



French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization
Minutes from the TCC meeting, February 14, 2019

ATTENDANCE:

Meeting Date:

02/14/2019

Representing	Voting TCC		Via Phone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Apple Country Transit	Janna	Peterson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of	Dan	Baechtold	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black Mountain, Town of	Jessica	Trotman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe County	Josh	O'Conner	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fletcher, Town of	Eric	Rufa	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Haywood County	Jodie	Ferguson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henderson County	Autumn	Radcliff	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hendersonville, City of	Matt	Champion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land of Sky RPO	Vicki	Eastland	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Madison County	Forrest	Gilliam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maggie Valley, Town of	Ron	Hancock	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mars Hill, Town of	Nathan	Bennett	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mills River, Town of	Brian	Burgess	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Montreat, Town of	Michael	Carmichael	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mountain Mobility	Matt	Cable	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Steve	Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, TPB	Daniel	Sellers	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wavnesville, Town of	Elizabeth	Teague	<input type="checkbox"/>

18 Voting Members Present

Non Voting At TCC				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Citizen	Donna	Ensley	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Citizen, FBRMPO Citizens Adv. Committee	George	Webb	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FBRMPO/LOSRC	Zia	Rifkin	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FBRMPO/LOSRC	Tristan	Winkler	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FBRMPO/LOSRC	Lyuba	Zuyeva	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FBRMPO/LOSRC	Nick	Kroncke	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FHWA	Mike	Dawson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LOSRC	Erica	Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mountain Mobility	William	High	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NCDOT TPB	Pam	Cook	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NCDOT, Division 13	Stephen	Sparks	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NCDOT, Division 14	Troy	Wilson	<input type="checkbox"/>
12 Non-Voters Present				

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Chairman Josh O’Conner opened the meeting and introductions followed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman O’Conner requested approval for the Consent Agenda consisting of the January 2019 TCC minutes. He requested that the motion provide approval of the Agenda, as well.

Dan Baechtold moved to approve the Consent Agenda and the Agenda as presented. Forrest Gilliam seconded, and the motion carried as all were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

REGULAR UPDATES AND INFORMATION ITEMS

Regular updates included NCDOT Divisions 13 and 14, and TPB updates and FHWA/FTA updates. MPO Subcommittee, Staff and Legislative updates were presented, as well.

BUSINESS

FBRMPO Public Involvement Policy (PIP) Update

The NCDOT Title VI audit process has identified recommended additions to the FBRMPO Public Involvement Policy (PIP). Mostly, the updates clarify the public outreach approaches that will be used by MPO staff. The updated PIP has been posted for a 45-day public comment period and is available at https://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/PIP_Updated_2019_Amendments.pdf.

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that template documents have been received from NCDOT for the Title VI Plan update, which brought to light that there were some additions needed to the PIP. Nick Kroncke shared that additional public outreach approaches are now included in the public outreach toolkit including small group presentations, surveys, etc.

Brian Burgess moved to recommend the updated Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for FBRMPO Board approval. Forrest Gilliam seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Statewide NC Moves 2050 Plan Presentation

The North Carolina Department of Transportation is updating its long-range transportation plan to help guide North Carolina's future transportation policies and investments. The plan, NCMoves 2050, provides a 30-year transportation blueprint for the state. Pam Cook, with the NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch, presented the plan and provided opportunities for input. Pam Cook communicated that the 2050 Plan includes a current assessment of the transportation system in the state; it plans for uncertainties and looks at possible futures; and, finally, provides an action plan for future transportation investments.

Pam Cook reviewed eight focal areas that will be likely to influence the future of the state development, which will be considered during the development of the 2050 Plan including demographics, the economy, tourism, partnerships, funding, technology, security, and, resiliency. She emphasized that local voices matter. More information about the 2050 Plan can be found at www.NCDOT.gov/NCMOVES2050. The website also includes an interactive map that shows the areas that have submitted public comments.

A sampling of suggestions from the TCC members regarding drivers for transportation planning in the region included looking at commuter patterns and linking growth to jobs. Additional suggestions included thinking about autonomous cars and whether those would be purchased privately by consumers or provided through car-share initiatives. Other suggestions included improving rural transit systems, generally; and, specifically, providing additional funding for those systems; considering impact on the local environment; and, fortifying infrastructure (resiliency). Additional suggestions that were provided included consideration of impacts to infrastructure of subdivisions built further out and how freight is handled with regards to growth. It was noted that 10% of workers already telecommute in the region; including broadband development with road construction (Build Once) should be encouraged.

Informational only- no action required.

Rail Resolution of Support for State Funding Request (Asheville-Salisbury Amtrak Bus)

The WNC Rail Committee has requested that the FBRMPO Board consider a resolution in support of rail projects funding more generally, and specifically in support of bus service between Asheville and Salisbury (in anticipation of future passenger train service along this line).

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that upgrading the actual rail track from Asheville to Salisbury is very expensive; however, using the Amtrak bus service provides an additional option to move people around the state. The estimated expense to operate this bus service for two years is \$800,000. The City of Asheville has provided a resolution of support for the Amtrak bus service between Asheville and Salisbury, as well.

Forrest Gilliam moved to recommend for FBRMPO Board consideration the resolution of support for additional state funding for rail including Asheville-Salisbury bus service. Elizabeth Teague seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

A-0010A I-26 Widening North of Broadway: Project Update

Lyuba Zuyeva shared some additional information regarding the A-0010A including current travel time information from INRIX data platform. MPO staff are waiting on additional information from the design team and NCDOT project management team in Raleigh regarding the impacts of an eight-lane design. She noted that the next step is for partner agencies to sign off on the alternative for more detailed designs to be developed; due to the delay in construction till 2024 there is not as much of a push to finalizing the environmental and design work this spring. The trade-offs between community impacts and congestion with regards to eight-lanes were discussed. More detailed design maps are not available yet.

Tristan Winkler communicated that if there is more congestion on this stretch of highway, there might be impacts to parallel corridor such as Merrimon Ave. It was noted that Level of Service D is not a Federal Highway Administration requirement but rather a preferred standard practice. Discussion occurred regarding the travel time impacts between Exit 25 and Exit 23. It was also shared that growth is picking up on the northern end (Madison County) of I-26. Lyuba Zuyeva communicated that building out this project to 8-lanes would bring the most congestion relief but have higher impacts to the area. Regarding NEPA Merger Concurrence Points, she noted that the stance of non-concurrence or abstaining from signing the concurrence could be options for the MPO; however at some point, a decision would need to be made on NEPA Merger signature. She requested that staff with strong concerns communicate those to their MPO Board member.

Informational item only- no action required.

Hellbender Trail Update

Tristan Winkler reviewed the latest updates to the Hellbender Trail initiative. He shared that a nomination to the steering committee from Transylvania County would be put before the MPO Board soon. The Prioritization Subcommittee plus seven additional nominees comprise the trail's steering committee, which would begin meeting after the March 12 Prioritization Subcommittee meeting.

Informational item only- no action required.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES

FBRMPO New Board Member Orientation is planned for March 15 from 9am to noon at Land of Sky offices. TCC members and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

The NCAMPO is coming up on April 24-26 in Charlotte at the Convention Center.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman O'Conner adjourned the meeting, as there was no further business.