

**French Broad River MPO
Prioritization Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes*
July 7, 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
-Elizabeth Teague, Town of Waynesville

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
-Steve Williams, NCDOT
-Stephen Sparks, NCDOT
-Daniel Sellers, NCDOT
-Brendan Merithew, NCDOT
-Michael Dawson, FHWA
-Marks Gibbs, NCDOT
-George Webb, Citizens Advisory Committee

*Meeting held virtually via Zoom. All votes held by roll-call.

I. Welcome and Housekeeping

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

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

I-B // June 2, 2020 Minutes

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

II. Public Comment

None at this time.

III. Business

III-A // STBGDA/TAPDA Call for Projects

Tristan Winkler made mention that the projects were brought to the group last month. This month, preliminary scores were provided for all of the projects. There is \$25 million available between 2022 – 2026. The goal of today was to decide what projects receive funding. Tristan went through project by project scoring submitted by each agency. The following projects were the highest scoring by the MPO

methodology: Broadway Ave sidewalks, Riverwalk greenway, Clear Creek greenway, Black Mountain bridge replacement, Charlotte/240 interchange, Ecusta Trail Phase I, Coxe Avenue Improvements, Traffic signal at Biltmore Ave and White Fawn, North RAD Greenway, Ecusta Trail Phase II, Haywood Road resurfacing. This list so far is part of the staff recommendations to be funded. The following two tied in scoring: Ecusta Trail Phase III and School Zone Safety in the City of Asheville. The following did not score high enough to be recommended: sidewalks on Hazel Mill road, Ecusta Trail Phase IV, Ecusta Trail Phase V, Sand Hill/Sardis intersection, Bruce Road, Page/Haywood/Flint Intersection. Elizabeth Teague asked if there were any issues with the Black Mountain greenway and the railroad crossing. Tristan clarified he believed they worked out the railroad crossings issues. Julie Mayfield asked of other alternate scenarios to fund projects. Autumn Radcliff stated she has outstanding questions on project scoring. She asked if the additional TAPDA funds were rolled into this process, at \$2.2 million. Tristan stated it would not be problematic to include that funding, those funds would just have to be programmed strategically. Janna Peterson asked if the different scoring methodology between STBG and TAP would cause issues. Tristan clarified that TAP is a sub-program of STBG so it should not be a problem.

Autumn asked for specific clarification on mode and cost effectiveness, plan compliance and local match. Tristan and Autumn were going to chat about specifics after the meeting and bring that discussion back to the group in August. Mark Gibbs made mention of changing the wording of Haywood Road Resurfacing to Haywood Road Improvements.

Tristan mentioned bringing this item back to Prioritization in August with the additional funding being considered. In addition, revisions to the methodology should be considered in the future such as the role NCDOT Divisions play and how to work with more limited funding. Tristan said there is no strict deadline for programming these funds.

III-B // MTP Edits & Public Input

Tristan Winkler made mention of a few things being added to the MTP: highway and roadway maintenance. This includes \$800 million in roadway maintenance activities over the MTP's 25 year timeframe. A required section of federal Performance Measures was added. An explanation on the gap between recommendations and vision policies, as well as addressing phrasing and a few appendices including public input reports, land use study report and project scoring.

Nick Kroncke talked about the public input period that runs from July 8th – August 31st. The full MTP, a online story map and a survey will be made available to the public. MPO staff will work with the Citizens Advisory Committee to determine a

public workshop type event for mid-August. After the public comment period closes, staff will bring comments and results to the MTP steering committee for guidance on edits and public input received before taking to the TCC and Board in September for adoption.

III-C // MTP Preliminary Cross-Sections

Tristan Winkler made mention of the preliminary cross-sections for MTP projects to be used as part of the public outreach effort and to be folded into the plan. They help clarify the terms used, comply with MTP regulations, help with Complete Streets planning, help with modeling efforts. NCDOT cross-sections were used in the sheets, which is what is used when submitting to SPOT. This will help provide better guidance and transparency while also reflecting what is in NCDOT standards. Tristan showed a few of the cross-sections that will be linked in the MTP online map. It was mentioned that these will be updated over time and serve as a living resource for project expectations.

III-D // MTP Environmental Justice

Nick presented on the Environmental Justice (EJ) section of the 2045 MTP. The presentation included the federal backing for incorporating these measures, identification of EJ populations including six demographically distinct indicators, identification of Communities of Concern and the process to score projects using data criteria. Members asked for clarification on the project distribution, of what percentage of projects were invested or not invested in Communities of Concern. The EJ analysis found that it is a nearly even distributed between net negative, net neutral and net positive projects. Members recommended adding more data and verifying the percentage investment in Communities of Concern to see if the regional miles are accurately represented.

IV. Announcement, News, Special Updates – MPO Coffee with a Transportation Planner on Thursday 7/16.

V. Topics for Next Meeting –Next Meeting **August 4 at 9am.**

VI. Public Comment II – None at this time.

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