



**French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
Minutes from the TCC meeting on September 12, 2019

**ATTENDANCE:**

Josh O’Conner	Tristan Winkler	Zia Rifkin	Nick Kroncke
Emily Scott-Cruz	Matt Cable	Nancy Allen	Jodie Ferguson
Steve Williams	Stephen Sparks	Troy Wilson	Hannah Cook
Ritchie Rozzelle	Anna Sexton	Erica Anderson	Vicki Eastland
April Alm	Janna Peterson	Dan Baechtold	Daniel Heyman
Jessica Morriss	George Webb	Mike Dawson	Erica Rufa
Brian Burgess	Daniel Sellers	Jessica Trotman	Anna Sexton
Jeff Moore	Chris Medlin	Nathan Bennett	Lance Hartland

**WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING**

Josh O’Conner opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and introductions followed.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Josh O’Conner indicated that the Consent Agenda included June 2019 minutes and a Letter of Support for the Mills River Bike/Ped Planning Grant. He requested approval for the Agenda at this time, as well.

**Jessica Morriss moved to approve the Consent Agenda and the Agenda as presented. Matt Cable seconded and the motion carried as all were in favor.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one made any public comments.

**BUSINESS**

**5310 Project Selection**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 funds come directly to large MPOs, including the French Broad River MPO. This program primarily aims at serving the needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities. While the City of Asheville is considered the Designated Recipient of these funds and is therefore required to provide contracting, administration, and oversight, the MPO is required to determine how these funds are to be used and distributed across the region.

After passing recommendations in April, the TCC requested the Prioritization Subcommittee reconsider its recommendations due to concerns about funding allocations and eligibilities. MPO staff has checked-to assure that all projects are eligible. Funding allocations (all projects are recommended to receive funding at a percentage of the requested level of funds) will be reconsidered before a future call for projects and project selection criteria will be considered to avoid partial funding, if possible. The Prioritization

Subcommittee recommended the following projects be approved for funding from this call for projects at 66% of the requested level of funding:

- City of Asheville/ADA Paratransit Acquisition of Services
- Buncombe County/Additional Elderly and Disabled Transportation
- Henderson County Vocational Solutions/Vocational and Life Skills Training Transportation (Capital)
- Buncombe County Council on Aging/CAR Volunteer Driver Program for Older Adults
- Land of Sky RC-Senior Companion Program (SCP)/Expansion of SCP in Buncombe and Henderson Counties
- Henderson County Vocation Solutions/Vocational and Life Skills Training Transportation (Operating)
- Buncombe County/RIDE Vouchers Program
- Madison County/Senior Transportation to Meal Sites

Also, included in the funding recommendations, was an administrative fee to the City of Asheville, which is 10% of the funds available.

**Jessica Morriss moved to recommend the 5310 projects to the FBRMPO Board for consideration of approval. Brian Burgess seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.**

#### 2018-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

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 cost.

The proposed amendments for the 2018-2027 TIP, requested for September 2019 include I-4409, Blue Ridge Road, ROW delayed from FY 19 to FY 20 and CST delayed from FY 22 to FY 23; R-5779, Crossroads Parkway, CST delayed from FY 18 to FY 20; U-5783, US 64, Blythe to White Pine, ROW delayed from FY 19 to FY 20 and CST from FY 21 to FY 24; U-5839, Russ Avenue, US 23/74 to Main St, ROW delayed from FY 19 to FY 20 (CST remains FY 21); EB-5774 and EB-5824, Riverside Drive MUP and Hominy Creek Greenway, CST delayed from FY 19 to FY 20; and, EB-5944 and EB-5948, Johnston Boulevard and Oteora Boulevard sidewalks, CST delayed from FY 19 to FY 21

**Brian Burgess moved to recommend the TIP amendments go to the MPO Board for approval. Vicki Eastland seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.**

#### Draft 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program

The 2020-2029 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) was developed between 2017-2019 through NCDOT's prioritization process, SPOT 5 or P5.0. The MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a subset document of the STIP, listing transportation projects in the MPO planning area that are scheduled to have funding for engineering, right-of-way, and/or construction over the next ten years.

The 2020-2029 TIP consists of highway and non-highway projects that use state or federal transportation funds in the MPO planning area as well as some projects that have a local government cost-share agreement. These projects originate from the previous TIP (e.g. I-26 Connector, Liberty Road Interchange, Russ Avenue), from SPOT 5.0 (e.g. N. Louisiana, Swannanoa River Road, NC 251 MUP), and projects selected with Direct Allocation (STBG) funds.

The Draft 2020-2029 TIP will be posted on the FBRMPO website 30 days prior to the public hearing and final approval of the TIP would be a business item at the October 24 FBRMPO Board meeting. The North Carolina Board of Transportation (NCBOT) approved the STIP on September 5, 2019 and it is currently available at <https://www.ncdot.gov/initiatives-policies/Transportation/stip/development/Pages/default.aspx>

### **Informational Only- No Action Required**

#### SPOT Update and NCDOT Cash Balance

NCDOT has released an updated schedule for P6.0 that moves several key dates for the process. Tristan Winkler communicated that key dates with the TCC include local meetings to select project submittals, which are occurring September 2019 thru January 2020. Most notable are the following major milestones in the process: draft project submittal lists are due by February 2020; final project list approved by the FBRMPO Board in March 2020; project prioritization public survey released winter/spring 2019/2020; draft statewide programmed projects and SPOT scores released end of February 2021; FBRMPO local input points methodology due March 1, 2021; Local input projects due May 28, 2021; local input points for Division Needs projects due October 29, 2021; and, the draft 2023-2032 STIP released February 2022.

Other SPOT Updates: Draft submittals have been collected from Buncombe, Haywood, and Henderson counties. Madison County's will be collected in the near future in cooperation with LOSRPO.

Other NCDOT Cash Balance Updates: NCDOT has suspended work on a number of projects due to concerns of maintaining a minimum cash balance. More than 900 projects across the state are impacted. A list of projects impacted in the FBRMPO region was provided to the TCC.

Steve Williams communicated that some critical bridge projects have not been suspended. Additionally, he listed road projects by county that have not been suspended either due to being funded with other federal monies or are already underway. He noted that once NCDOT is able to look at project development again, it is anticipated that there would be a slow start to those activities.

Tristan Winkler noted that DA funded projects (with the City of Asheville) are not suspended.

### **Informational Only- No Action Required**

#### NCDOT Complete Streets Policy Update

The NCBOT recently passed an update to its Complete Streets Policy. The complete policy documentation was provided to the FBRMPO TCC. Tristan Winkler communicated that NCDOT would be revising the way that comprehensive transportation plans are developed in the state. In addition, in terms of guidelines to be used, the policy states the design guides that would be allowed to be used for projects. Additionally, a big change is the cost share, which relates to complete streets elements that are part of roadway projects: if an element in a plan, NCDOT would pay for ROW and construction with no cost share required. If the roadway project is not in a plan, cost share would still be required. Tristan Winkler noted that there would be further changes to come and those would be shared with the FBRMPO.

Discussion occurred regarding when projects need to be reflected in a local plan and NCDOT staff shared that it is always good to amend plans to include desirable projects.

**Informational Only- No Action Required**

**REGULAR UPDATES AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES**

The NC Bike/Walk Summit is planned for November 8-9, 2019 in Winston-Salem.

The SPOT Workgroup is continuing and MPO/RPO staff are calling into the meetings.

The FBRMPO received a NADO Innovation Award for its Congestion Management Process (CMP).

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were received.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Josh O'Conner adjourned the meeting, as there was no further business.

DRAFT