

**French Broad River MPO
Prioritization Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes*
June 2, 2020**

ATTENDING

Voting Members

- Josh O’Conner, Buncombe County
- Julie Mayfield, City of Asheville
- Autumn Radcliff, Henderson County
- 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
- Daniel Cobb, Town of Mills River
- Dan Baechtold, City of Asheville
- Troy Wilson, NCDOT
- Hannah Cook, NCDOT
- Steve Williams, NCDOT
- Stephen Sparks, NCDOT
- Mark Gibbs, NCDOT
- David Wasserman, NCDOT
- Michael Dawson, FHWA

*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 9:05 am. Members gave their introduction. The Agenda was approved.

I-B // May 5, 2020 Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Anthony Sutton made a motion to pass the minutes. Jerry Vehaun seconded. All approved.

II. Public Comment

None at this time.

III. Business

III-A // 5310 Call for Projects

Emily Scott Cruz made mention of the last meeting where funding was reviewed with applicants and generally, the funding was asked to be reduced for each applicant. It was mentioned that Mars Hill and the Call-a-ride program could not manage reductions in funding. Other programs mentioned having other funds available for use. A table was provided providing a funding summary table with funding alternatives outlined. Staff recommended using alternative 1 for funding

programs which fully funds the highest scoring projects then the remaining two lowest scoring projects are funded at 52.45% of their request.

Julie Mayfield made a motion to approve alternative 1. Anthony Sutton seconded. All approved.

III-B // JARC Call for Projects

Emily Scott Cruz showed the revised funding table. Alternative 1 fully funds both City of Asheville and Buncombe County while alternative 2 funds both and allocates the remaining \$23,019 to Buncombe County. There was discussion about allocating \$23,000 this fiscal year versus next fiscal year which is the main difference between alternative 1 and alternative 2. It was noted that alternative 1 puts a consistent period-of-performance for each project. The group mentioned having a consistent period of performance in the future for all call for projects.

Anthony Sutton made a motion to approve alternative 2. Discussion took place about period-of-performance differences between alternative 1 and alternative 2. Anthony Sutton withdrew his motion. Julie Mayfield made a motion to approve alternative 1. Anthony Sutton seconded. All approved.

III-C // STBGDA/TAPDA Call for Projects

Tristan Winkler brought to the group the list of projects that applied for STBGDA funding. 19 projects were received, which is the most projects received yet. There was \$25 million available in STBGDA and TAPDA funds over fiscal years 2022-2026. Some of the projects previously received DA funding. Tristan noted that local governments have previously voiced concern over resurfacing type projects where they don't have funding or availability to implement other measures such as bike/ped infrastructure or other criteria. City of Asheville submitted 4 projects, two were previously funded through STBGDA. The Town of Black Mountain submitted 2, with 1 being previously funded through STBGDA. Tristan noted that the Divisions reviewed the cost estimates to see if they seemed accurate. The City of Hendersonville submitted 1 project. Henderson County submitted 5 projects, which were segments of the Ecusta. Division 13 submitted 4 projects, within the City of Asheville, as well as 1 in Mars Hill. Tristan asked the group of how Division projects should be scored based on geographic equity. For example, the scoring of Bruce Road in Mars Hill and Madison County was discussed if it should be funded based on Mars Hill population size versus the Divisions size. The question became should points be based on who applied or who is receiving the project. Julie Mayfield asked for clarification on a few City of Asheville projects. Julie Mayfield asked for clarification on Division 13 projects if they are bike/ped or highway. Hannah Cook clarified that Bruce Road project includes sidewalk. The Charlotte Street project would supplement SPOT mobility funding, and this funding would be used for pedestrian crossing facilities for all four ramp facilities. The SPOT mobility funding is being used to add a turn lane to the eastbound off-ramp. Further discussion took place regarding specific Division 13

projects. Autumn Radcliff asked Tristan what was needed from the subcommittee today. Tristan wanted the subcommittee to discuss the projects as well as get clarification on the geographic equity question. Discussion took place around the allocation of federal funds and how they are dispersed through the region. It was requested to have a brief description of the projects and a map, so the subcommittee can better understand each project. Tristan mentioned staff will have more information for the July meeting for the group. Final scoring recommendations will be brought back in July.

No motions made.

III-D // Draft MTP

Tristan mentioned that the group received the MTP in its entirety of its draft form. The deadline for adoption is September meaning the draft needs to go out in July for public comment. Tristan mentioned staff are looking for approval of the draft document. The goal of this MTP, in addition to federal requirements, is to have it guide the prioritization and TIP process, not the other way around. It is worth noting it is a continuous process, and the plan will likely be changed over time. Julie Mayfield asked if policies can be created to prevent late-additions to the SPOT process if the project is not in the MTP. Tristan noted that exceptions would likely be needed and that the MPO can't direct NCDOT Division policy and project inclusion/exclusion. The draft will be going for approval by TCC and Board in June. There are a few additional items that will be worked into the draft. It was brought up to the group that it appears the recommendations do not always match up with the projects included in the plan. For example, it is called for park and rides in the plan but they are not included in the project list. Tristan mentioned that projects like this are typically handled on a case by case basis because it typically comes along with a highway widening or interchange improvement. Discussion took place if recommendations should be adjusted to face the "real world scenario" where they are typically more idealistic in the plan.

Julie Mayfield made a motion to approve the draft MTP. Anthony Sutton seconded. All approved.

III-E // SPOT Project Submittals Modification

Tristan Winkler showed the two modifications to SPOT projects being submitted at the end of June. The first is in Town of Canton and replaces the Old Clyde Road sidewalk project with the sidewalk project on Champion Drive. That project overlaps with STBGDA funded section which only has PE and ROW programmed. The second project is modifying the section of Hendersonville Road access management being submitted, with the new section being from NC 146 (Long Shoals Road) to Blue Ridge Parkway. This removes the section from I-40 to the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Julie Mayfield made a motion to approve the modifications. Jerry Vehaun seconded. All approved.

III-D // MTP Environmental Justice Review

To be presented in July.

IV. Announcement, News, Special Updates – MPO Coffee with a Transportation Planner on Friday 6/5.

V. Topics for Next Meeting – MTP Environmental Justice to be covered. Next Meeting **July 7 at 9am.**

VI. Public Comment II – None at this time.

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