

**French Broad River MPO
Prioritization Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes*
April 7, 2020**

ATTENDING

Voting Members

- Josh O’Conner, Buncombe County
- Julie Mayfield, City of Asheville
- Autumn Radcliff, Henderson County
- Brian Burgess, Town of Mills River
- Elizabeth Teague, Town of Waynesville
- Anthony Sutton, Town of Waynesville
- Jerry Vehaun, Town of Woodfin

Non-Voting

- Tristan Winkler, FBRMPO
- Nick Kroncke, FBRMPO
- Emily Scott Cruz, FBRMPO
- John Ridout, FBRMPO
- Janna Peterson, Henderson County
- Troy Wilson, NCDOT
- Hannah Cook, NCDOT
- Steve Williams, NCDOT
- Stephen Sparks, NCDOT
- Mark Gibbs, NCDOT
- George Webb, Citizens Advisory Committee
- Steve Cannon, NCDOT
- Daniel Sellers, NCDOT

*Meeting held virtually via Zoom

I. Welcome and Housekeeping

I-A // Welcome and Introductions, Approval of Agenda

Prioritization Chair, Josh O’Connor, presided calling meeting to order at 9:00am. Members gave their introduction. The Agenda was approved.

I-B // February 25, 2020 Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Elizabeth Teague made a motion to pass the minutes as presented. Autumn Radcliff seconded. All approved.

II. Public Comment

None at this time.

III. Business

III-A // MTP Statewide Mobility Projects

Tristan Winkler gave an overview of the \$1.6 billion in projects that are in the statewide category for the MTP. A majority of these projects are currently funded in the TIP. The outstanding projects were on I-40, one from NC 191 to Porters Cove Road and the other from Porters Cove Road to NC 9 to be discussed if they should stay in the “parking lot” or should be considered for the MTP. Hannah Cook mentioned moving from Hendersonville Road to around Porters Cove Road out of the parking lot because it will be a division submittal in P6. She mentioned

capturing both what the MPO and Division are submitting for the MTP. It was mentioned that cost will increase over time and it should be programmed at the anticipated amount for the MTP. Tristan brought up the Planning Time Index (PTI) data that is another measure for congestion, looking at problematic corridors through the region. Julie stated she was not in favor of adding these sections to the MTP, and would rather wait to see what the interchange improvement projects do to address any issues that exist. Josh asked if it is an issue with I-40 itself or is due to I-240 and Fairview Road traffic at the interchange. Discussion took place over the merits of adding it to the queue or not.

Elizabeth Teague made a motion to add I-40 widening from Hendersonville Road to Porters Cove Road. It was seconded by Anthony Sutton. Julie Mayfield casted a no vote on the motion. All others approved.

III-B // MTP Division Needs Priorities

Tristan Winkler mentioned that staff are looking for guidance on what projects to submit to Division Needs. Tristan showed information that showed how projects were scored and what criteria was used. This included scoring for each tier (statewide, regional, division) with the goals: safety, congestion, freight, environmental, equity, multimodal, transit. Tristan mentioned that it took a lot of data to score all these projects (and provided a list of data used) while providing a sample list of the scores that were generated.

The top 15 projects were taken from Divisions 13 and 14 of the highest scoring projects. He clarified SPOT online cost estimates would be used to fiscally constrain the project list. It was noted that this list would contain any Regional Impact projects that would have cascaded. He asked the group for the ranking of projects and if they thought any projects should be higher or lower than they are listed, and for concurrence from the group. Multiple members mentioned they aren't familiar with all the roads

Division 13: A few members asked for clarification on projects about what they may entail. Hannah made mention of changing the Broadway project to a roadway upgrade.

Julie Mayfield made a motion for this list of Division 13 needs to be approved. Anthony Sutton seconded. All approved.

Division 14: Janna Peterson made mention that a lot of the US 64 projects would be a priority of the county potentially. Janna asked that the US 64 from South Rugby Road to Banner Farm road could be looked at for project type in case widening isn't palatable. Steve Williams made mention of considering changing it to modernization. Discussion took place around the Henderson TAC reviewing the projects, whom won't be meeting until mid-May. The request was made to change the aforementioned US 64 section to modernization.

Discussion took place around Sulphur Springs Road/Smathers street and changing the project type to intersection improvements instead of modernization.

Autumn Radcliff made a motion to approve the list of Division 13 needs be approved. Elizabeth Teague seconded. All approved.

III-C // MTP Bike/Ped Priorities

Tristan showed the bike/ped priorities for the MTP with the STBGDA funds as well as a chunk of Division Needs funding. He showed the categories for bike/ped that were ranked from high to low as: connectivity, safety, demand, destinations, equity, local match (not scored) and transit. The 20 highest scoring bike/ped projects in the region were shown including greenway and sidewalk. Projects already funded are included in the MTP. A draft MTP list will be brought to the committee in May with fiscal constraints.

Julie Mayfield made a motion to approve this list as presented. Anthony Sutton seconded. All approved.

III-D // MTP Chapters – Emerging Trends and Congestion

Nick Kroncke presented on congestion in the region as part of the MTP 2045 effort.

Emily Scott-Cruz presented on the emerging trends and technologies as part of MTP 2045.

It was made mention by Elizabeth and Julie to use tools such as signalization, emergency management, and other low hanging fruit instead of a technology focused ITS plan. Julie made mention of including new elements such as intersection design elements such as light prioritization that has been brought up by DOT and including adaptable planning. Discussion took place around ITS technology and how it could be replaced by ACVs.

IV. Announcement, News, Special Updates - None.

V. Topics for Next Meeting – Draft project list. Division to speak about projects getting re-started. Next Meeting **May 5 at 9am.**

VI. Public Comment 2 - George Webb commented that through his work the cost for ITS improvements at each signal is significant. George commented that the traffic counts on Hendersonville Road are reported a lot lower than they actually are.

VII. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 A.M.