



French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization

Minutes from the TCC meeting on October 17, 2019

ATTENDANCE :

Josh O’Conner	Tristan Winkler	Zia Rifkin	Nick Kroncke
Emily Scott-Cruz	Erica Anderson	Ritchie Rozzelle	Brian Burgess
Autumn Radcliff	Ken Putnam	Steve Williams	Stephen Sparks
Jodie Ferguson	Hannah Cook	Mark Biberdorf	Pat Christie
Daniel Heyman	Troy Wilson	Lonnie Watkins	Joel Setzer
Mike Dawson	William High		

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Josh O’Conner opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and introductions followed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Josh O’Conner indicated that the Consent Agenda included September 2019 minutes and a Letter of Support for Apple Country Transportation 5310 Application, and the 2018-2027 TIP Modifications. He requested approval for the Agenda at this time, as well.

Autumn Radcliff moved to approve the Consent Agenda and the Agenda as presented. Ken Putnam seconded and the motion carried as all were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one made any public comments.

BUSINESS

MTP 2040 Amendments

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) forecasts changes in the region and seeks to identify transportation priorities for the region over the next 25 years. The MTP 2040 was adopted in September 2015 and most recently amended in May 2018 to reflect FAST Act requirements. This round of amendments includes updating the MTP with projects that were funded as part of SPOT/P5.0 and programmed in the 2020-20229 STIP. Projects in the TIP must be consistent with the currently adopted MTP, hence, these amendments reflect those changes in the new TIP.

The MTP is broken into five-year Horizons that cover from 2016 to 2040. These amendments are programmed for Horizon 2, covering 2021-2025 and Horizon 3, 2026-2030. A public comment period is being held from September 24 – October 24 with the amendments posted on the MPO website at <http://www.fbrmpo.org/metropolitan-transportation-plan-mtp/>. The TCC was provided with a spreadsheet summarizing these amendments.

A “Project Expectations Report” has been developed as part of these amendments, which covers funded projects in SPOT/P5.0. The Goal of this report is to communicate context sensitive goals of the project

based on local municipality and MPO input. The project sheet contains primary goals, secondary goals, a SPOT cross-section, previous planning efforts, a map and multi-modal expectations (if applicable).

Brian Burgess moved to approve the MTP 2040 Amendments be sent to the FBRMPO Board for consideration of approval. Janna Peterson seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Adoption

The 2020-2029 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) consists of highway and non-highway projects that use state or federal transportation funds in the MPO planning area as well as some projects that have local government cost-share agreement. These projects originate from the previous TIP (e.g. I-26 Connector, Liberty Road Interchange, Russ Avenue), from SPOT 5.0 (e.g. N. Louisiana, Swannanoa River Road, NC 251 MUP), and projects selected with Direct Allocation (STBG) funds.

The draft 2020-2029 TIP has been posted from September 23-October 24 for public review and comments at the FBRMPO website at: http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/FBRMPO_2020_2029_Draft_TIP-4.pdf. A web map of TIP projects is also available at http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/FBRMPO_2020_2029_Draft_TIP-4.pdf.

The draft TIP was discussed at the September 2019 TCC and Board meetings, so MPO staff provided an opportunity for feedback and comments and they provided an update of public comments received.

Brian Burgess moved to recommend for FBRMPO Board adoption of the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program. Ken Putnam seconded and the motion carried upon a vote.

Regional Transit Study Update and Request for Resolutions of Support

The French Broad River MPO currently has a Regional Transit Study in the FY 2020 UPWP, to be carried out over two fiscal years. The study would look at the feasibility of cross-county routes in the region (Hendersonville to Asheville, Waynesville to Asheville, etc.), the projected amount of funding that could be made available, and what type of agency/governance structure would be required in order to implement regional transit service (potentially a Regional Transit Authority.)

For background information, there are currently no public transit routes that cross county lines. Some services coordinate on meeting for a transfer (between Buncombe/Henderson and Buncombe/Haywood) and some demand-response services go from one county to another, but there is no fixed-route service that currently operates in more than one county.

The lack of a regional transit option is an increasing gap for transportation as well as employment. Every county in the region has seen an increase in cross-county commuting and census data indicates that low income populations- populations that may be more reliant on public transportation- are moving away from employment centers in the region.

Request to Add to the Study's Scope

Recently, a request was made to add another component to the scope of this study: to look at what a regional transit provider could do to assist other transit agencies in the region and to examine the feasibility of consolidating transit agencies in the region. This addition to the scope- would involve the Land of Sky RPO, which would seek additional funding from NCDOT.

Request for Resolutions of Support

Additionally, MPO leadership has requested a resolution of support for the study from local governments that provide transit services in the region: City of Asheville, Buncombe County, Haywood County, Henderson County, and Madison County. This resolution does not intend to reflect support for recommendations coming from the study but is intended to reflect a greater awareness and support that a regional study be undertaken.

Nick Kroncke presented the discussion of MTP 2040 amendments, including changes to the projects list. TCC members provided guidance to MPO staff on what should be included in the scope of the study. Input on requesting resolutions of support from local governments was also requested by MPO staff.

Informational Only- No Action Required

2045 Population & Employment Projections (Land Use Study Update)

MPO staff provided an update on the MPO's Land Use Study, being carried out by a team led by Manhan and Associates. The study primarily provides projected population and employment data for the MPO's 2045 Travel Demand Model. Between 2015 and 2045 the five-county region is expected to grow by almost 170,000 additional residents. The study primarily looks at where that growth is expected to occur and assigns population and employment projections to Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs.) The consultant has been tasked with developing two growth scenarios: (1) Business as Usual and (2) Efficient Growth. These scenarios are based on growth scenarios developed as part of the GroWNC planning initiative in 2012.

At the November TCC and Board meeting, the consultant will present on the projections from each growth scenario. The MPO Board will be tasked with determining a preferred growth scenario that will be used for the 2045 Travel Demand Model for the region.

Informational Only- No Action Required

REGULAR UPDATES AND INFORMATION ITEMS

Regular updates included NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates, TPB updates and FHWA/FTA updates. MPO Subcommittees, Legislative, and Staff updates were also presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.

ADJOURNMENT

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