



French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization

Minutes from the TCC meeting on March 12, 2020

ATTENDANCE:

Autumn Radcliff	Tristan Winkler	Zia Rifkin	Nick Kroncke
Vicki Eastland	Emily Scott-Cruz	Jodie Ferguson	Mark Pulliam
William High	Mark Pullium	Steve Cannon	Troy Wilson
Stephen Sparks	Janna Peterson	Mike Dawson	Eric Rufa
Brian Burgess	Chris Medlin	Daniel Heyman	Joel Setzer
Dan Baechtold	Hannah Cook	Erica Anderson	Lori Boyer-Davenport
Josh O'Conner	James Voso	Daniel Sellers	

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Autumn Radcliff opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and introductions followed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Autumn Radcliff indicated that the Consent Agenda included the February 13, 2020 minutes. He requested approval for the Agenda at this time, as well.

Dan Baechtold moved to approve the previous minutes and the agenda. Jodie Ferguson seconded and the motion carried as all were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one made any public comments.

BUSINESS

Final FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program

The French Broad River MPO is required to develop a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) by March 2020. A draft was previously brought before the TCC and Board in January. The MPO is also required to consider a self-certification resolution that reflects that the MPO is following federal requirements.

The UPWP is a federally mandated document for MPO's to produce that is, essentially, the MPO's budget. This includes line items of work for MPO staff as well as studies being carried out using federal planning funds.

Major Changes between the FY 2020 and FY 2021 UPWP include:

-The 2045 MTP is expected to be completed early in the fiscal year so less funding would be allocated to developing the MTP

- More funding allocated for TIP Development/Prioritization to go along with P 6.0
- More funding allocated towards Special Study Coordination with the Regional Transit Study and Corridor Studies expected to be on-going.
- More funding is being put towards Statewide Coordination with MPO Staff on the Statewide Resiliency Workgroup, SPOT Workgroup, Non-Motorized Planning Workgroup, and Data Users Workgroup.
- Less funding allocated to “Regional Planning” with the 2045 MTP expected to be adopted in August 2020.
- The Regional Transit Study, Richland Creek Greenway Study, and Asheville Bike/Ped Count Equipment have all been moved to FY 2021

Vicki Eastland moved to recommend Board Approval for the FY 2021 UPWP and MPO Self-Certification. Daniel Heyman seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Amendments to the FBRMPO CTP

The Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) is a state-required planning document that is created by NCDOT Transportation Planning Division in cooperation with the MPO and NCDOT Divisions. The CTP primarily lists areas with deficiencies or needs and gives preliminary purpose and needs to prospective projects. The CTP is not fiscally constrained.

The FBRMPO’s CTP was last updated in 2008 but a number of projects not listed in the CTP have been requested by local governments. These include:

- Modernization of Blue Ridge Road in Buncombe County
- Upgrading Woodfin Street from College Street to Lexington Avenue in Asheville.
- Improving the intersection of North Main Street and US 25B (Asheville Highway) in Hendersonville

William High moved to recommend Board approval for CTP Amendments. Daniel Heyman seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Final Project Submittal List for Prioritization

The Prioritization Process (aka, SPOT) is the process in which the majority of funding decisions is made for transportation improvement projects. North Carolina has a relatively unique process for prioritizing projects that is data-driven and transparent, as mandated by the Strategic Transportation Investments law. MPOs, RPOs, and NCDOT Division work together to develop and prioritize projects across the state with the goal of efficiently using transportation funds to enhance infrastructure while supporting economic growth and local needs.

MPO staff assembled a Draft SPOT Project list from meetings with local government staff as well as the Henderson TAC. Projects that are submitted in the SPOT process will be *under consideration* for funding for the 2023-2032 Transportation Improvement Program. This list of projects will go before the TCC and Board in February, go out for public comment in February, and go back to the TCC and Board for final approval in March. Submittals are due to the SPOT office by the end of April. This is the first major step in the prioritization process to determine what projects will get funded.

The general SPOT schedule was shared:

Date	Action
February, 2020	MPO Board Considers Draft Project Submittal List
February 28-March 25	Public Comment on Draft Project Submittal List
March, 2020	Final Project Submittal List Approved
Fall/Winter, 2020	Public Survey on Projects
February, 2021	Project Scores Released, Statewide Mobility Projects Programmed, MPO Local Input
April-May, 2021	Local Input Points Considered for Regional Impact Points
September-October, 2021	Local Input Points Considered for Division Needs Points
February, 2022	Draft STIP Released

New submittal lists were shared

Buncombe County			
Route	From	To	Improvement
US 25 (Hendersonville Road)	I-40	Overlook Road	Access Management
US 25 (Hendersonville Road)	NC 146 (Long Shoals Road)	NC 280 (Airport Road)	Access Management
US 25 (Merrimon Avenue)	Wembley Road	I-240	Road Diet
Blue Ridge Road	I-40	NC 9	Modernization
US 70	Blue Ridge Road	NC 9	Road Diet
US 25A (Biltmore Avenue) & US 25 (McDowell Street)	Hilliard Avenue	All Souls Crescent	Roadway Upgrade
US 70 (Tunnel Road)/US 74A (South Tunnel Road)	The Tunnel	NC 81 (Swannanoa River Road)	Access Management
US 23A (Haywood Road)	State Street, N Louisiana Avenue		Multiple Intersection Improvements
Woodfin Street	College Street	Lexington Avenue	Roadway Upgrade
US 25A (Sweeten Creek Road)	I-40	US 25 (Biltmore Avenue)	Roadway Upgrade
US 70 (Tunnel Road)/US 74A (South Tunnel Road)	I-240	Blue Ridge Parkway	Access Management
US 25/US 19/23B (Weaverville Highway)	Elkwood Avenue	Reems Creek Road	Access Management
US 19/23 (Smokey Park Highway)	I-40	NC 151	Access Management

Haywood County			
Route	From	To	Improvement
US 19/23	Chestnut Mountain Road	NC 215	Roadway Upgrade
New Clyde Highway	NC 215	Midway Crossings Drive	Access Management
Brown Avenue	Hazelview Drive	Boyd Avenue	Modernization
US 19 (Dellwood Road)	US 276 (Russ Avenue)	US 276 (Jonathan Creek Road)	Access Management

Henderson County			
Route	From	To	Improvement
White Pine Drive & Hebron Road	US 64	Kanuga Road	Modernization
US 25B (Asheville Highway)	North Main Street	-	Intersection Improvement
Fanning Bridge Road	US 25	NC 280	Modernization
Blythe Street	US 64	NC 191	Modernization
Butler Bridge Road	US 25	NC 280	Modernization
Thompson St/Signal Hill Rd/Berkley Rd	US 64 (Four Seasons Blvd)	US 25B (Asheville Highway)	Modernization
Duncan Hill Road	US 64 (Four Seasons Blvd)	North Main Street	Modernization

Madison County			
Route	From	To	Improvement
Bruce Road	North Main Street	Bailey Street	Modernization

New submittals Bike/Ped were shared:

Buncombe County			
Route	From	To	Improvement
Bent Creek Greenway	Hominy Creek Greenway	French Broad River Greenway	Multi-Use Path
Bent Creek Greenway	WNC Farmer's Market	Asheville Outlets	Multi-Use Path
Bent Creek Greenway	French Broad River	Lake Julian	Multi-Use Path
Reems Creek Greenway	Quarry Road	Mill Park	Multi-Use Path
Fonta Flora Trail	Yates Avenue	Black Mountain Town Limits	Multi-Use Path
North Blue Ridge Road	US 70	Fortune Street	Sidewalks
Coxe Avenue	Patton Avenue	Short Coxe	Pedestrian Improvements
Lexington Avenue	Patton Avenue	Southside Avenue	Pedestrian Improvements
Reed Creek Greenway	Magnolia Avenue	Cherry Street	Multi-Use Path
Riverside Drive	Hill Street	I-240	Improve Rail Crossing for Bicyclists
Old Haywood Road	US 19/23 (Patton Avenue)	US 19/23 (Patton Avenue)	Sidewalks

Haywood County			
Route	From	To	Improvement
Champion Drive	North Canton Road	Thickety Road	Bike Lanes
Richland Creek Greenway	Recreation Park	Haywood High-Tech Center	Multi-Use Path

Allen's Creek Road	Lickstone Road	Piney Mountain Road	Sidewalks
Old Clyde Highway	Blackwell Drive	Greenberry Street	Sidewalks

Henderson County			
Route	From	To	Improvement
Allen Branch Greenway	US 64	I-26	Multi-Use Path
NC 280	French Broad River	NC 191	Multi-Use Path
Fanning Bridge Road	US 25	Underwood Road	Sidewalks
Oklawaha Greenway Extension	Jackson Park	Blue Ridge Community College	Multi-Use Path
Brooklyn Avenue	NC 225	US 176	Sidewalks
US 64	Orrs Camp Road	Howard Gap Road	Sidewalks
Ecusta Trail	Kanuga Road	Transylvania County Line	Rail-to-Trail

Madison County			
Route	From	To	Improvement
Bailey Street	Bearwood Drive	Forest Street	Sidewalks
Banjo Branch Greenway	Hickory Drive	Banjo Branch Road	Multi-Use Path

New submittals Transit were shared:

Transit Agencies	
Project	Sponsor
One expansion vehicle, Transit Station Upgrade, and Four Transit Shelters	Haywood Transit (Mountain Projects)
New Maintenance Facility, Transit Station Upgrade, Expansion Vehicles	City of Asheville

Projects that are either in the Developmental portion of the TIP (funded for right-of-way in FY 2026 or later) or are considered a "Sibling" of a project in the TIP are automatically resubmitted into the next round of prioritization, unless requested otherwise. Carryover projects do not count towards the MPO's 25 submittals for each mode.

Carryover Projects in the FBRMPO region for P 6.0 Include:

P6.0 Carryover Projects				
Route	From	To	Improvement	County
I-40	I-240	US 74A	Interchange Improvement	Buncombe
I-40	Porter's Cove Road	-	Interchange Improvement	Buncombe
I-26	US 25	US 64	Widening	Henderson
I-40	Wiggins Road	Monte Vista Road	Widening	Buncombe
I-40	US 74	NC 215	Widening	Haywood

I-40	NC 215	Exit 37 (Wiggins Road)	Widening	Haywood
Future I-26	US 25	SR 2207	Modernization	Buncombe
Future I-26	SR 2207	South of SR 2148	Modernization	Buncombe
US 19	Fie Top Road	Blue Ridge Parkway	Modernization	Haywood
NC 191	US 25	Mountain Road	Widening	Henderson
NC 191	NC 280	Ledbetter Road	Widening	Buncombe, Henderson

Tristan Winkler noted that, as of now, these are the projects that the MPO intends to submit.

Brian Burgess moved to recommend the Project Submittal List to the Board for Approval. William High seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Access Management Presentation

Over the next several months, the MPO plans to have several presentations to go through the meanings and benefits of specific improvement types (SIT) that are submitted to SPOT for prioritization.

The first SIT for discussion is Access Management. The MPO and NCDOT Divisions are planning to submit a number of Access Management projects across the region for SPOT 6.0 (as discussed in Item 4C.) Access management projects largely involve the addition of a median to a roadway to improve safety and can help to alleviate congestion in some circumstances. NCDOT Division 13 staff, Hannah Cook, presented on the topic.

Hannah Cook provided an overview of access management. Conceptually, the relationship between mobility and access is examined for the different types of roadways. Arterial roads have high mobility, which could decline as more access points are added. Issues include conflict points with uncontrolled access. The numbers and types of conflicts points influence the safety of a roadway. Access management is the design and control of entry and exit points along a roadway. Hannah Cook reviewed access management strategies along corridors and at intersections. Benefits of access management include increasing safety and capacity and leading to travel-time savings. Different benefits are seen on rural arterials from urban arterials. Benefits are realized by motorists and other users (bicyclists/pedestrians). It was noted that safe access is good for business as it helps to protect commercial property values and allows customers to access businesses safely.

Informational item. No action requested.

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

No meeting cycle in April. Next meetings in May (TCC- 5/14 & Board- 5/28).
NCAMPO conference coming up at the end of April

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.

ADJOURNMENT

Autumn Radcliff adjourned the meeting, as there was no further business.