

## Technical Coordinating Committee

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October 17, 2019 – 11:00 A.M., Fletcher Town Hall

### Agenda

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

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  - A. Welcome and Introductions, Approval of Agenda Josh O'Conner
  
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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3. **CONSENT AGENDA** Josh O'Conner

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  - A. September 12, 2019 Minutes
  - B. Letter of Support for Apple Country Transportation 5310 Application
  
4. **BUSINESS (45-60 min)**

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  - A. MTP 2040 Amendments MPO Staff
  - B. 2020-2029 TIP Adoption MPO Staff
  - C. Regional Transit Study Update MPO Staff
  - D. 2045 Population & Employment Projections MPO Staff
  
5. **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
  
6. **ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES (15 min)**
  
7. **TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING**

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8. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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9. **ADJOURNMENT**

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# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 3:

## Consent Agenda

**Item 3A:** September TCC Minutes

**Item 3B:** Henderson County/WCCA 5310 Grant Application Resolution of Support

**Item 3C:** 2018-2027 TIP Modifications

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 3A:

## September 12, 2019 Minutes

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

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

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

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

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## Staff Report & Recommendations

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 NCDOTs 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.

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

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.

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

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## Staff Report & Recommendations

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.

# Item 3B:

## Henderson County/WCCA 5310 Grant Application Resolution of Support

### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF APPLE COUNTRY TRANSIT (WCCA) APPLICATION FOR NCDOT 5310 ENHANCED MOBILITY OF SENIORS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES GRANT

**WHEREAS**, Apple Country Transit (WCCA) is applying to NCDOT for funding through 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities program for the following projects: \$35,208 in federal FTA Section 5310 funding requested for operating expenses, with an additional local match of \$35,208 to be provided from ROAP EDTAP funds. The funding requested will support continuation of transportation services for elderly and disabled in Green River, Zirconia, and Tuxedo areas, with additional services for elderly and disabled in the Edneyville community going forward. In the Green River, Zirconia, and Tuxedo areas, Apple Country Transit would like to maintain the current level of service 5 days a week, which includes taking clients to Sammy Williams Senior Center for congregate meals and social activities that are provided by Henderson County Council on Aging Program. Shopping trips as well as medical trips are provided for seniors and disabled individuals. Because it is a remote area most of the trip destinations are to Hendersonville and sometimes to Buncombe County. Some clients have to travel to the VA hospital in Asheville. Apple Country Transit staff will continue outreach at community events and will work closely with Henderson County Council on Aging to sign up clients in the Green River Community. Apple Country Transit (WCCA) will continue to coordinate with the director of the congregate meal site center to identify clients in the Green River area who could use transportation services to attend the meal site center for a meal and social activities.

**WHEREAS**, Apple Country Transit (WCCA) was included in the recently-completed FBRMPO and LOSRPO 2018 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (Locally-Coordinated Plan) update which the French Broad River MPO has done in coordination and collaboration with Land of Sky RPO and with input from local transit agencies and human service transportation providers in the five-county region; and

**WHEREAS**, the 5310 grant application specified above targets several of the top recommendations in the FBRMPO LOSRPO 2018 CPT-HST Plan including the following:

- (A-4) Expand transit service

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

- (B-2) Transportation for social/cultural/health/after-hours trips to prevent social isolation
- (B-11) Increase availability of grocery store and general retail trips

**WHEREAS**, Henderson County has a higher percentage of senior population than statewide average, as indicated in the table below, and is experiencing a growth in demand for senior services:

	Senior Population	Elderly Percentage
United States	44,628,618	14.1%
North Carolina	1,398,037	14.2%
5-County Region	96,156	20.5%
Buncombe	43,138	17.4%
Haywood	13,582	23.0%
Henderson	26,195	23.9%
Madison	4,161	19.8%
Transylvania	9,080	27.6%

**WHEREAS**, the NCDOT Public Transportation Division requires a resolution of support from the appropriate MPOs and RPOs for 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disability grant applicants;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of the French Broad River MPO, to support Apple Country Transit (WCCA) in the application for a 5310 grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

ADOPTED this the 24th day of October, 2019

\_\_\_\_\_  
William Lapsley, FBRMPO Board Chair

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Attest, Tristan Winkler,  
Director

FBRMPO

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

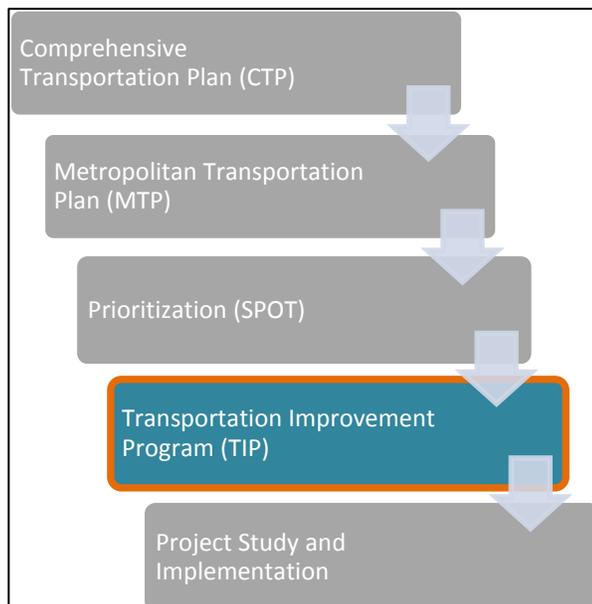
## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 3C:

## 2018-2027 TIP Modifications

### Very Brief Overview

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.



### TIP Modifications Overview

The proposed modifications for the 2018-2027 FBRMPO TIP requested are mentioned below, note that these do not require a public comment period:

- EB-5948, Onteora Boulevard Sidewalks, construction accelerated from FY 2021 to FY 2020
- EB-5946, NC 280 Multi-Use Path, PE delayed from FY 2019 to FY 2020



# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 4A:

## MTP 2040 Amendments

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) forecasts changes in the region and seeks to identify transportation priorities for the region over the next 25 years. The MTP 2040 was adopted in September 2015 and most recently amended in May 2018 to reflect FAST Act requirements. This round of amendments includes updating the MTP with projects that were funded as part of SPOT/P 5.0 and programmed in the 2020-2029 STIP. Projects in the TIP must be consistent with the currently adopted MTP, hence these amendments to reflect those changes in the new TIP.

The MTP is broken into five-year Horizons that cover from 2016 to 2040. These amendments are programmed for Horizon 2, covering 2021-2025 and Horizon 3, 2026-2030. A public comment period is being held from September 24 – October 24<sup>th</sup> with the amendments posted on the MPO website at: <http://www.fbrmpo.org/metropolitan-transportation-plan-mtp/>  
A spreadsheet summarizing these amendments is available on the next page.

A “Project Expectations Report” has been developed as part of these amendments which covers funded projects in SPOT/P 5.0. The goal of this report is to communicate context sensitive goals of the project based on local municipality and MPO input. The project sheet contains primary goals, secondary goals, a SPOT cross-section, previous planning efforts, a map and multi-modal expectations (if applicable).

**Action:** Recommend for FBRMPO Board adoption the MTP 2040 Amendments

## FBRMPO MTP 2040 Amendments - Scheduled for MPO Board Adoption October 24, 2019

County	MTP ID	TIP	Route/Facility Name	Description	From/Cross Street	To	Construction Year	Amendment Detail	Additional Amount Programmed by Horizon
HORIZON 1 (2016-2020)									\$ -
NO AMENDMENTS AT THIS TIME									
HORIZON 2 (2021-2025)									\$ 21,604,000
Haywood		R-5921	Jonathan Creek (US 276)	US 19 TO I-40 UPGRADE. MODERNIZE ROADWAY.	US 19	I-40	2024	Funded in STI/SPOT 5 Prioritization and programmed in 2020-2029 STIP	\$20,700,000
Henderson		EB-5963	Grove Street Sidewalks	BARNWELL STREET TO US 176 (SPARTANBURG HIGHWAY). CONSTRUCT SIDEWALK.	Barnwell Street	Spartanburg Highway	2023	Funded in STI/SPOT 5 Prioritization and programmed in 2020-2029 STIP	\$904,000
HORIZON 3 (2026-2030)									\$ 67,100,000
Buncombe		U-6162	North Louisiana Avenue (SR 1332)	US 19/23 (PATTON AVENUE) TO SR 1338 (EMMA ROAD). MODERNIZE ROADWAY.	US 19/23	Emma Road	2026	Funded in STI/SPOT 5 Prioritization and programmed in 2020-2029 STIP	\$5,800,000
Buncombe		U-6163	Mills Gap Road (SR 3116)	SR 3136 (CANE CREEK ROAD) INTERSECTION. REALIGN INTERSECTION AND ADD LEFT TURN LANES.	-	-	2026	Funded in STI/SPOT 5 Prioritization and programmed in 2020-2029 STIP	\$1,300,000
Haywood		U-6159	Russ Avenue (US 276)	US 23-74 (GREAT SMOKEY MOUNTAIN EXPRESSWAY) TO US 19 (DELLWOOD ROAD). ACCESS MANAGEMENT.	US 23/74	Dellwood Road	2028	Funded in STI/SPOT 5 Prioritization and programmed in 2020-2029	\$13,600,000
Haywood		U-6172	Great Smokey Mountains Expressway (US 23/74)	SR 1777 (BALSAM VIEW DRIVE) TO SR 1158 (OLD BALSAM ROAD) MODERNIZE ROADWAY.	Balsam View Drive	Old Balsam Road	2027	Funded in STI/SPOT 5 Prioritization and programmed in 2020-2029 STIP	\$23,000,000
Haywood		U-6158	US 276/Crymes Cove Road/Raccoon Road	INTERSECTION REALIGNMENT	-	-	2027	Funded in STI/SPOT 5 Prioritization and programmed in 2020-2029 STIP	\$2,700,000
Henderson		U-6124	Boylston Highway (NC 280)	NC 191 (HAYWOOD ROAD) TO NC 191 (OLD HAYWOOD ROAD). CONSTRUCT ACCESS MANAGEMENT AND INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS.	NC 191 (Haywood Road)	NC 191 (Old Haywood Road)	2026	Funded in STI/SPOT 5 Prioritization and programmed in 2020-2029 STIP	\$20,700,000
HORIZON 4 (2031-2035)									\$ -
NO AMENDMENTS AT THIS TIME									
HORIZON 5 (2036-2040)									\$ -
NO AMENDMENTS AT THIS TIME									

# NC-280 ACCESS MANAGEMENT

FROM NC 191 TO NC 191

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS DIRECTLY IMPACTED: TOWN OF MILLS RIVER, HENDERSON COUNTY

PRIMARY GOALS	SECONDARY GOALS
Improve Safety	Address Congestion and Bottlenecks
Improve Non-Motorized Transportation	Improve Safe Freight Movements

Project Submitted By: NCDOT Division 14

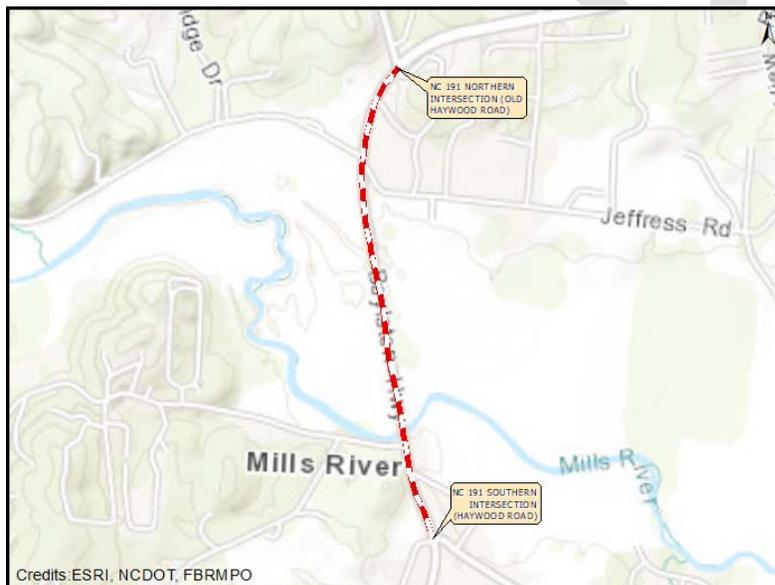
NCDOT Division Local Input Points: Yes

FBRMPO Local Input Points: Yes

Funding Tier: Regional Impact

## Previous Planning Efforts

- FBRMPO Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- FBRMPO Congestion Management Process (2018) recommends access management (a median) and bike/ped accommodations
- The NC 280 Multi Use Path Feasibility Study
  - Blue Ridge Bike Plan



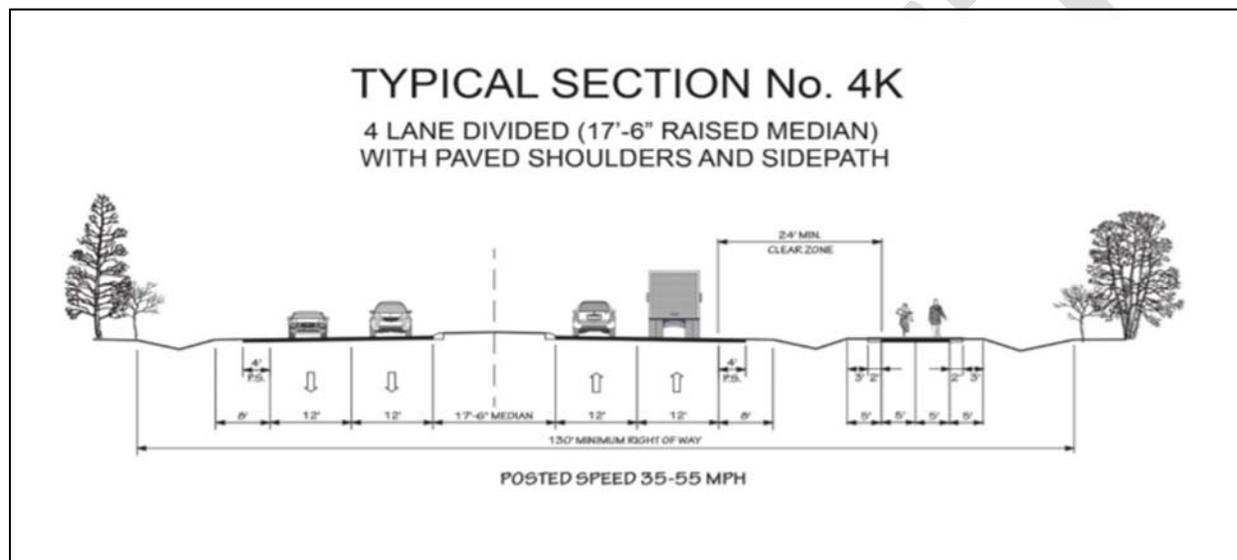
Credits: ESRI, NCDOT, FBRMPO

## Multimodal Expectations

- Multi-Use Path for the length of the project on the north side of the roadway
- No fixed-route transit service currently
- Potential for sidewalks on the south side of the roadway
- Access Management (i.e., median)

# NC-280 ACCESS MANAGEMENT

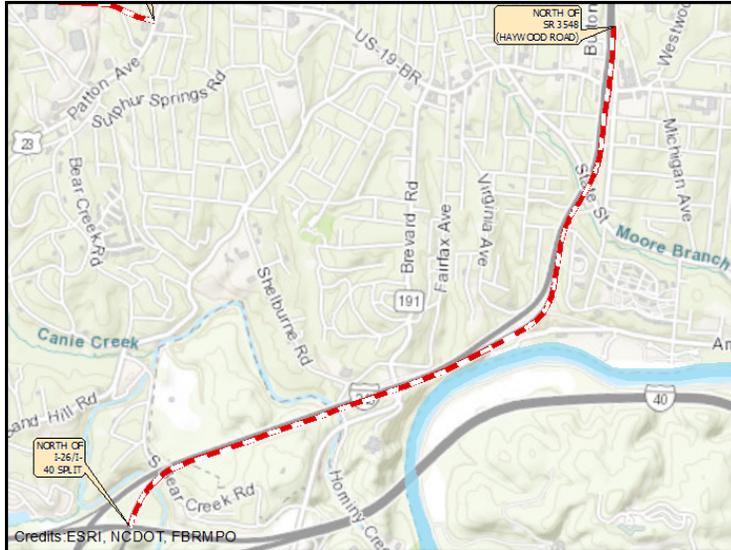
## SPOT CROSS-SECTION



# I-2513A (PART OF THE I-26 CONNECTOR)

FROM I-40 TO NORTH OF HAYWOOD ROAD

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS DIRECTLY IMPACTED: CITY OF ASHEVILLE, BUNCOMBE COUNTY



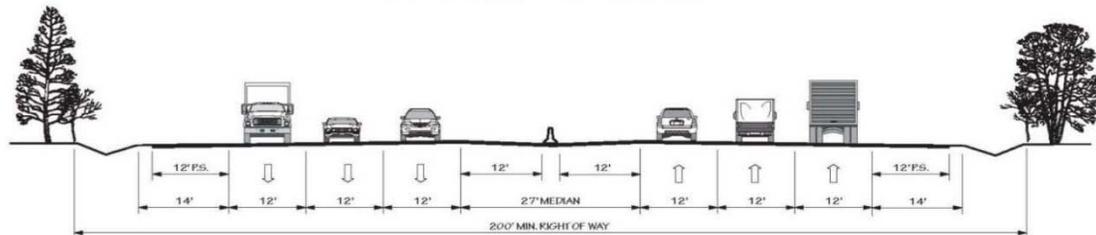
A considerable amount of work has gone into achieving multiple goals with the I-26 connector, much of which has been done at the encouragement and approval of the MPO Board. In order to avoid confusion and duplication, please see the NCDOT Website on the project:

<https://www.ncdot.gov/projects/asheville-i-26-connector/Pages/default.aspx>

## SPOT CROSS SECTION

### TYPICAL SECTION No. 6B

6 LANE DIVIDED (27' MEDIAN WITH JERSEY BARRIER)  
WITH PAVED SHOULDERS



POSTED SPEED 55-70 MPH

# NORTH LOUISIANA AVENUE

## MODERNIZATION FROM PATTON AVENUE TO EMMA ROAD

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS DIRECTLY IMPACTED: CITY OF ASHEVILLE, BUNCOMBE COUNTY

<b>PRIMARY GOALS</b>	<b>SECONDARY GOALS</b>
Address Congestion and Bottlenecks	Improve Safety
Improve Non-Motorized Transportation	Ensure Changes Respect Our Environment and Unique Places

Project Submitted By: FBRMPO

NCDOT Division Local Input Points: Yes

FBRMPO Local Input Points: Yes

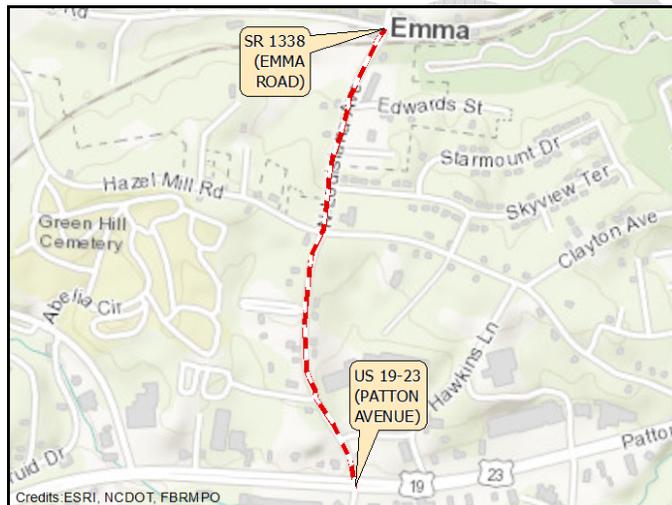
Funding Tier: Division Needs

### Previous Planning Efforts

- FBRMPO Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Asheville Bicycle Plan
- Blue Ridge Bike Plan

### Multimodal Expectations

- Bike Lanes (per Asheville Bicycle Plan)
- Sidewalk extensions to Emma Road
  - Transit Stop Consideration along the entire corridor for route W5



### OVERALL PROJECT NEED

Louisiana Avenue experiences bottlenecks at each of its major intersections along this corridor (Patton Avenue, Hazel Mill Road, and Emma Road.) Heavy left turn movements and limited access management near Patton Avenue can contribute to significant delays, especially in the afternoon. Limited turning capabilities at Emma Road (esp. westbound) and Hazel Mill Road can cause delays as well.

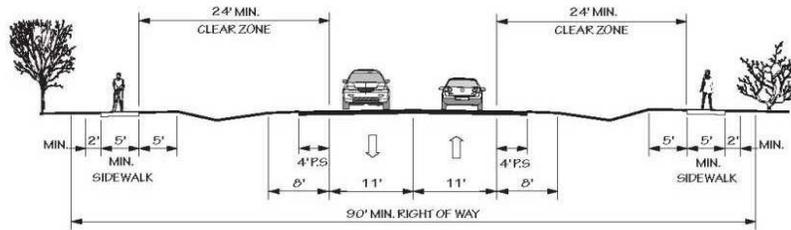
Additionally, this corridor has significant multimodal needs with fixed-route transit service, a large low-income population nearby, but limited pedestrian infrastructure and no bicycle infrastructure. Lower design speeds should be considered to help with bike/ped safety.

# NORTH LOUISIANA AVENUE

SPOT CROSS SECTION

## TYPICAL SECTION No. 2D

2 LANE UNDIVIDED WITH PAVED SHOULDERS AND SIDEWALKS



POSTED SPEED 25-45 MPH

# NC 81 SWANNANOVA RIVER ROAD

## MODERNIZATION FROM SOUTH TUNNEL ROAD TO TUNNEL ROAD

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS DIRECTLY IMPACTED: CITY OF ASHEVILLE, BUNCOMBE COUNTY

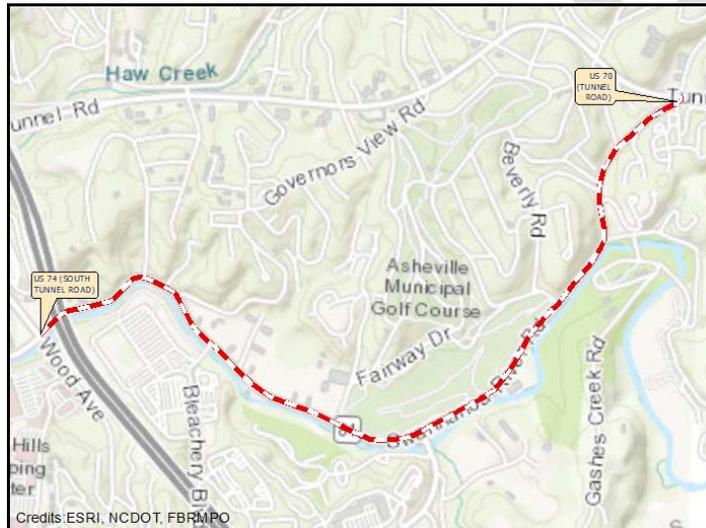
<b>PRIMARY GOALS</b>	<b>SECONDARY GOALS</b>
Improve Safety	Address Congestion and Bottlenecks
Improve Non-Motorized Transportation	Ensure Changes Respect Our Environment and Unique Places

Project Submitted By: FBRMPO

NCDOT Division Local Input Points: Yes

FBRMPO Local Input Points: Yes

Funding Tier: Division Needs



- ### Previous Planning Efforts
- FBRMPO Comprehensive Transportation Plan
  - Asheville Bicycle Plan
  - Asheville-in-Motion Multimodal Transportation Plan
  - Wilma Dykeman Riverway Plan
  - Swannanoa River Greenway Feasibility Study
  - Asheville Transit Master Plan
  - FBRMPO Congestion Management Process (2018)
  - FBRMPO MTP 2040

- ### Multimodal Expectations
- Multi-Use Path in certain portions (in accordance with the Swannanoa River Greenway Feasibility Study); bike/ped accommodations throughout the corridor
  - Transit Stop Considerations for routes E1 and S5

# NC 81 SWANNANOA RIVER ROAD (CONT.)

## MODERNIZATION FROM SOUTH TUNNEL ROAD TO TUNNEL ROAD

### OVERALL PROJECT NEED

The Swannanoa River Road/Wilma Dykema corridor has been long-planned as a crucial east-west multimodal corridor. Limited bike/ped routes between East Asheville and the rest of Asheville has led to limited travel by other modes along this corridor and limited access to certain areas for individuals without access to a vehicle.

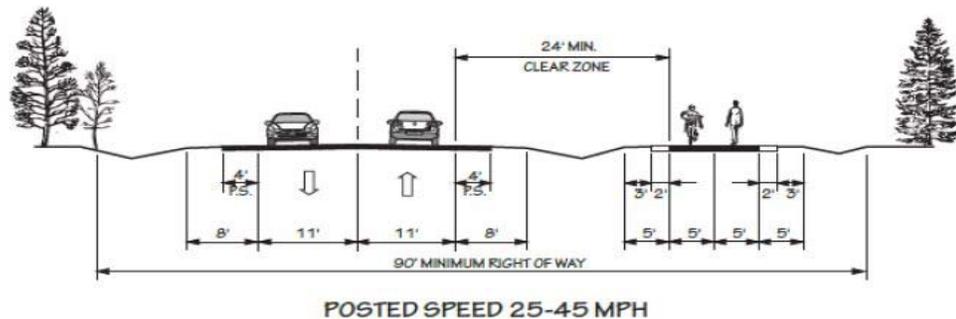
Some congestion is experienced along the corridor- especially at intersections- but Level of Service exceptions and LOS E should be considered as a starting point in discussions.

This project should be coordinated with other projects on the Swannanoa River Road, Meadow Road, Amboy Road, Lyman Street, and Riverside Drive (all part of the Wilma Dykeman Riverway Plan.)

### SPOT CROSS SECTION

## TYPICAL SECTION No. 2N

2 LANE UNDIVIDED WITH PAVED SHOULDERS AND SIDEPATH



# CROSSROADS PARKWAY

## NEW ROADWAY

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS DIRECTLY IMPACTED: MADISON COUNTY, TOWN OF MARS HILL

PRIMARY GOALS	SECONDARY GOALS
Improve Safety	Address Congestion and Bottlenecks
Improve Freight Movements	Ensure Changes Respect Our Environment and Unique Places



Project Submitted By: FBRMPO

NCDOT Division Local Input Points: Yes

FBRMPO Local Input Points: Yes

Funding Tier: Division Needs

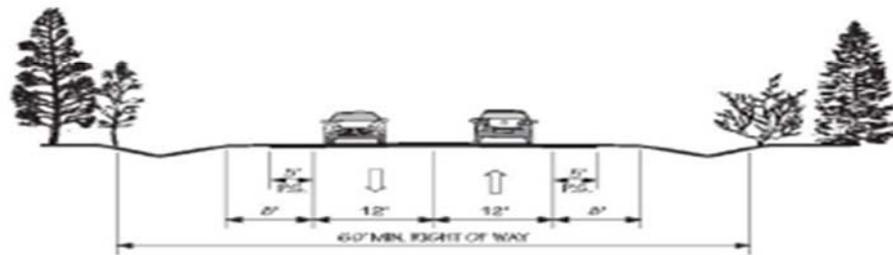
### OVERALL PROJECT NEED

The Crossroads Parkway is expected to provide a more direct route from I-26 to industrial facilities in north Mars Hill. Currently a significant amount of freight goes through Downtown Mars Hill on the way to these facilities. Diverting trucks on Crossroads Parkway and away from Downtown Mars Hill is expected to provide safety benefits and reduce risks to users and facilities on Main Street.

# CROSSROADS PARKWAY

SPOT CROSS SECTION

## TYPICAL SECTION No. 2A 2 LANE UNDIVIDED WITH PAVED SHOULDERS



POSTED SPEED 55 MPH

# US 276 (RUSS AVENUE)

## ACCESS MANAGEMENT FROM US 23/74 TO US 19 (DELLWOOD ROAD)

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS DIRECTLY IMPACTED: HAYWOOD COUNTY, TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE

<b>PRIMARY GOALS</b>	<b>SECONDARY GOALS</b>
Improve Safety	Address Congestion and Bottlenecks
Improve Non-Motorized Transportation	Improve Freight Movements

Project Submitted By: FBRMPO

NCDOT Division Local Input Points: Yes

FBRMPO Local Input Points: Yes

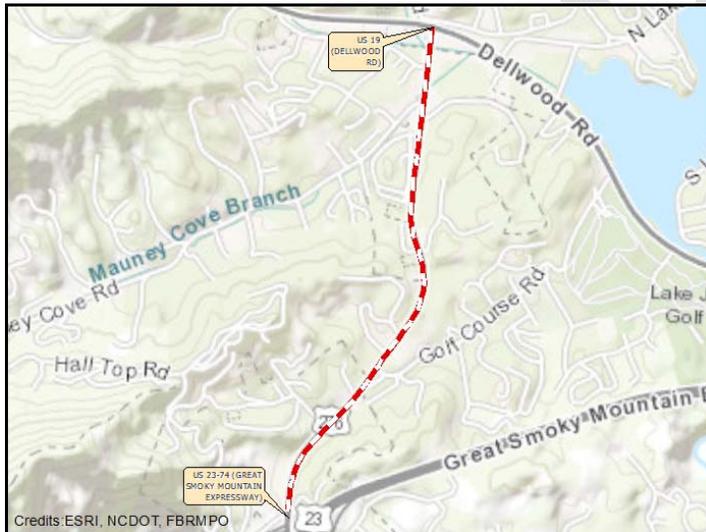
Funding Tier: Division Needs

### Previous Planning Efforts

- FBRMPO Comprehensive Transportation Plan
- Haywood County Bicycle Plan
- Waynesville Pedestrian Plan
- FBRMPO Congestion Management Process (2018)

### Multimodal Expectations

- Sidewalk extensions to Dellwood Road (per the Waynesville Pedestrian Plan)
- Potential bicycle lanes similar to Russ Avenue Corridor Study conducted by the Town of Waynesville



### OVERALL PROJECT NEED

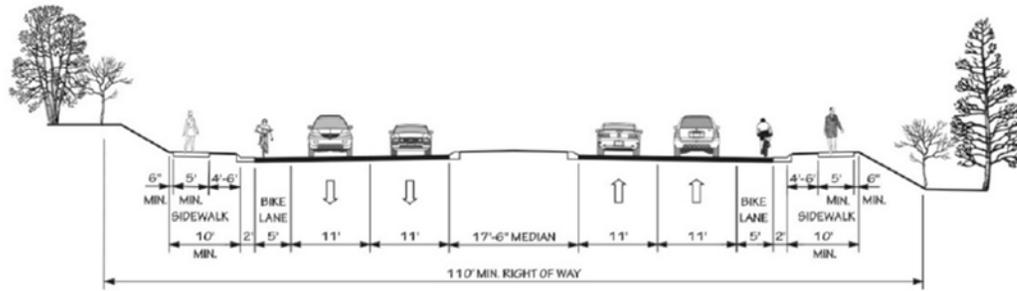
US 276 (Russ Avenue) is currently a five-lane facility. Better access management along the corridor may help reduce crashes and fatalities, especially as the corridor continues to develop. The addition of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure is expected to provide pedestrians and bicyclists safety benefits.

# US 276 (RUSS AVENUE)

SPOT CROSS SECTION

## TYPICAL SECTION No. 4G

4 LANE DIVIDED (17'-6" RAISED MEDIAN) WITH CURB & GUTTER, BIKE LANES, AND SIDEWALKS



POSTED SPEED 35-45 MPH

# US 276 (JONATHAN CREEK ROAD)

## ACCESS MANAGEMENT FROM US 23/74 TO US 19 (DELLWOOD ROAD)

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS DIRECTLY IMPACTED: HAYWOOD COUNTY, TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE

PRIMARY GOALS	SECONDARY GOALS
Improve Safety	Address Congestion and Bottlenecks
Improve Non-Motorized Transportation	Improve Freight Movements

### Previous Planning Efforts

- Haywood County Bicycle Plan

### Multimodal Expectations

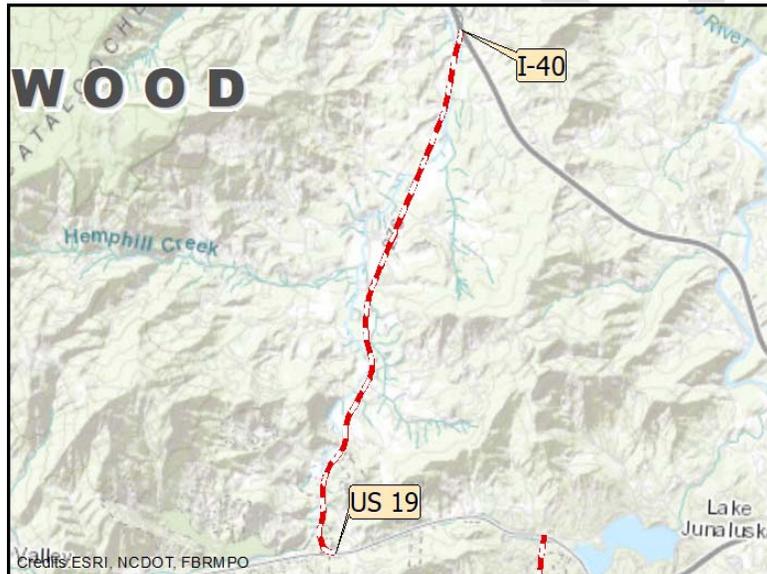
- Painted shoulders suitable for bicyclists and/or a Multi-Use Path to a Future County Park (as recommended in the Haywood Bicycle Plan)

Project Submitted By: LOSRPO

NCDOT Division Local Input Points: Yes

FBRMPO Local Input Points: Yes (in addition to LOSRPO points)

Funding Tier: Division Needs



### OVERALL PROJECT NEED

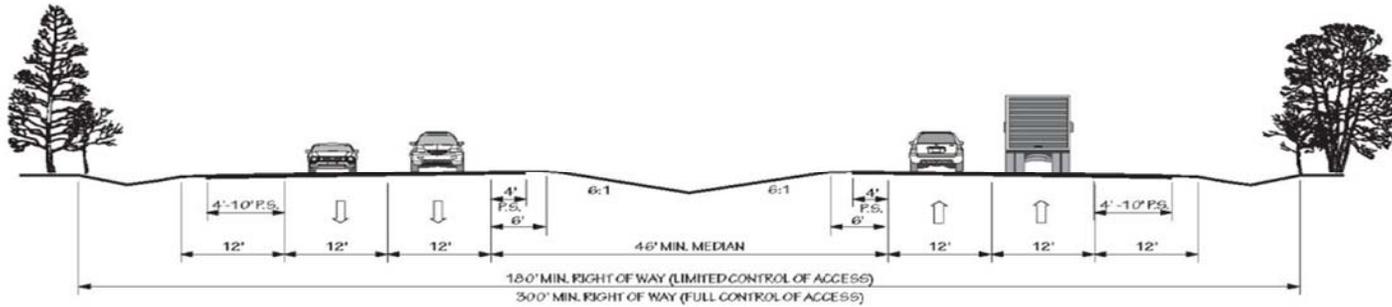
US 276 (Jonathan Creek Road) is currently a four-lane divided roadway with limited shoulders. The project should add painted shoulders to the roadway for vehicular and bicycle safety, address potential safety concerns at intersections (US 276 @ US 19), and address any potential issues with existing structures.

# US 276 (JONATHAN CREEK ROAD)

SPOT CROSS SECTION

## TYPICAL SECTION No. 4A

4 LANE DIVIDED (46' DEPRESSED MEDIAN) WITH PAVED SHOULDERS



POSTED SPEED 45-70 MPH

# US 23/74 (SMOKEY MOUNTAINS EXPRESSWAY)

ACCESS MANAGEMENT FROM US 23/74 TO US 19 (DELLWOOD ROAD)

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS DIRECTLY IMPACTED: HAYWOOD COUNTY, TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE

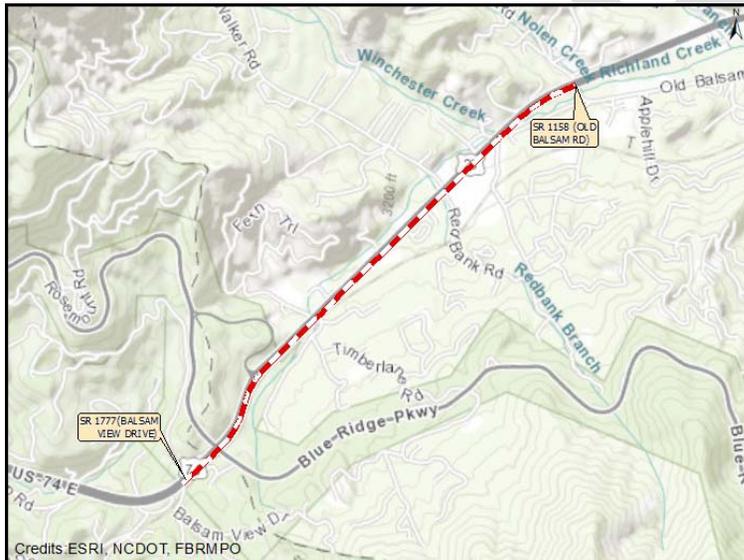
<b>PRIMARY GOALS</b>	<b>SECONDARY GOALS</b>
Improve Safety	Address Congestion and Bottlenecks
Improve Freight Movements	Ensure Changes Respect Our Unique Places and Environment

Project Submitted By: NCDOT Division 14

NCDOT Division Local Input Points: Yes

FBRMPO Local Input Points: Yes

Funding Tier: Division Needs



## OVERALL PROJECT NEED

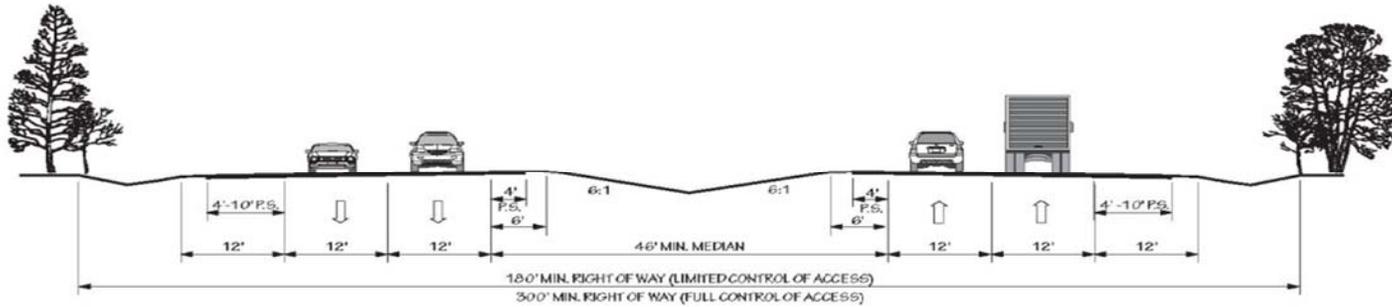
US 23/74 is a major expressway and is considered a statewide strategic corridor. This section of the expressway has potential safety issues with high speeds and a number of access points for various communities along the route.

# US 23/74 (SMOKEY MOUNTAINS EXPRESSWAY)

SPOT CROSS SECTION

## TYPICAL SECTION No. 4A

4 LANE DIVIDED (46' DEPRESSED MEDIAN) WITH PAVED SHOULDERS



POSTED SPEED 45-70 MPH

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 4B:

## 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program Adoption

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 has been posted from September 23 – October 24<sup>th</sup> for public review and comments at the FBRMPO website at: [http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/FBRMPO\\_2020\\_2029\\_Draft\\_TIP-4.pdf](http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/FBRMPO_2020_2029_Draft_TIP-4.pdf). A web map of TIP projects is also available at: [http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/FBRMPO\\_2020\\_2029\\_Draft\\_TIP-4.pdf](http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/FBRMPO_2020_2029_Draft_TIP-4.pdf)

The draft TIP was discussed at the September 2019 TCC and Board, so MPO staff will seek any feedback or comments and provide an update of public comments received.

**Action:** Recommend for FBRMPO Board adoption of the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 4C:

## Regional Transit Study Update and Request for Resolutions of Support

The French Broad River MPO currently has a Regional Transit Study in the FY 2020 UPWP, to be carried out over two fiscal years. The study would look at the feasibility of cross-county routes in the region (Hendersonville to Asheville, Waynesville to Asheville, etc.), the projected amount of funding that could be made available, and what type of agency/governance structure would be required in order to implement regional transit service (potentially a Regional Transit Authority.)

For background information, there are currently no public transit routes that cross county lines. Some services coordinate on meeting for a transfer (between Buncombe/Henderson and Buncombe/Haywood) and some demand-response services go from one county to another, but there is no fixed-route service that currently operates in more than one county.

The lack of a regional transit option is an increasing gap for transportation as well as employment. Every county in the region has seen an increase in cross-county commuting and census data indicates that low income populations- populations that may be more reliant on public transportation- are moving away from employment centers in the region.

County	2002 % Living & Working In-County	2014 % Living & Working In-County
Buncombe	75.2%	67.5%
Haywood	58.6%	42.9%
Henderson	62.9%	41.9%
Madison	34.4%	21.2%
Transylvania	63.6%	40.6%
5-County Average	58.9%	42.8%

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

### **Request to Add to the Study's Scope**

Recently, a request was made to add another component to the scope of this study: to look at what a regional transit provider could do to assist other transit agencies in the region and to examine the feasibility of consolidating transit agencies in the region. This addition to the scope- would involve the Land of Sky RPO, which will seek additional funding from NCDOT.

### **Request for Resolutions of Support**

Additionally, MPO leadership has requested a resolution of support for the study from local governments that provide transit services in the region: City of Asheville, Buncombe County, Haywood County, Henderson County, and Madison County. This resolution does not intend to reflect support for recommendations coming from the study but is intended to reflect a greater awareness and support that a regional study be undertaken.

**Actions Required: (1) Discuss & provide guidance to MPO Staff on what should be included in the scope of the study; and (2) Provide input on resolutions of support being requested from local governments**

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 4D:

## 2045 Population & Employment Projections (Land Use Study Update)

MPO staff will provide an update on the MPO's Land Use Study, being carried out by a team led by Manhan and Associates.

### Purpose of the Study

The study primarily provides projected population and employment data for the MPO's 2045 Travel Demand Model. Between 2015 and 2045 the five-county region is expected to grow by almost 170,000 additional residents. The study primarily looks at where that growth is expected to occur and assigns population and employment projections to Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs.)

### Scope of the Study

The consultant has been tasked with developing two growth scenarios: (1) Business as Usual and (2) Efficient Growth. These scenarios are based on growth scenarios developed as part of the GroWNC planning initiative in 2012.

At the November TCC and Board meeting, the consultant will present on the projections from each growth scenario. The MPO Board will be tasked with determining a preferred growth scenario that will be used for the 2045 Travel Demand Model for the region.

**Action Required: No Action Required**

### WHAT IS A TRAVEL DEMAND MODEL?

TRAVEL DEMAND MODELS ARE STATISTICAL MODELS THAT INFORM ENGINEERS, PLANNERS, AND OTHERS ON PROJECTED CHANGES TO DEMAND ON THE REGION'S TRANSPORTATION NETWORK, LARGELY BASED ON HOW THE REGION'S POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT IS EXPECTED TO CHANGE OVER A TWENTY-FIVE YEAR TIMEFRAME. TRAVEL DEMAND MODEL OUTPUTS ARE USED TO HELP DETERMINE AREAS OF NEED BY NCDOT AND THE MPO AND ARE USED AS PART OF TRAFFIC FORECASTS CARRIED OUT TO DETERMINE CAPACITY NEEDS FOR ROADWAY PROJECTS.

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 5A:

## Division Project Updates

Division 13 Updates: <http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Division13Updates.pdf>

Division 14 Updates: To Be Updated, When Available

# Item 5B:

## TPD Updates

# Item 5C:

## FHWA/FTA Updates

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 5D:

## Committee & Workgroup Updates

**Prioritization Subcommittee**—Met on October 1<sup>st</sup>; next meeting on November 5th

**Regional Trail Working Group**—Met in August; next meeting TBD

**Transit Operators' Workgroup**—Met in September; next meeting TBD

**Citizens' Advisory Committee**- Met on October 16<sup>th</sup>; next meeting in January

### Recommended Actions:

Accept the reports.

# Item 5E:

## Legislative Updates