

## French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization

Minutes from the TCC Meeting including Zoom on October 14, 2021

### ATTENDANCE:

#### Remote via the Zoom Platform:

|                       |                 |                  |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Chair Autumn Radcliff | Tristan Winkler | Emily Scott-Cruz | John Ridout     |
| Hannah Bagli          | Nick Kroncke    | Steve Williams   | Eric Rufa       |
| Erica Anderson        | Hannah Cook     | Stephen Sparks   | David Wasserman |
| William High          | Peyton O'Conner | Harry Buckner    | Daniel Sellers  |
| Daniel Cobb           | Jessica Morriss | Jessica Trotman  | Matthew Manley  |
| Lucy Crown            | Michael Dawson  | Daniel Metcalf   | Jodie Ferguson  |
| Jared Merrill         | Janna Bianculli | Brendan Merithew |                 |

#### In-Person at Land of Sky Regional Council:

Zia Rifkin (minutes)                      Jane Pies

### WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Chair Radcliff called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and roll call followed. Quorum was established for conducting the business of the TCC.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Radcliff called for public comments. No public comments were received.

### CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Radcliff indicated that the Consent Agenda included the September 2021 minutes, and the Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP) Quarterly Report. She requested approval of the TCC agenda, which was modified to remove Informational Item 5B.

***Lucy Crown moved to approve the consent agenda and the TCC agenda as modified. William High seconded the motion, which 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.

This is the eighth round of TIP amendments and includes project delays allowing for additional time for right-of-way and construction, additional delays for planning and design and construction, delays to provide additional time for preliminary engineering, delays to construction, the addition of utilities not previously programmed, and cost increases equaling more than the \$2 million (\$2,000,000) threshold. Additionally, there are amendments to expedite pavement reconstruction and/or to let projects under one contract, and to accelerate construction schedules. No new projects are being added to the TIP:

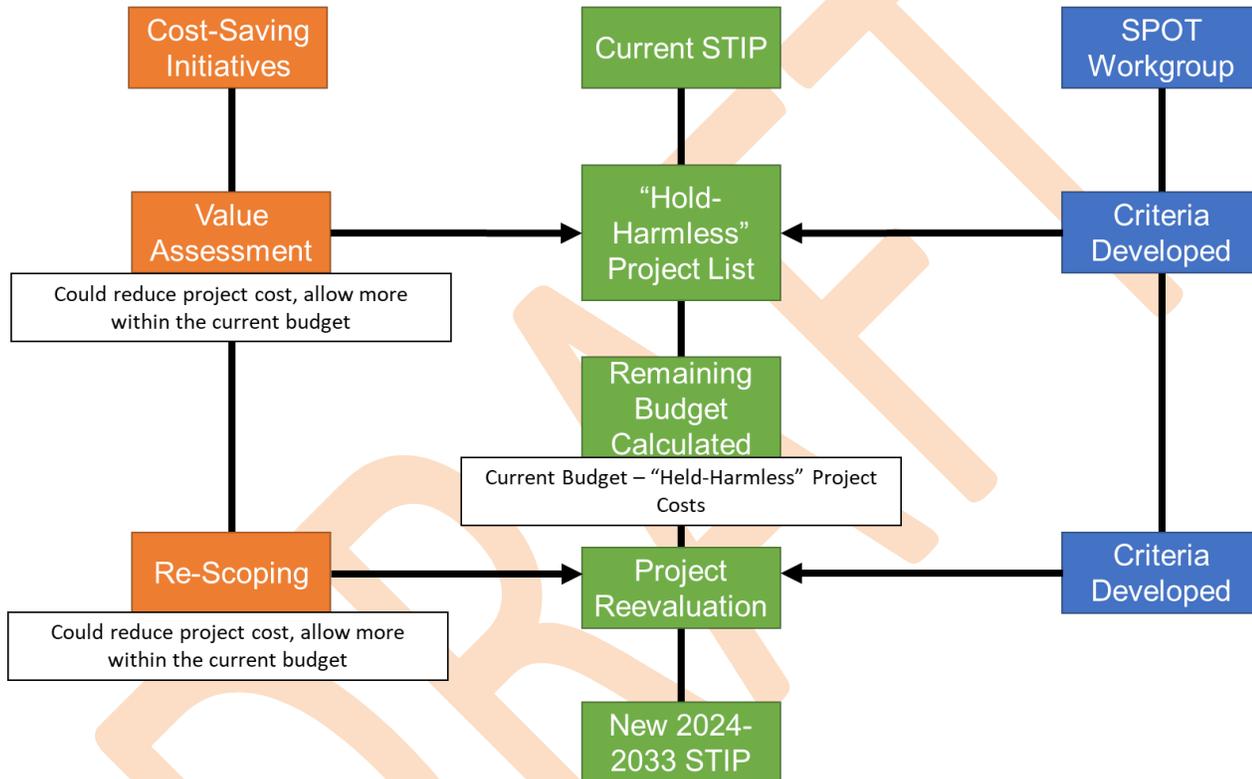
These amendments are currently posted for public review and comment on the [TIP page](#) of the MPO website.

**Jessica Trotman moved to approve the eighth round of 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments as presented. William High seconded, and the motion carried upon a roll call vote, and without further discussion.**

### P 6.0 (Prioritization) Update

The SPOT workgroup is continuing to meet to determine processes to rebalance the STIP and in general, there is much to discuss.

### How Different Initiatives Generally Fit Together



### Active Efforts to Reduce Project Costs at NCDOT

**Value Assessments/Value Engineering-** an effort that evaluates some TIP projects to help determine potential steps to reduce costs while maintaining a project’s overall purpose and need.

**Re-Scoping of Projects-** NCDOT Divisions have been given a deadline of the end of the year to look at ways to re-scope, segment, or otherwise modify projects to reduce costs and make projects more likely to achieve something rather than potentially getting defunded.

-Haywood County: a meeting will be held in mid/late October with Division 14 and local government staff to discuss potential re-scoping or segmenting of projects

-Henderson County: the subject will be discussed with the Henderson TAC

-Buncombe County: Division 13 will organize project-by-project meetings over the next few months

### SPOT Workgroup

The SPOT Workgroup is made up of representatives from MPOs, RPOs, NCDOT, and various other stakeholders from around the State (League of Municipalities, NC Rural Center, Metro Mayors, among others.) The group is generally

charged with setting the parameters of the prioritization process that are not strictly defined by the Strategic Transportation Initiatives (STI) Law and providing those recommendations to the Board of Transportation.

**Items the SPOT Workgroup is working on:**

**“Hold-Harmless List”:** a list of projects that would remain on the STIP and not be re-evaluated in order to maintain a relatively efficient and predictable project delivery program for NCDOT. Most discussions for a hold-harmless list are based on current project delivery schedules.

**Re-Evaluation Criteria:** because this is considered a “reprogramming” effort rather than “normal” prioritization, the criteria being considered is more flexible than usual. These criteria will be applied to projects not “held-harmless” with successful projects remaining in the STIP and unsuccessful projects being de-committed.

**General Schedule**

-December 2021: re-scoping of projects deadline, SPOT Workgroup work deadline (“held-harmless” and project re-evaluation criteria.);

-January-August 2022: project re-evaluation;

-December 2022: Draft 2024-2033 STIP released;

-August 2023: deadline for NCDOT and MPO approvals of the 2024-2033 STIP/TIP.

As a reminder, below are the funding projections for every available tier in prioritization through 2033 (only “committed” projects included, current as of July 2021):

| Statewide Mobility |                    | Regional Impact |                   |                    | Division Needs |                   |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Available Funding  | Programming Status | Region          | Available Funding | Programming Status | Division       | Available Funding | Programming Status |
| \$9.4 B            | \$2.22 B Over      | A (D1 & D4)     | \$588.8M          | \$181.8M Over      | 1              | \$506M            | \$52.1M Over       |
|                    |                    | B (D2 & D3)     | \$855.1M          | \$348.2M Over      | 2              | \$506M            | \$113.7M Over      |
|                    |                    | C (D5 & D6)     | \$1.56B           | \$32.3M Over       | 3              | \$506M            | \$101.5M Under     |
|                    |                    | D (D7 & D9)     | \$1.17B           | \$392.4M Over      | 4              | \$506M            | \$192.0M Under     |
|                    |                    | E (D8 & D10)    | \$1.46B           | \$490.1M Over      | 5              | \$506M            | \$131.2M Over      |
|                    |                    | F (D11 & D12)   | \$784M            | \$268.5M Over      | 6              | \$506M            | \$121.7M Under     |
|                    |                    | G (D13 & D 14)  | \$609.2M          | \$929.9M Over      | 7              | \$506M            | \$91.7M Under      |
|                    |                    |                 |                   |                    | 8              | \$506M            | \$22.1M Over       |
|                    |                    |                 |                   |                    | 9              | \$506M            | \$49.8M Under      |
|                    |                    |                 |                   |                    | 10             | \$506M            | \$38.6M Over       |
|                    |                    |                 |                   |                    | 11             | \$506M            | \$22.3M Under      |
|                    |                    |                 |                   |                    | 12             | \$506M            | \$207.7M Over      |
|                    |                    |                 |                   |                    | 13             | \$506M            | \$165.4M Over      |
|                    |                    |                 |                   |                    | 14             | \$506M            | \$80.1M Over       |

Emily Scott-Cruz provided a presentation regarding the P6.0 update. She noted that the STIP and P6.0 budgets are exceeded in both Committed and Non-Committed projects for all funding tiers (Statewide, Regional Impact and Division Needs). The budget overrun for Region G exceeds \$1 Billion. Currently, there are a few efforts underway, as noted by the graphic above describing how different initiatives generally fit together. The P6.0 workgroup is discussing a ‘hold harmless’ list, which would allow projects to remain in the STIP and not undergo re-evaluation. However, at this point, there is no consensus from the workgroup on the process to use going forward with regards to the criterion for re-evaluation. The workgroup has a preliminary deadline of the end of the year to make recommendations. The presentation included a general schedule for P6.0, which is also provided above.

Discussion occurred regarding the workgroup, which is tasked with making recommendations to NCBOT regarding a process to move forward.

***Information only. No action required.***

#### **REGULAR UPDATES AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

Regular updates were provided by Hannah Cook for NCDOT Division 13, and by Steve Williams for Division 14. Updates may also be found on the <http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org> website.

Brief TPD and FHWA updates were provided. Additionally, committee and legislative updates were provided by MPO staff.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES**

#### **TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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