

## Technical Coordinating Committee

---

February 14, 2019 – 11:00 A.M., Land of Sky Offices

### Agenda

1. WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING (10 min)

---

    - A. Welcome and Introductions, Approval of Agenda Josh O'Conner
  
  2. PUBLIC COMMENT

---
  
  3. CONSENT AGENDA Josh O'Conner

---

    - A. January 10, 2019 Minutes
  
  4. REGULAR UPDATES (15 min)

---

    - A. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates Mark Gibbs/Brian Burch or Designee
    - B. Transportation Planning Branch Daniel Sellers
    - C. FHWA/FTA Updates Michael Dawson
    - D. Subcommittee/Workgroup Reports, Staff Updates, and Housekeeping MPO Staff
    - E. Legislative Updates MPO Staff
  
  5. BUSINESS (45-60 min)

---

    - A. FBRMPO Public Involvement Policy Update MPO Staff
    - B. Statewide NCMoves 2050 Plan Presentation (Drivers and Opportunities) Pam Cook, NCDOT
    - C. Rail Resolution of Support for State Funding Request (Asheville-Salisbury Amtrak Bus) MPO Staff
    - D. A-0010AA I-26 Widening north of Broadway: Project Update MPO Staff
    - E. Hellbender Trail Update MPO Staff
  
  6. ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES (15 min)

---

    - A. New MPO Board Member Orientation Scheduled for Friday, March 15 9 AM-12:Noon
    - B. Statewide NCAMPO Transportation Planning Conference taking place in Charlotte April 24-26
  
  7. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

---
  8. PUBLIC COMMENT

---
  9. ADJOURNMENT

---
-

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 3:

## Consent Agenda

### 3A. January 10 Minutes

Staff recommends approval of the minutes.

Staff recommends the TCC approve the draft minutes.



# French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization

Minutes from the TCC meeting, January 10, 2019

## ATTENDANCE:

**Meeting Date:**

**01/10/2019**

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"/> Asheville, City of - Transit	Jessica	Morriss	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biltmore Forest, Town of	Jonathan	Kanipe	<input checked="" 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"/> Henderson County	Autumn	Radcliff	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hendersonville, City of	Matt	Champion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mills River, Town of	Brian	Burgess	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mountain Mobility	William	High	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Brendan	Merithew	<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"/>

**14 Voting Members Present**

Non Voting At TCC			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of	Lucy	Crown	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bell Engineering	Dana	Bolden	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bell Engineering	Josh	Kerrick	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citizen, FBRMPO Citizens Adv. Committee	Ted	Figura	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citizen, FBRMPO Citizens Adv. Committee	George	Webb	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Davenport	Lori	Boyer	<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"/> FHWA	Mike	Dawson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J.M. Teague Engineering	Kenny	Armstrong	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J.M. Teague Engineering	Candace	Hladick	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Steve	Cannon	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Stephen	Sparks	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Wanda	Austin	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Chris	Lee	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Lonnie	Watkins	<input type="checkbox"/>



## **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 November 2018 TCC minutes, the CAC Applications: George Webb and Rachael Bronson; the Safety Performance Measures Targets; and the JARC/5310 Call for Projects Timeline. He requested that the motion provide approval of the Agenda, as well.

**Autumn Radcliff moved to approve the Consent Agenda and the Agenda as presented. Jonathan Kanipe 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**

### Chair and Vice Chair Elections

French Broad River MPO TCC Bylaws indicate that officers can serve up to two terms. Both the current Chair, Josh O’Conner, and Vice-Chair, Autumn Radcliff, are eligible and willing to serve a second two-year term.

Lyuba Zuyeva opened the floor for Chair and Vice-Chair nominations. No additional nominations were received. Lyuba Zuyeva asked for a formal motion to re-elect the current Chair and Vice-Chair to serve another two-year term.

**Brian Burgess moved to approve Josh O’Conner to serve another term as Chair and for Autumn Radcliff to serve another term as Vice-Chair. Daniel Sellers seconded and the motion carried as all were in favor.**

### TIP Amendments

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), is the MPO region’s document that reflects funded transportation investments over a ten-year period and is required to be in conformity with the North Carolina State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The TIP includes a brief description of each project, a schedule for implementation, funding sources, and estimated costs.

Tristan Winkler noted that a number of the amendments were to change the funding source for projects. He also provided a brief overview of the TIP Amendments including the Riverside Drive project- consolidated with the I-26 Connector project; the Reems Creek Greenway- PE delayed until FY 2019; Town Branch Greenway- funding accelerated from FY 2021 to FY 2020; the I-26 Interchange in Hendersonville-

ROW delayed until FY 21; the NC 191 widening through Mills River- construction accelerated from FY 22 to FY 21; and, the Mills Gap Road project- ROW delayed from FY 18 to FY19. Two transit amendments for capital projects were also included- one from Buncombe County and one from the City of Asheville. Lyuba Zuyeva communicated that when the new draft STIP comes out, some further changes may be made to projects schedules.

**Dan Baechtold moved to recommend for FBRMPO Board approval the TIP Amendments. Steve Williams seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.**

#### Draft PWP (Budget and Work Program) for FY 2020

Every year the FBRMPO is required to adopt a Unified Planning Work Program, which is the budget and a list of planning work tasks expected to be carried out by the MPO for the year. NCDOT Public Transportation Division has coordinated with FTA to ensure that federal transit planning funding can be made available at the start of the state fiscal year in July. This results in the MPO UPWP development starting in January. The final UPWP will come back for adoption to the Board in March. The draft FY 2019 UPWP is posted on the MPO website at <http://www.fbrmpo.org/upwp-budget/>. Highlights of the Draft UPWP include that the SPOT 6 process will be starting with new projects to be submitted for scoring and the Regional Transit Feasibility Study-expected to take place in FY 2020-2021.

Continuing work in FY 2020 would include the MTP 2045 Plan development and the continuation of data collection among many other tasks. She noted that Special Studies that are funded with STBG Flex funds are being carried over into the new funding year. She explained that funding for the Regional Transit Feasibility Study (\$100,000) would be spread out over two fiscal years and would include an associated increase in local dues, which is included in the UPWP to fund the study. She also noted that the required Self-Certification would be included with the final UPWP during the March meeting cycle.

Discussion occurred about the TPB's proposed funding formulas and Tristan Winkler noted that it would probably be discussed during the next Statewide MPO Association quarterly meeting. Lyuba Zuyeva shared that conversations would continue with NCDOT about how to fund multi-year studies under new the proposed funding formulas.

**Dan Baechtold Mmoved to recommend for FBRMPO Board adoption the draft UPWP for FY 2020. Brian Burgess seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.**

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

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that this agenda item will be a Skype presentation. She noted that the project is going through the NEPA Merger process and the design process has restarted after being on hold for several years.

Beverly Robinson with NCDOT, Christy Shumate, Neil Dean, Eric Spalding, and Austin Bell with AECOM comprised the design team. The purpose of the project is to improve approximately 12 miles of US 19/23 (future I-26) from north of I-240 in Asheville to just south of Exit 13 (Forks of Ivy-Stockton Road) near Mars

Hill in Madison County. The project is broken into three sections along the 12-mile route. The project includes adding lanes, reconfiguring interchanges, rehabilitating or replacing several bridges, and other roadway design improvements. The detailed study alternatives were reviewed including a no-build alternative and upgrading existing build alternatives for the three sections. When additional traffic information is received, there should be agreement on one build alternative. Preliminary engineering work has been restarted on the project in 2018 and an updated traffic forecast resulted in a slight change in required number of lanes, with an 8-lane cross-section now recommended up to New Stock Road in order to achieve a LOS "D" or better. It was also noted that the traffic capacity analysis showed that the various scenarios did not meet the basic level of service for the roadway. Recommended alternatives were also reviewed. Next steps and schedule include preliminary design study moving forward in the spring, a public meeting; environmental document following the public meeting (summer of 2019); and letting the project coming later.

Lyuba Zuyeva noted that only the first portion of the project, A-0010AA is actually committed for funding in the current TIP/STIP.

Discussion occurred about when the public might see a design map of what the Broadway Interchange might look like and it was shared that the interchange is part of the AA section of the project. Dan Baechtold requested to see detailed design plans for the AA section. The City of Asheville is interested in connecting bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure on Broadway under the Broadway interchange. It was noted that the public would see what the preliminary plans during the public involvement session in spring 2019, detailed maps not yet available.

Lyuba Zuyeva asked the presenters about the potential to include HOV lanes. What percentage of trips could be potentially shifted to express bus and vanpool vehicles in the HOV lane scenario? It was shared that to change the 8-lane section to 6 lanes with HOV lanes, five to seven thousand vehicles per day would need to be removed from general purpose lanes due to carpooling/vanpooling strategies. Lyuba Zuyeva shared that the FBRMPO Congestion Management Process calls for managed lanes on the corridor. It was noted that HOV lane utilization is typically about 10% of total volumes.

Dan Baechtold noted that there is a proposed greenway that is planned to go through that area. He noted the importance of coordinating the design with those greenway plans. Beverly Robinson requested a formal request for the bicycle and pedestrian accommodation as the project moves through coordination.

Discussion occurred if the bridges, and specifically, Exit 24 would have pedestrian accommodations and Lyuba Zuyeva communicated that the design team would be provided with a requested list of bike/ped accommodations. She requested TCC members to provide those bike/ped accommodations to her and she would compile and provide to the design team.

**Informational item only- no action required.**

Hellbender Trail Steering Committee Make-up

Tristan Winkler reviewed the previous information provided about the Hellbender Trail Steering Committee make-up and he noted that the Prioritization Subcommittee recommended that its members plus nominated advocates make up the steering committee for the proposed regional trail. In terms of advocates, the subcommittee recommends two from Buncombe County, two from Henderson County, and one each from Haywood, Madison and Transylvania counties. Tristan Winkler noted that additional member government staff would be welcome at the table in an advisory capacity.

***Brian Burgess moved to recommend the Steering Committee membership for FBRMPO Board approval. Janna Peterson seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.***

#### SPOT Prioritization Update

Tristan Winkler shared a SPOT update including that a list of Division Needs projects that were funded in the draft STIP has been provided. Projects included in the list of Division Needs projects that were funded included Russ Avenue in Haywood County; Jonathan Creek, which is largely in the LOSRPO region; US 276/Crymes Cove Road/Raccoon Road intersection improvements; US 74 modernization; Swannanoa River Road modernization from South Tunnel to US 70; US 25/70 superstreet project (developmental STIP/would need to be resubmitted for prioritization). Tristan Winkler provided a funding update. There has been a recommendation that the committed window be moved up and for now, any project that has funding committed in the first six years of the 2020-2029 STIP will be considered committed. He shared that a big part of what drove this decision was cost increases for projects. By increasing the committed window, cost increases could be accommodating without losing committed funding for some of the new projects. He also reviewed project delays. He noted that all sections of the I-26 connector in Asheville are shifting (to FY 2021, 2022 or 2025 depending on phase) and he reviewed several other projects that have had their timeline shifted. Crossroads Parkway in Madison County has also been delayed. These delays are due to funding shortfalls and budget overruns.

Lyuba Zuyeva noted that both segments of Swannanoa River Road are now scheduled to begin at the same time in 2024. Tristan Winkler noted that there is limited funding available for the next round of prioritization. Steve Williams noted that if projects were committed in the current STIP, those would remain committed while having their timing pushed out. Lyuba Zuyeva shared that David Wasserman with NCDOT is available to present information to the MPO if additional questions remain.

Daniel Sellers discussed the shortcomings of the cost estimation tool and noted that costs are rising for studies done by consultants, along with other facets of construction.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES**

The FBRMPO New Board Member Orientation is planned for March 15, 2019 from 9am to 12 noon.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 4A:

## Division Project Updates

[http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Division13\\_ProjectUpdate\\_Feb2019.pdf](http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Division13_ProjectUpdate_Feb2019.pdf)

(Division 13)

[http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Division14\\_ProjectUpdate\\_Feb2019.pdf](http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Division14_ProjectUpdate_Feb2019.pdf)

(Division 14)

# Item 4B:

## TPB Updates

# Item 4C:

## FHWA/FTA Updates

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 4D:

## Committee & Workgroup Updates

**Prioritization Subcommittee**—February 12 meeting agenda includes reviewing the Project Expectations Report format, MTP 2045 draft survey, 2045 Land Use Forecast Study—base year data approach and Regional Trail (Hellbender) Workgroup update.

**Transit Operators' Workgroup**—Regional Transit Operators Workgroup held on Tuesday, February 5 at 10 AM to review the JARC/5310 Call for Projects. Transit representation on the FBRMPO Board was discussed—Henderson County is due to appoint the next urban transit rep and Haywood County is due to appoint the next rural rep. Urban transit (5307) subrecipients meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 14 at 9 AM.

**Citizens' Advisory Committee**- last meeting held January 16, 2019. Next meeting date to be determined.

### Recommended Actions:

Accept the reports.

# Item 4E:

## Legislative Updates

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 5A:

## **FBRMPO Public Involvement Policy Update**

NCDOT Title VI audit process has identified recommended additions to the FBRMPO Public Involvement Policy. Mostly the updates clarify the public outreach approaches that will be used by MPO staff. The updated Public Involvement Policy has been posted for a 45-day public comment period and is available at [http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/PIP\\_Update\\_2019\\_Amendments.pdf](http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/PIP_Update_2019_Amendments.pdf)

**MPO staff recommend that TCC recommend the updated Public Involvement Policy for FBRMPO Board approval.**

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 5B:

## Statewide NCMoves 2050 Plan Presentation

The North Carolina Department of Transportation is developing a long-range transportation plan for the state of North Carolina that will establish a transportation vision and goals for North Carolina, while also providing a framework for decision-making and transportation investments. NCDOT is asking for input in shaping the content of this plan, and in helping to identify regional and statewide challenges and opportunities. Currently “Drivers and Opportunities” are being considered. Additional info about the plan at <https://www.ncdot.gov/initiatives-policies/Transportation/nc-2050-plan/Pages/default.aspx>

**Staff Recommendation: Informational item. FBRMPO TCC members are invited to provide input for NCMoves 2050, specifically to help identify future Drivers and Opportunities for western North Carolina (through a quick in-person poll).**

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 5C:

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

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

**Staff Recommendation: recommend for FBRMPO Board consideration the resolution of support for additional state funding for rail including Asheville-Salisbury bus service.**

a program of Land of Sky

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A STATEWIDE INITIATIVE FOR LEGISLATIVE FUNDING TO RE-ESTABLISH A PASSENGER RAIL CONNECTION FOR WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

**WHEREAS**, rail service is an integral part of a comprehensive transportation system for the State of North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, economic development, tourism and job creation will benefit through the enhancement of a passenger rail and bus system that serves the citizens of North Carolina and visitors to our state; and,

**WHEREAS**, we applaud the State of North Carolina for development of comprehensive intercity rail and transportation services in urban jurisdictions through the state, and recognize that Asheville and Western North Carolina have been without a passenger rail connection since 1975; and,

**WHEREAS**, there is a vital need to provide a strong and balanced transportation system that promotes freight and passenger service; and,

**WHEREAS**, an increase in state funding for bus-rail service in North Carolina is necessary to connect our small urban and rural areas of the state with the urbanized centers of our state; and,

**WHEREAS**, support by local and state elected officials is essential for the future of alternative transportation in North Carolina, such as the successful Amtrak Thruway bus-rail service between Morehead City and Wilson and between Wilmington and Wilson; and,

**WHEREAS**, support and utilization of transportation improvements by business and commercial interests is essential for the successful deployment of alternative transportation modes in North Carolina, especially in Western North Carolina; and,

**WHEREAS**, this resolution is a vehicle to express the twenty years of unified support of communities and chambers of commerce throughout Western North Carolina for increased statewide funding for bus- rail service; and,

**WHEREAS**, rail and bus linkages between communities and regions within North Carolina establish and strengthen social, historical, commercial and cultural bonds; and,

**WHEREAS**, the average return on investment for the surrounding community for station revitalizations throughout North Carolina is more than one dollar for every dollar invested, as demonstrated in Salisbury, Morganton, Marion, Old Fort and Asheville (with purchase of land); and,

**WHEREAS**, the associated improvements to rail facilities have increased the efficiency and safety of rail service, helped attract new freight traffic and provided environmental benefits by

reducing the impact of traffic congestion on North Carolina's highways, particularly Interstate 40; and,

**WHEREAS**, an integrated bus-rail system will enhance accessibility and reliability for citizens, tourists and businesses in Western North Carolina, and by extension to the entire State of North Carolina; and,

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina Department of Transportation's Rail Division has agreed to manage, subject to NC Legislative appropriation, contract development and implementation of Amtrak Thruway bus service between Salisbury and Asheville, similar to the successful Amtrak Thruway bus-rail service in Eastern North Carolina that was intended to be extended to Western North Carolina.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the French Broad River MPO Board, through the adoption of this resolution, fully supports the creation of a comprehensive bus-rail system to serve Western North Carolina, that includes sufficient funding by the North Carolina General Assembly to the North Carolina Department of Transportation Rail Division for the proposed Amtrak Thruway bus service between Asheville and Salisbury. This service will be evaluated after two years by Amtrak, the North Carolina Department of Transportation Rail Division, the Western North Carolina Rail Committee Inc and the communities served by the Salisbury-Asheville bus-rail connection.

**ADOPTED:** This the 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019

---

William Lapsley, FBRMPO Board Chair

---

Attest, Lyuba Zuyeva, Director  
French Broad River MPO

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 5D:

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

MPO staff will share the latest information provided by A-0010A project design team re: expected impacts to travel time, businesses and residences (if available at the time of the meeting).

**Staff Recommendation:** no action needed today, informational item.

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 5E:

## Hellbender Trail Update

MPO staff will provide a brief update regarding the Hellbender Trail next steps.

**Staff Recommendation: informational item.**