

## Governing Board

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November 21, 2019 – 1:15 P.M., Land of Sky Offices\*\*\* Jointly with FBRMPO TCC

### Agenda

5. WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING, ETHICS (10 min) Bill Lapsley
- 
6. REGULAR UPDATES (15 min) Jointly with FBRMPO TCC and Board Bill Lapsley
- 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
7. ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES (15 min)
- 
8. PUBLIC COMMENT
- 
9. TCC ADJOURNMENT—FBRMPO Board Meeting to Continue with Consent Agenda and Business Items
- 
10. CONSENT AGENDA (5 min) Bill Lapsley
- A. October 2019 Minutes
  - B. 2020 Board Meeting Calendar
  - C. 2018-2027 TIP Modifications
11. BUSINESS (45-60 min) Bill Lapsley
- A. Oklawaha Greenway Feasibility Studies Presentation Henderson County Staff
  - B. MPO Prioritization Subcommittee Vacancy MPO Staff
  - C. 2045 Land Use Study and Projections Colby Brown
12. PUBLIC COMMENT
- 
13. ADJOURNMENT
-

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 6A:

## Division Project Updates

Division 13 Project Updates: <http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/DIV-13-November-2019-Updates-AllProjects.pdf>

Division 14 Project Updates: To Be Updated

# Item 6B:

## TPD Updates

# Item 6C:

## FHWA/FTA Updates

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 6D:

## Committee & Workgroup Updates

**Prioritization Subcommittee**—Met on November 5th; next meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>

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

**Transit Operators' Workgroup**—Met November 20<sup>th</sup>; next meeting TBD

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

### Recommended Actions:

Accept the reports.

# Item 6E:

## Legislative Updates

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 10:

## Consent Agenda

**Item 10A:** October, 2019 TCC Minutes

**Item 10B:** 2019 Meeting Calendar

**Item 10C:** 2018-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Modifications

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 10A:

## October Board Minutes

French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization

Minutes from the Governing Board meeting on October 24, 2019

### **Attendance**

|                  |                 |                  |                |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| William Lapsley  | Tristan Winkler | Nick Kroncke     | Zia Rifkin     |
| Emily Scott-Cruz | Daniel Sellers  | George Banta     | Brian Burch    |
| Steve Caraker    | Mike Dawson     | Ritchie Rozzelle | Larry Harris   |
| LeRoy Roberson   | Brian Caskey    | Bob Davy         | Kevin Ensley   |
| John Dockendorf  | Jeff McKenna    | Amanda Edwards   | Erica Anderson |
| Autumn Radcliff  | Janna Peterson  | Anne Coletta     | Gwen Wisler    |
| Brownie Newman   | Hannah Cook     | Steve Williams   | Brian Burch    |
| LeRoy Roberson   | Julie Mayfield  |                  |                |

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

Chairman Lapsley called the meeting to order, requested that everyone introduce himself or herself, 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. None were received.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was presented for approval with no modification requested.

*Larry Harris moved to approve the agenda as presented. John Dockendorf seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.*

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

### **MTP 2040 Amendments**

No comments received at the FBRMPO Board meeting.

### **FBRMPO 2020-2029 TIP Adoption**

No comments received at the FBRMPO Board meeting.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

***Bob Davy moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the September 26, 2019 minutes, the Letter of Support- Apple Country Transportation 5310 Application, and the 2018-2027 TIP Modifications. Steve Caraker seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.***

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **MTP 2040 Amendments**

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) forecasts changes in the region and seeks to identify transportation priorities for the region of 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/P5.0 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 2019-2040. These amendments are programmed in Horizon 2, covering 2021-2025 and Horizon 3, 2026-2030. A public comment period is being held from September 24-October 24 with the amendments posted on the MPO website at <http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/mtp/>. Nick Kroncke summarized the amendments during the meeting.

A "Project Expectations Report" has been developed as part of these amendments, which covers funded projects in SPOT/P5.0. 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).

Nick Kroncke noted that the Project Expectation Report does not contain environmental information. He also shared that the MTP amendments have received no comments during the public comment period.

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

Discussion occurred regarding the process for modification of projects that are already underway. Tristan Winkler shared that in that type of situation, the project would need to come before the Board. Additionally, the project may have to be re-prioritized. He communicated that due to cost increases or for projects that have changed scope; anything in prioritization, triggered by the criteria, would need to go before the prioritization committee and through the prioritization process again. Tristan Winkler shared that the Board would be made aware if a project were to go before the committee (again). Daniel Sellers shared that if projects grow and change, as part of P6.0, projects would need to be submitted with a vision statement, which would be provided to the design team. Underlying context of projects is necessary information for the design team to have. Tristan Winkler communicated that this is meant to strengthen the process.

Discussion occurred about maintenance of Complete Streets elements and it was noted that the first request for maintenance would go to the local government.

***Julie Mayfield moved to adopt the MTP 2040 Amendments. Gwen Wisler seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.***

### **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, etc.), from SPOT 5.- (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 for public review and comments at the FBRMPO website at [http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/FBRMPO\\_2020\\_2029\\_Draft\\_TIP.pdf](http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/FBRMPO_2020_2029_Draft_TIP.pdf). A web map of TIP projects is available [here](#).

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

The draft TIP was discussed at the September 2019 TCC and Board meetings. Nick Kroncke shared that the TIP also includes compliance language and he updated the Board with public comments received including two comments that were received, covering a wide range of topics. The TIP specific feedback was forwarded to the relevant NCDOT division. Tristan Winkler shared that 'Coffee with a Transportation Planner' events are held at various coffee houses in the planning region.

Discussion also occurred about folks providing their personal contact information with public comments and MPO staff noted that the public involvement policy has been reviewed, since at this time, names/contact information is redacted. MPO staff were directed to check on the perceived need to redact personal information.

Further discussion occurred regarding the STIP, which has not been approved by FHA yet. Tristan Winkler noted that come March/April 2020, there would be a large swath of amendments to the document. MPO staff noted that the TIP is a fluid document, that is always being updated. The newest version is always posted on the MPO website. NCDOT staff noted that projects are likely to change and those that change in the same fiscal year are not reflected in the document; should a project change in a subsequent fiscal year, it would be reflected in the document. Tristan Winkler communicated that when committed projects have a cost increase of more than 50%, a cost/benefit analysis is undertaken. Projects in that type of situation must go before the Sticker Committee. NCDOT staff noted this process forestalls projects that lose relevance. Tristan Winkler noted that any delay that has come up since the first week of September 2019, is not reflected in the current document.

***Larry Harris moved to adopt the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program. Bob Davy seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.***

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

The French Broad River MPO currently has a Regional Transit Study in the FY2020 UPWP, with plans for it 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).

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

Currently, no public transit routes 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.

Recently, a request was made to add another component to the scope of this study: to study 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 would seek additional funding from NCDOT as well as local cost share.

Additionally, MPO leadership has requested a resolution of support for the study from local governments (City of Asheville, Buncombe County, Haywood County, Henderson County, and Madison County) that provide transit services in the region. 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.

Discussion occurred regarding what should be included in the scope of the study.

Input was provided on resolutions of support, meant to move the study forward, being requested from local governments. The MPO would manage the study. The process would begin with an Request for Quotes (RFQ) to determine consultants who may be interested in undertaking the study. Tristan Winkler noted that consolidating transit services between counties would require a memorandum of understanding among the counties. He also shared that a regional transit authority is a very different thing, which requires legislative authority from the state. The study is intended to cover the MPO region.

***Larry Harris moved to amend the scope of the study and to include the provision of resolutions from local governments. Gwen Wisler seconded and the motion carried upon a vote.***

2045 Population & Employment Projects (Land Use Study Update)

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

MPO staff provided an update on the MPO's Land Use Study, being carried out by a team led by Manhan and Associates. 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 190,000 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). 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 Land of Sky Regional Council's GroWNC planning initiative in 2012. What the Board adopts would become the preferred growth scenario.

Tristan Winkler noted that the TCC wanted to pass along the business as usual scenario as the one to use for the study. Additionally, the Prioritization Subcommittee has discussed the growth scenario issue. He noted that legally speaking, the Board determines the preferred growth scenario. Daniel Sellers noted that when projects go into design, the MPO's growth model is utilized. Tristan Winkler communicated that most likely, the travel demand model would be run with both growth scenarios.

Tristan Winkler shared that traffic forecasting plays a large role in determining the types of projects that are needed in an area. Current conditions may not show the need for additional lanes on roadways; however, traffic forecasts may determine that growth is likely to occur in the area, which would necessitate the need to upgrade roadways, so those are not deficient.

Discussion occurred regarding the different types of trips people are taking and whether those are reflected in the travel demand model. Daniel Sellers shared that while the model makes a consideration of pedestrian trips, it does not make a robust model of pedestrian trips; rather it considers various considerations, but ignores the very worst scenarios.

Tristan Winkler communicated, that in terms of the planning process, determining the preferred scenario is legally required of the MPO Board and must be made by August 2020. He noted, too, that this is a five-year forecast, which would be reviewed within that timeframe. Chairman Lapsley shared that the adoption of one of the scenarios by the MPO Board is a recommendation, not intended to tell other local governments what they must do.

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

### REGULAR UPDATES

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

- Hannah Cook provided Division 13 updates and Steve Williams provided Division 14 updates.
- Daniel Sellers provided an update on the TPB.
- Mike Dawson provided FHWA/FTA updates.
- FBRMPO Committee & Workgroup Updates:
  - Prioritization – Met on October 1. Next meeting on November 5.
  - 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. Next meeting in January 2020.
- Legislative Updates – Tristan Winkler shared that HB 158 is a bill intended to reduce the reporting requirements of NCDOT to the legislature.

### Announcements

### ADJOURNMENT

*Bob Davy moved to adjourn the meeting. Larry Harris seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned.*

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 10B:

## MPO 2020 Meeting Schedule

The MPO meeting schedule for 2019 is as follows for the Prioritization Subcommittee, TCC, and Board. The Transit Operators, 5307 Subrecipients Working Group, Regional Trail Working Group, and Citizens Advisory Committee will continue to meet on an as-needed basis.

| <b>Prioritization Subcommittee</b> | <b>TCC</b>                               | <b>Board</b>               |
|------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| January 7 <sup>th</sup>            | January 9 <sup>th</sup>                  | January 23 <sup>rd</sup>   |
| February 4 <sup>th</sup>           | February 13 <sup>th</sup>                | February 27 <sup>th</sup>  |
| March 3 <sup>rd</sup>              | March 12 <sup>th</sup>                   | March 26 <sup>th</sup>     |
| April 7 <sup>th</sup>              | <b>NO APRIL TCC OR BOARD MEETINGS</b>    |                            |
| May 5 <sup>th</sup>                | May 14 <sup>th</sup>                     | May 28 <sup>th</sup>       |
| June 2 <sup>nd</sup>               | June 11 <sup>th</sup>                    | June 25 <sup>th</sup>      |
|                                    | <b>NO JULY MEETINGS</b>                  |                            |
| August 4 <sup>th</sup>             | August 13 <sup>th</sup>                  | August 27 <sup>th</sup>    |
| September 1 <sup>st</sup>          | September 10 <sup>th</sup>               | September 24 <sup>th</sup> |
| October 6 <sup>th</sup>            | October 8 <sup>th</sup>                  | October 22 <sup>nd</sup>   |
| November 3 <sup>rd</sup>           | November 19 <sup>th</sup>                | November 19 <sup>th</sup>  |
| December 1 <sup>st</sup>           | <b>NO DECEMBER TCC OR BOARD MEETINGS</b> |                            |

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

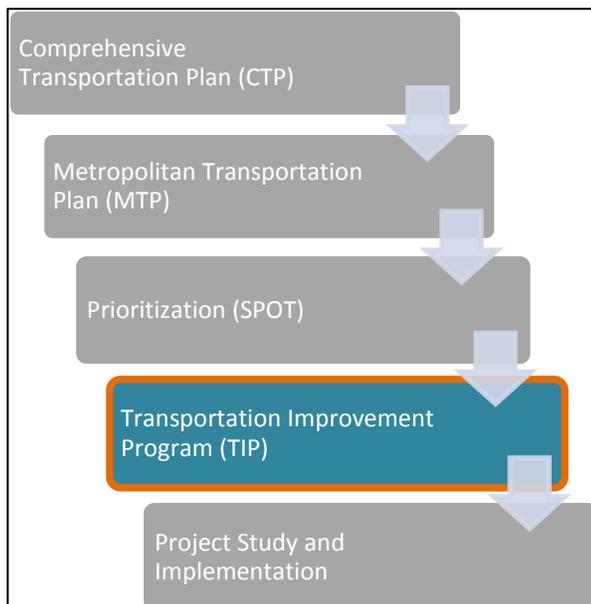
## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 10C:

## 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-5830, Lexington Avenue Bicycle and Pedestrian improvements- moved to FY 2020
- EB-5831, Coxe Avenue Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements- moved to FY 2020



# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

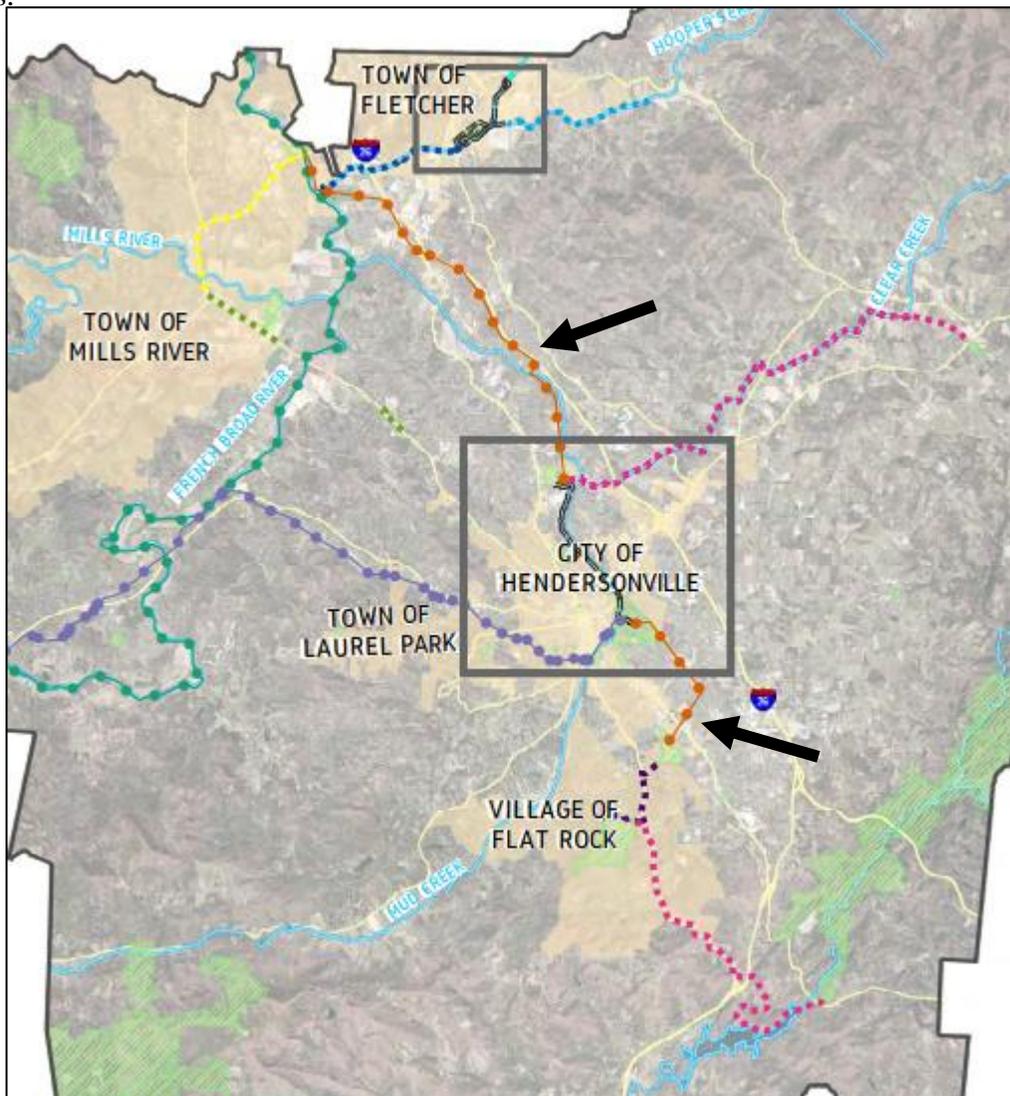
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 11A:

## Oklawaha Greenway Feasibility Studies

Henderson County recently completed two feasibility studies, funded in-part by the MPO. The feasibility studies looked at extending the Oklawaha Greenway: one to the north to Westfeldt Park and the other to the south to Blue Ridge Community College and the Park at Flat Rock. Henderson County staff will present on the two studies.



339 New Leicester Highway, Suite 140 • Asheville, NC 28806 • [www.fbrmpo.org](http://www.fbrmpo.org)

Long-Range Transportation Plan • Transportation Improvement Program

Highway Planning • Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning • Transit Planning • Air Quality

Public Involvement

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 11B:

## Prioritization Subcommittee Vacancy

The MPO's Prioritization Subcommittee is made up of seven members- four TCC members and three Board members. The subcommittee meets once a month on the first Tuesday at 9:00 AM. The subcommittee was initially formed to deal with the prioritization process but has evolved into the general steering committee for all MPO efforts, including updating the MPO, land use projections, and any other regional plan underway.

The current roster is:

| MPO TCC Representatives                | MPO Board Representatives                     |
|--|---|
| Autumn Radcliff (Henderson County)     | Jerry Vehaun (Town of Woodfin)                |
| Brian Burgess (Town of Mills River)    | <b>John Dockendorf (Village of Flat Rock)</b> |
| Elizabeth Teague (Town of Waynesville) | Julie Mayfield (City of Asheville)            |
| Josh O'Conner (Buncombe County)        |   |

The seat currently held by John Dockendorf will be vacated in December and will need to be replaced by an MPO Board member.

**Action: Recommend a New MPO Board Member to Serve on the Prioritization Subcommittee**

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 11C:

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

### 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 190,000 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) Baseline and (2) Alternative Growth. These scenarios are based on growth scenarios developed as part of the GroWNC planning initiative in 2012.

The consultant will present on the projections from each growth scenario, along with additional data. 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.

Initial projections from each of the growth scenarios can be seen here:

The following are different links with the Alternative Growth Scenario outputs, based on GroWNC's "Efficient Growth" Scenario:

Household change: <https://arcg.is/01Ou1q>

Household population change: <https://arcg.is/bqrnz>

Total employment change: <https://arcg.is/0j9z1O>

Employment change by type: <https://arcg.is/1aiyH9>

The following are different links with the Business as Usual Scenario outputs.

Household change: <https://arcg.is/nSiyb>

Household population change: <https://arcg.is/mnyiK>

Total employment change: <https://arcg.is/qG1fK>

Employment change by type: <https://arcg.is/0OGXXX>

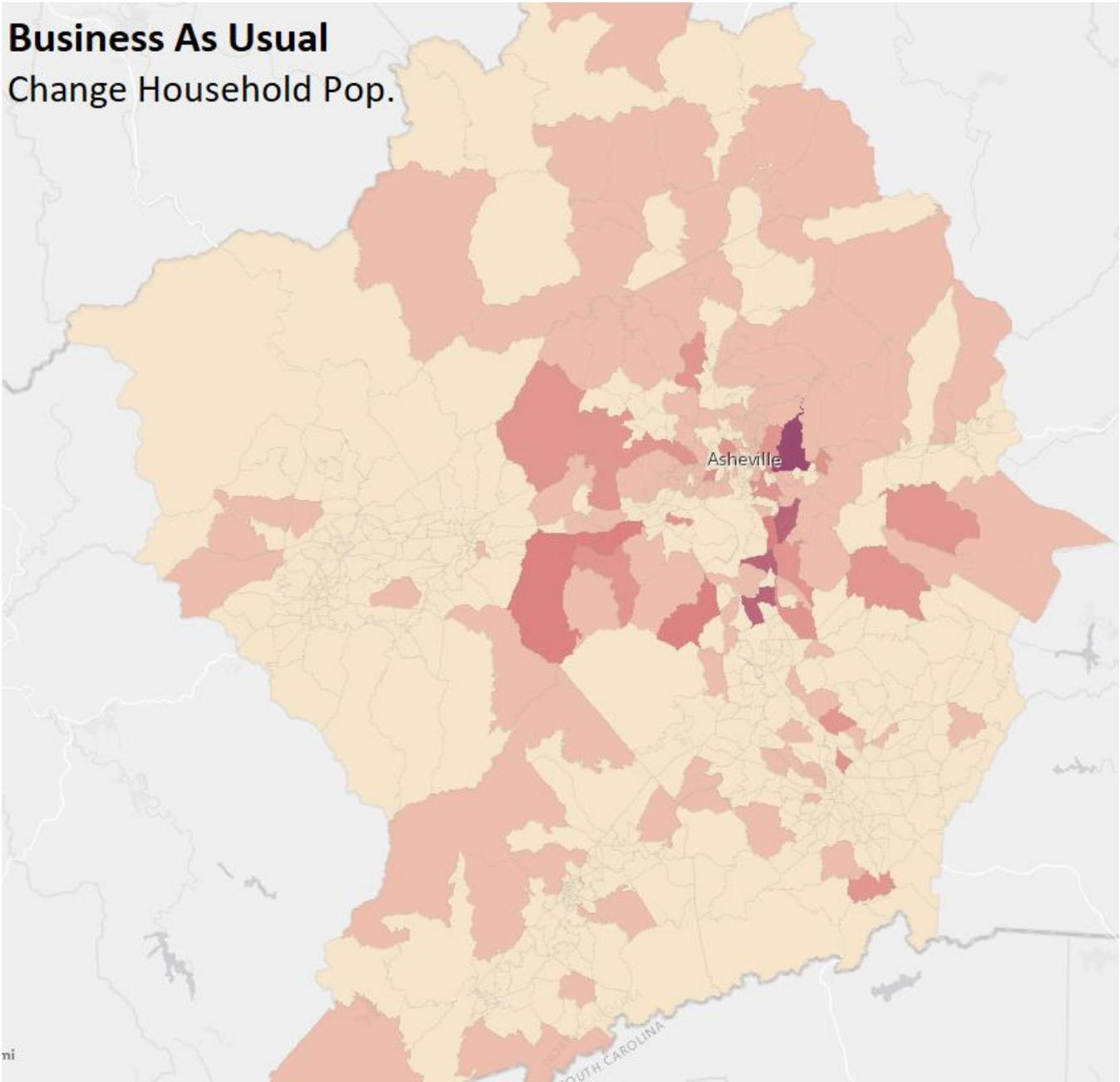
Some screenshots of the data from each scenario (alternating)

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

**Business As Usual**  
Change Household Pop.



Orange/Red= Greater Growth in Household Population

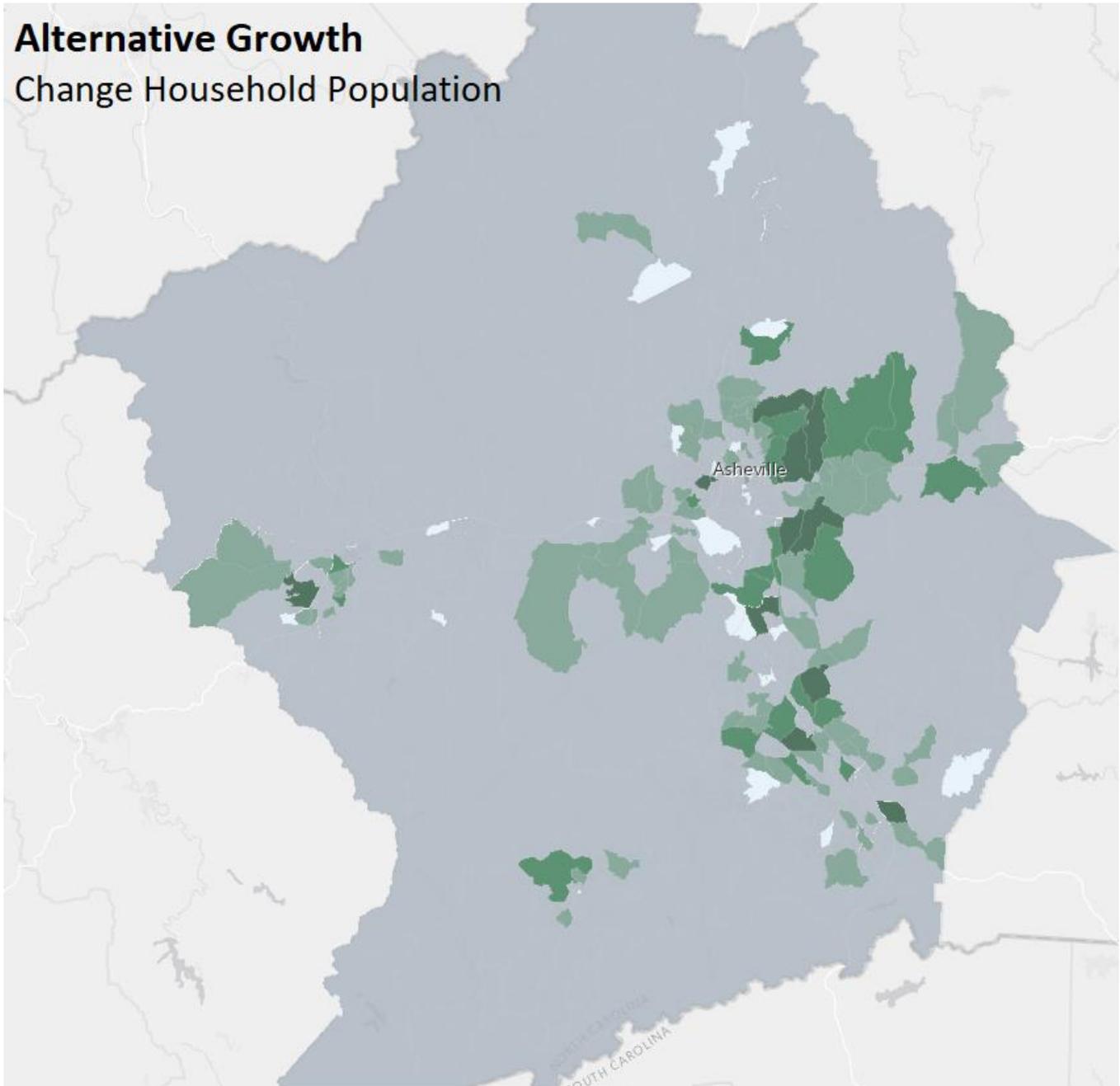
Yellow= Less Growth in Household Population

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

### Alternative Growth Change Household Population



Green= Greater Growth in Household Population

Grey= Less Growth in Household Population

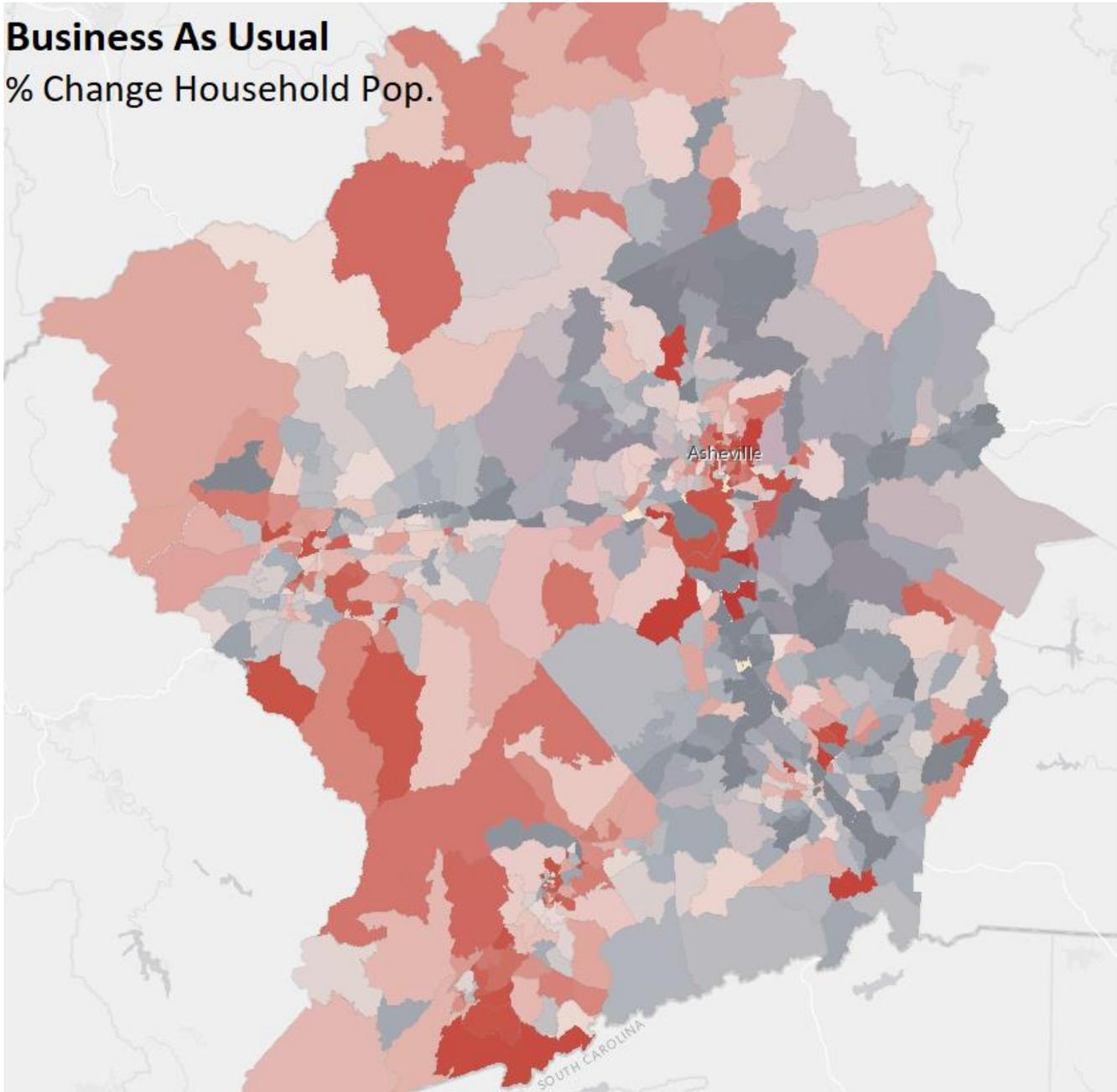
# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

### Business As Usual

% Change Household Pop.



Red= Greater Percentage Change in Household Population

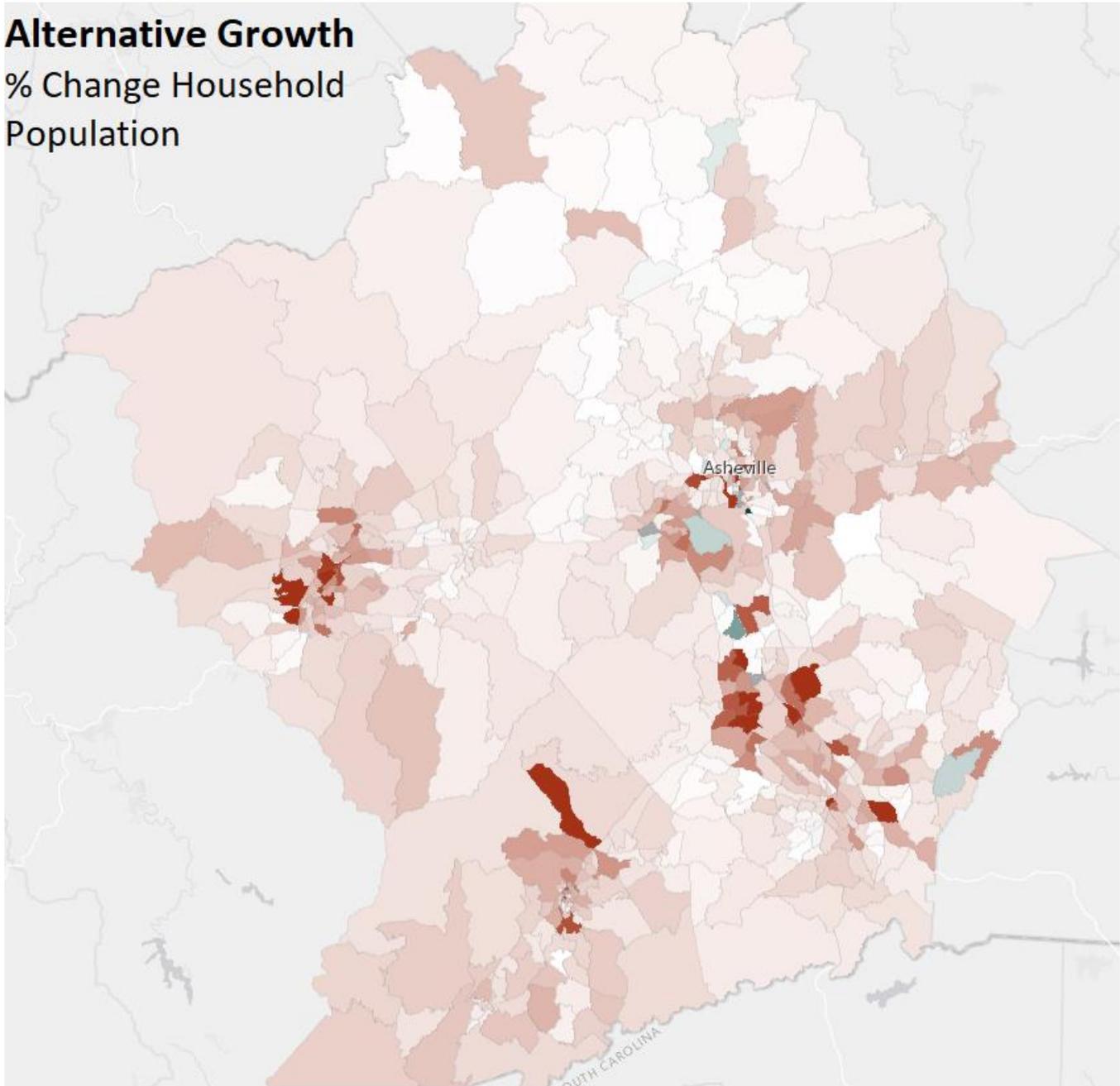
Blue= Lesser Percentage Change in Household Population

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

### Alternative Growth % Change Household Population



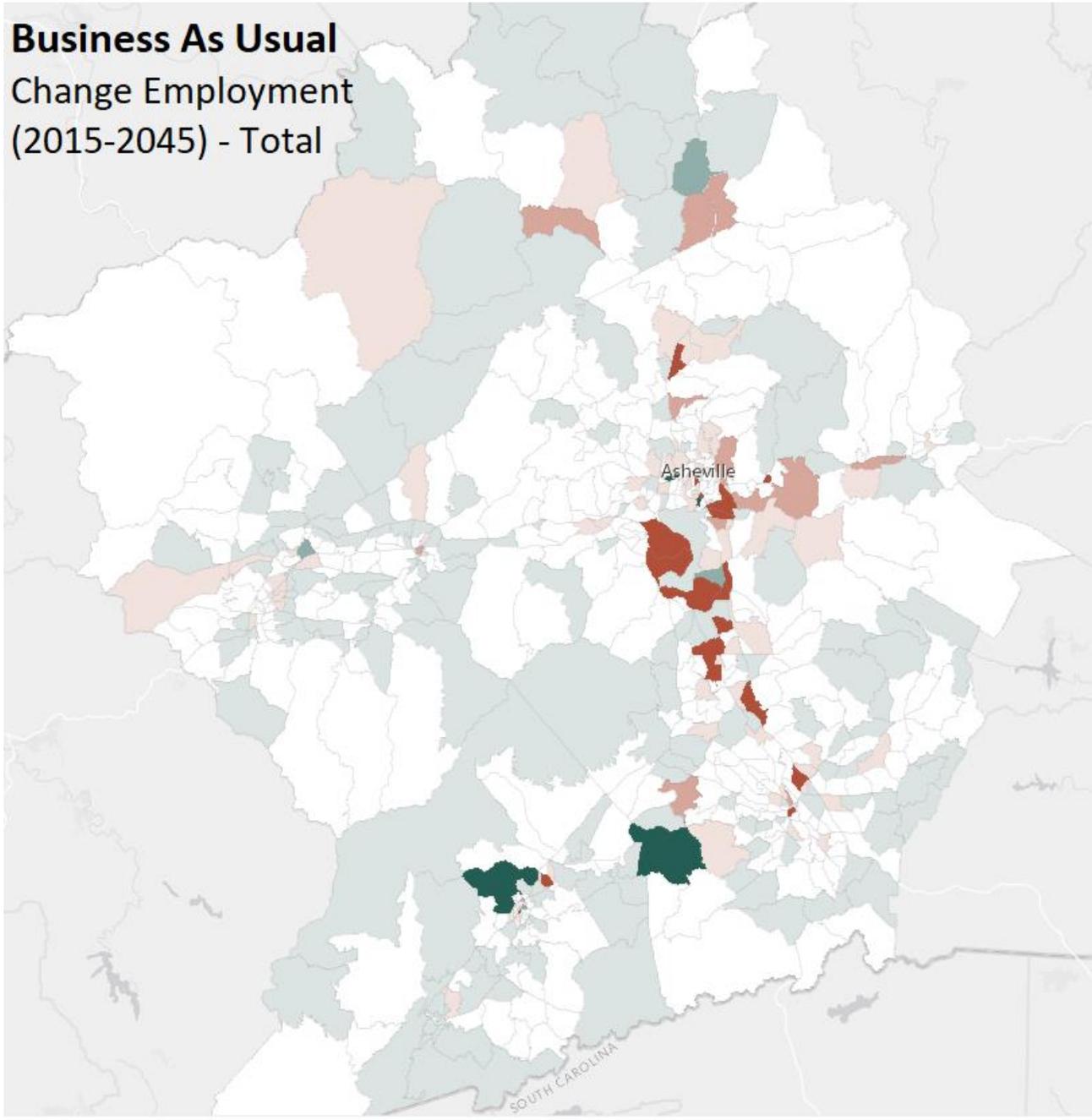
Red= Greater Percentage Change in Household Population  
Tan/White= Less Percentage Change in Household Population

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

**Business As Usual**  
Change Employment  
(2015-2045) - Total



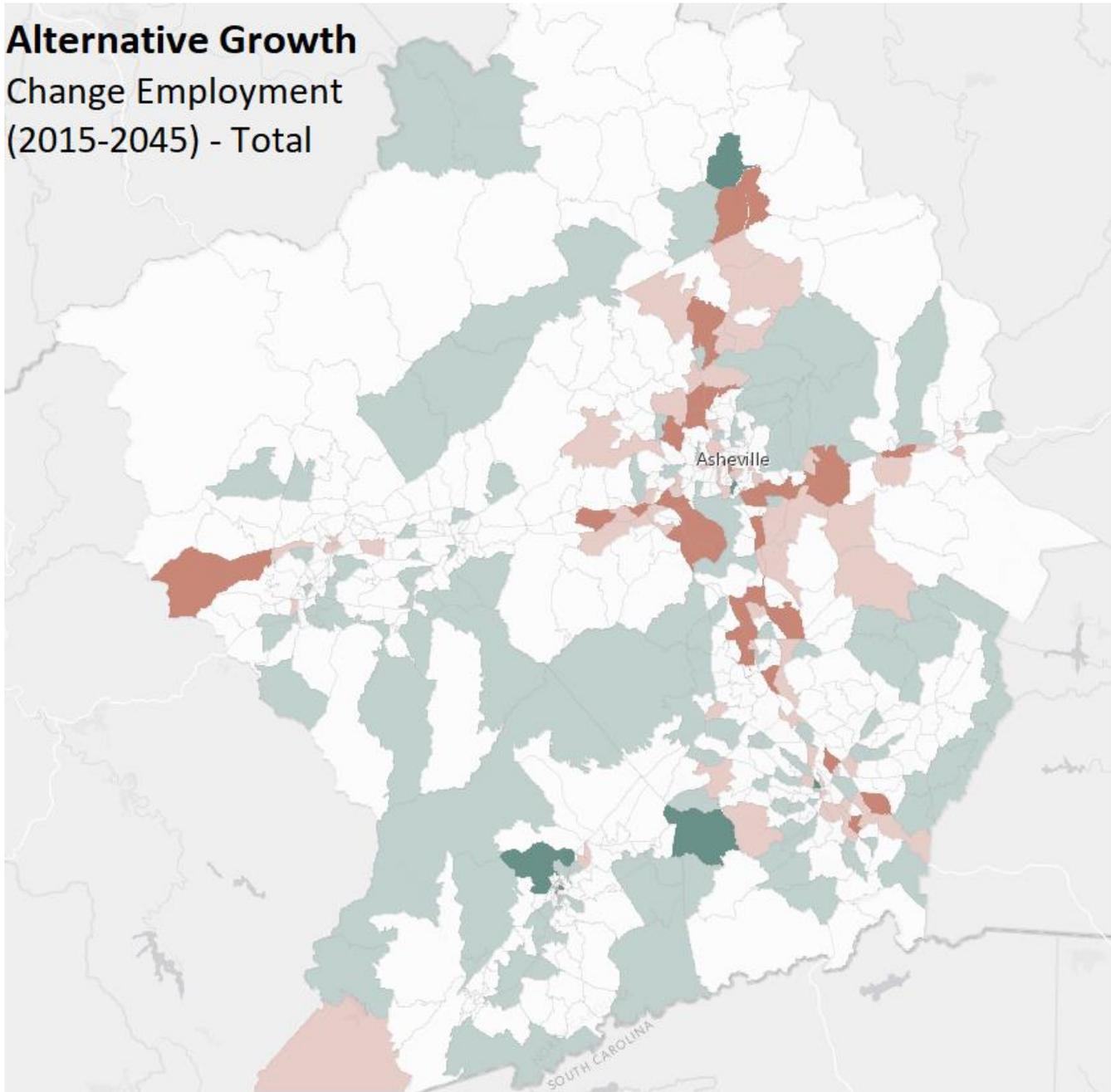
Red= Greater Change in Employment  
Green= Less Change in Employment

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

### Alternative Growth Change Employment (2015-2045) - Total

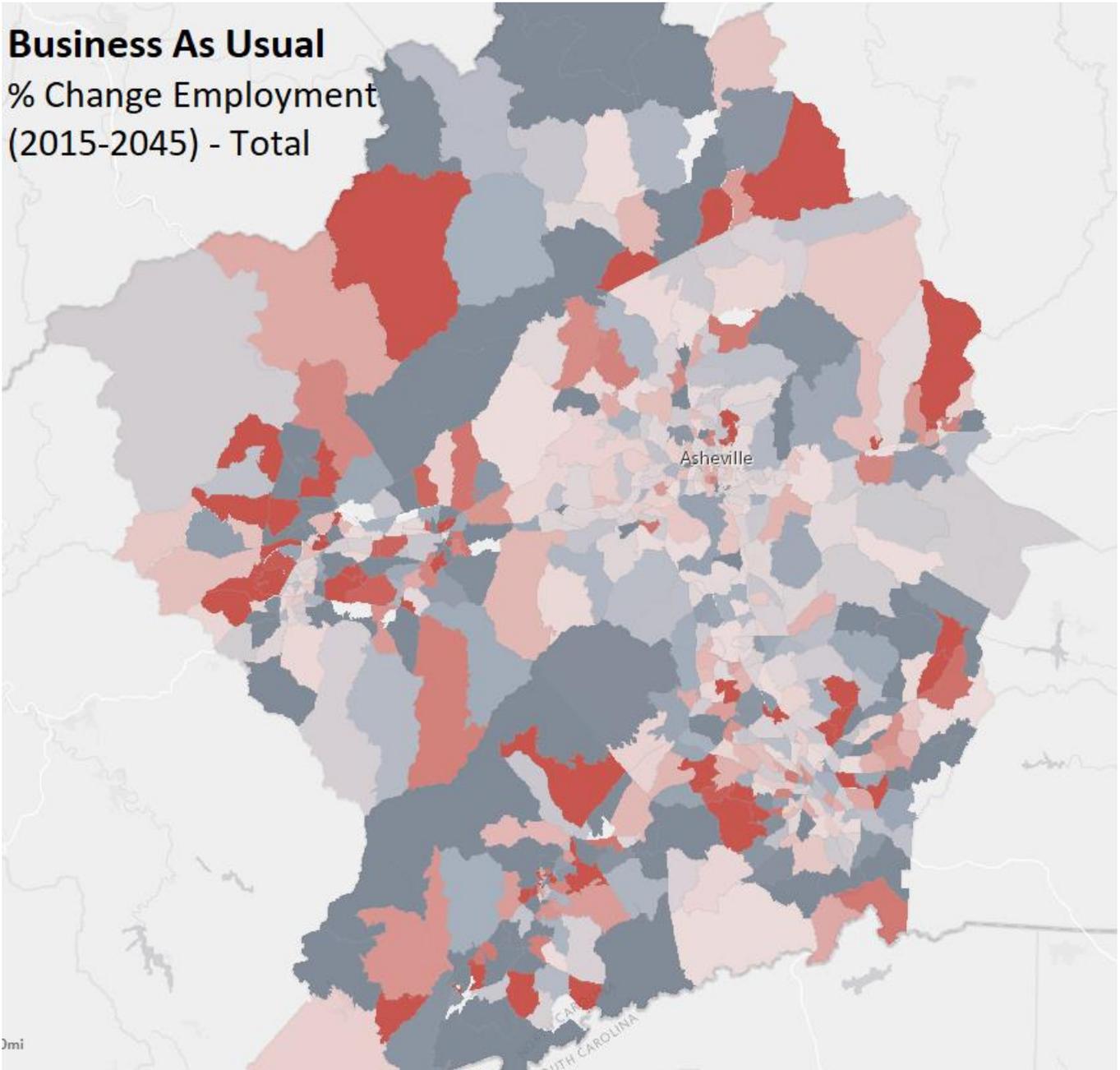


Orange/Red= Greater Change in Employment  
Green/Blue= Less Change in Employment

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations



Red= Greater Percentage Change in Employment

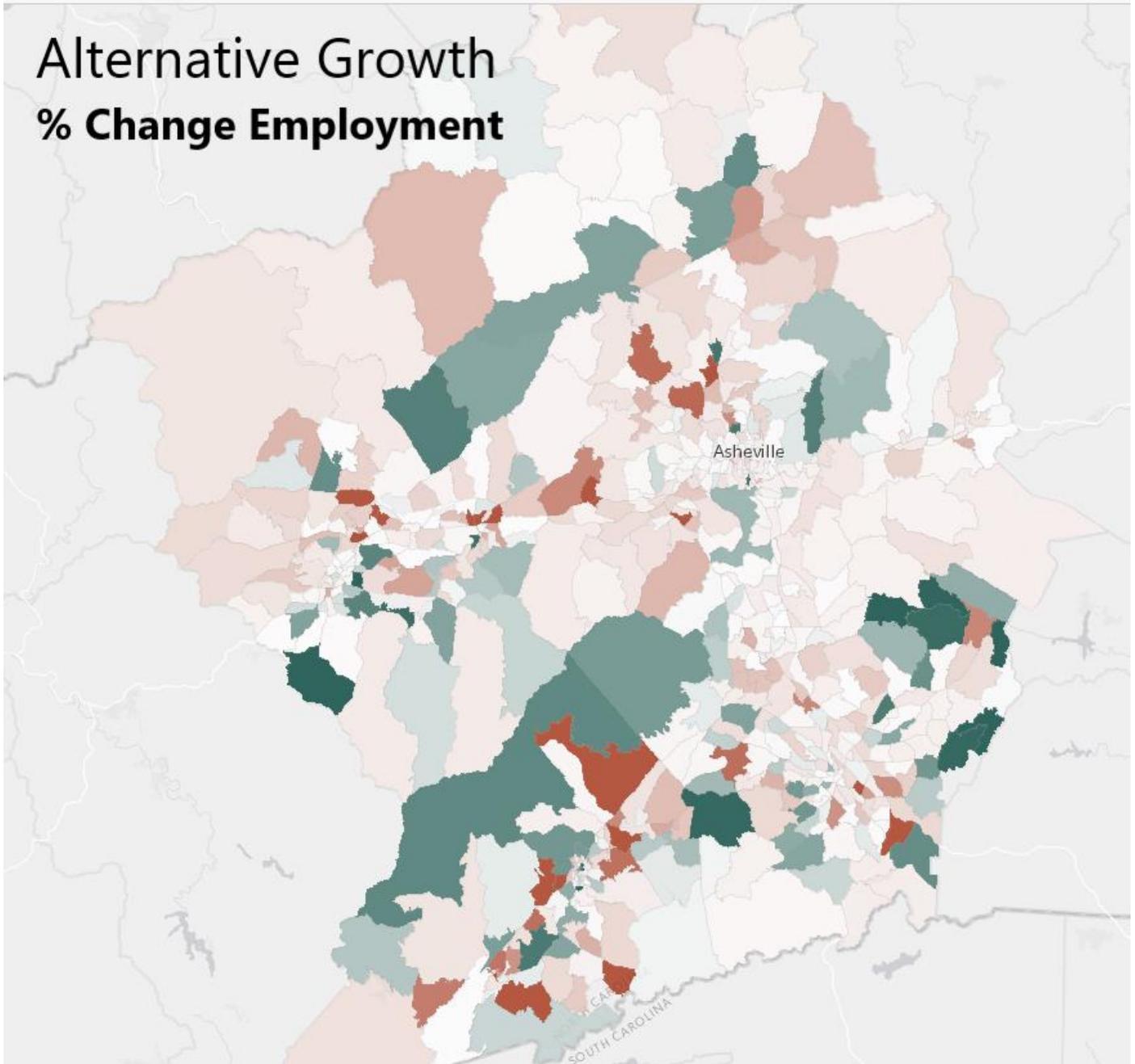
Blue= Less Percentage Change in Employment

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

### Alternative Growth % Change Employment



Orange/Red= Greater Percentage Change in Employment

Blue/Green= Less Percentage Change in Employment