



Winter Weather Briefing

January 21, 2026

3:42 PM

Decision Support Briefing #3 for the western Carolinas and northeast Georgia

NEW

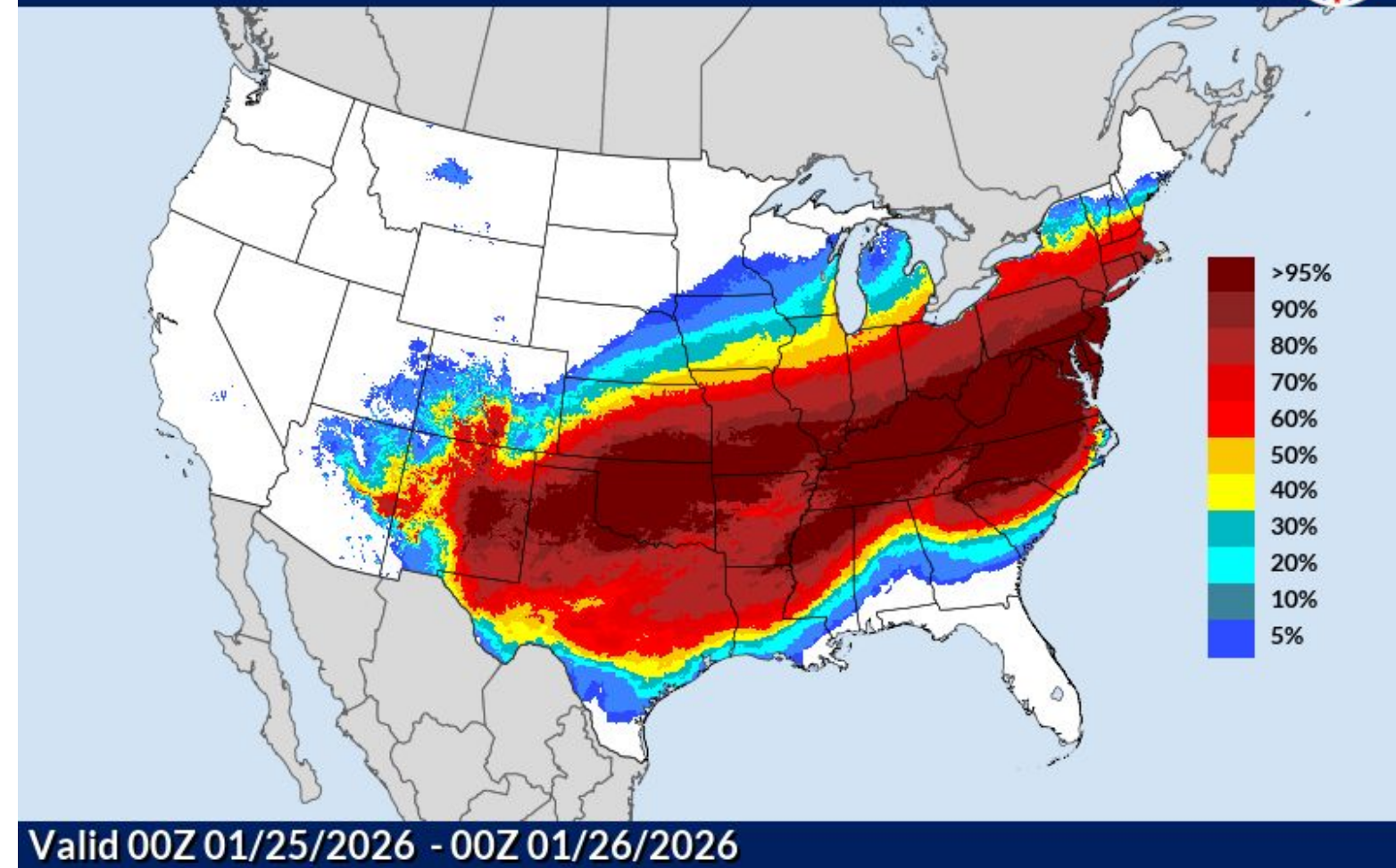
Important Updates

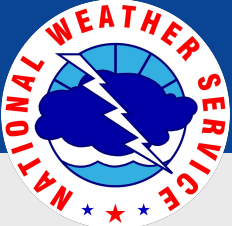
- **Winter Storm Watch issued for our entire forecast area, 7 AM Saturday to 1 PM Monday.**
- Forecast has trended toward greater impacts from ice/sleet and less impact from snow.
- Next webinar scheduled for **4 PM Thursday, January 22, 2026.** (Link to register on last page).

Key Messages

- A major winter storm system is set to impact the entire area this weekend. Specific forecast amounts of ice, sleet, and snow remain uncertain.
- Frigid temperatures next week could extend the threat for hazardous travel and impacts from power outages.

Probability of At Least Minor Winter Weather Impacts





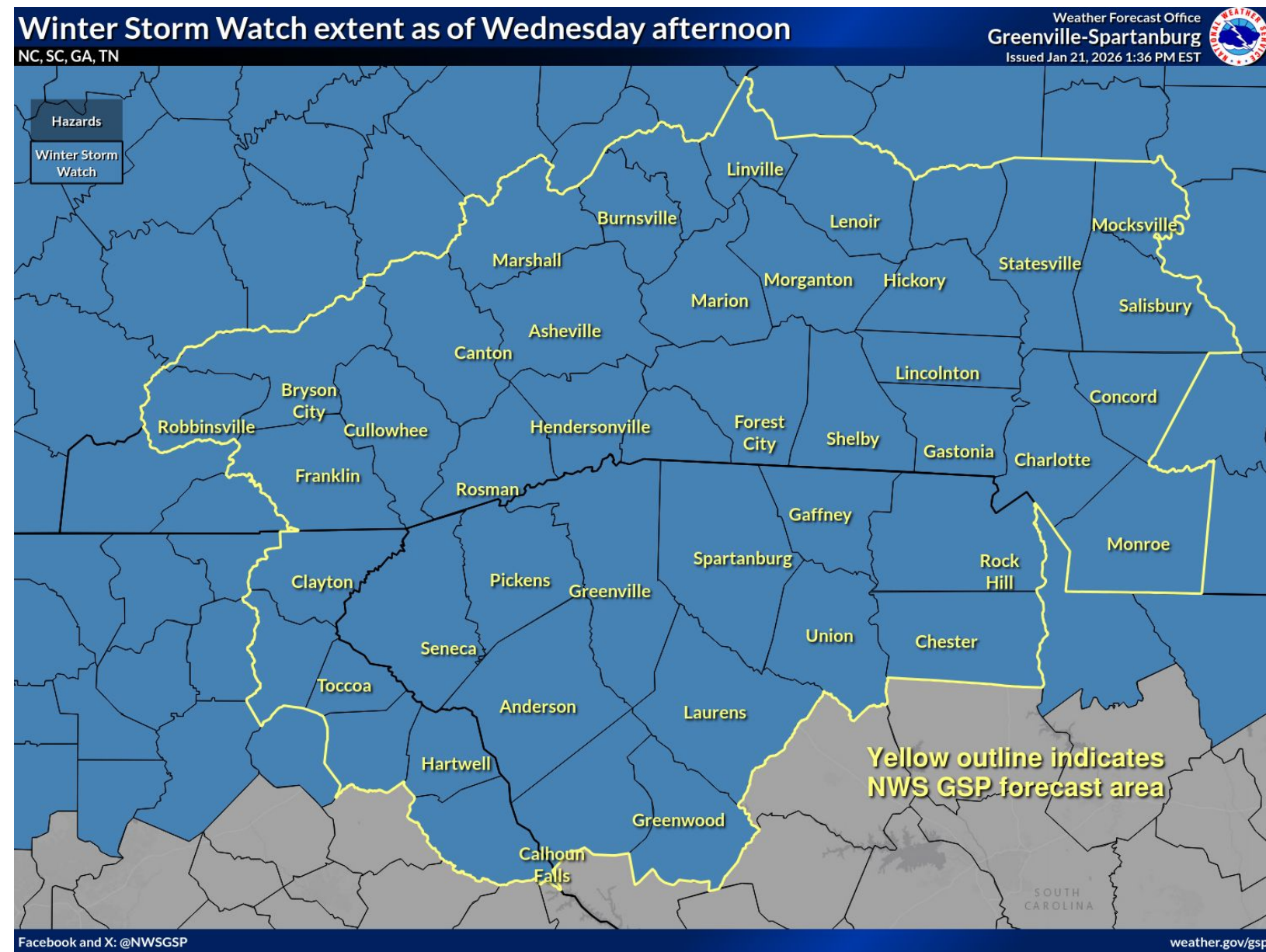
Winter Storm Watch

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In effect 7 AM Saturday to 1 PM Monday within the NWS GSP forecast/service area

Key Messages

- Confidence has become high enough that our whole forecast area will see impacts on the level of a winter storm, to warrant a Winter Storm Watch for all our counties.
- Impacts are expected to include:
 - ◆ Significant ice accumulation on power lines and tree limbs, causing widespread and long-lasting power outages.
 - ◆ Ice and snow covered roadways will become treacherous and impassable.
- Consider delaying all travel until after road conditions improve following the storm.
- Upgrades to Winter Storm Warning or Winter Wx Advisory are not likely until Thursday afternoon *at the soonest*.



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Precipitation Type Challenges

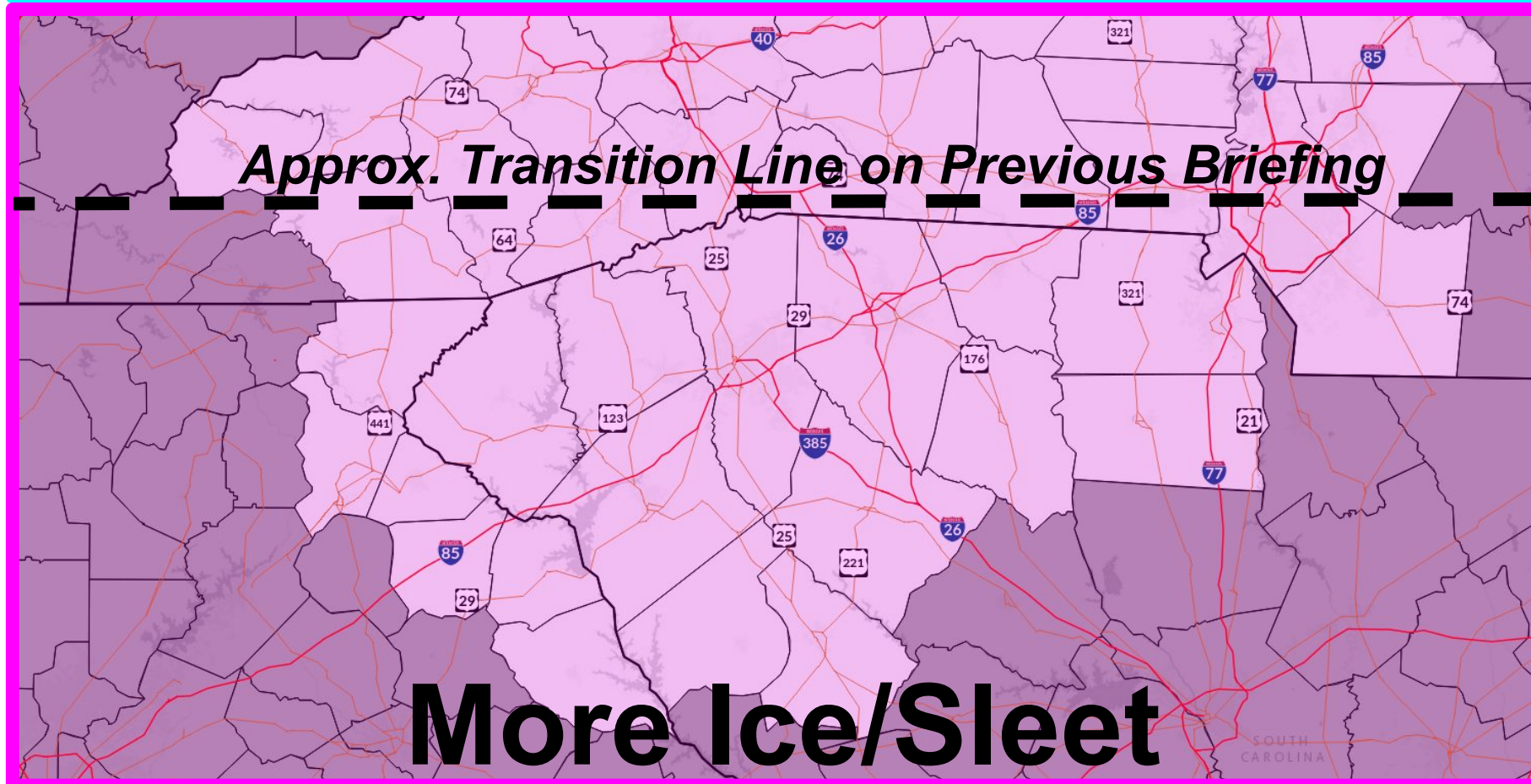
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Confidence remains relatively low as to amounts of snow vs. sleet vs. ice

Forecast Challenge

- Accumulations are highly dependent on where the transition zone occurs from snow to ice/sleet.
- Weather model trends continue to point to a **shift northward** of the greater snow amounts, and the highest snow potential now looks to be north of I-40 in NC.
- *This transition line **will continue to change** as the event gets closer and will determine final precip accumulations.*
- See accumulation probabilities on the next two pages.



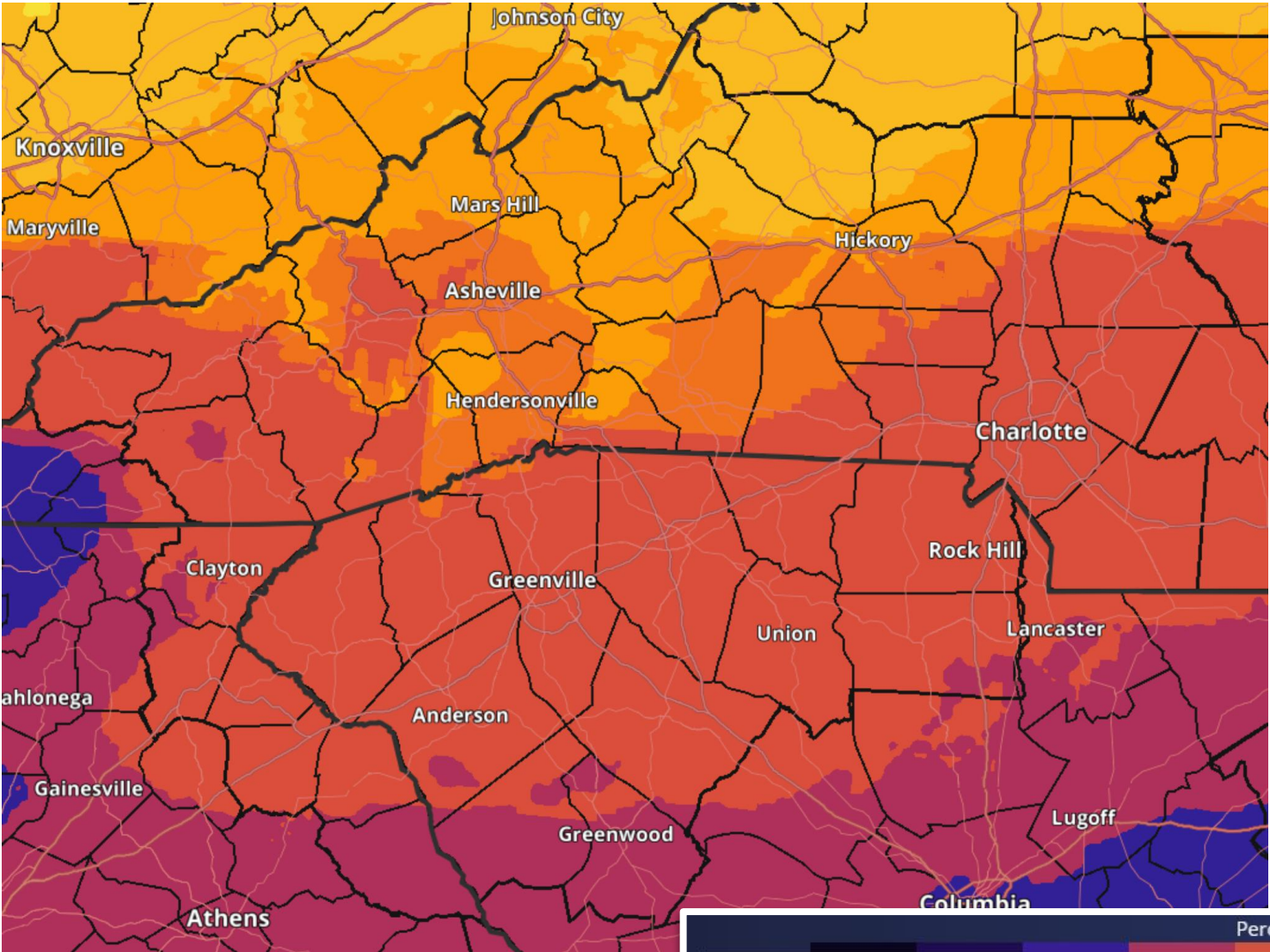


Accumulation Probabilities

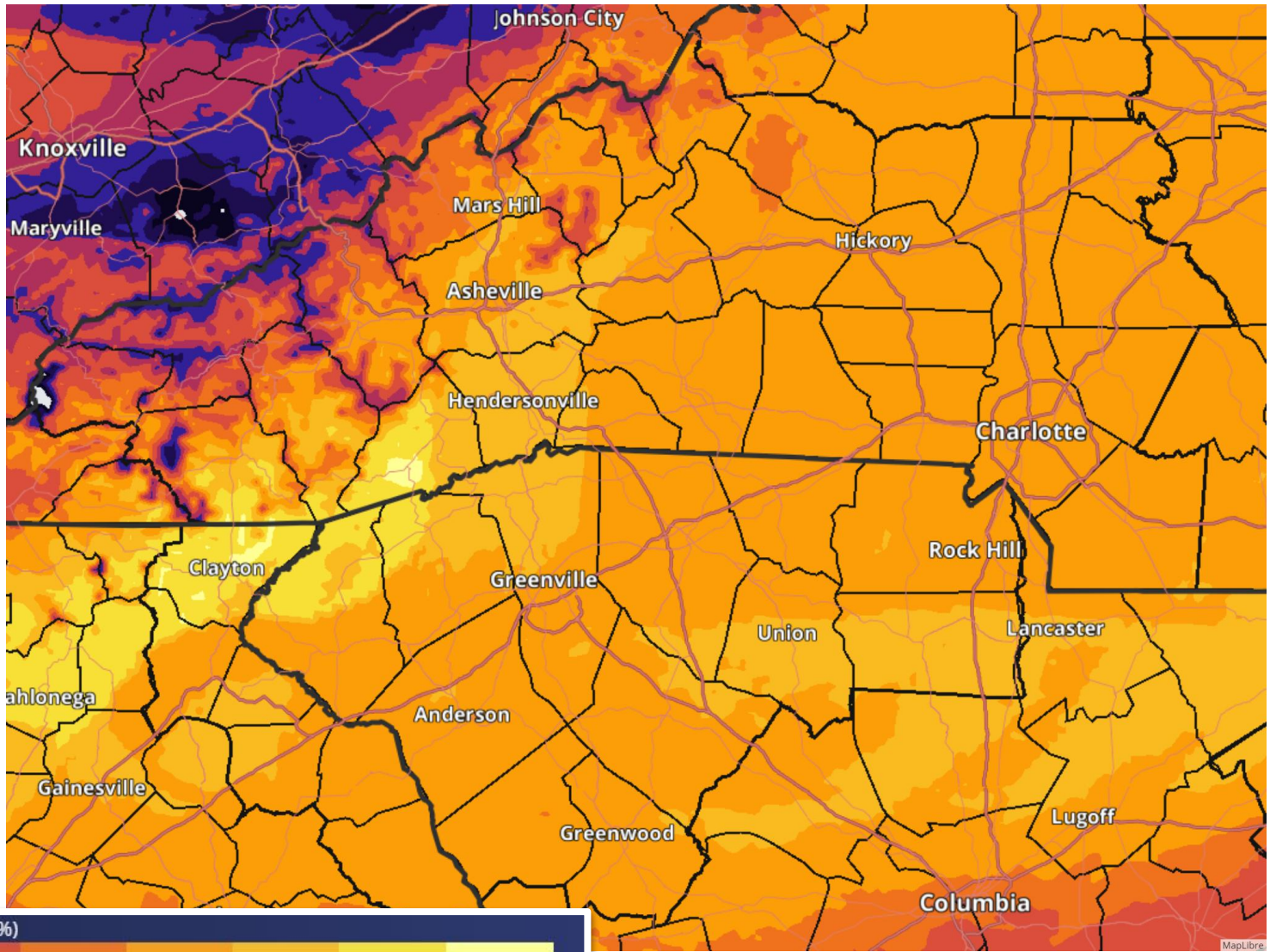
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Over the 48 hour period between 7 AM Saturday and 7 AM Monday

Likelihood of **1 inch** of snow/sleet or greater



Likelihood of **0.25 inch** of ice accumulation or greater



Not an official forecast: The above images are a numeric representation of our confidence that these thresholds will be reached.
For locations outside the NWS GSP service area, consult the local NWS office's briefings or forecasts.



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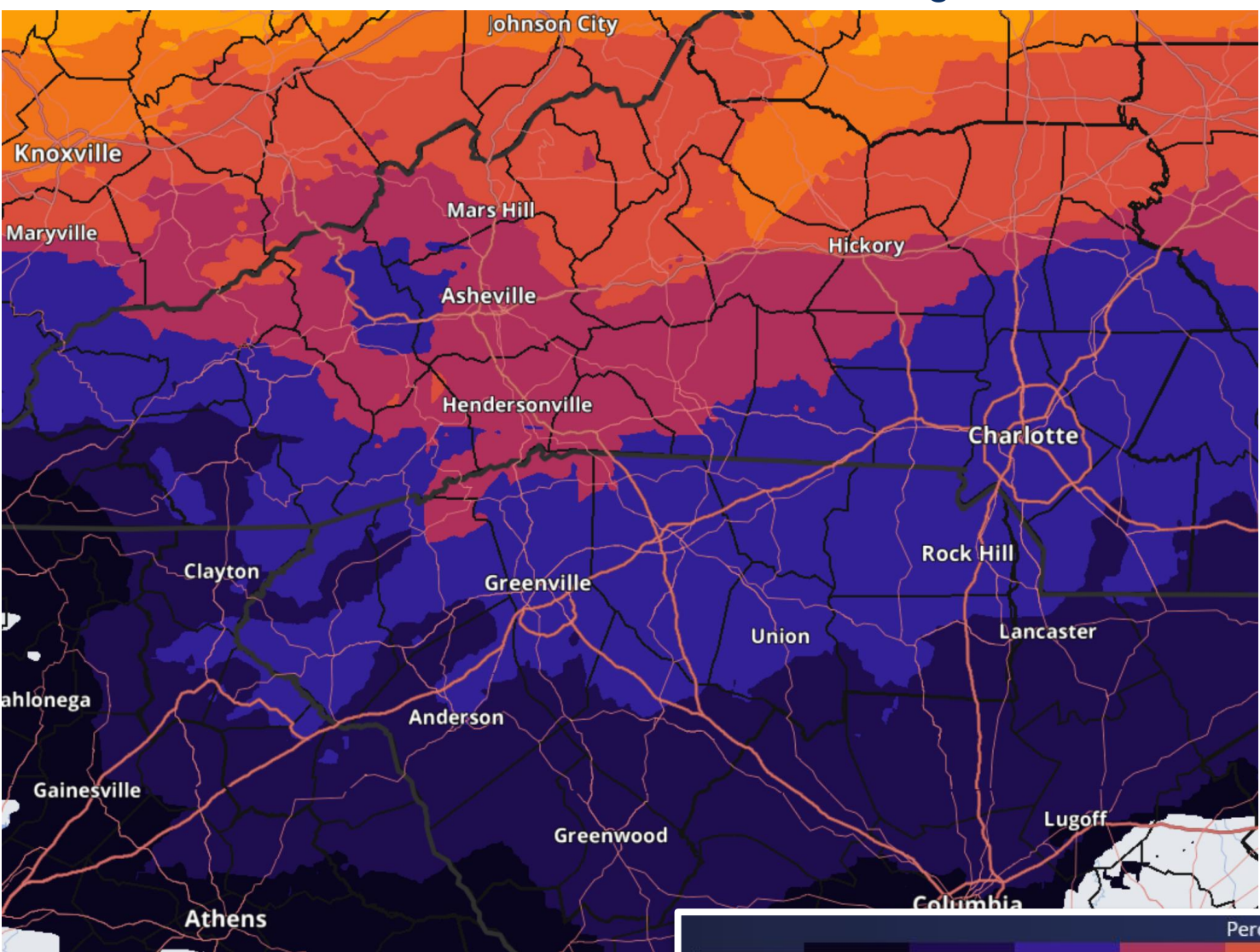


Accumulation Probabilities

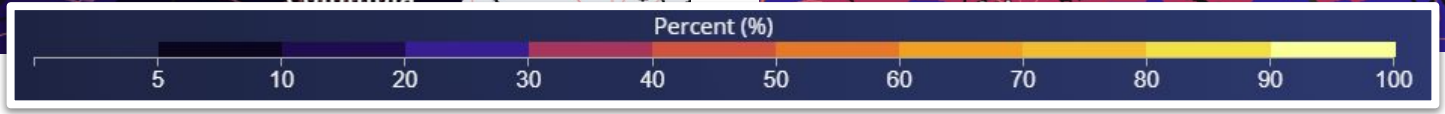
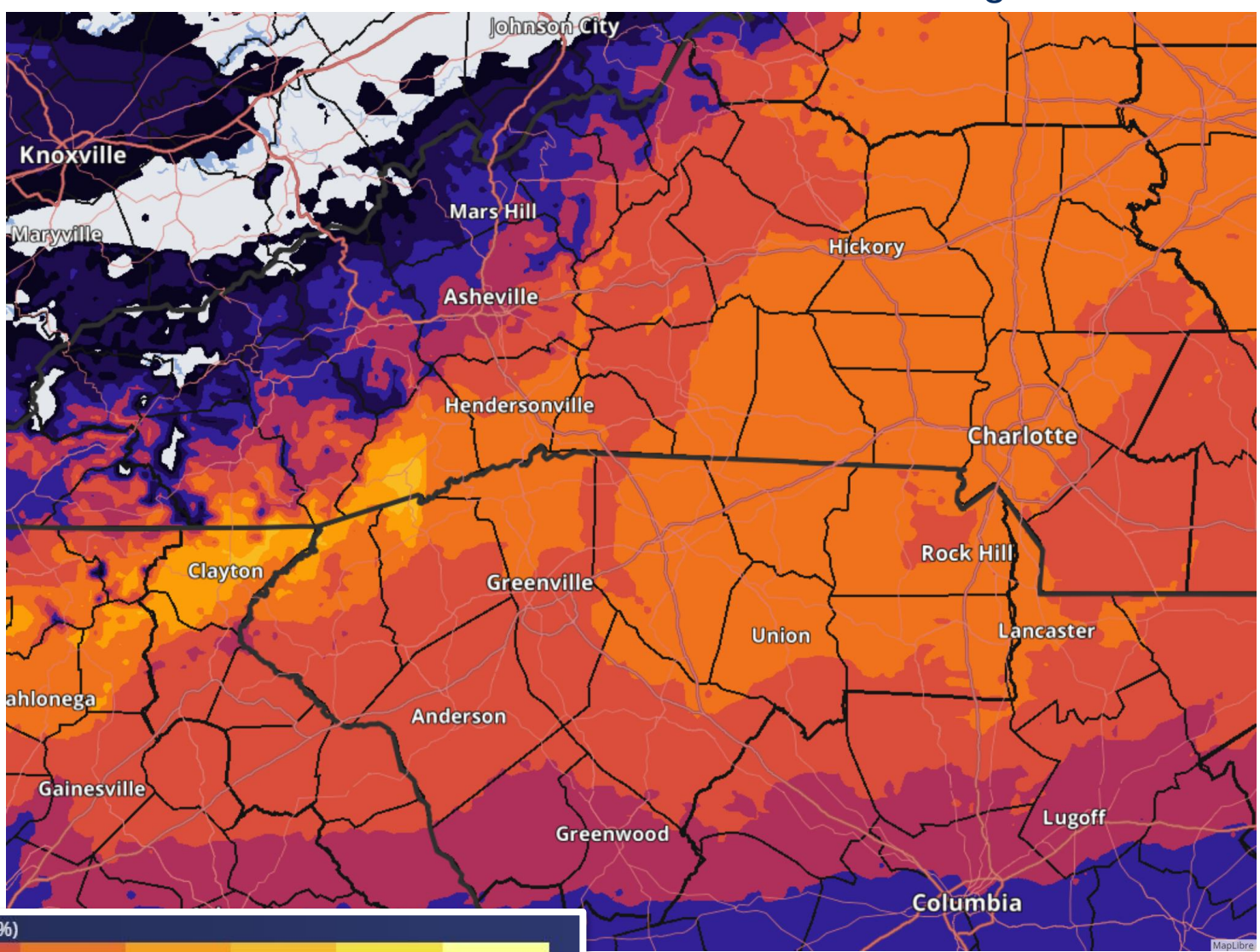
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Over the 48 hour period between 7 AM Saturday and 7 AM Monday

Likelihood of **4 inches** of snow/sleet or greater



Likelihood of **0.50 inch** of ice accumulation or greater



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Most Likely Timing of Winter Precip. Onset

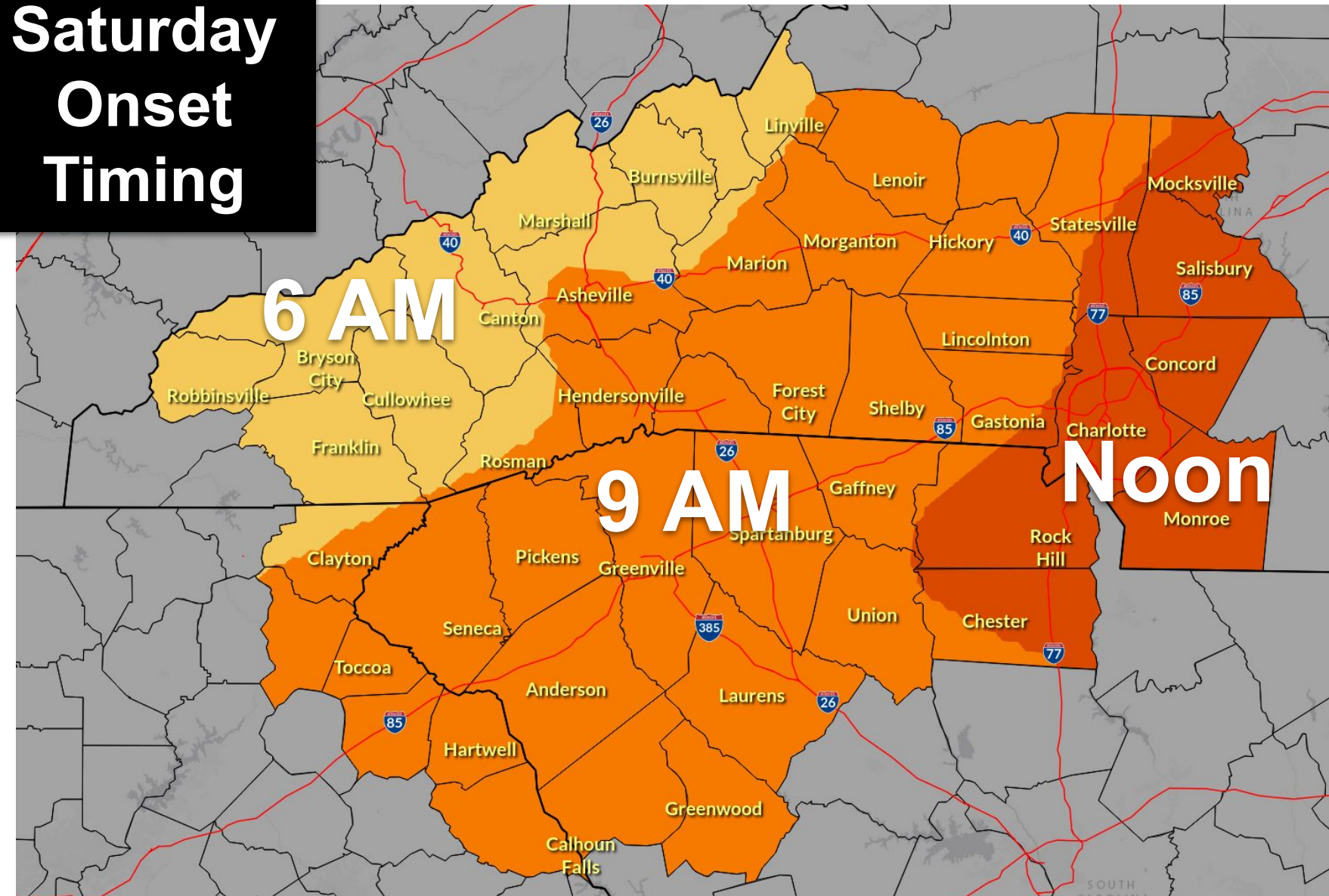
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SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Hazard Details

- Timing (at right) is based on when chance of *wintry precip* rises above 50% in our official forecast. For most areas, precip will begin as a wintry mix.
- ***The main period of precip could begin earlier or later depending on where the system tracks over the next few days.***
- The best overall chances of wintry precip, and the fastest rates of accumulation, are Saturday night through Sunday morning (at this time).
- Weather models have been trending toward a later onset, so this timing should be considered subject to change.

Saturday Onset Timing





Most Likely Timing of Winter Precip. End

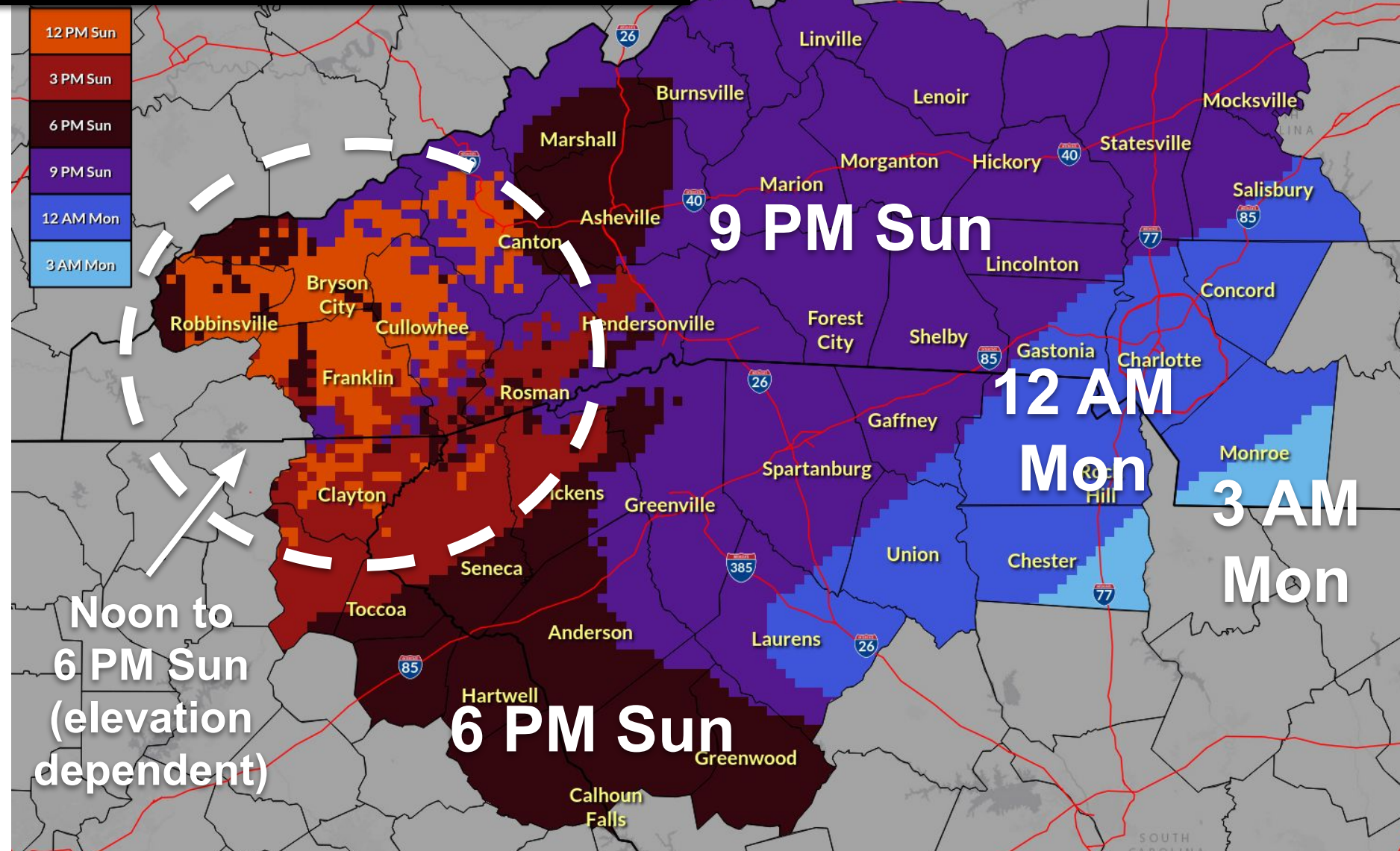
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Hazard Details

- End timing (at right) is based on when chance of snow, sleet **and/or** freezing rain drops below 50% in our official forecast.
- ***The main period of precip could end earlier or later depending on where the system tracks over the next few days.***
- Temperatures *may* warm enough for precip to change to rain for a time late Sunday in the NC mountains southwest of the French Broad, and in the upper Savannah River Valley of GA/SC. 20-40% chance this could change back to rain or snow before ending Sunday night.

Sun - Mon End Timing

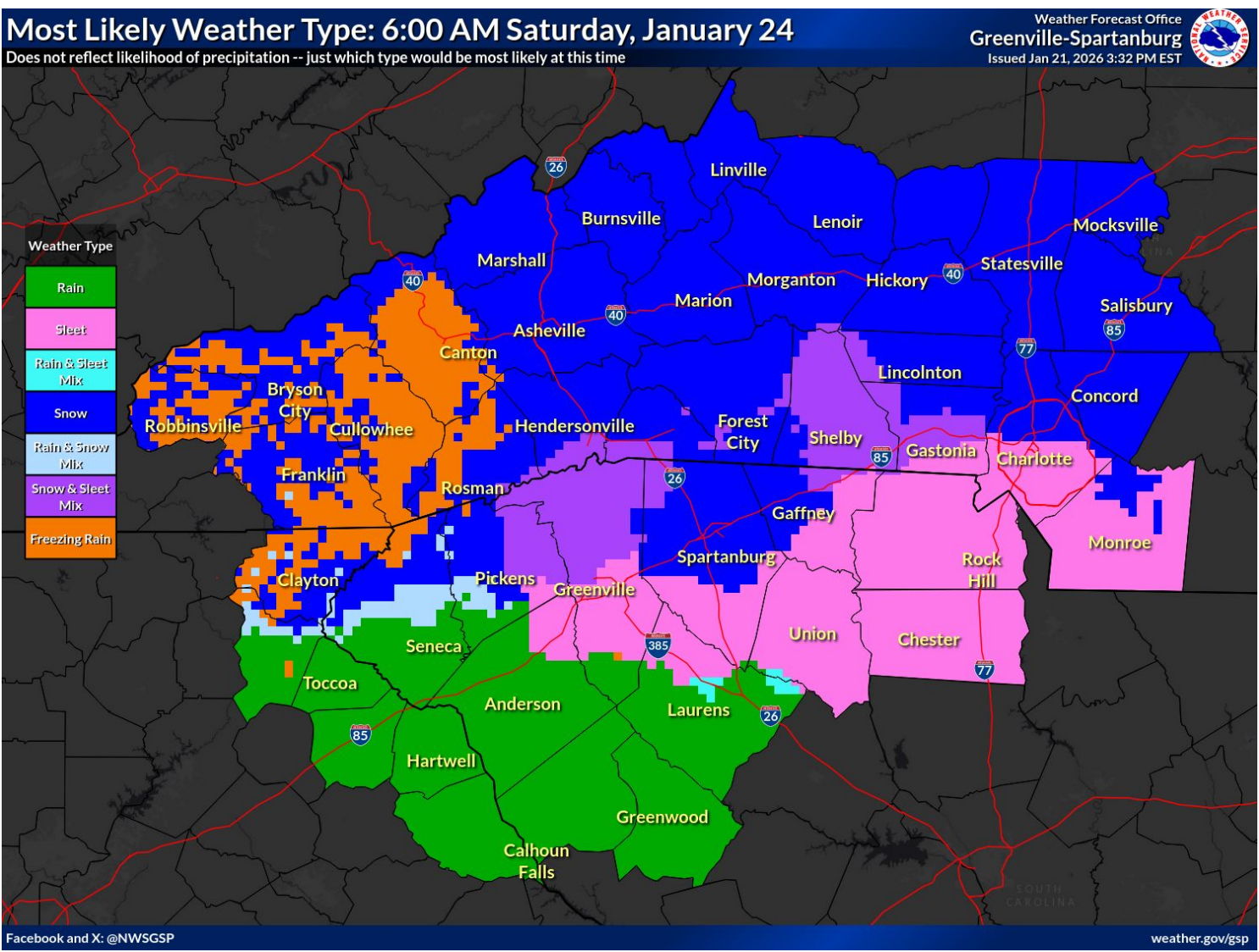
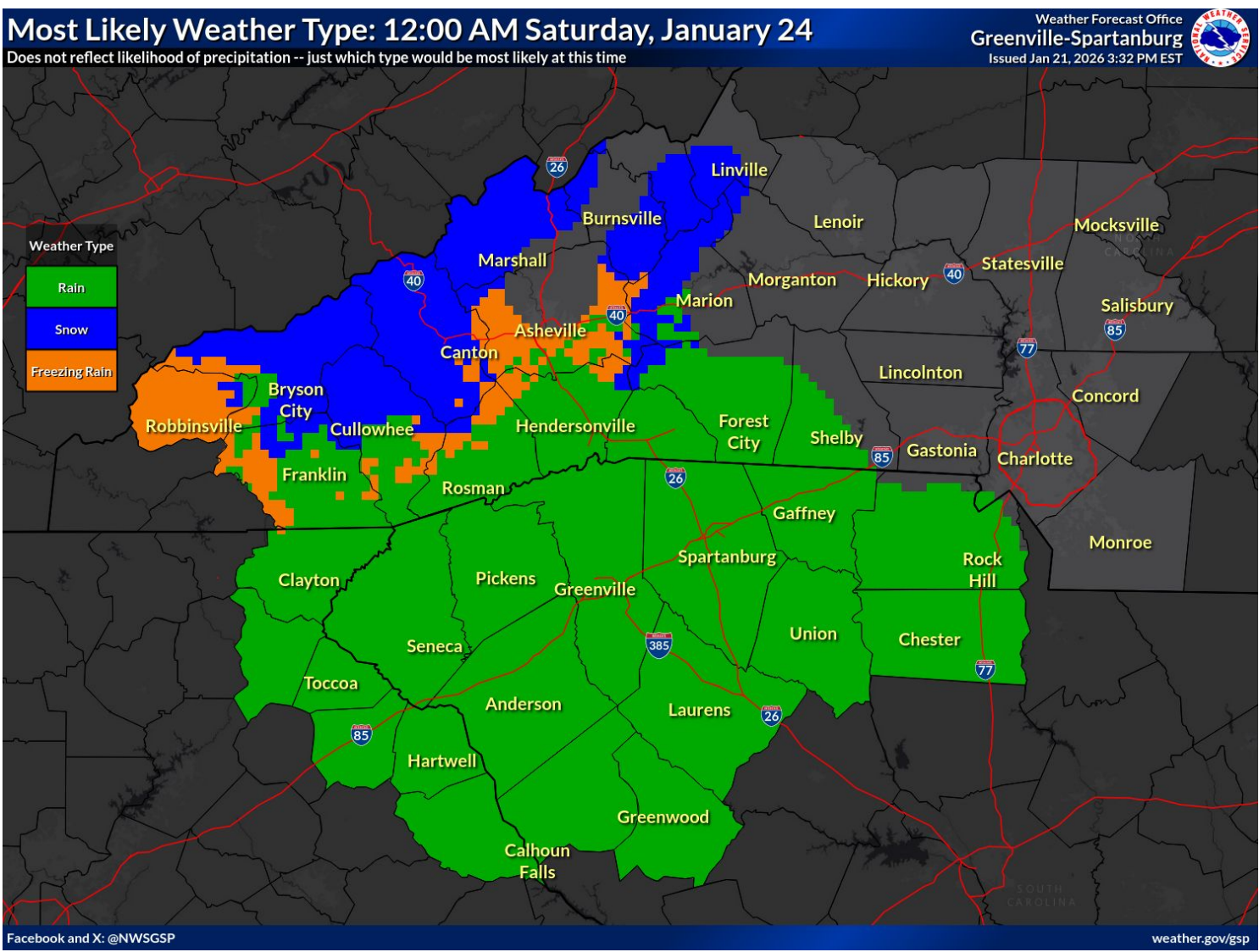




Precipitation Type: Relative Timing

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Does not reflect likelihood of precipitation -- just which type(s) would be most likely at the depicted time
based on our current official forecast

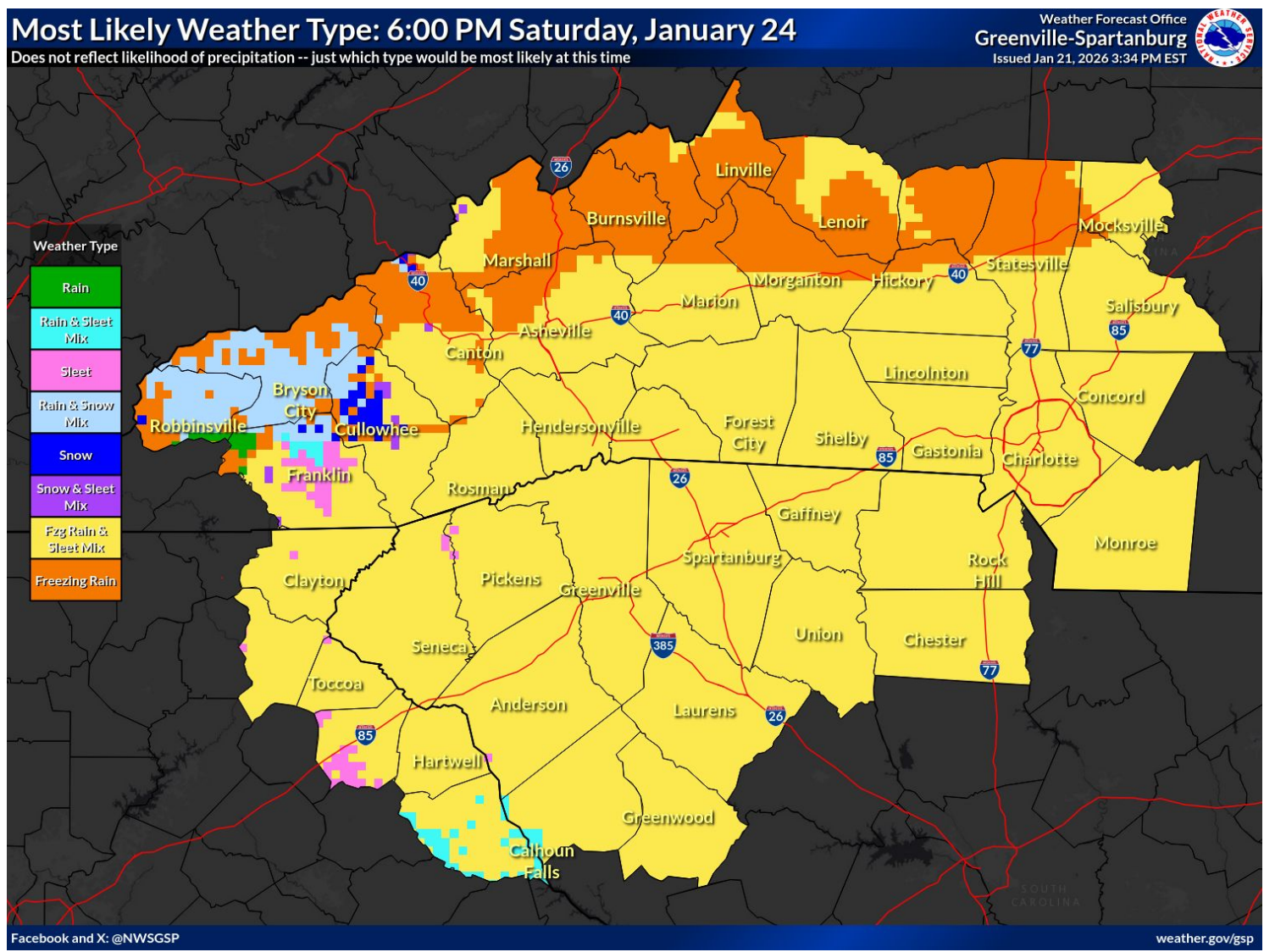
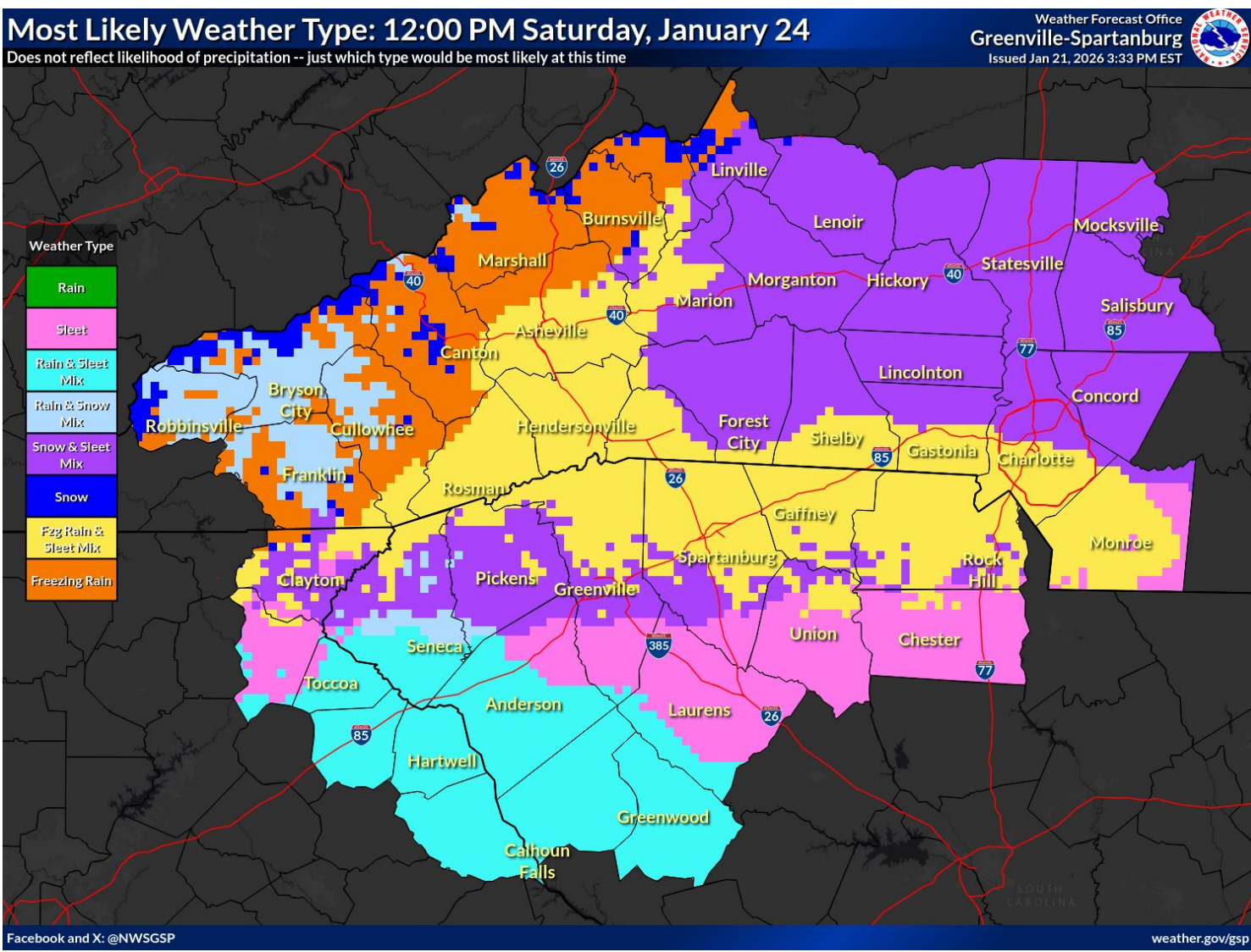




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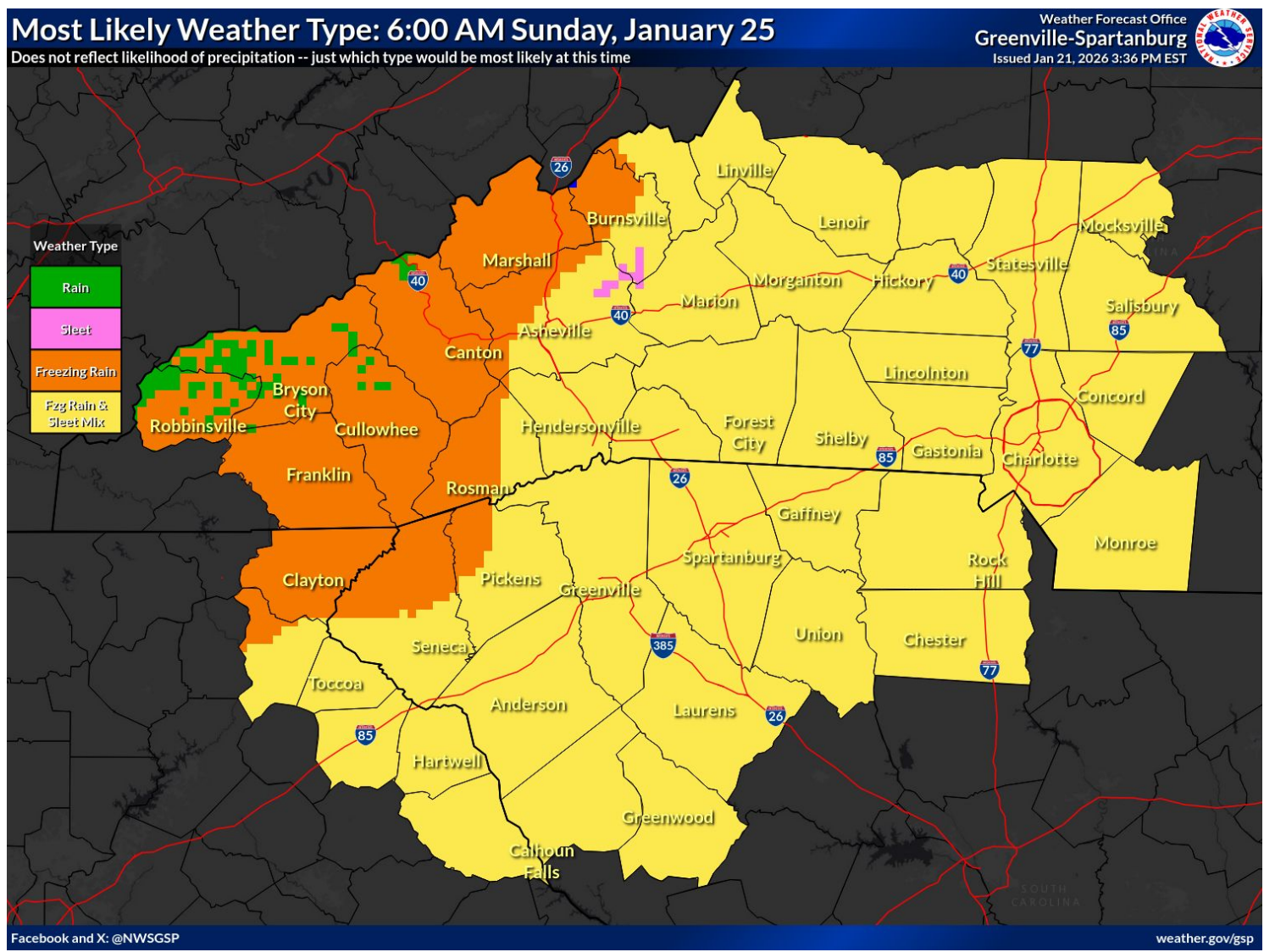
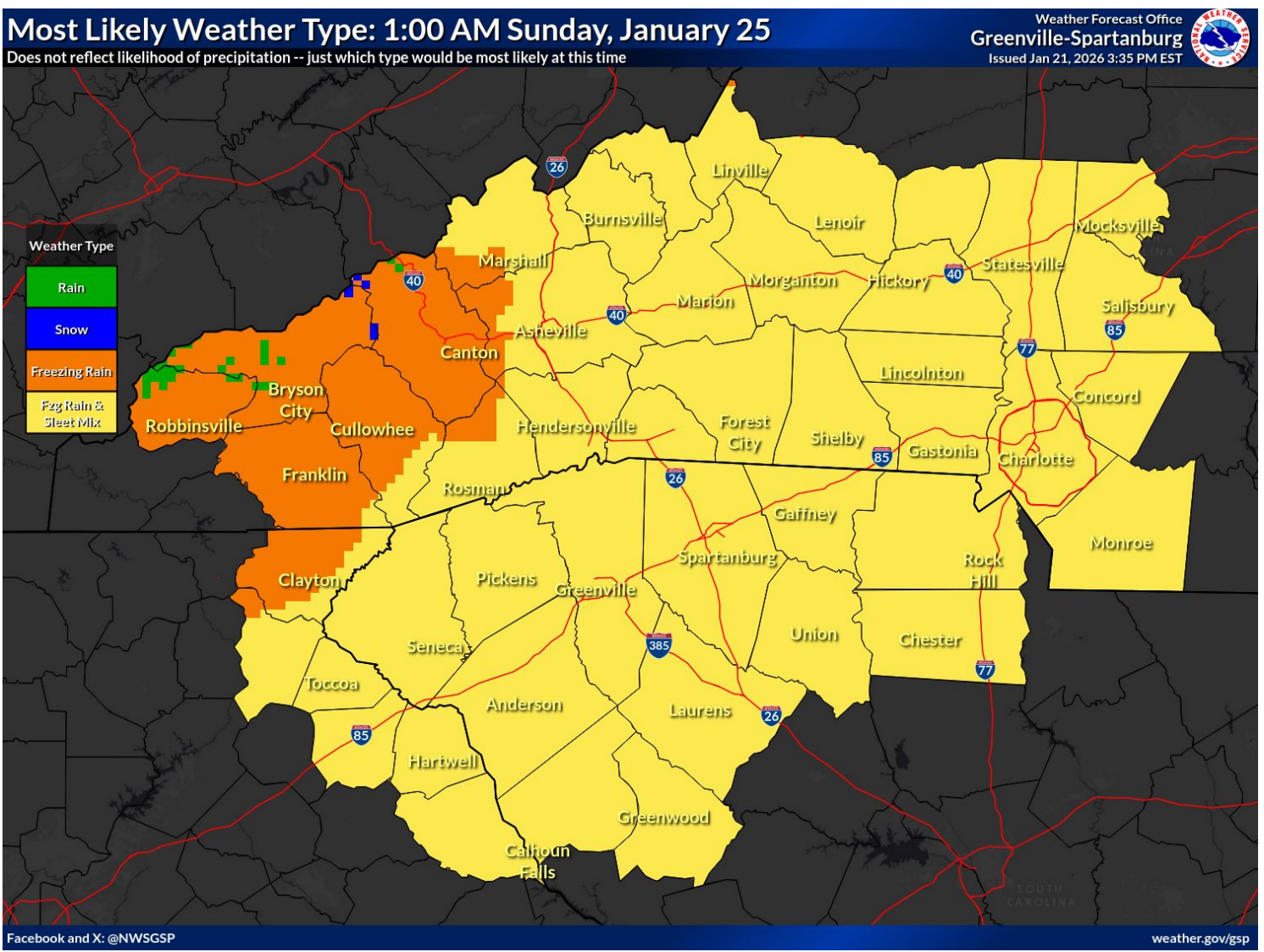
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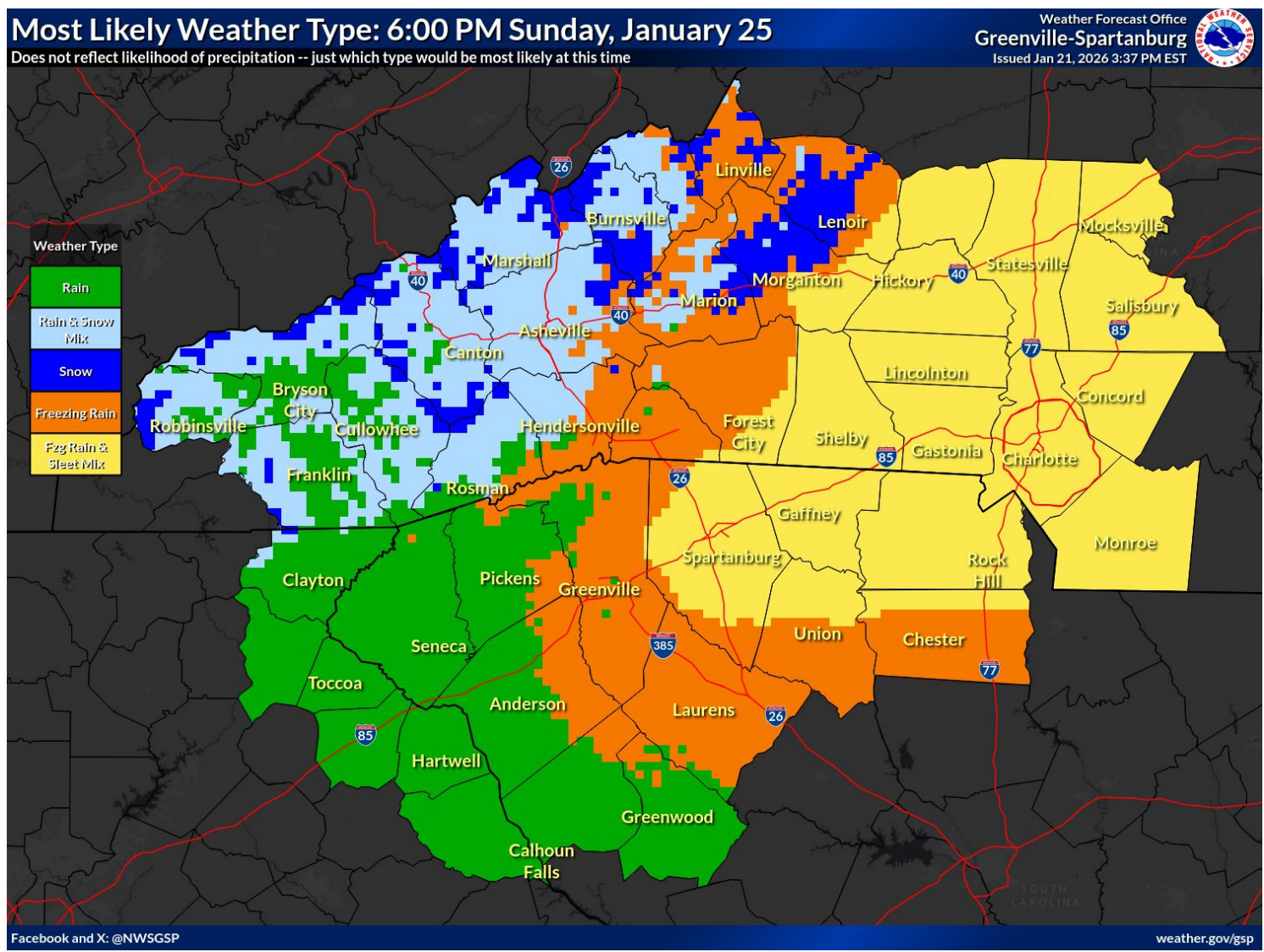
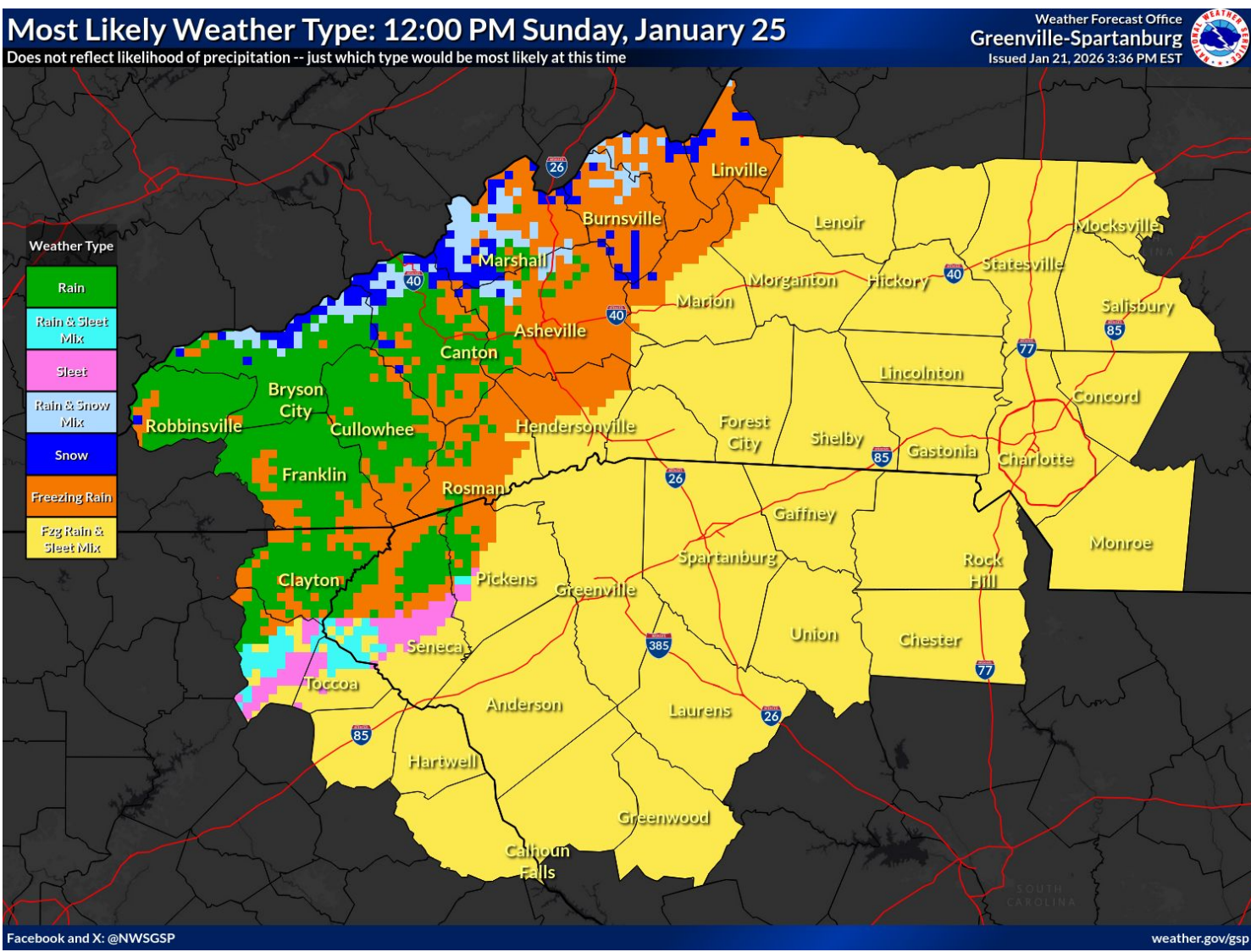
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Cold Outlook for Next Week

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Temperatures likely to remain below normal Monday-Thursday

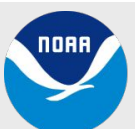
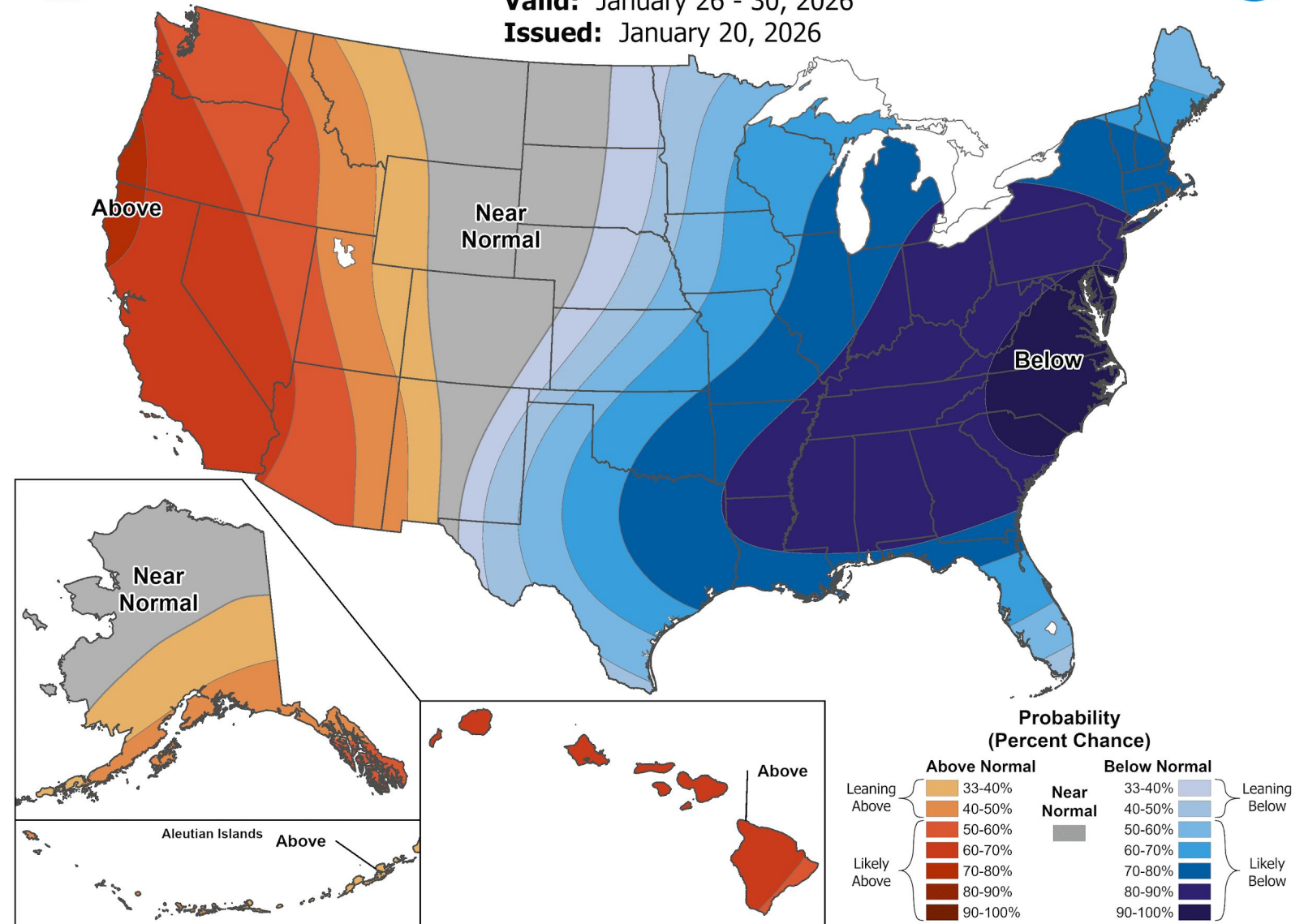
Post-Event Outlook

- Dangerously cold wind chills may develop Monday night into Tuesday morning which could result in hypothermia or frostbite for those exposed to the elements.
- Snow and ice are likely to linger through early next week due to cold temperatures.
- Recovery, in terms of repairing any power outages or clearing roads, could be slower than usual.



6-10 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: January 26 - 30, 2026
Issued: January 20, 2026



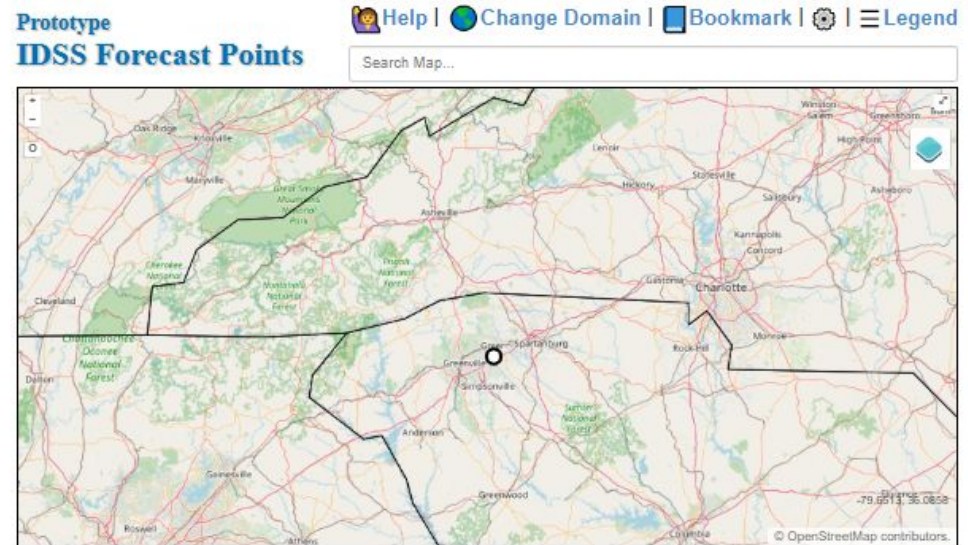


IDSS Forecast Point Page

For Point-Specific Forecasts

IDSS Forecast Points

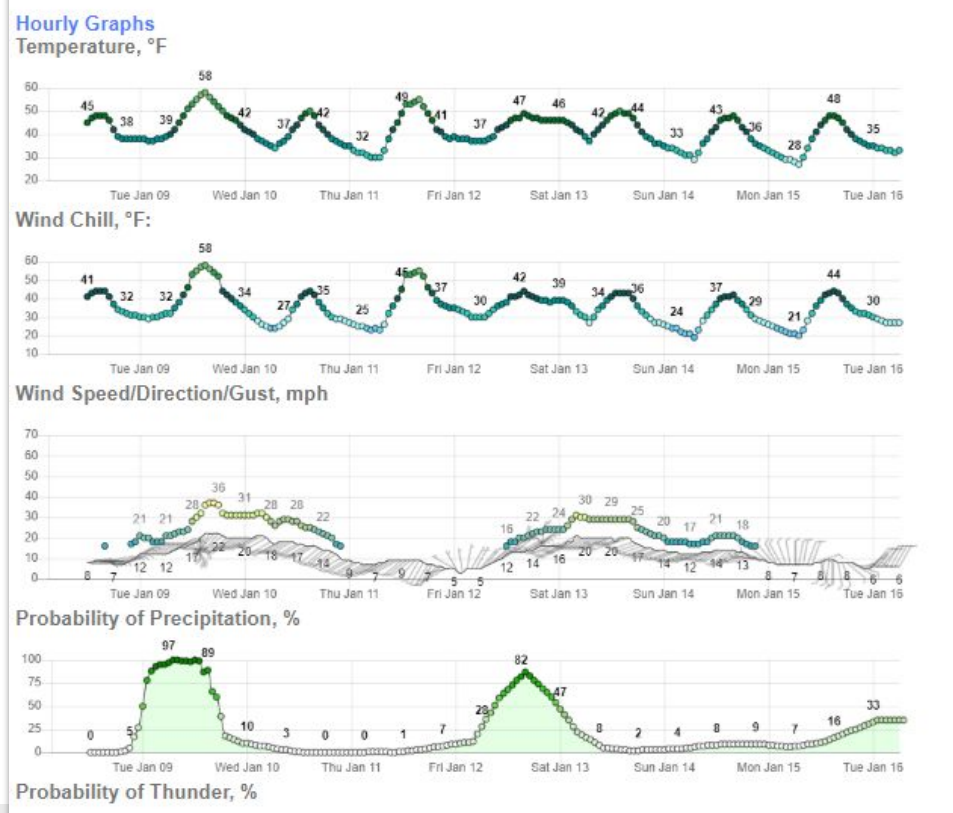
- To get point-specific hourly forecast information, check out our IDSS Forecast Points page
- www.weather.gov/forecastpoints
- Can customize your hourly plot order/look for your specific thresholds



Wind Advisory from 1000 am EST Tue. 1/9/2024 to 1000 pm EST Tue. 1/9/2024
Flood Watch from 1200 am EST Tue. 1/9/2024 to 700 pm EST Tue. 1/9/2024
Table updated: 957 am EST Mon. 1/8/2024 (Last Update: 103 minutes ago)
[Click for Text Forecast](#)
[GSP Forecast Discussion](#)
4 miles S of Greer, SC

Weekly Summary							
	Mon Jan 8	Tue Jan 9	Wed Jan 10	Thu Jan 11	Fri Jan 12	Sat Jan 13	Sun Jan 14
Max Temp, °F	49	59	50	55	50	50	48
Min Temp, °F	38	37	34	30	37	36	29
Min Wind Chill, °F	31	29	24	23	30	27	19
Max Wind, mph	10	22	21	9	16	21	14
Min Wind, mph	7	12	9	5	3	14	9
Max Wind Gust, mph	18	37	32	14	24	31	21
Max Prob. of Precip., %	27	100	9	9	87	41	9
Max Prob. of Thunder, %	0	13	0	0	18	7	1
Max Dew Point, °F	30	54	35	35	43	42	24
Min Dew Point, °F	28	33	28	28	32	25	22
Max RH, %	74	100	82	94	91	90	73
Min RH, %	46	81	48	46	73	43	38
Max Cloud Cover, %	95	99	50	35	87	49	38
Min Cloud Cover, %	30	55	12	7	48	22	19
Outlooks							
	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3				
Severe Thunderstorm	Not Expected	Marginal	Not Expected				
Excessive Rainfall	Marginal	Slight	Not Expected				

Day of week:	Monday 1/8												Tuesday 1/9				
Time:	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM	1AM	2AM	3AM
Weather:																	
Temperature (°F):	43	45	47	48	48	48	46	42	39	38	38	38	38	38	38	37	37
Wind Chill, °F:	38	41	43	44	44	44	41	37	34	33	32	31	31	30	30	29	30
Wind Speed (mph):	8	8	8	9	9	9	9	7	7	7	7	8	9	10	12	12	12
Wind Gust (mph):	13	13	14	14	15	16	15	13	13	14	15	17	18	21	20	20	18
Wind Direction (°):	60	80	90	90	90	90	80	70	70	70	70	60	60	60	60	60	60
Wind Direction:	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↖	↖	↖	↖	↖	↖	↖	↖	↖	↖
Prob. of Precip. (%):	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	5	17	27	50	78	88	93
Prob. of Thunder (%):	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2
Precip. Amount (in.):	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44
Snow (in.):	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ice (in.):	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dew Point (°F):	29	29	28	28	28	28	29	29	29	29	29	30	30	30	32	33	34
RH (%):	57	53	48	46	46	46	52	59	65	69	71	71	74	78	81	87	92
Sky Cover (%):	37	43	49	37	34	30	47	49	60	72	87	94	95	96	97	97	98





Contact and Next Briefing Information

For the western Carolinas and northeast Georgia



Briefing Webpage

→ weather.gov/gsp/brief



Next Briefing

- By 5 AM Thursday, January 22, 2026
- Method: Email PDF
- *Next Live Webinar: 4 PM Thursday, January 22, 2026*
- Link to register:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3495461167264299095>



Disclaimer

- Information contained in this briefing is time-sensitive.
- **Do Not Use After: 2 AM Thursday, January 22, 2026**



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