

**French Broad River MPO  
Prioritization Subcommittee  
Meeting Minutes\*  
May 5, 2020**

**ATTENDING**

**Voting Members**

- Josh O’Conner, Buncombe County
- Julie Mayfield, City of Asheville
- Autumn Radcliff, Henderson County
- 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
- Dan Baechtold, City of Asheville
- Troy Wilson, NCDOT
- Hannah Cook, NCDOT
- Steve Williams, NCDOT
- Stephen Sparks, NCDOT
- Mark Gibbs, NCDOT
- George Webb, Citizens Advisory Committee
- Michael Dawson, FHWA
- Daniel Sellers, NCDOT
- Brendan Merithew, NCDOT
- Matt Cable, Buncombe County

\*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 // April 7, 2020 Minutes**

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Julie Mayfield made a motion to pass the minutes with an amendment to item 3A. Jerry Vehaun seconded. All approved.

**II. Public Comment**

None at this time.

**III. Business**

**III-A // MTP Fiscally Constrained Highway Project List**

Tristan Winkler discussed the financial plan in the MTP and how it reflects inflation rates over the next twenty-five years. Staff and the steering committee have been working on the larger project list and more recently applied fiscal constrained to the

projects to narrow down the list. The projects were split out into categories of committed, in SPOT (currently being submitted to prioritization) and longer-range (projects not currently funded or in SPOT but considered for future submission). A few cross-sections were provided of what access management, modernization and roadway upgrade projects may look like. The entire list was provided in the packet to the group for consideration. Over \$2 billion worth of interstate projects was provided at the statewide tier. The Regional Impact list had the lowest amount of funding available and did include some funding of interstate projects that cascaded from the statewide tier, such as TIP-IDs: I-2513A (I-26) and A-0010AA (Future I-26). There are no "longer-range" projects in the Regional Impact tier because funding was already allocated towards programmed and SPOT projects. For division needs, there was a large list of projects and funding available for both NCDOT Divisions 13 and 14. This included projects programmed, projects in SPOT and longer-term projects. It was requested that the group review the entire project-list and approve the projects or make modifications as needed.

It was requested by the Town of Waynesville to remove Elysinia Avenue (HD144528) from the Division Needs list.

*Julie Mayfield made a motion approve the list as presented with the amendment as presented. Autumn Radcliff seconded. All approved.*

### **III-B // MTP Fiscally Constrained Bike/Ped Project List**

Nick Kroncke presented on the list of draft Bike/Ped projects in the MTP. The list included the approved list from the April Prioritization meeting. These are stand-alone bike/ped projects that currently have construction funding through STBGDA/TAPDA/other, projects being submitted to P6.0, and projects from local and regional bike/ped plans. \$200,000,000 was estimated to be available for Bike/Ped projects in the MTP, with a total of \$180,000,000 shown in the list presented with \$20,000,000 being reserved for the 2020 call for STBGDA/TAPDA projects. Cost estimates were derived from the TIP, from local plan estimates and/or from the P6.0 Bicycle and Pedestrian Cost Estimation Tool. The entire project list is included in the agenda and is broken out county by county.

*Elizabeth Teague made a motion to approve the Bike/Ped list. Julie Mayfield seconded. All approved.*

### **III-C // JARC Call for Projects**

Emily Scott-Cruz presented on the JARC funding available for Haywood County and they applied for less than what they were eligible for. The other pot of funding included a regional set-aside, with three alternatives proposed. Buncombe County applied for Black Mountain Trailblazer funding and City of Asheville applied for ART's

Route 170. The first alternative had Buncombe County's request fully funded, and 35% of Asheville's request. The second alternative funded both projects at 64.6%. The third alternative utilizes both FY 19 and FY 20 funds which would mean the next call for projects would be in FY 2021 (Spring 2022). Emily noted that there was differing period-of-performance timelines, submitted between Buncombe County and the City of Asheville. Julie asked if clarification could be had with the City of Asheville to align their period-of-performance with Buncombe County. Josh O'Conner asked if this item could be clarified with staff and discussed next month. Tristan Winkler said it could be delayed, but that would cause further delays in beginning the contracts. Matt Cable stated that the issue is with discrepancies in the period-of-performance. He proposed an alternative that has both entities adjusting their timeline to match together. He stated it makes sense to include more funding from future years to avoid another call for projects.

*Elizabeth Teague made a motion to approve the Haywood County projects JARC set-aside and to postpone the regional JARC funding approval until MPO staff can talk with applicants regarding period-of-performance. Anthony Sutton seconded. All approved.*

### **III-D // 5310 Call for Projects**

Emily Scott-Cruz talked about 5310 funding (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) with 55% of funding going towards traditional/capital projects and a maximum of 45% of funding towards operating. There was a scorecard used for scoring-these projects which was explained to the group. Alternative 1 funded the highest scoring projects fully and using remaining funds for the next highest scoring projects within each category. Alternative 2 funded traditional projects at 53% of their request while funding Other projects at 44.5% of their request. Alternative 3 funds traditional projects at 53% of their request and fully funding the highest scoring Other projects and funding the remaining Other projects at 37% of their request. Alternative 3A (not presented in packet) funds the top scoring "Other" projects and the second-highest scoring project in "Other" while funding the traditional projects at 53%.

Alternative 4 is funding only traditional projects and not funding Other projects.

The preferred funding alternative is Alternative 3, which funds traditional projects at 53% of the request while fully funding the highest scoring "Other/Operating" projects and funding the remaining "Other/Operating" projects at 37% of their request.

Emily asked for input from the group about what alternatives would be preferred. Elizabeth Teague asked if projects weren't to be funded, would they be able to continue/exist without it. Emily clarified that was one of the questions on the application. Elizabeth's concern was that partially funding projects may be problematic. Matt Cable spoke about the RIDE program and how they use the 5310 funds as a 50/50 match to local funding. The group mentioned having Emily discuss with the service providers their period-of-performance and their level of need.

Janna Peterson mentioned that all service providers should be considered and talked with given their potential reliance on this funding source. Discussion took place around period-of-performance and traditional projects funding between Buncombe County and the City of Asheville. Elizabeth echoed the request that MPO staff speak with local transit agencies and table the discussion to next month. Autumn asked if the period-of-performance was known for the smaller projects. Discussion took place around merits of fully funding projects versus partially funding smaller projects. Matt Cable proposed

*Julie Mayfield made a motion to delay action on this item and that MPO staff talk to the applicants and find consistency across period-of-performance and come back with a recommendation at the next meeting. Elizabeth Teague seconded. All approved.*

**IV. Announcement, News, Special Updates** – Discussion took place around the NCDOT cash balance and trends in vehicle miles traveled. New Board orientation was rescheduled for May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**V. Topics for Next Meeting** – STBGDA/TAPDA applications, JARC and 5310 applications, draft MTP. Julie Mayfield asked for an update regarding ongoing studies in the region. Hannah Cook mentioned adding Hendersonville Road SPOT discussion to the next meeting.

Next Meeting **June 9 at 9am.**

**VI. Public Comment II** – None.

**VII. Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 A.M.