



**French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
Minutes from the Governing Board meeting on February 28, 2019

**Attendance**

**Meeting Date:**

**02/28/2019**

Representing	VotingTAC		Via Phone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of	Julie	Mavfield	<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"/> Fletcher, Town of	Bob	Davy	<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"/> Madison County	Matthew	Wechtel	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mills River, Town of	Brian	Caskey	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCBOT, Division 14	Jack	Debnam	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wavnesville, Town of	LeRov	Roberson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weaverville, Town of	Jeff	McKenna	<input checked="" 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, Asheville MMTC	Kim	Ronev	<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	Lvuba	Zuveva	<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"/> LOSRC	Ritchie	Rozzelle	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LOSRPO	Vicki	Eastland	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mills River, Town of	Brian	Burgess	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT TPB	Pam	Cook	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT TPB	Daniel	Sellers	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Stephen	Sparks	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Hannah	Cook	<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. None were received.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was presented for approval with no modification requested.

***Julie Mayfield moved to approve the agenda as presented. LeRoy Roberson seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.***

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

***Matt Wechtel moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the January 24, 2019 minutes. Brian Caskey 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 – 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 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 transit rep. Urban transit (5307) subrecipients meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 14 at 9am.
  - Citizens' Advisory Committee – The group met on January 16. Next meeting date TBD.
- Legislative Updates were presented.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **FBRMPO Public Involvement Policy (PIP) Update**

Lyuba Zuyeva introduced the background for the item and Nick Kroncke provided additional details. NCDOT Title VI Audit process has identified recommended additions to the FBRMPO Public Involvement Policy. Mainly, the updates clarify and expand the public outreach approaches that will be used by MPO staff. The updated PIP 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).

Nick Kroncke shared that Title VI requirements are meant to reach more underserved/disadvantaged groups. The MPO is working with the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to develop a list of strategies for wider public outreach. The 45-day public comment period was held as required for the PIP update.

***Julie Mayfield moved to approve the updated Public Involvement Policy. Kevin Ensley seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.***

### **Statewide NCMoves 2050 Plan Presentation (Drivers and Opportunities)**

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

Pam Cook communicated that there have been many changes to transportation in the state over the years. She shared that the NCMoves 2050 presentation is meant to provide an opportunity for Board members to have input into the new plan and she encouraged additional public involvement for the 2050 Plan. Pam Cook noted that it is important for non-governmental agencies and the private sector to weigh in on the plan, too. She requested Board members consider questions about factors that are influencing the future of their communities. Tourism, the economy, funding, and demographics, balancing the needs of workers and non-workers, the needs of the aging community, resiliency, technology, “dig once”, etc., among other things, were all noted as concerns earlier this month by the TCC.

Funding was brought up as a concern. Bob Davy commented that project delays need to be examined. Resiliency was noted as a big factor in the FBRMPO region (i.e. rockslides and lack of redundant roadway networks). John Dockendorf shared that climate change could make the coasts less habitable, leading to an influx of climate change refugees. LeRoy Roberson commented on the poorly constructed (private) roads around Waynesville, which often fail. He noted one lane closed on the by-pass. Lyuba Zuyeva commented that shifts in traffic could occur due to non-traditional work hours, influx of more tourists, etc.; making congestion spread out across the day. Ritchie Rozzelle commented on the need for more sustainable alternative modes of transportation. The need for broadband, especially in the rural areas, was noted. Julie Mayfield shared that City of Asheville is facing the need for reliable, affordable transportation options for folks who don't own a vehicle. Ritchie Rozzelle commented on transportation and land use and how that affects the transportation system. It was also noted that another response to climate change could be some sort of carbon-pricing.

***Informational- Provide input/feedback to NCDOT***

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

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

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that upgrading the actual rail track from Asheville to Salisbury is very expensive; however, using the Amtrak bus service provides an interim solution. The estimated expense to operate this bus service for two years is \$800,000. The City of Asheville has provided a resolution of support for the Amtrak bus service between Asheville and Salisbury, as well. Lyuba Zuyeva shared that capital upgrades to the rail network could be considered during future rounds of prioritization.

Discussion occurred regarding the planned bus service through WNC to gauge public interest in this service. Brownie Newman shared his opinion that the target audience for rail is different than bus. Lyuba Zuyeva noted that the Amtrak bus service is working well in eastern parts of the state. Tristan Winkler shared that this is a good first step towards upgrading the rail track to passenger train standards.

***Julie Mayfield moved to approve the resolution of support for additional state funding for rail including Asheville-Salisbury Amtrak bus service. Gwen Wisler seconded the motion.***

Brownie Newman commented that this should be a popular option in the rural communities. Julie Mayfield clarified that Amtrak has some limitations with its bus service, including that the bus service is dependent upon holding a ticket to an Amtrak rail service. Jack Debnam suggested subsidizing Greyhound to provide greater service to rural areas. If this was only rail service, it might be realistic; the addition of the Amtrak express bus service doesn't seem as valuable.

***The motion carried without further discussion.***

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

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that the next public meeting would likely be held sometime in the summer. She also shared some additional current travel time data for the corridor and information about next steps in the NEPA Merger process. Cash flow concerns were also shared.

Discussion occurred about project delays and several Board members requested that NCDOT provide notification to local governments when projects would be delayed or other changes become necessary.

Lyuba Zuyeva discussed the Level of Service "D" and she communicated that the MPO has requested level of service exceptions in the past. She reviewed travel speeds on the corridor travel conditions from Exit 25 to Exit 23. Current travel time data comes from cellphone data. Current travel time/speeds data was also reviewed with the Board. She communicated that detailed project maps with the design alternatives have not been developed yet and she reviewed some of the conceptual trade offs between the 8-lane and 6-lane alternates along the

project route. Detailed impacts of six-lane vs. eight-lane widening on the corridor are not available yet.

Discussion occurred regarding non-concurrence with the NEPA merger process. Lyuba Zuyeva noted that the MPO is not a primary signatory. Additional information from the project design team is expected. Brownie Newman urged the MPO to voice support for examining the 6-lane option. Lyuba Zuyeva communicated that the issue could be reviewed further during the March Board meeting. Tristan Winkler shared that there is a network that is impacted as well- when there is more congestion on this roadway, where would those cars go. This would impact parallel and connecting corridors if the option for 6-lane was chosen. Jeff McKenna noted the topography issues around this section of the project, with regards to pursuing an 8-lane option.

Chair Lapsley reminded the Board that previously, the consultants said they would come back with information on the difference between six or 8 lanes. Julie Mayfield encouraged a thorough examination of both the six-lane and eight-lane options. Brian Burch discussed Concurrence Point 1, where the Level of Service D, which would require eight lanes, was selected. Brian Burch shared that the six-lane option could not be shown to the public, if it didn't meet the purpose and need and was therefore, not an option.

Discussion occurred that if both options were studied now, impacts could be determined prior to a public meeting. If NCDOT says that six lanes would not meet the needs, then that could not be an option. Julie Mayfield commented that embedding the purpose and need so early in the process is a way for NCDOT to avoid potential arguments. Brian Burch explained why purpose and need would be embedded so early in the process. Julie Mayfield concurred that the process to reexamine this issue should begin with the local governments. Chair Lapsley communicated that this item is provided only for information today and that local governments should proceed with a request to reexamine, as they see fit.

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

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

Tristan Winkler reviewed the latest updates to the Hellbender Trail initiative. He shared that a nomination to the steering committee from Transylvania County would be put before the MPO Board soon. The Prioritization Subcommittee plus additional nominees comprise the steering committee, which would begin meeting after the March 12 Prioritization Subcommittee meeting.

***Informational item. No action required at this time.***

### **Announcements**

The MPO's New Board Member Orientation is coming up on Friday, March 15 at 9:00am at Land of Sky offices.

The 2019 NCAMPO conference is coming up on April 24-26 in Charlotte, NC.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

***LeRoy Roberson moved to adjourn the meeting. Matt Wechtel seconded and the meeting adjourned.***