



French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization
Minutes from the TCC Virtual Meeting via Zoom on January 14, 2021

ATTENDANCE:

Remote via the Zoom Platform:

Chair Autumn Radcliff	Tristan Winkler	Nick Kroncke	Emily Scott-Cruz
William High	Daniel Sellers	Eric Rufa	Troy Wilson
Steve Williams	Matthew Manley	Chris Lee	Jodie Ferguson
Brendan Merithew	Daniel Cobb	Ed Evans	Erica Anderson
Stephen Sparks	Hunter Moore	Kenny Busey	Michael Dawson
Chris Medlin	Rachel Bronson	Peyton O'Conner	Nathan Bennett
Kim Roney	John Ridout	Janna Peterson	Wanda Austin
Chris Medlin	David Wasserman	Lori Boyer	Ron Hancock
Steve Cannon	Pat Christie	Dan Baechtold	

In-Person at Land of Sky Regional Council:

Zia Rifkin (minutes)

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Chair Radcliff called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and roll call followed. Upon completion of roll call, quorum was announced for conducting the business of the TCC.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Radcliff called for public comments. No public comments were made. Tristan Winkler informed the TCC that removal of delayed projects from the TIP has been pushed out to February for TCC and Board review/approval.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Radcliff indicated that the Consent Agenda included the November 19, 2020 minutes. She requested approval for the Agenda at this time, as well. A modification to the agenda was requested for item 4C (Presentation from the Town of Black Mountain- Parking Study) as Jessica Trotman, Planning Director for the Town, cannot be at the meeting, so that item is removed from the agenda.

Janna Peterson moved to approve the consent agenda as presented and the agenda, as modified. The motion received a second, and was affirmed upon a roll call vote of the member governments present.

BUSINESS

Amendments to the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is our region's document that reflects planned transportation investments over a ten-year period and is required to be in conformity with North Carolina's State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The TIP describes each project, a schedule for implementation, funding sources, and estimated costs. The 2020 – 2029 TIP was adopted by the MPO Board on October 24, 2019.

This round of TIP amendments was provided for informational purposes at the November 2020 meeting. The amendments have been amended since then to **exclude** proposed NCDOT project delays. The proposed amendments reflect the programming of Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP) funding and the deletion of U-5781 and U-5782 from the TIP (US 25/Merrimon Avenue intersection improvement projects).

Tristan Winkler clarified that this business item initially included a very large number of project delays. A number of public comments were received at the November TCC meeting regarding those proposed delays. As a result, after discussion, the Prioritization Subcommittee requested that those delays be removed for now, which has been done. MPO staff plan on bringing that item back through in February. For now, projects in the Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP) need to be added to the TIP through today's request for amendment.

William High moved to recommend Board approval for Amendments to the 2020-2029 TIP. Peyton O'Conner seconded and the motion carried upon a roll call vote and without further discussion.

Amendments to the Public Involvement Policy (PIP)

Public involvement is an integral part of the planning process and involves diverse techniques to be effective. The Public Involvement Policy (PIP) provides guidance and outlines federal requirements regarding how the MPO involves the public in developing transportation plans and related policy documents. The current PIP, originally adopted in 2014, saw its most recent amendment in 2019. In order to keep up with evolving engagement strategies and federal requirements, it is important to update the PIP periodically.

In summary, the proposed amendments to the PIP reflect:

- FHWA and the North Carolina Open Meetings Law guidance on the holding of public meetings electronically and accepting of public comments held online;
- Added language referencing the FAST Act;
- Adds clarifying language for public comment during meetings, adding that the Chairperson may limit or extend the overall duration of each public comment period;
- Clarification on what constitutes a TIP amendment versus a modification. Modifications (minor changes to TIP) do not require public involvement and Board approval, this aligns the PIP with FHWA/FTA/NCDOT guidance regarding modifications;
- Adds requirement for public involvement during CMP development (as required per the FAST Act);

- Updates to Appendix A – Timelines and Public Hearing Requirements. For amendments to the MTP, TIP, Prioritization List and PIP, public comment is accepted prior to approval but a public hearing is not required;
- Adds online participation guidelines for social media and release of liability, and;
- Includes revisions to the format to be more user-friendly and better organized.

Per the 45-day minimum public comment requirements, the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) discussed the PIP on October 14, 2020 and the MPO then advertised for public comment beginning on October 28, 2020.

Tristan Winkler shared that one suggestion received during the public comment period was for a one-minute default time for public comments, with an allowance for flexibility at the Chair's discretion. Chair Radcliff commented that Henderson County uses a three-minute comment period, which is also flexible.

Peyton O'Conner moved to recommend Board approval for Amendments to the Public Involvement Policy (PIP) to include the suggestion to use three-minutes as the default time limit for comments, with acknowledgement that flexibility was allowable at the discretion of the Chair. The motion received a second and carried upon a roll call vote and without further discussion.

REGULAR UPDATES AND INFORMATION ITEMS

Regular updates included NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates, TPD updates and FHWA/FTA updates. MPO Subcommittees, Legislative, and Staff updates were also presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES

TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING

MPO Budget, and updates to Safety Performance Measures, which require updating annually.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Radcliff opened the second public comment period. No public comments received.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Radcliff adjourned the meeting, as there was no further business.