



## **Prioritization Subcommittee Meeting Agenda**

**October 6, 2020 – 9:00 A.M.**

### **Agenda**

- 1. WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING (5 min)**
  - A. Introductions, Approval of Agenda** Peyton O’Conner
  - B. September 1, 2020 Minutes** Peyton O’Conner
  
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT**
  
- 3. BUSINESS (30-60 min)**
  - A. LAPP Project Schedules** MPO Staff
  - B. Planning Call for Projects** MPO Staff
  - C. LAPP Restarts** MPO Staff
  - D. P 6.0 Updates** MPO Staff
  
- 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES (3 min)**
  
- 5. TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING? (3 min)**
  
- 6. PUBLIC COMMENT 2**
  
- 7. ADJOURNMENT**

Zoom Login:

<https://zoom.us/j/98341155795>

Meeting ID: 983 4115 5795

Or Call-In: (301)715-8592

**French Broad River MPO  
Prioritization Subcommittee  
Meeting Minutes\*  
September 1, 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
- Dan Baechtold, City of Asheville
- Elizabeth Teague, Town of Waynesville

**Non-Voting**

- Tristan Winkler, FBRMPO
- Nick Kroncke, FBRMPO
- Emily Scott Cruz, FBRMPO
- John Ridout, FBRMPO
- Janna Peterson, Henderson County
- Larry Harris, Town of Black Mountain
- Daniel Cobb, Town of Mills River
- Dan Baechtold, City of Asheville
- Troy Wilson, NCDOT
- Vicki Eastland, Land of Sky RPO
- Stephen Sparks, NCDOT
- Daniel Sellers, NCDOT
- Michael Dawson, FHWA
- George Webb, Citizens Advisory Co.
- Marks Gibbs, NCDOT
- Hannah Cook, NCDOT
- Brendan Merithew, NCDOT
- David Wasserman, NCDOT

\*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’Conner, presided calling meeting to order at 9:00 am. Members gave their introduction. The Agenda was approved.

**I-B // August 4, 2020 Minutes**

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

**II. Public Comment**

None at this time.

**III. Business**

**III-A // MTP Update and Changes**

Tristan Winkler provided an update on what took place for MTP engagement. One of the big changes is adding I-2513D, the modernization on Riverside Drive from Hill

Street to Broadway. This project was not included by accident. Including this project would mean removing the Old County Home Road and the Ben Lippen/Emma Road. Additionally, performance measures and planning factors including resiliency were included. This includes adding language on stormwater infrastructure and parking lot projects.

Julie Mayfield asked if the recent announcement from NCDOT regarding project delays changes this list. Tristan clarified that it would be very challenging to include all those changes and adjust the project list because these changes happened so close to adoption and these changes are still ongoing. Daniel Sellers stated it should be documented about these cost estimates coming out in the document. Julie Mayfield made a comment asking for clarification on the environmental justice chapter and stating it wasn't clear if the projects are providing benefits or burdens. Language could be added to clarify if the projects provide a benefit or a burden to the communities, or at least to make it clear what the impacts to EJ communities are. Tristan stated that can be an addition.

Nick Kroncke provided an overview of public involvement efforts that have taken place so far. 95 participants took the most recent survey. Bike/Ped, maintenance and the environment were some of the highest scoring categories in this survey, as well as previous MTP surveys.

### **III-B // SPOT Alternative Modernization Criteria – Division 13**

Tristan mentioned that in the SPOT process, weights can be customized if all impacted MPO, RPO and Division(s) come to an agreement with it. Recently, Division 13 staff proposed that for projects scored at division needs level, they would up lane width up to 15% and reduce the pavement condition from 10% to 0%. Tristan noted that Hannah Cook did an exercise and found that a majority of modernization projects scored better with this methodology. Dan Baechtold asked for clarification on roadway upgrade versus modernization. Tristan noted roadway upgrade is not a new improvement type, it is just scored with mobility measures. Roadway upgrade has congestion measures but modernization does not. Dan commented he supports roadway upgrade type projects that improve multiple elements of the project. Hannah Cook mentioned Division staff thought modernization should focus on pavement widths, with less focus on the condition. Across the division, Hannah noted there was increased scores although some projects did score lower. Discussion took place amongst division staff about what the results of adding this criteria to projects does. Josh O'Conner asked for clarification on what action Prioritization needs to take. Tristan noted that this criteria makes modernization projects in Division 13 more likely to be funded for all planning organizations in the Division. Daniel Sellers noted the division pot of funding is limited, so making the projects more competitive will make it compete with other improvement types. Further discussion took place about the merits of changing these weights. Questions were asked if the criteria can be changed further, particularly to include congestion, but the challenge is that other planning



organizations will not agree to those changes. Discussion took place regarding safety funding and scoring on rural roadways.

*Julie Mayfield made a motion to adopt the alternative modernization criteria as presented. Anthony Sutton seconded. All approved.*

#### **IV. Announcement, News, Special Updates -**

Julie Mayfield made mention of Larry Harris joining in on the call as he is considered for nomination to the subcommittee in the future.

Elizabeth Teague wanted to share a public comment from the charter school on US 70 near exit 59. The school is east of Warren Wilson College road, in Swannanoa. She asked if increased pedestrian amenities on US 70 could be considered, particularly near the school. Discussion took place if the county could build and maintain infrastructure (sidewalk) near the school. Elizabeth and Josh mentioned talking offline to further this discussion.

Janna Peterson asked what is going on with US 25/70 and why the lane is still closed. Mark Gibbs stated it is still an active slide and the Division has a long-term plan for it but is tied up with funding issues.

Mark Gibbs made a comment about the county in the past entering into a sidewalk agreement with the City. Discussion took place about projects in the city and county and who maintains the various sections.

#### **V. Topics for Next Meeting –Next Meeting October 6 at 9am.**

**VI. Public Comment II** – None at this time.

**VII. Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 A.M.



# Item 3A:

## **LAPP Project Schedules**

FHWA has several funding programs under the Locally Administered Project Program, including Surface Transportation Block Grant- Direct Allotment (STBGDA) and Transportation Alternatives Program- Direct Allotment (TAPDA.) These are funding programs that distributed to states with the requirement that funds be distributed to large urban areas (like the FBRMPO), small urban areas, rural areas, and some funds that may be used anywhere in the state. For large urban areas, MPOs are in charge of programming the funds (the MPO's "Direct Allotment.") Member governments and NCDOT are eligible to apply as long as the projects meet the program's eligible activities. The MPO receives approximately \$4,500,000 of these funds annually; the vast majority (\$4,250,000) comes in the form of STBGDA.

More information on these funding programs as well as specific information on the most recent call for projects is available here:

<http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/local-administered-projects/>

The MPO held a call for projects from January 31st – April 17th for STBGDA and TAPDA funds. Utilizing both sources of funds would enable \$27,200,000 over five years. NOTE: the call was initially for \$28,200,000 but \$1,000,000 was programmed by the MPO Board to supplement the NC 251/Beaverdam Creek Greenway in June 2020. The TCC recommended 13 projects for approval at their August 13 meeting. The MPO Board approve the top 13 projects plus \$1,600,000 for cost overruns at their August 29<sup>th</sup> 2020 meeting. MPO is making the following recommendation for the following FY22 through FY26 schedule.



## LAPP Project Schedules Continued.

	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25	FY 26	Total
<i>MPO Region Available</i>	\$8,880,000	\$4,580,000	\$4,580,000	\$4,580,000	\$4,580,000	\$27,200,000
<i>MPO Region Budgeted</i>	\$8,666,578.00	\$4,548,211.00	\$3,294,700.00	\$4,300,000.00	\$4,500,000.00	\$25,309,489.00
<i>MPO Region Balance</i>	\$213,422.00	\$31,789.00	\$1,285,300.00	\$280,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$1,890,511.00
<b>Town of Black Mountain</b>	\$1,504,000.00					\$1,504,000.00
Riverwalk Greenway CST	\$960,000.00					
Bridge Replacement CST	\$544,000.00					
<b>City of Asheville</b>	\$412,000.00	-	\$1,840,000.00	\$4,300,000.00	\$4,500,000.00	\$11,052,000.00
Biltmore at White Fawn PE	\$32,000.00					
Biltmore at White Fawn CST	\$320,000.00					
Coxe Ave Acq			\$240,000.00			
Coxe Ave CST				\$4,300,000.00	\$4,500,000.00	
NorthRad Greenway PE						
NorthRad Greenway CST			\$1,000,000.00			
School Zone PE	\$60,000.00					
School Zone CST			\$600,000.00			
<b>City of Hendersonville</b>	\$ 153,500.00	\$ 77,820.00	\$ 1,454,700.00			\$1,686,020.00
Clear Creek Greenway Acq		\$77,820.00				
Clear Creek Greenway PE	\$153,500.00					
Clear Creek Greenway CST			\$1,454,700.00			
<b>Henderson County</b>	\$604,828.00	\$4,470,391.00				\$5,075,219.00
Ecusta Trail I PE	\$149,490.00					
Ecusta Trail I CST		\$992,548.00				
Ecusta Trail II PE	\$180,995.00					
Ecusta Trail II CST		\$1,337,481.00				
Ecusta Trail III PE	\$274,343.00					
Ecusta Trail III CST		\$2,140,362.00				
<b>NC DOT Division 13</b>	\$5,992,250.00					\$5,992,250.00
Broadway Sidewalks PE	\$51,000.00					
Broadway Sidewalks CST	\$259,000.00					
Charlotte Street Ramp CST	\$668,250.00					
Haywood Road Resurfacing	\$5,014,000.00					



# Item 3B:

## Planning Call for Projects

The French Broad River MPO proposes making \$200,000 in federal planning funds available for FY22. Applications for prospective planning projects will be due December 31, 2020.

Previously, scoring methodology for planning projects was both quantitative and qualitative. The following was used as quantitative preliminary scoring despite difficulties as far as quantifying a wide range of eligible users (corridor studies vs pedestrian counters).

Number of Active Planning Projects (Funded Through the MPO)		
<b>Two or More Active Planning Projects</b>	One Active Planning Project	No Active Planning Projects
<b>0 Points</b>	<b>10 Points</b>	<b>20 Points</b>

Previous Planning		
<b>No Previous Plans</b>	CTP or Local Plan	MTP, CMP, or SPOT
<b>0 Points</b>	<b>10 Points</b>	<b>20 Points</b>

In addition to a quantitative preliminary score, projects were also assigned score by Prioritization Subcommittee members (ranked on a scale of 1 to 5) based on need for the project and perceived efficacy in addressing need. The highest scoring projects that could be funded were moved forward for approval.

The Prioritization Subcommittee is asked to make a recommendation to the TCC and Board regarding whether it is time to hold another call for projects, to determine whether the proposed amount to be made available is acceptable, and to discuss scoring practices for the projects.



# Item 3C:

## LAPP Restarts

Due to NCDOT's financial issues, a large number of projects have been delayed, including locally administered projects in the MPO.

NCDOT has engaged with the MPO as funding begins to be freed up to restart some of these projects, but not all projects are going to be able to restart at once.

In June, 2020, the MPO was asked to provide two priority projects and the TCC and Board approved two priority projects: the EB-5774 NC 251/Beaverdam Creek Greenway Project (Buncombe County) and the U-5019A Nasty/Town Branch Greenway.

Since then NCDOT has informed MPO staff that because funding is expected to be released in small amounts at a time, the MPO should develop a list of priorities that may be referenced instead of two priority projects.

MPO staff has developed a draft list of priorities shared with MPO leadership. The list was developed based on: local priority ranking of active projects, whether or not local bonds are attached to the project, the current phase of the project, and whether or not the project is completely funded (has a funded construction phase.) Based on these criteria and an impromptu scoring methodology, the current list of priorities is as follows:

TIP ID	Jurisdiction	Project	Local Priority	Priority Points	Fully Funded	Fully Funded Points	Bonds	Bond Points	Project Phase	Phase Points	Total
EB-5774	Buncombe	NC 251/Beaverdam Creek Greenway	1	40	Y	30	Y	20	PE	0	90
EB-5948	Asheville	Onteora Boulevard Sidewalks	2	30	Y	30	Y	20	CST	10	90





U-5019A	Asheville	Town Branch Greenway	1	40	Y	30	N	0	CST	10	80
EB-5547	Black Mountain	Riverwalk Greenway	1	40	Y	30	N	0	PE	0	70
EB-5926	Maggie Valley	US 19 Bike/Ped Improvements	1	40	Y	30	N	0	PE	0	70
EB-5944	Asheville	Johnston Boulevard Sidewalks	4	10	Y	30	Y	20	CST	10	70
EB-5947	Asheville	New Haw Creek Road Sidewalks	7	3	Y	30	Y	20	CST	10	63
U-5019B	Asheville	FBR West Greenway	3	20	Y	30	N	0	CST	10	60
EB-5824	Buncombe	Enka Heritage Trail	2	30	Y	30	N	0	PE	0	60
U-5548	Waynesville	Brown Avenue Realignment	1	40	N	0	N	0	ROW	5	45
EB-5790	Asheville	Greenway Connectors	6	4	Y	30	N	0	CST	10	44
U-5190	Asheville	New Leicester Hwy Sidewalks	5	5	Y	30	N	0	ROW	5	40
EB-5946	Mills River	Mills River Valley Trail	1	40	N	0	N	0	PE	0	40
EB-5945	Canton	Champion Drive Sidewalks	1	40	N	0	N	0	PE	0	40
EB-5831	Asheville	Coxe Avenue	8	2	Y	30	N	0	PE	0	32
EB-5821	Buncombe	Reems Creek Greenway	3	20	N	0	N	0	PE	0	20
EB-5823	Buncombe	Bent Creek Greenway	4	10	N	0	N	0	PE	0	10
EB-5830	Asheville	Lexington Avenue	9	1	N	0	N	0	PE	0	1

## What's Happening Now?

Funding is being made available with different requirements and expectations.

-EB-5774 (NC 251/Beaverdam Creek Greenway) is expected to restart soon with general funds made available to the MPO to restart projects

Several other projects are also expected to move forward but have been selected based on previous approvals given to the projects. These include:

-U-5019B (French Broad River West Greenway)



-EB-5824 (Enka Heritage Trail)

-EB-5821 (Reems Creek Greenway)

-There are on-going discussions regarding the ability and willingness for local governments to proceed with deferred reimbursements. I.e., project sponsors could proceed with a project with the understanding that local funds would have to pay for (most of) a project with reimbursements planned for October, 2021. The MPO is limited to \$4.8 million in projects opting for deferred reimbursements.



# Item 3D:

## **P 6.0 Updates**

MPO staff will give updates on the status of P 6.0.

