

Prioritization Subcommittee

Meeting Agenda

May 4, 2021

9:00 AM

Meeting to be held via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/91373453789>

Voting Members on the Committee: Dan Baechtold (City of Asheville), Larry Harris (Black Mountain), Peyton O’Conner (Buncombe County, Chair), Autumn Radcliff (Henderson County), Anthony Sutton (Town of Waynesville), Elizabeth Teague (Town of Waynesville, Vice-Chair), Jerry Vehaun (Town of Woodfin)

1. Welcome and Introductions	Peyton O’Conner
2. Public Comment	Peyton O’Conner
3. Approval of April, 2021 Meeting Minutes	Peyton O’Conner
4. Business	
LAPP Requests: Split Black Mountain Greenway	MPO Staff
LAPP Stimulus Funds	MPO Staff
Prioritization Local Input Methodology for P 6.0	MPO Staff
Prioritizing Existing Committed Projects	MPO Staff
5. News, Events, Updates	Peyton O’Conner
6. Public Comment	Peyton O’Conner
7. Adjournment	Peyton O’Conner

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Item 3

April, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Prioritization Subcommittee Meeting Minutes* April 6, 2021

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

ATTENDING

Voting Members

- Peyton O'Conner, Buncombe County
- Autumn Radcliff, Henderson County
- Larry B. Harris, Town of Black Mountain
- 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
- Michael Dawson, FHWA
- Stephen Sparks, NCDOT
- Troy Wilson, NCDOT
- Hannah Cook, NCDOT
- Daniel Sellers, NCDOT

I. Welcome and Introductions

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

II. Public Comment

None at this time.

III. Approval of March 2021 Minutes and Approval of Agenda

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. Anthony Sutton made a motion to approve. Larry Harris seconded the motion. All approved.

IV. Business

IV-A // FTA 5310 Project Selection Update

Emily Scott-Cruz brought up the item as a follow up to last months agenda item. The group discussed 5310 and CRRSAA funding in March. This subcommittee chose Alternative 4 that funded both traditional projects at 56% and fully funding FY 22 ‘Other’ projects. MPO staff spoke with the County and City to discuss the alternative and they agreed to a different split, called alternative 5. They agreed to take the \$205,574 and splitting it to leave each project with \$102,787 between the County and City. This would fund ‘Other’ projects fully still.

Larry B. Harris made the recommendation to move forward with Alternative 5 as proposed. Anthony Sutton seconded. All approved.

IV -B // LAPP Project – Cost Increase, Scope Change for EB-5945

John Ridout brought up the Town of Canton Champion Drive Sidewalk change. This project was initially scoped as a sidewalk project between Thickety Road and N. Canton Road but cost estimates came up higher than the originally allotted amount. They are now seeking to have a 2’ grass strip with a 10’ multi-use path with a cost estimate of \$1.3 million up from the originally allotted \$940,000. There are no construction funds allotted for this project, this is for preliminary engineering, right-of-way.

Essentially, this is changing the scope of the project from a sidewalk to a multi-use path. Clarification was asked for what the cost increase is and

covers. This also includes approval of additional LAPP funding to cover for PE, ROW and Utility funding in the amount of ~\$470,000 additional. The total amount is allocating an additional \$470,000 going from \$200,000 to \$590,000 per NCDOT's recommendation of the funding needed. Clarification was asked how this impacts the overall LAPP budget. Tristan Winkler clarified that the funding is there as additional funds have been received by the different stimulus programs and cost increases are expected. He also noted this project will need construction funded as some point soon.

Larry B. Harris made a recommendation to approve the scope change and cost increase. Anthony Sutton seconded. All approved.

IV - C // Prioritization Local Input Methodology

Tristan brought up this item as a continuation from last month's item. There was discussion previously brought up last month of incorporating resiliency, considering multimodal considerations, increasing weight for freight and decreasing weight for local input.

Regarding resiliency, using potential data points such as FEMA floodplain, historic landslide and wildlife corridors data. Projects that overlap with data points would receive local input points with the assumption that funded projects would work to address resiliency concerns. NCDOT is working towards a resiliency policy, but it is particularly important to work towards flood mitigation but also landslides for our region as we've seen with I-40. Their resiliency policy does not currently address wildlife crossings. Wildfire is a concern but it is hard to assess how a TIP project could work to mitigate those issues. Discussion took place about how to incorporate these risk factors into the planning process. The MPO will work towards adding those data points into the methodology and workflow.

For multimodal, the MPO currently uses historic bike/ped crashes and planned improvements. The MPO proposes modifying this to add P6.0 Bike/Ped Risk analysis (average score of intersecting/overlapping sections that influence bike/ped safety) and planned improvements ranking such as multi-use paths getting the highest points, sidewalk/bike lanes following and then shoulder following.

Regarding weighting, it was discussed how much weight resiliency should have versus the other factors. Larry Harris mentioned taking some points off of Safety and making resiliency ~7%. Freight was recommended to double to 12% from 6% and then take that weight off local priority.

Discussion took place around what the specific benefits of freight would be or example projects.

Regarding funding and points, the MPO currently allocates all of its points until it is out of points or a max of 125% funding allocated. Tristan mentioned setting a dollar amount or saying allocate up to 200% of expected funding available.

Tristan mentioned adding these items to the draft methodology and bringing to the group next month to go through.

V. Announcement, News, Special Updates -

Regional Transit Study has a public survey open. Tunnel Road corridor study meeting is next Wednesday. Coffee with a Transportation Planner event this Friday, April 9 at 1pm.

Larry Harris brought up a letter of support for Madison County to convert their fleet vehicles to propane using 5339 funding. Larry asked for this committees support of the letter to take to the TCC and Board.

Anthony Sutton made a motion to approve. Jerry Vebaun seconded. All approved.

Hannah Cook shared an update for Amboy/Meadow Road. Hannah asked about making this an item for next month. Hannah mentioned pursuing safety funding, called vulnerable users fund made available by the safety unit to make interim safety pedestrian improvements. This would include narrowing the travel lanes and widening the existing sidewalks until the bridge is replaced as part of the TIP project. Hannah mentioned the department looking at a feasibility study for the entire corridor to better identify potential funding opportunities and if the project should ultimately be segmented.

Hannah also mentioned adding Riceville Road discussion to the next meeting as well.

Next Meeting **May 4 at 9am.**

VI. Public Comment – None at this time.

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VII. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 A.M.