

Transportation Matters: FBRMPO Monthly Update

P6.0 Update

In NC, transportation investments are decided through the prioritization process (also known as "SPOT"), data-driven process with framework was determined by the Strategic Transportation Investments Act of 2012. Through this process, our region has had a significant number of projects funded, including the widening of I-26, the I-26 connector, upgrades to Russ Ave, smaller projects including sidewalks along Grove Street in Hendersonville.

For this round of prioritization, little to no transportation funding is projected to be available for programming. The projects that have previously been considered "committed" by NCDOT have gone up in cost significantly. These cost increases were responsible for a number of project delays in the fall of 2020, and are now projected to carry over into future years as well. The Prioritization Workgroup at the State-level determined that no new projects would be programmed through this round of prioritization. For our region, that means that the projects that were submitted for consideration in this round (P 6.0) will no longer be considered for funding in that process.

The issues that caused this decision involve the revenue outlook over the next decade and increasing costs of programmed and committed projects, leaving little to no revenue for new projects. We share in the disappointment of not being able to bring these planned projects closer to fruition and appreciate the work done by our member governments, elected officials, and engaged community members. For more information, visit:

<http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/NCDOT-Memo-BOT-approval-of-P6-Halt.pdf>

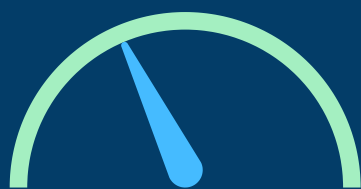
Infrastructure Bill

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (HR 3658) passed the senate on 8/10/21. The bill will be sent to the House of Representatives next. This \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure package includes \$550 billion in federal investments in infrastructure over 5 years.

North Carolina could receive at least \$8.7 billion in federal funding for highway programs, bridge replacements, public transportation, electric vehicles, and broadband internet. Furthermore, North Carolina could receive \$7.2 billion for highway programs, \$457 million for bridge replacement/repairs, \$911 million to improve public transit options, \$109 million to expand the electric vehicle charging network as well as the opportunity to apply for some of the \$2.5 billion in grant funding for EV charging, and at least \$100 million to provide broadband coverage.

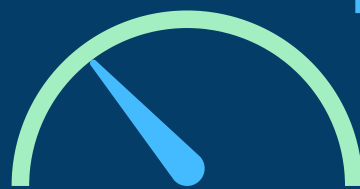


I-26 Construction Update



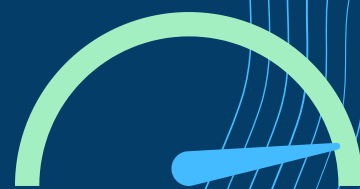
I-4400BB and I-4400C : from .05 miles N of US-64 to NC-280 (exit 40)

37% Complete -- 5/31/24 Completion



I-4700 : from NC-280 (exit 40) to I-40

25.18% Complete -- 4/29/24 Completion



I-5504: I-26 / Brevard Rd Interchange modifications and I-26 widening and pavement reconstruction

92.26% Complete -- Summer 2021

Special Studies Update

Ongoing & Completed Studies

- Hendersonville Road
- Tunnel Road
- Biltmore/McDowell Road
- Close the GAP Plan
- Mud Creek Greenway
- Richland Creek Greenway
- Regional Transit Feasibility Study

On August 26th, the FBRMPO Board accepted the Regional Transit Feasibility Study as an official planning document! This study recommends establishing a Regional Transit Authority to operate 4 cross-county express routes, which would connect our region via public transit. For more information, visit the study's webpage and the August [presentation](#) to the Board.

Upcoming Studies

- Haywood County Greenway Master Plan
- Buncombe County Multimodal Master Plan
- Reed Creek Greenway Feasibility Study

The RFQs for these studies will be announced upon publication!

Upcoming Meetings

- **FBRMPO TCC Meeting:** September 9th at 11am
- **FBRMPO Board Meeting:** September 23rd at 1pm

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