

## Governing Board

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February 28, 2019 – 1:00 P.M., Land of Sky Offices

### Agenda

1. **WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING (10 min)**

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    - A. Welcome and Introductions, Approval of Agenda Bill Lapsley
    - B. Ethics Statement for MPO Board Members Bill Lapsley
  2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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  3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

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Bill Lapsley

    - A. January 24, 2019 Minutes
  4. **REGULAR UPDATES (15 min)**

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    - A. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates Mark Gibbs/Brian Burch or Designee
    - B. Transportation Planning Branch Daniel Sellers
    - C. FHWA/FTA Updates Michael Dawson
    - D. Subcommittee/Workgroup Reports, Staff Updates, and Housekeeping MPO Staff
    - E. Legislative Updates MPO Staff
  5. **BUSINESS (45-60 min)**

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    - A. FBRMPO Public Involvement Policy Update MPO Staff
    - B. Statewide NCMoves 2050 Plan Presentation (Drivers and Opportunities) Pam Cook, NCDOT
    - C. Rail Resolution of Support for State Funding Request (Asheville-Salisbury Amtrak Bus) MPO Staff
    - D. A-0010AA I-26 Widening north of Broadway: Project Update MPO Staff
    - E. Hellbender Trail Update MPO Staff
  6. **ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES (15 min)**

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    - A. New MPO Board Member Orientation Scheduled for Friday, March 15 9 AM-12:Noon
    - B. Statewide NCAMPO Transportation Planning Conference taking place in Charlotte April 24-26
  7. **TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING**

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  8. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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  9. **ADJOURNMENT**

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# Item 3:

## **Consent Agenda**

### **3A. January 24 Minutes**

Staff recommends approval of the minutes.

Staff recommends the Board approve the draft minutes.



**French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
Minutes from the Governing Board meeting on January 24, 2019

**Attendance**

**Meeting Date:**

**01/24/2019**

Representing	VotingTAC		Via Phone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of	Julie	Mayfield	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of	Gwen	Wisler	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black Mountain, Town of	Larry	Harris	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe County	Brownie	Newman	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flat Rock, Village of	John	Dockendorf	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Haywood County	Kevin	Enslev	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henderson County	William	Lapslev	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laurel Park, Town of	George	Banta	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Madison County	Matthew	Wechtel	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCBOT, Division 14	Jack	Debnam	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weaverville, Town of	Jeff	McKenna	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodfin, Town of	Jerry	VeHaun	<input type="checkbox"/>

Alternates/Agencies and Other Non Voting At TAC			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Apple Country Transit	Janna	Peterson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citizen	Marv	Trauner	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citizen	Susan	Loftis	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citizen, Asheville MMTC	Kim	Roney	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citizen, FBRMPO Citizens Adv. Committee	George	Webb	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Landscape Group	Anne	Coletta	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Lyuba	Zuyeva	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Tristan	Winkler	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Zia	Rifkin	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Nick	Kroncke	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FHWA	Mike	Dawson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henderson County	Autumn	Radcliff	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LOSRC	Ritchie	Rozzelle	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT TPB	Daniel	Sellers	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Hannah	Cook	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Brendan	Merithew	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Steve	Cannon	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Stephen	Sparks	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Troy	Wilson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Steve	Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Brian	Burch	<input type="checkbox"/>

## **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS, APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Lapsley called the meeting to order, requested that everyone introduce themselves, read the Ethics Statement and inquired if there were any conflicts of interest to note for today's meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Lapsley called for any public comments.

Susan Loftis, a resident of Asheville, commented on Section A of I-26. She communicated that six lanes would be adequate for the project, rather than the eight lanes proposed. She requested that the project be postponed for a year in order to allow additional time to determine the best design for the project.

Mary Trauner, a resident of Asheville, commented regarding the detrimental impact the I-26 Connector project would have on the City. She communicated that the project should be delayed in order to undertake a substantive study on the design of the project.

Jack Debnam, NCBOT member, commented that at the inaugural Transportation Summit was held in Raleigh earlier in January, and over 1000 people were in attendance. Lyuba Zuyeva spoke on a panel. He thanked Lyuba for her professional demeanor and representing the MPOs at the conference.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was presented for approval with no modification requested.

***Brownie Newman moved to approve the agenda as presented. Matt Wechtel seconded and the motion carried as all were in favor.***

## **PUBLIC HEARING FOR TIP AMENDMENTS**

Chairman Lapsley declared the Public Hearing for TIP Amendments open. No public comments were received and the public hearing was closed.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

***Julie Mayfield moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the November 15, 2018 minutes; the CAC Applications: George Webb and Rachael Bronson; the Safety Performance Measures Targets adoption; and the JARC/5310 Call for Projects Timeline. Brian McCaskey seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.***

## **REGULAR UPDATES**

- Hannah Cook provided Division 13 updates and Steve Williams provided Division 14 updates.
- Daniel Sellers provided Transportation Planning Branch updates.
- Mike Dawson provided FHWA updates.
- FBRMPO Committee & Workgroup Updates:
  - Prioritization – The December meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The group met on January 8<sup>th</sup> to review the Hellbender Trail Steering Committee make-up, SPOT 6 updates and MTP 2040 public outreach strategies.

- Transit Operators Workgroup – Regional Transit Operators Workgroup scheduled for Tuesday, February 5 at 10am to review the JARC/5310 Call for Projects. The Urban Transit (5307) subrecipients met on December 13 and the transit narrative included in the MPO UPWP was discussed; the next meeting is planned for March 14 at 9am.
- Citizens' Advisory Committee – The group met on January 16.

Discussion occurred regarding NCDOT's proposed change to unobligated PL fund balances held by MPOs in the state.

***Julie Mayfield moved to direct the MPO to oppose the NCDOT policy regarding unobligated fund balances held by MPOs in the state, as currently proposed, and instead to develop a policy that allows MPOs to retain their funding for a longer period of time. Gwen Wisler seconded and the motion carried as all were in favor.***

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Lyuba Zuyeva announced the MPO New Board Member Orientation is scheduled for March 15, 2019 beginning at 9 am. She also noted that the MPO would not have an April meeting cycle due to the statewide NCAMPO conference.

Lyuba Zuyeva provided legislative updates including that the federal government is still in partial shutdown. She noted as well, that the transportation funding provided under the FAST Act is expiring in late 2020.

Kevin Ensley commented that he would like to see I-40 extended to three lanes in each direction all the way to Exit 27 in Haywood County

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Chair and Vice-Chair Elections**

French Broad River MPO (FBRMPO) Board Bylaws indicate that officers can serve up to two terms. The current Chair, Commissioner William Lapsley, is eligible to serve a second term. FBRMPO Board Vice-Chair, Commissioner Brownie Newman, has served two terms and is not eligible for re-election as a Vice-Chair.

Chairman Lapsley opened the floor for Chair and Vice-Chair nominations to elect/re-elect Chair and Vice-Chair.

***Brownie Newman moved to approve William Lapsley continuing as Chair. John Dockendorf seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.***

***Brownie Newman moved to approve Julie Mayfield as the Vice-Chair. John Dockendorf seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.***

## **TIP Amendments**

Nick Kroncke shared a brief overview of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and he highlighted some of the proposed amendments to the TIP including the Riverside Drive project being consolidated with I-26 Connector project; the I-26 Interchange at Exit 49/US 64 --ROW delayed until FY 21; NC 191 widening through Mills River- construction accelerated from FY 22 to FY 21; Mills Gap road project delayed- ROW delayed to FY 19. The proposed TIP amendments also included several greenway project timeline changes and two changes for transit capital projects as requested by local government members. All TIP Amendments were posted for public comment from January 2 to January 23.

Lyuba Zuyeva communicated that as part of the TIP Amendments, the MPO staff are requesting to include an addition to the TIP to reference all of the performance measure targets already adopted by the FBRMPO.

Chair Lapsley commented that project R-2588B (NC 191- Henderson County) has received many comments over the past few months and he thanked NCDOT for their responsiveness to the public.

***LeRoy Roberson moved to adopt the TIP Amendments. Julie Mayfield seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.***

## **Draft PWP (Budget and Work Program for FY 2020)**

Every year the FBRMPO is required to adopt a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which is the budget for the MPO planning work for the year. NCDOT Public Transportation Division has coordinated with FTA to ensure that federal transit planning funding can be made available at the start of the state fiscal year in July. This results in the MPO UPWP development starting in January. The final UPWP will come back for adoption to the Board in March. The draft FY 2019 UPWP is posted on the MPO website at <http://www.fbrmpo.org/upwp-budget/>.

Lyuba Zuyeva provided highlights of the Draft UPWP. New items include SPOT 6 and the Regional Transit Feasibility Study.

Lyuba Zuyeva communicated about the increase in dues to support \$50,000 extra in planning work per year. This increase in dues primarily concerns seven member governments.

***Gwen Wisler moved to approve the draft UPWP for FY 2020. Larry Harris seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.***

## **A-0010A I-26 Widening North of Broadway: Project Update**

NCDOT staff and the project's consultants provided an update on the A-0010A project, which consists of approximately 12 miles of widening and improvements along US 19/23 (future I-26) from I-240 to just south of Exit 13 (Forks of Ivy-Stockton Road) near Mars Hill. This project includes adding



lanes, reconfiguring interchanges, rehabilitating or replacing several bridges, and other roadway design improvements. The A-0010A project, specifically the section from Broadway to US 25/70 in Weaverville is funded for construction starting in FY 2020. This section of the project has been going through preliminary engineering and environmental review utilizing the NEPA Merger process. It was shared that preliminary engineering (PE) work was on pause in 2015-2017.

Discussion occurred regarding the additional lanes and how those would be added to the existing infrastructure. It was shared that public meetings are planned for this summer. The goal is to reduce impacts to the communities; however, design plans are not far enough along at this point to show a detailed map and to illustrate expected impacts to residential and commercial properties. Lyuba Zuyeva communicated that NEPA Merger participating agencies must sign off on the alternative to move forward with detailed design; Level of Service "D" was agreed to earlier in the process which now necessitates 8 lanes up to Exit 23 (Newbridge Parkway) based on the latest traffic forecast.

Discussion occurred about the NEPA Merger process and Julie Mayfield shared her concern about what type of design was being developed for the project. Impacts of currently preferred alternative were also discussed. Julie Mayfield shared her concern about selecting level of service during the purpose and need stage, commenting that this appears to be a way to get around the concerns about the scope of the project and to bring a bigger project than the City of Asheville desires. Tristan Winkler shared that for the I-26 section through West Asheville, there was an exception to the purpose and need assessment, which usually occurs when there are alternate routes; however, the majority of the A-0010 corridor does not have many alternate routes. Lyuba Zuyeva offered to share the traffic forecast numbers with the Board. Matt Wechtel shared that he commutes this route daily and has never thought that the roadway has too many lanes. He encouraged moving forward and building this project. Julie Mayfield shared that the travel time savings question cannot be answered at this point. Kevin Ensley noted that the additional lanes would only require 12 additional feet of space on each side. He communicated that anything that could be done to get this project built, would be worthwhile. Brownie Newman shared that ultimately, there will be trade offs with the footprint of this project- what's important should be to address the bottlenecks. He noted the importance of determining how many properties would be impacted by this project before taking the six lane option off the table. Consultants noted that the eight-lane section meets the purpose and need agreed upon by the agencies at an earlier stage. I-26 Connector new bridge over the French Broad River is going to be six lanes (vs. eight lanes in earlier designs). Julie Mayfield communicated her surprise that A-0010A project didn't adjust accordingly. More information will be shared by NCDOT and the consultants about the design concepts and will be discussed during future meetings. Chairman Lapsley noted the importance of getting the City of Asheville and Buncombe County onboard with the project design before public hearings are held.

***Informational item only – no action needed at this time.***

### **Hellbender Trail Steering Committee Make-Up**

Tristan Winkler provided an update for the recommended Regional Trail (Hellbender) Steering Committee make-up based on recommendations from the Prioritization Subcommittee. The Prioritization Subcommittee recommended that the Steering Committee be made up of seven Prioritization Subcommittee members plus seven additional members from advocates and stakeholders (2-Buncombe County, 2-Henderson County, and 1 each from Haywood, Madison and Transylvania Counties). Tristan Winkler noted that in order to fund and implement something like the regional trail, thinking outside the box would be necessary.

***Leroy Roberson moved to approve the Steering Committee membership. Matt Wechtel seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.***

### **SPOT Prioritization Update**

Tristan Winkler shared an update on SPOT Prioritization. He reviewed the list of projects funded in SPOT 5 and those not funded. Funded projects include Deaverview Road sidewalks, Crossroads Parkway, Grove Street sidewalks, Jonathan Creek road modernization and Smoky Mountains Expressway.

Tristan Winkler shared that some of the projects are not committed and are in the developmental TIP and will need to go through future rounds of prioritization in order to receive funding. He also noted that he would share the list of projects which were not funded. The Prioritization Subcommittee has considered a project expectations report, which at some point could come before the Board, for future projects considered for SPOT prioritization.

Tristan Winkler provided a funding update, noting that under updated NCDOT policy, projects with funding in the first six years of the TIP/STIP are considered committed. This is due to cost increases for projects across the state. In order for NCDOT to maintain a funding balance, they are delaying some projects. In the FBRMPO region, the I-26 project in Henderson County south of Hendersonville is no longer considered committed.

More information about SPOT 5 and draft funding status can be found at <http://ncdot.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=683e22735d324c89abe812d4db9d6838>.

Discussion occurred about whether projects in other parts of the state are being delayed, which was affirmed.

***Information item only – no action required at this time.***

### **ADJOURNMENT**

***Matt Wechtel moved to adjourn the meeting. Brian McCaskey seconded and the meeting adjourned.***



# Item 4A:

## **Division Project Updates**

[http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Division13\\_ProjectUpdate\\_Feb2019.pdf](http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Division13_ProjectUpdate_Feb2019.pdf)

(Division 13)

[http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Division14\\_ProjectUpdate\\_Feb2019.pdf](http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Division14_ProjectUpdate_Feb2019.pdf)

(Division 14)

# Item 4B:

## **TPB Updates**

# Item 4C:

## **FHWA/FTA Updates**

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 4D:

## Committee & Workgroup Updates

**Prioritization Subcommittee**—February 12 meeting agenda included reviewing the Project Expectations Report format, MTP 2045 draft survey, 2045 Land Use Forecast Study—base year data approach and Regional Trail (Hellbender) Workgroup update.

**Transit Operators' Workgroup**—Regional Transit Operators Workgroup held on Tuesday, February 5 at 10 AM to review the JARC/5310 Call for Projects. Transit representation on the FBRMPO Board was discussed—Henderson County is due to appoint the next urban transit rep and Haywood County is due to appoint the next rural rep. Urban transit (5307) subrecipients meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 14 at 9 AM.

**Citizens' Advisory Committee**- last meeting held January 16, 2019. Next meeting date to be determined.

### Recommended Actions:

Accept the reports.

# Item 4E:

## Legislative Updates

# Item 5A:

## **FBRMPO Public Involvement Policy Update**

NCDOT Title VI audit process has identified recommended additions to the FBRMPO Public Involvement Policy. Mostly the updates clarify the public outreach approaches that will be used by MPO staff. The updated Public Involvement Policy has been posted for a 45-day public comment period and is available at [http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/PIP\\_Update\\_2019\\_Amendments.pdf](http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/PIP_Update_2019_Amendments.pdf)

**MPO staff recommend and TCC supported the recommendation to approve the updated Public Involvement Policy.**

*a program of Land of Sky*

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A STATEWIDE INITIATIVE FOR LEGISLATIVE FUNDING TO RE-ESTABLISH A PASSENGER RAIL CONNECTION FOR WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA**

**WHEREAS**, rail service is an integral part of a comprehensive transportation system for the State of North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, economic development, tourism and job creation will benefit through the enhancement of a passenger rail and bus system that serves the citizens of North Carolina and visitors to our state; and,

**WHEREAS**, we applaud the State of North Carolina for development of comprehensive intercity rail and transportation services in urban jurisdictions through the state, and recognize that Asheville and Western North Carolina have been without a passenger rail connection since 1975; and,

**WHEREAS**, there is a vital need to provide a strong and balanced transportation system that promotes freight and passenger service; and,

**WHEREAS**, an increase in state funding for bus-rail service in North Carolina is necessary to connect our small urban and rural areas of the state with the urbanized centers of our state; and,

**WHEREAS**, support by local and state elected officials is essential for the future of alternative transportation in North Carolina, such as the successful Amtrak Thruway bus-rail service between Morehead City and Wilson and between Wilmington and Wilson; and,

**WHEREAS**, support and utilization of transportation improvements by business and commercial interests is essential for the successful deployment of alternative transportation modes in North Carolina, especially in Western North Carolina; and,

**WHEREAS**, this resolution is a vehicle to express the twenty years of unified support of communities and chambers of commerce throughout Western North Carolina for increased statewide funding for bus- rail service; and,

**WHEREAS**, rail and bus linkages between communities and regions within North Carolina establish and strengthen social, historical, commercial and cultural bonds; and,

**WHEREAS**, the average return on investment for the surrounding community for station revitalizations throughout North Carolina is more than one dollar for every dollar invested, as demonstrated in Salisbury, Morganton, Marion, Old Fort and Asheville (with purchase of land); and,

**WHEREAS**, the associated improvements to rail facilities have increased the efficiency and safety of rail service, helped attract new freight traffic and provided environmental benefits by

reducing the impact of traffic congestion on North Carolina's highways, particularly Interstate 40; and,

**WHEREAS**, an integrated bus-rail system will enhance accessibility and reliability for citizens, tourists and businesses in Western North Carolina, and by extension to the entire State of North Carolina; and,

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina Department of Transportation's Rail Division has agreed to manage, subject to NC Legislative appropriation, contract development and implementation of Amtrak Thruway bus service between Salisbury and Asheville, similar to the successful Amtrak Thruway bus-rail service in Eastern North Carolina that was intended to be extended to Western North Carolina.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the French Broad River MPO Board, through the adoption of this resolution, fully supports the creation of a comprehensive bus-rail system to serve Western North Carolina, that includes sufficient funding by the North Carolina General Assembly to the North Carolina Department of Transportation Rail Division for the proposed Amtrak Thruway bus service between Asheville and Salisbury. This service will be evaluated after two years by Amtrak, the North Carolina Department of Transportation Rail Division, the Western North Carolina Rail Committee Inc and the communities served by the Salisbury-Asheville bus-rail connection.

**ADOPTED:** This the 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019

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William Lapsley, FBRMPO Board Chair

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Attest, Lyuba Zuyeva, Director  
French Broad River MPO

# Item 5B:

## Statewide NCMoves 2050 Plan Presentation

The North Carolina Department of Transportation is developing a long-range transportation plan for the state of North Carolina that will establish a transportation vision and goals for North Carolina, while also providing a framework for decision-making and transportation investments. NCDOT is asking for input in shaping the content of this plan, and in helping to identify regional and statewide challenges and opportunities. Currently “Drivers and Opportunities” are being considered. Additional info about the plan at <https://www.ncdot.gov/initiatives-policies/Transportation/nc-2050-plan/Pages/default.aspx>

**Staff Recommendation:** Informational item. FBRMPO Board members are invited to provide input for NCMoves 2050, specifically to help identify future Drivers and Opportunities for western North Carolina.



# Item 5C:

## **Rail Resolution of Support for State Funding Request (Asheville-Salisbury Amtrak Bus)**

WNC Rail Committee has requested that the FBRMPO Board consider a resolution in support of rail projects funding more generally, and specifically in support for bus service between Asheville and Salisbury (in anticipation of future passenger train service along this line).

This project could be a potential submission for SPOT 6.0 new project list (rail projects), to be revisited at a later point.

**MPO staff recommend and TCC supported the recommendation to approve the resolution of support for additional state funding for rail including Asheville-Salisbury bus service.**

# Item 5D:

## A-0010A I-26 Widening North of Broadway: Project Update

MPO staff will share the latest information provided by A-0010A project design team re: expected impacts to travel time, businesses and residences (if available at the time of the meeting).

**Staff Recommendation:** no action needed today, informational item.

# Item 5E:

## **Hellbender Trail Update**

MPO staff will provide a brief update regarding the Hellbender Trail next steps.

**Staff Recommendation:** informational item.