



METROPOLITAN PLANNING
ORGANIZATION
A PROGRAM OF LAND OF SKY

French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization
Minutes from the Governing Board meeting on February 27, 2020

Attendance

William Lapsley
Emily Scott-Cruz
Amanda Edwards
Bob Davy
David White
Anne Coletta
Matt Wechtel
Tom Widmer

Tristan Winkler
Gwen Wisler
Hannah Cook
Jeff McKenna
Brian Caskey
Brian Burgess
Mark Gibbs

Nick Kroncke
Julie Mayfield
Steve Williams
Steve Cannon
Rebecca McCall
Daniel Sellers
Troy Wilson

Zia Rifkin
Anthony Sutton
Stephen Sparks
Vicki Eastland
Mike Dawson
Lyndsey Simpson
Tyler Shelton

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WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS, APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Lapsley called the meeting to order, requested that everyone introduce himself or herself, read the Ethics Statement and inquired if there were any conflicts of interest to note for today's meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was presented for approval with no modification requested.

Anthony Sutton moved to approve the agenda as presented. Bob Davy seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Lapsley called for any public comments. None were received.

CONSENT AGENDA

Bob Davy moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the January 23, 2020 minutes with a minor change, and the Citizens' Advisory Committee Applications. Gwen Wisler seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft Project List for Prioritization

The Prioritization Process (aka, SPOT) is the process in which the majority of funding decisions are made for transportation improvement projects. North Carolina has a relatively unique process for prioritizing projects that is data-driven and transparent, as mandated by the Strategic Transportation Investments law. MPOs, RPOs, and NCDOT Division work together to develop and prioritize projects across the state with the goal of efficiently using transportation funds to enhance infrastructure while supporting economic growth and local needs.

Tristan Winkler shared that MPO staff assembled a Draft SPOT Project list from meetings with local government staff as well as the Henderson TAC. He also shared a brief presentation on the prioritization process.

Discussion occurred regarding the prioritization process including how local government units select projects. The scoring process was also discussed including what makes up the quantitative score and how projects compete with other projects across the state.

Projects that are submitted in the SPOT process will be under consideration for funding for the 2023-2032 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This list of projects would go before the TCC and Board in February, go out for public comment in February, and go back to the TCC and Board for final approval in March. Submittals are due to the SPOT office by the end of April. This is the first major step in the prioritization process to determine what projects would receive funding.

Projects that are either in the Developmental portion of the TIP (funded for right-of-way in FY 2026 or later) or are considered a “Sibling” of a project in the TIP are automatically resubmitted into the next round of prioritization, unless requested otherwise. Carryover projects do not count towards the MPO’s 25 submittals for each mode. By the end of the prioritization process, projects that are funded are included in the TIP.

Bob Davy moved to approve the Draft Project List. Brian Caskey seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Safety Performance Targets

As part of MAP-21 requirements in 2012, safety performance measures became a requirement for MPOs and DOTs. Beginning in 2017, as part of the FAST Act, states established annual targets in the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) report. Safety targets are established annually, based on the calendar year, are set for all five performance measure based on five year rolling averages of data, and require coordination between state DOTs and MPOs. The five performance measures include: 1) number of fatalities, 2) rate of fatalities per 100 Million VMT, 3) number of serious injuries, 4) rate of serious injuries per 100 Million VMT and, 5) number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries.

NCDOT submitted statewide safety performance measure targets in August 2019 to FHWA. FBRMPO has 180 days (until February 27, 2020) to establish safety targets by either agreeing to plan and program projects so that they contribute toward the accomplishment of NCDOT’s safety target for that performance measure; or committing to a different set of quantifiable targets for safety performance measures for the FBRMPO region. NCDOT’s 2020 safety targets that were provided to FHWA in the 2019 HSIP report are listed below:

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) (per year % reduction)

- For the 2020 Highway Safety Improvement Plan (HSIP), the goal is to **reduce total fatalities by 6.23 percent each year** from 1,396.4 (2014-2018 average) to 1,227.8 (2016-2020 average) by December 31, 2020.
- For the 2020 Highway Safety Improvement Plan (HSIP), the goal is to **reduce the fatality rate by 5.39 percent each year** from 1.211 (2014-2018 average) to 1.084 (2016-2020 average) by December 31, 2020.
- For the 2020 Highway Safety Improvement Plan (HSIP), the goal is to **reduce total serious injuries by 8.54 percent each year** from 3,362.6 (2014-2018 average) to 2,812.8 (2016-2020 average) by December 31, 2020.
- For the 2020 Highway Safety Improvement Plan (HSIP), the goal is to **reduce the serious injury rate by 7.64 percent each year** from 2.886 (2014-2018 average) to 2.462 (2016-2020 average) by December 31, 2020.
- For the 2020 Highway Safety Improvement Plan (HSIP), the goal is to **reduce the total non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries by 7.13 percent each year** from 494.6 (2014-2018 average) to 426.6 (2016-2020 average) by December 31, 2020.

Discussion occurred regarding the safety targets and what happens if those are not met. It was also noted that the MPO region has a high level of biking on the roads, which could lead to higher levels of accidents and serious injury. Nick Kroncke noted that HSIP projects have specific safety components. In terms of the prioritization process, projects are scored, based in part, on how many crashes have occurred on the roadway in the past five years.

Discussion occurred about how data is reported and it was shared that a motor vehicle would need to be involved in an accident in order for it to be reported. Tristan Winkler noted that the MPO conducts bike/ped counts around the region.

Additional safety and crash data is available here:

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/safety/Pages/Crash-Data.aspx>

Rebecca McCall moved to adopt a resolution supporting NCDOT Safety Performance Measure Targets. Bob Davy seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

MTP 2045 Updates

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is a federally required planning document that MPOs are required to update and maintain to reflect planned transportation investments in the region over the next twenty-five years. The MTP is required to be fiscally constrained, meaning that projects in the MTP have to be reasonably expected to work within projected revenues. The French Broad River MPO is required to update its MTP every five years with the next update due in September 2020.

French Broad River MPO staff presented on what the Prioritization Subcommittee has been working on for the MTP including: Finalizing Goals and Objectives, Financial Plan Assumptions, and Project Selection.

In addition, MPO staff plan to hold workshops around the region in March. These include: March 2nd: Henderson County Public Library (Hendersonville) and March 5th: Waynesville Public Library (Waynesville).

Information only. No action required.

REGULAR UPDATES

- Hannah Cook provided Division 13 updates and Steve Williams provided Division 14 updates.
- Daniel Sellers provided TPD updates.
- Mike Dawson provided FHWA updates
- FBRMPO Committee & Workgroup Updates:
 - Prioritization – Met on February 25. . Next meetings on March 23 and April 6
 - Transit Operators Workgroup – Met in February 14. Next meeting TBD.
 - Citizens’ Advisory Committee – Met on January 26. Next meeting in April.
- Legislative Updates – Tristan Winkler shared that it is all quiet, especially on the state front. The current federal transportation bill expires in September 2020; renewal is hoped for.

Announcements

MPO New Board Member Orientation is planned for March 27 at Pack Memorial Library in downtown Asheville.

NCAMPO Conference coming up April 22-24 in Greenville, NC

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn, which received a second and the meeting adjourned.

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