55 mph now possible

**Next Briefing:** As needed

*Disclaimer: The information contained within is time-sensitive. Do not use after 7am EDT Thursday.*



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[www.weather.gov/gsp](http://www.weather.gov/gsp)

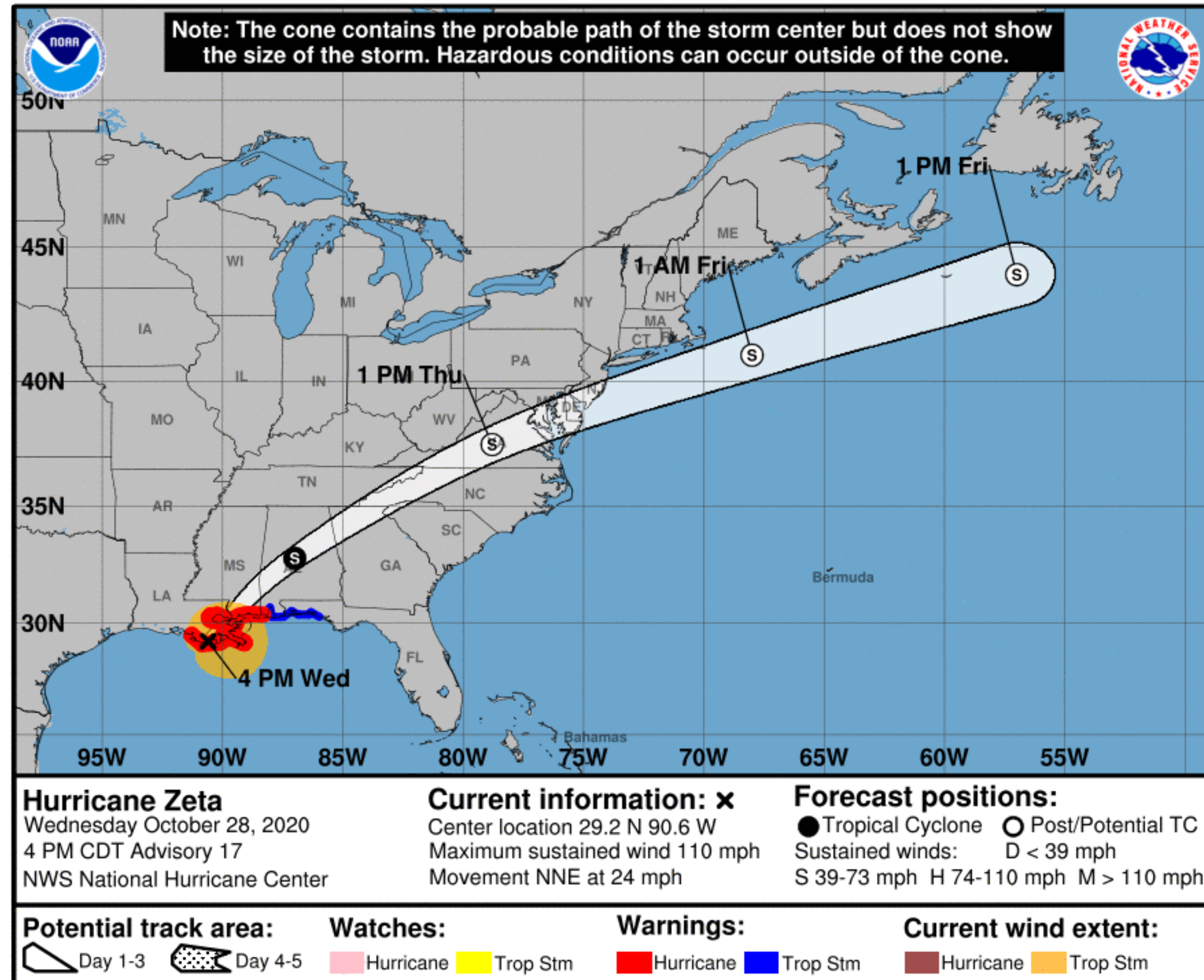
# Situation Overview

## Remnants of Zeta



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- Outer rain shower bands from Zeta are arriving this evening, and impacts will begin after midnight tonight, especially closer to daybreak.
- The Zeta remnants are expected to pass rapidly over the western Carolinas and northeast Georgia mainly Thursday morning.
- Conditions will rapidly improve by Thursday evening.

**NOTE:** Do not focus on the exact track.  
Impacts can occur well outside the area enclosed by the cone.



# Situation Overview

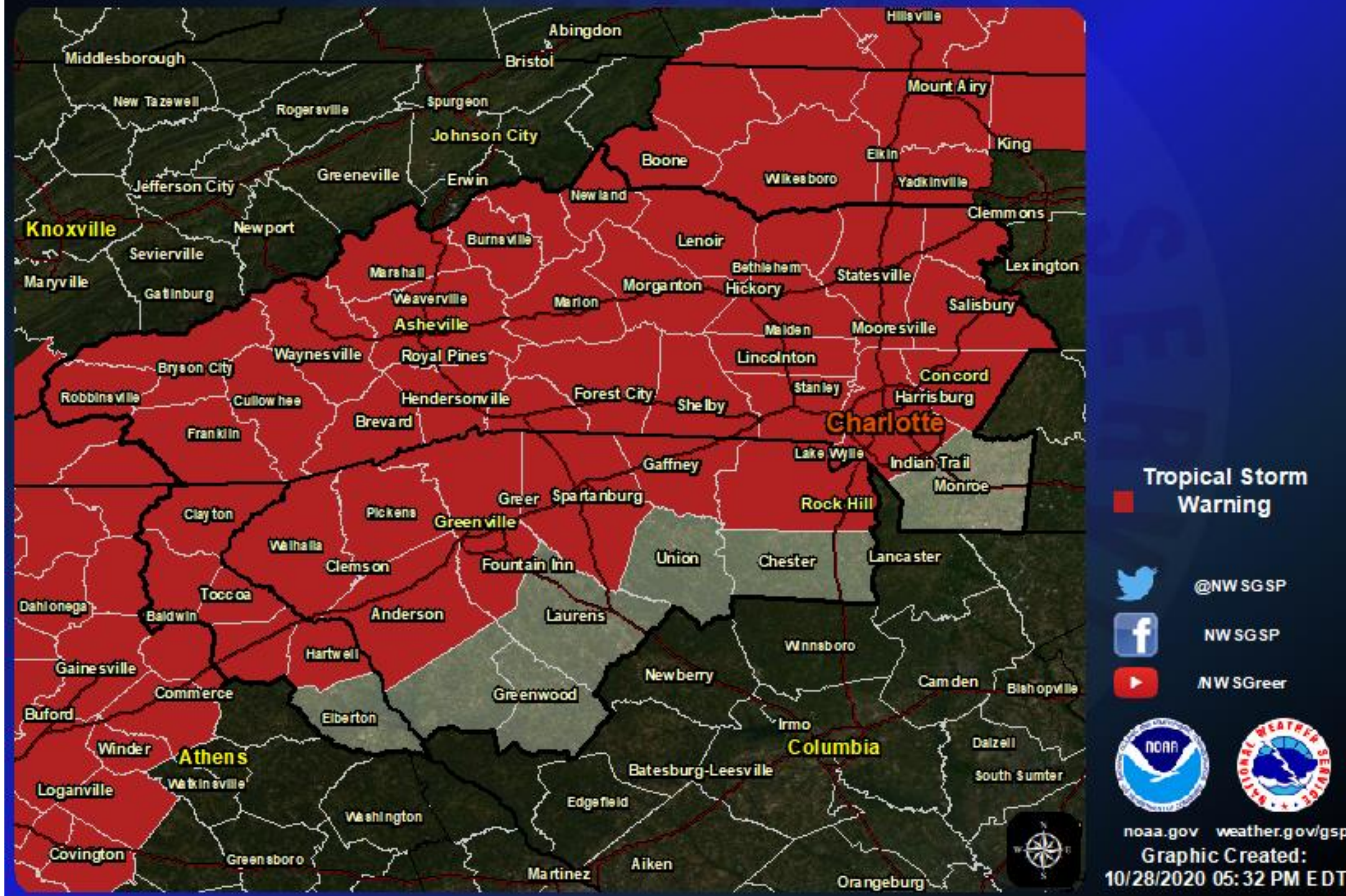
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## National Weather Service Greenville/Spartanburg South Carolina Active Tropical Weather Hazards



- Increasing confidence on more significant wind impacts to the area.
- Tropical Storm Warning issued through Thursday and expanded to cover most of the area.
- Lower Piedmont areas from Elbert GA to Union NC remain in a Wind Advisory for slightly lesser impacts as Zeta transitions to gradually become post-tropical.



# Situation Overview

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## Hazard

## Impacts

## Location

## Timing

### Strong Winds



Wind gusts of 45-55mph will be capable of blowing down trees and limbs, and possibly taking down powerlines as well. The wet soil conditions could make downed trees more widespread in some areas.

Anywhere across the western Carolinas and northeast Georgia. Higher gusts are possible across the higher mountain elevations.

Late tonight through Thursday afternoon

### Heavy Rain / Flash Flooding

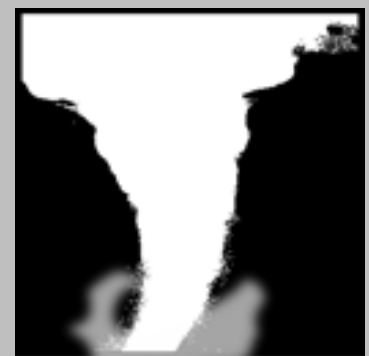


Heavy rain amounts of 2-4", with isolated 4-6", will cause rapid stream rises. Minor flooding of adjacent low-lying areas is possible. More significant flash flooding is possible in areas repeatedly affected by tropical rain showers.

Across the foothills and mountains of the western Carolinas and northeast Georgia. The highest totals are expected across the southern mountains from Transylvania County, NC into Rabun County, GA.

Overnight tonight through early Thursday afternoon

### Tornadoes



Strong to severe thunderstorms will be capable of producing isolated tornadoes that damage trees and structures.

Across the foothills and Piedmont of the western Carolinas and northeast Georgia, but especially southeast of Interstate 85.

Early Thursday morning in southwest sections to Thursday afternoon in northeast parts.

# Threat Levels

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**Flash Flood Watch in Effect from  
midnight tonight through Thursday  
afternoon**

**Increasing Threat**

*For information on  
specific hazards in this  
area, please go to*

*[https://www.weather.gov/gsp/  
tropical](https://www.weather.gov/gsp/tropical)*

**Wind**

**Rainfall/  
Flash Flooding**

**River  
Flooding**

**Tornadoes**



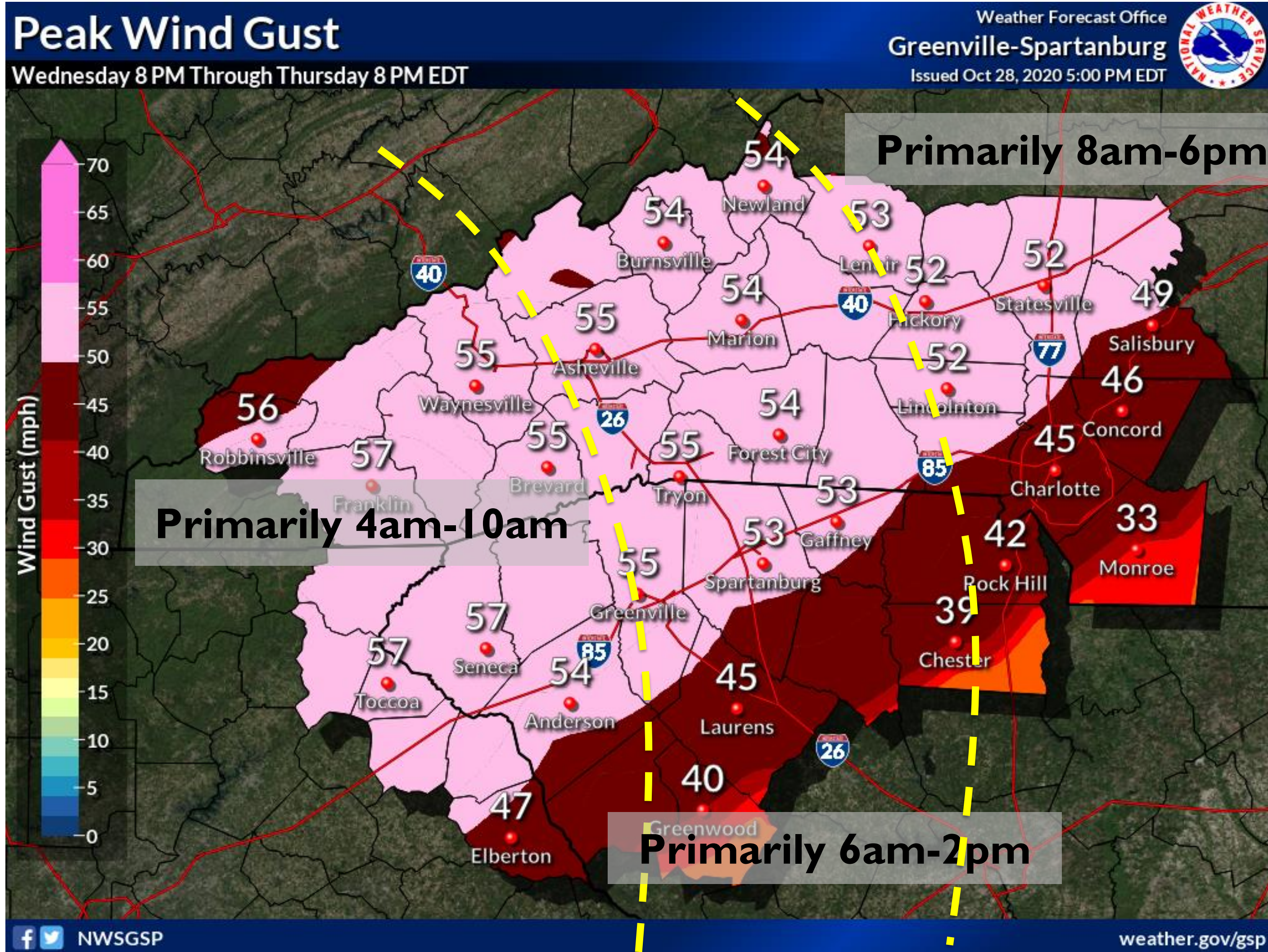
# Forecast Peak Wind Gusts

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- Wind gusts in excess of 50 mph are now possible, especially across the ridge tops of the southern Appalachians, the South Mountains, and portions of the foothills and northwest Piedmont through Thursday.
- Winds will diminish rapidly Thursday night.



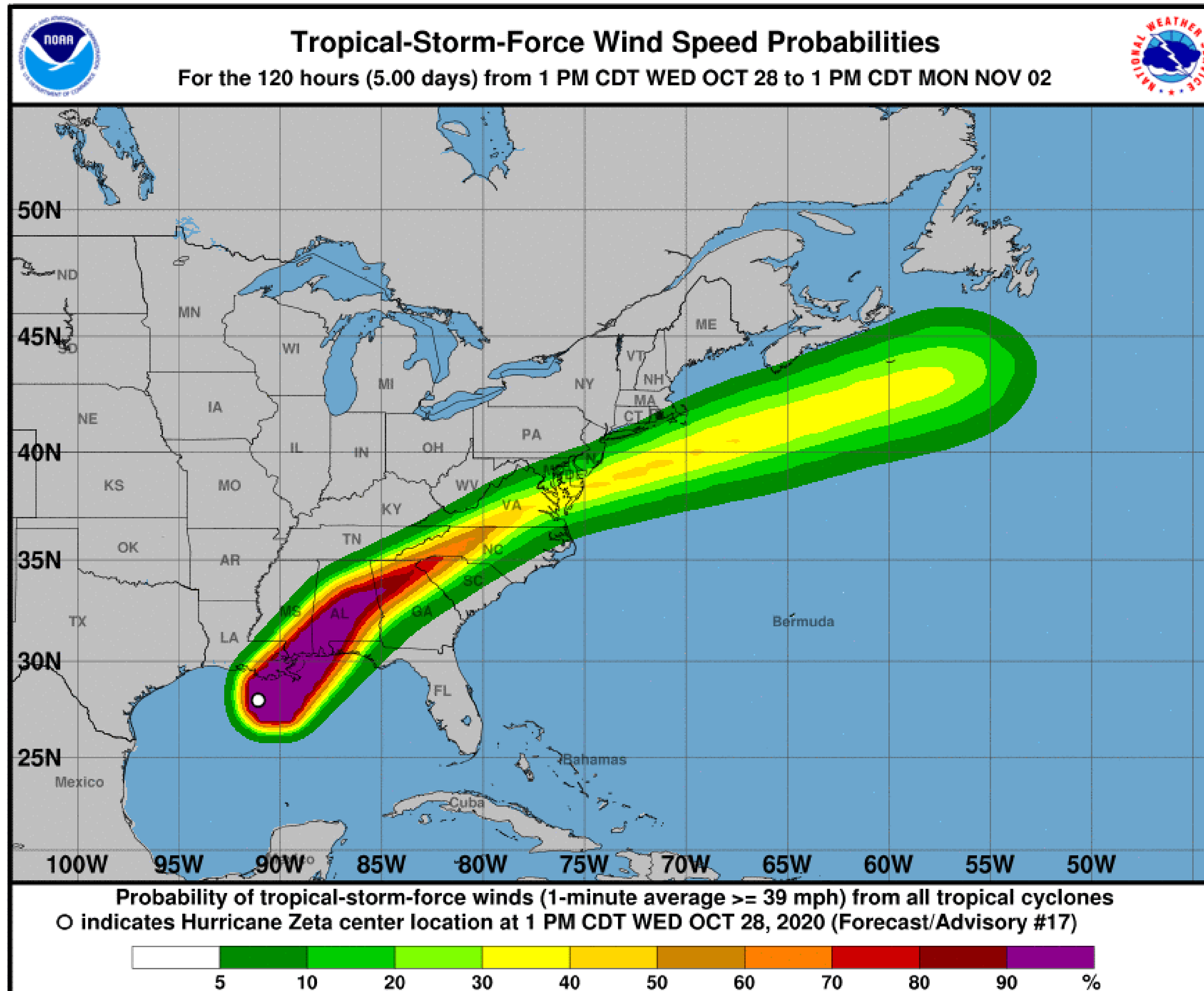
# TS Wind Speed Probabilities

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- Chances of **sustained** tropical storm force winds (39 mph or higher) have greatly increased across the region, with chances now 50 to 75% in most areas currently in the Tropical Storm Warning. Remember that wind **gusts** may exceed 50 mph at times across portions of our area.
- The increasing risk of **sustained** tropical storm force winds and higher gusts is greatly increasing the potential for downed trees and other wind damage Thursday morning.



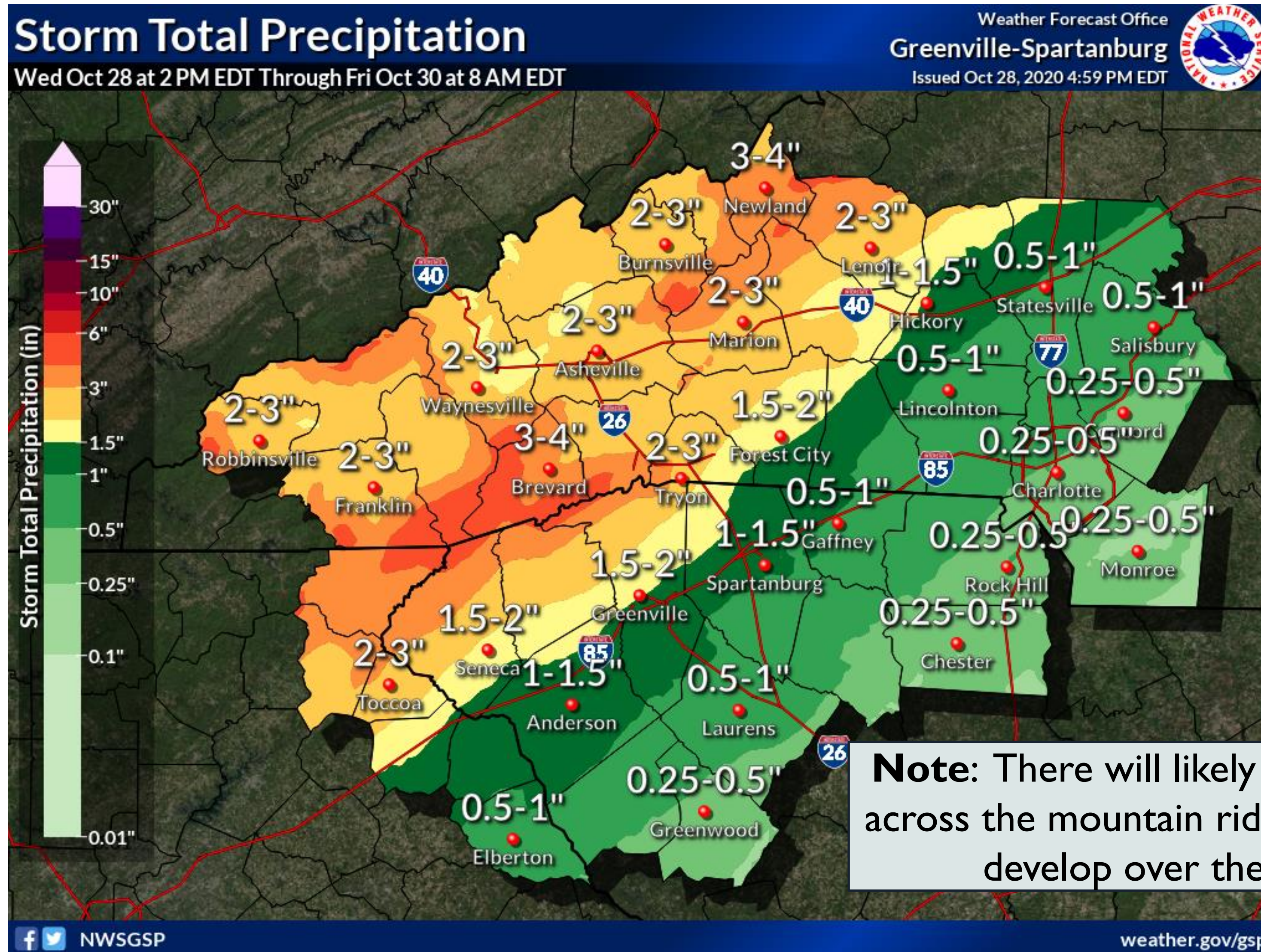
# Expected Storm-Total Rainfall

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- The heaviest rainfall is expected to occur between 2 am and 2 pm Thursday.
- Intense rainfall rates of 1-3 inches per hour will cause rapid stream rises and areas of minor flooding are possible.



# Flash Flood Watch

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## National Weather Service Greenville/Spartanburg South Carolina Active Flood Watches



- Flash Flood Watch remains in effect from midnight tonight through Thursday afternoon.
- Rapid stream rises will cause minor flooding of adjacent low-lying areas including farmland, parks, and low-water crossings. Isolated significant flash flooding is possible, especially in northeast Georgia and the southern mountains.



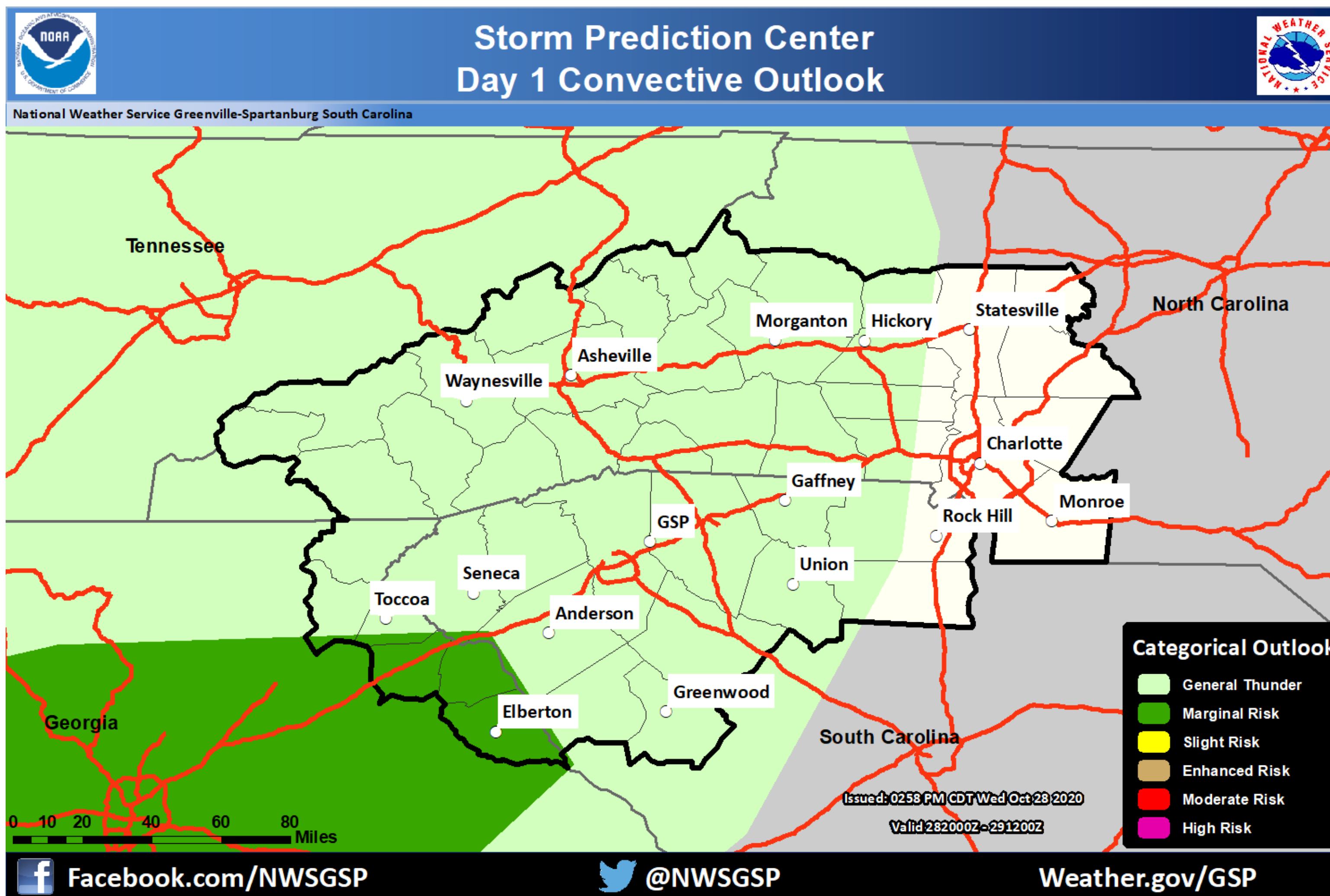
# Potential Tornado Impacts Overnight

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- Isolated tornadoes are possible starting in the pre-dawn hours overnight as the Zeta remnants approach from the southwest.
- The threat will begin over northeast Georgia and the Upper Savannah River Area of the western Upstate of South Carolina around 5 am EDT Thursday. (See darker green Marginal Risk area in image to left)



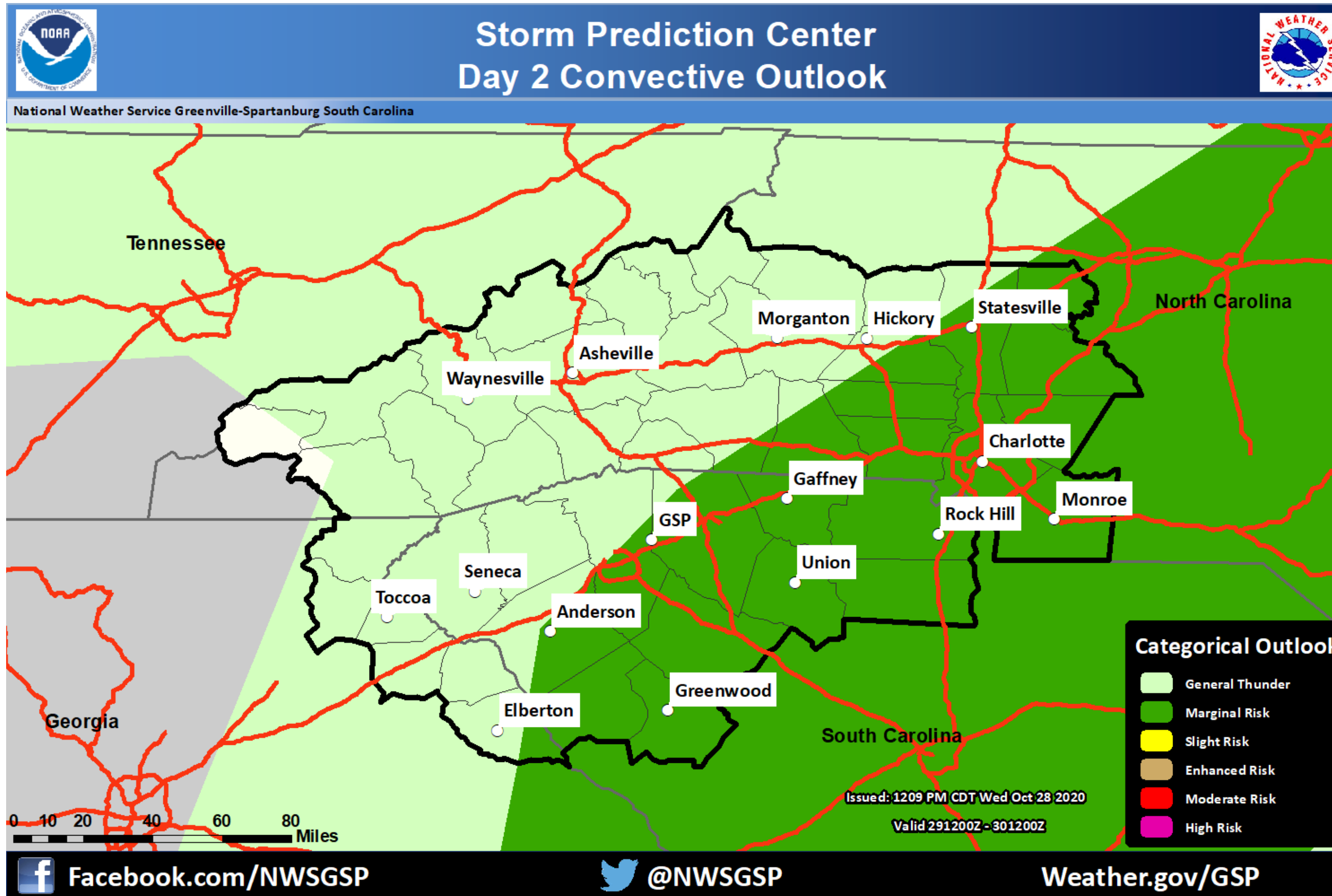
# Potential Tornado Impacts Thursday

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- The isolated tornado threat will then continue through the morning hours across mainly piedmont areas of Upstate South Carolina and western North Carolina.
- The tornado threat will gradually end from the southwest through the mid to late afternoon hours, but scattered thunderstorms may well continue.



# Key Take-Aways

## Remnants of Zeta



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- ✓ Confidence is **High** on heavy rain and strong to damaging winds
  - ✓ Confidence is **Moderate** on isolated flash flooding
  - ✓ Confidence is **Low** on severe storms and tornadoes



**Wind gusts of 45 to 55 mph** are now expected at times across the area overnight through Thursday, with the greatest potential for stronger and damaging gusts over the higher elevations of the mountains and the foothills. **Numerous downed trees and power lines are expected** throughout the Tropical Storm Warning area given the saturated soils.



**Heavy rainfall of 2 to 4 inches** will be possible over the foothills and mountains, with 4 to locally 6 inches possible along the ridge tops of the southern mountains and northeast Georgia. A **Flash Flood Watch** is in effect from midnight tonight through Thursday afternoon for the northern foothills and mountains.



**A marginal risk of severe storms** exists overnight through Thursday, primarily along and southeast of I-85 in northeast Georgia, Upstate South Carolina, and western North Carolina. **Isolated tornadoes** will be possible.





## *The Next Briefing: As Needed*



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