

MPO Governing Board

May 27, 2021 – 1:00 P.M., Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Login: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/92336004656>

Meeting ID: 923 3600 4656

Call-In: (312)626-6799

Agenda

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

 - A. Welcome and Introductions, Approval of Agenda Larry Harris
 - B. Ethics Statement for MPO Board Members Larry Harris
 - C.

 2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

 3. **CONSENT AGENDA** Larry Harris

 - A. April, 2021 Minutes
 - B. Resolution of Support for Hendersonville Pedestrian Planning Grant Application
 - C. TDM Funding Letter

 4. **BUSINESS (10-20 min)**

 - A. FTA ARPA Funding Distribution MPO Staff
 - B. Amendments to the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) MPO Staff

 5. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (30-45 min)**

 - A. I-2513 (I-26 Connector) Update NCDOT Staff
 - B. I-40 Wildlife Crossings Project Safe Passage

 6. **REGULAR UPDATES (15 min)**

 - A. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates Mark Gibbs/Wanda Austin 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. **TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING**

 9. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

 10. **ADJOURNMENT**

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Item 3:

Consent Agenda

Item 3A: April, 2021 Board Minutes

Item 3B: Resolution of Support for Hendersonville Pedestrian Planning Grant Application

Item 3C: TDM Funding Letter

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Item 3A:

April, 2021 Minutes

French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization
Virtual Meeting via the Zoom Platform
Minutes from the Governing Board meeting on April 22, 2021

April 22, 2021: Remote Attendance via Zoom

Chair Larry Haris (Town of Black Mountain)
Tristan Winkler (FBRMPO)
Nick Kroncke (FBRMPO)
Emily Scott-Cruz (FBRMPO)
John Ridout (FBRMPO)
Hannah Bagli (LOSRC-TDM)
Tom Carpenter (Village of Flat Rock)
Mike Eveland (Town of Maggie Valley)
Mariate Echeverry (AECOM)
Bob Davy (Town of Fletcher)
Troy Wilson (NCDOT Division 14)
Anne Coletta (Village of Flat Rock)
Stephen Sparks (NCDOT Division 14)
Steve Williams (NCDOT Division 14)
Jennifer Hibbert (AECOM)
George Banta (Town of Laurel Park)
Brian Caskey (Town of Mills River)
Jeff McKenna (Town of Weaverville)
Parker Sloan (Buncombe Commission)
Gwen Wisler (City of Asheville)

Jennifer Hensley (City of Hendersonville)
Wanda Austin (NCDOT Division 14)
Jill Cahoon (AECOM)
Chris Medlin (NCDOT)
Daniel Sellers (NCDOT TPD)
Rebecca McCall (Henderson Commission)
Hannah Cook (NCDOT Division 13)
Michael Dawson (FHWA)
Jason Gilliland (Site Design Studio)
Matt Wechtel (Madison Commission)
Kenny Armstrong
Rebecca McCall (Henderson Commission)
George Webb (FBRMPO Citizen's Advisory Committee)
Christopher Todd (Town of Laurel Park)
Chuck McGrady (NCBOT Division 14)
Mark Gibbs (NCDOT Division 13)
Autumn Radcliff (Henderson County)

April 22, 2021: In-Person Attendance at the Land of Sky Office

Zia Rifkin (Minutes)

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS, ROLL CALL, APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Larry Harris called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chair Harris read the Ethics Statement and inquired if there were any conflicts of interest to note for today's meeting. No voting members of the Board registered any conflicts with the business before the body. The roll was called and quorum established.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments received.

CONSENT AGENDA (including agenda approval)

Bob Davy moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the February 25, 2021 meeting minutes and the agenda as presented. Anne Coletta seconded, and the motion carried unanimously upon a roll call vote, and without further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

5310 Project Selection and CRRSAA

Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) funds are allocated to the Asheville Urbanized Area (UZA), with the City of Asheville serving as the designated recipient for these funds. The application process for Section 5310 ran from November 20th, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Additional information about Section 5310 is available at: <http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/5310-and-jarc/>.

The 5310 Grant has two categories for funding:

- Traditional/Capital projects: at least 55% of the total funding amount has to go to "traditional" projects.
- Other/Operations projects: no more than 45% of the total funding amount can go to these projects (FBRMPO typically sets 35% of funds aside for Other projects)

FY2020 5310 Available Funding	\$346,676
Admin	\$34,668
Funding available after 10% Admin	\$312,008

The Asheville UZA was awarded Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Apportionment Act (CRRSAA) funds to Section 5310. Funds are to be used for 5310 operations and payroll (if recipients have furloughed employees). The UZA received \$60,153 in additional Section 5310 funds. The Regional Transit Operators Workgroup met to discuss CRRSAA funding, deciding that the best approach would be to divert the funding, which totals \$54,138 after taking out 10% administrative costs for the City of Asheville to a single recipient. The ongoing 5310 Call for Projects made this process simplified.

CRRSAA 5310 (Total)	\$60,153
10% Admin	\$6,015
CRRSAA after Admin	\$54,138

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The agencies that submitted “Other” (operating) projects with the highest funding request, for only one project, were asked if they could provide an updated letter of local match and extend their Period of Performance to expend the entire \$54,138. Senior Companions was approached first because their project spans more than one County; however, they were unable to provide a match commitment letter for the full amount. Mountain Projects was also approached and confirmed their ability to provide a local match commitment, revised budget, and certification that they have not furloughed employees.

SUBMITTED PROJECTS:

The table below shows the projects submitted and funding requested.

Applicant	Traditional or Other	Project Title	Period of Performance	Project Description	Funding Requested	Local Match	Total Cost
Buncombe County	Traditional	SEDAP	7/1/21 - 6/30/22	Door to door service for seniors/disabled on ADA compliant vans. Funds to support medical trips for elderly adults; demand response for customers with disabilities. 5310 funds allow more state and local funds to extend across all programs to cover transportation needs.	\$ 200,081	\$ 50,021	\$ 1,257,510
City of Asheville	Traditional	Asheville Paratransit	7/1/21 - 6/30/22	Allows CoA to offer service to residents beyond the 3/4 service boundary	\$ 166,832	\$ 41,708	\$ 208,540
Buncombe County	Other	RIDE Voucher Program	2/1/22 - 6/20/22	Curb to curb, user side subsidy that allows users to purchase vouchers for rides at a lower rate to be used in Buncombe county for same day, unforeseen trips and trips not available through public transit	\$ 20,112	\$ 20,112	\$ 40,224
Land of Sky	Other	Senior Companions Program	7/1/21 - 6/30/22	Provides companions for senior adults that provide transportation and other needed services.	\$ 42,838	\$ 42,838	\$ 85,676
Madison County	Other	Expanded Nutrition Access	7/1/21 - 6/30/22	Continue providing home delivery meals for Mars Hill meal site and provide extra 35 home deliveries since March 2020.	\$ 26,058	\$ 26,058	\$ 52,116
Madison County	Other	Expanded Transportation to Mars Hill	7/1/21 - 6/30/22	Allow MCTA to continue providing transportation services to Mars Hill residents for medical appointments and other accessibility, covering cost of driver, vans, scheduling, and management.	\$ 17,426	\$ 17,426	\$ 34,852
Mountain Projects, Inc.	Other	Haywood Public Transit Paratransit	7/1/21 - 6/30/22	Funds support paratransit services; if awarded, 5310 State funding could serve a wider portion of Haywood County and these funds could pay for the USA	\$ 43,136	\$ 43,136	\$ 86,272

The Prioritization Subcommittee scored the Traditional Projects after choosing to recommend fully funding FY22 Other Projects using CRRSAA and 5310 funds. Prioritization recommended TCC choose Alternative 5 to recommend to the Board, and TCC recommended Alternative 5 in their meeting on April 8. The breakdown of funding is in the table below.

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METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

<i>Funding Type</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Percentage of Total Allocation</i>
Admin	\$ 34,668	10%
Total Traditional Projects Funding	\$ 205,574	59%
Total Other Projects Funding	\$ 106,434	31%
Total 5310 Funding Amount	\$ 346,676	100%

Alternative 5:

Split the total Traditional funding available (\$205,574) between Buncombe’s SEDTAP and Asheville’s Paratransit—leaving each project with \$102,787. Use CRRSAA funds as detailed above and fully fund Other 5310 projects, diverting that additional \$14,902 to Traditional funding.

Traditional Projects:

Alternative 5	Project Title	Recommended Funding	Recommended Funding Level	Funding Requested	Local Match
Buncombe County	SEDTAP	\$ 102,787	51%	\$200,081	\$25,697
City of Asheville	Asheville Paratransit	\$ 102,787	62%	\$166,832	\$25,697

Other Projects:

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Applicant	Project Title	Period of Performance	Recommended Funding	Recommended Funding Level	Funding Requested	Local Match	Total Cost
Buncombe County	RIDE Voucher Program	2/1/22-6/30/22	\$ 20,112	100%	\$20,112	\$20,112	\$40,224
Land of Sky	Senior Companions Program	7/1/21 - 6/30/22	\$ 42,838	100%	\$ 42,838	\$ 42,838	\$ 85,676
Madison County	Expanded Nutrition Access	7/1/21 - 6/30/22	\$ 26,058	100%	\$ 26,058	\$ 26,058	\$ 52,116
Madison County	Expanded Transportation to Mars Hill	7/1/21 - 6/30/22	\$ 17,426	100%	\$ 17,426	\$17,426	\$ 34,852
CRRSAA Funding							
Mountain Projects, Inc.	Haywood Public Transit Paratransit	7/1/21 - 12/31/22	\$ 108,276	100%	\$ 54,138	\$ 54,138	\$108,276

Parker Sloan moved to approve funding alternative # 5 as recommended by the Prioritization Subcommittee and the TCC. Gwen Wisler seconded, and the motion carried upon a roll call vote, and without further discussion.

Final FY 22 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The French Broad River MPO is required to develop a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and present a draft in February with the final version approved in May.

The UPWP is a federally mandated document for MPO's to produce that serves as the MPO's budget. This includes line items of work for MPO staff, planning work planned by the region's designated recipient for FTA 5303 Metropolitan Planning Funds (City of Asheville), as well as studies being carried out using federal planning funds.

Major Changes between the FY 2021 and FY 2022 UPWP include the following:

- More emphasis is being put on data, modeling, and travelers' behavior to reflect anticipated work to build the region's base-year socio-economic dataset for the 2050 MTP. This includes further work on updating the region's land use layer,
- More funding is being put towards TIP Development/Prioritization to go along with anticipated work tasks for P 6.0
- Less funding is being put towards Special Study Coordination with the Regional Transit Study and Corridor Studies expected to be completed.
- Less funding is being put towards Statewide Planning & Coordination (less travel, likely)
- More funding is being put towards Regional Planning with work beginning to ramp up for the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the 5307 Suballocation Formula being discussed/reconsidered, and work to begin on updating the Locally Coordinated Human Services and Public Transportation Plan

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Staff Report & Recommendations

MPO's are required to annually certify that they have conformed to federal planning requirements for Metropolitan Transportation Planning. A resolution is passed by the MPO annually with the Final UPWP.

Discussion occurred regarding the 20% local match, provided by member governments through dues, utilized to support match requirements on grants, etc. Tristan Winkler shared that local dues would not increase for FY 2022

Bob Davy moved to approve the final FY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and the Self-Certification resolution. Gwen Wisler seconded, and the motion carried upon a roll call vote, and without further discussion.

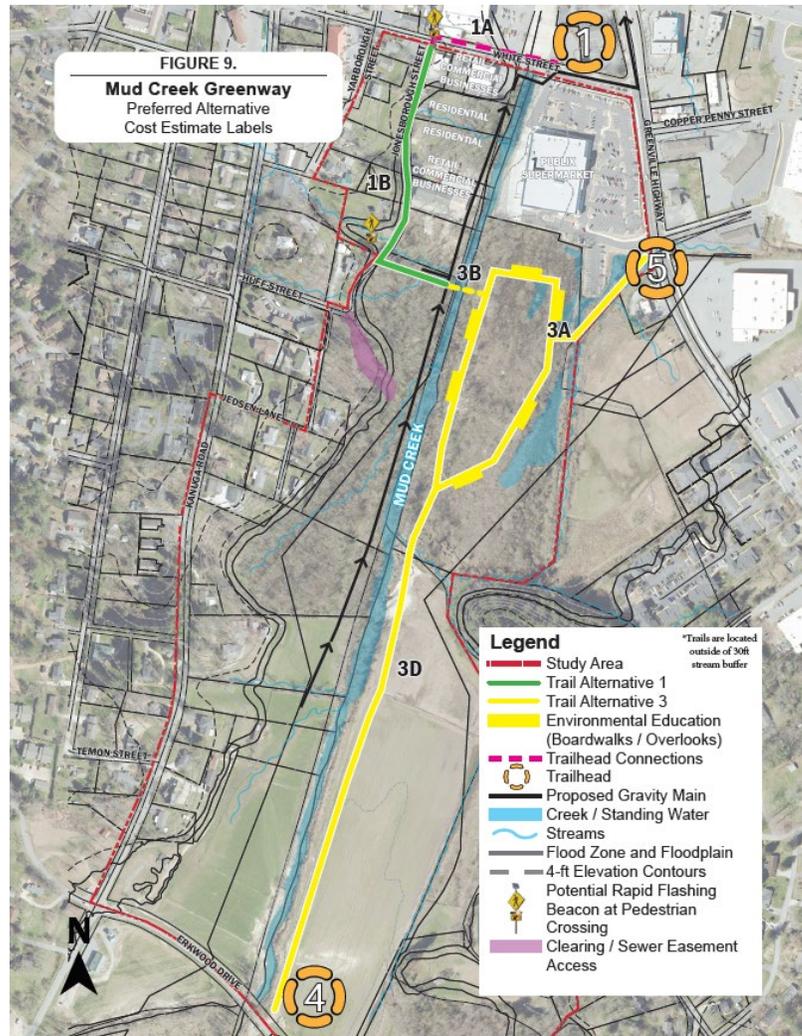
Mud Creek Greenway Study Presentation

Project Overview: Henderson County applied for funding to conduct a feasibility study along Mud Creek in south Hendersonville to provide safe infrastructure for pedestrians and bicyclists. The study was conducted in FY 2021, primarily to look at potential alignments and cost estimates for pursuing a multi-use path roughly parallel to the creek. The study area is a quickly growing and developing part of Henderson County that also has frequent flooding issues near the creek.

The project team for the Mud Creek Greenway Study is made up of AECOM and Henderson County staff, Mariate Echeverry, representing AECOM, provided a presentation on the findings from the study to the MPO TCC.

Discussion occurred regarding the distance the greenway would travel (about one-mile) and where it might be located in relation to White Street in Hendersonville. Tristan Winkler shared that follow-up steps for the study could include adoption by the City and/or County, then seeking funding either through grants or the prioritization process. He noted also that the project might fall under the Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP).

Information item. No action requested.



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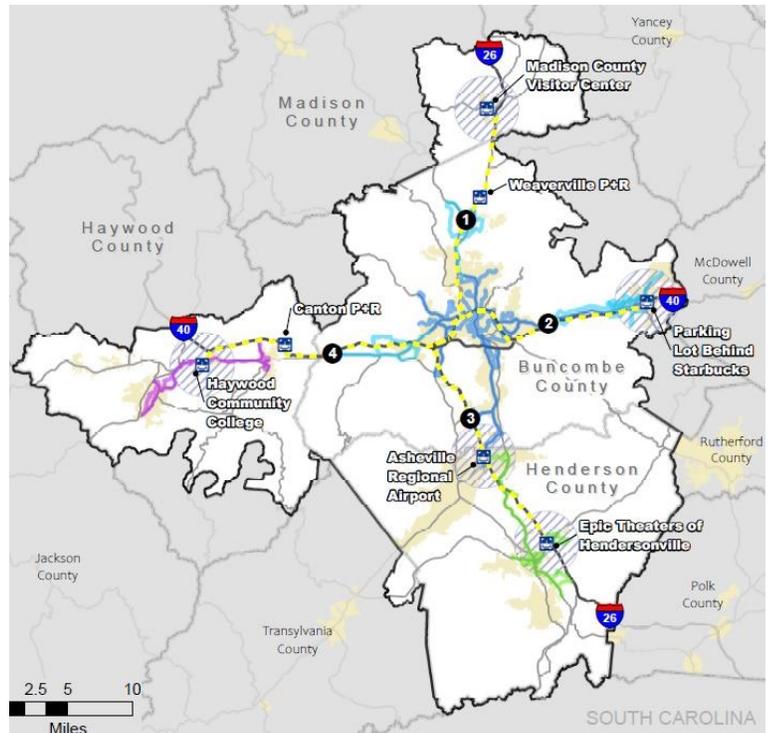
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Staff Report & Recommendations

Regional Transit Feasibility Study Update

AECOM staff, Jill Cahoon, Jennifer Hibbert, and Mariate Echeverry, provided a presentation on the current findings and recommendations of the study beginning with a project overview.

The MPO approved a Regional Transit Feasibility Study for its FY 2021 UPWP. The study looks at adding regionally-focused transit routes (ex. Asheville to Hendersonville, Waynesville to Black Mountain, etc.) to provide the FRBMPO region with express bus options in the MPO planning area (Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, and Madison counties.) This study looks at the feasibility of providing these options by examining the likely governance structure that may be required to provide this service (Regional Transit Authority), the responsibilities that could fall to a regional body, funding opportunities, and potential routes.



Examining regional transit has been an identified need since, at least, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) completed in 2000. This study would help to provide a roadmap for our region on how to implement a regional transit system.

The Regional Transit Feasibility Study is currently going through its second round of public involvement through online videos and public surveys running through April 22. More information on the survey and other materials are available here: <http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/regional-transit-feasibility-study/>

Discussion occurred regarding the implementation of a regional transit authority, including what is currently allowed under current statutes and governance of a regional authority. Jennifer Hibbert with AECOM shared that creation of a regional entity could provide transit operations and services that might benefit both urban and rural areas. Tristan Winkler shared that regional movements have been changing and continue to change. The study is meant to facilitate regional movement, which is key to transportation planning success. Ultimately, it will fall to local leaders to push for development of a regional transit option. Tristan Winkler also reviewed participation on the steering committee for the study, which includes local government staff representatives, including those that work in transit, who have provided feedback on the study. The current round of public engagement for this study is wrapping up and the study will be coming before the MPO again, at a future date.

No action required.

REGULAR UPDATES

- Divisions 13 and 14 provided updates.

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Staff Report & Recommendations

- A Transportation Planning Division Update was provided.
- No FHWA/FTA Update was provided
- FBRMPO Committee & Workgroup Updates:
 - Prioritization – Met April 6; next meeting May 4.
 - Transit Operators Workgroup – Next meeting TBD; 5307 Subrecipients met April 6.
 - Citizens' Advisory Committee – Next meeting TBD.
 - Regional Transit Study – Public meetings from March 22-April 22.
 - Corridor Studies – Tunnel Road public meeting on April 14.
- Legislative Updates – American Jobs Plan details were shared including \$174B towards electric vehicles, \$115B towards highway, bridges, road, etc. At the state level, there are a number of bills of interest including HB 500, HB 456, SB 395, HB 438, HB 378/SB 239, SB 1 79, etc.-these bills and others are currently in various stages of committee work. Tristan Winkler also shared that the Governor's proposed budget does include some funding for local transit systems.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, FUTURE TOPICS AND SPECIAL UPDATES

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments received.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Harris adjourned the meeting, as there was no further business.

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METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 3B:

Resolution of Support for Hendersonville Pedestrian Planning Grant Application

NCDOT makes funding available annually for local governments and regions to apply for bicycle and pedestrian plans. These grants have helped fund plans in Black Mountain, Canton, Clyde, Flat Rock, Fletcher, Hendersonville, Laurel Park, Waynesville, and Transylvania County recently, as well as active projects in Weaverville and Mills River. This year, the City of Hendersonville has notified the MPO that it intends to submit an application for a Pedestrian Planning Grant and has requested a resolution of support.

As part of the application process for the grant, a resolution of support from the MPO is required. For more information on NCDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant:

<https://connect.ncdot.gov/municipalities/PlanningGrants/Pages/Planning-Grant-Initiative.aspx>

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF HENDERSONVILLE'S APPLICATION FOR THE NCDOT BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLANNING GRANT

WHEREAS, the NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant is eligible to local governments to develop bicycle and pedestrian plans; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hendersonville's Council has approved the City's application to go before the consideration of NCDOT; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hendersonville understands the local match and staff requirements if awarded the grant from NCDOT; and

WHEREAS, the NCDOT Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian requires a resolutions of support from regional stakeholders for bicycle and Pedestrian grant applicants;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the French Broad River MPO to support the City of Hendersonville in the application for a bicycle and pedestrian planning grant from the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

ADOPTED: This is the 27th day of May 2021

Larry B. Harris, FBRMPO Chair

Attest, Tristan Winkler

Director, French Broad River MPO

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METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 3C:

TDM Funding Letter

NCDOT makes funding available annually for Transportation Demand Management (TDM) coordinators and related activities. The program primarily aims at reducing peak-hour congestion in areas by helping to establish vanpools, encouraging carpooling, and working with employers to consider encouraging telecommuting, flexible scheduling, or encouraging employees to commute via transit or by other modes.

Since 2015, the French Broad River MPO has partnered with NCDOT to provide a TDM Coordinator for both the French Broad River MPO and Land of Sky RPO planning areas. The position is funded 50% by the NCDOT TDM grant and 50% by the MPO's Surface Transportation Block Grant – Direct Allotment (STBGDA) funds.

The MPO has partially submitted the annual TDM grant application to NCDOT for the FY2022 year. This grant provides support for the TDM Coordinator position. NCDOT has made \$47,740 available for State TDM funding for the FBRMPO region (Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison and Transylvania Counties) and requires a 50% local match. The match will be provided with STBG-DA funding from the FBRMPO at an equal amount, not to exceed \$50,000.

The FY 2022 grant application cycle is different this year with the Grant being released as of April 12, 2021 and an application due date of May 10th. NCDOT has given us the capacity to submit most of the application (submitted May 5th 2021) and amend the application with MPO support when approved.

The Land of Sky Regional Council has approved an action to support grant application for state funding, provide the required local match, make the necessary assurances and certifications and be empowered to enter into an agreement with the NCDOT to provide TDM management services and activities.

LOCAL SHARE CERTIFICATION FOR FUNDING

Land of Sky Regional Council, French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization
(Legal Name of Applicant)

Requested Funding Amounts

<u>Project</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>	<u>Local Share</u>
Administrative	\$ _____	\$ _____ (15%)
5311 Operating (No State Match)	\$ _____	\$ _____ (50%)
5310 Operating (No State Match)	\$ _____	\$ _____ (50%)
5307 Operating	\$ _____	\$ _____ (50%)
5307 Planning	\$ _____	\$ _____ (20%)
Capital	\$ _____	\$ _____ (10%)
Mobility Management	\$ _____	\$ _____ (10%)
TDM/Rideshare _____	\$ <u>95,481</u>	\$ <u>47,740.50</u> (50%)
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____ (___%)
_____	\$ _____	\$ _____ (___%)

Funding programs covered are 5311, 5310, 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities, 5307 (Small fixed route, regional, and consolidated urban-rural systems)

TOTAL	\$ <u>95,481</u>	\$ <u>47,740.50</u>
	Total Funding Requests	Total Local Share

The Local Share is available from the following sources:

<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Grant Applied To</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>STBG FBRMPO Fex Funds</u>	<u>FY22 TDM</u>	<u>\$ 47,740.50</u>
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
TOTAL		\$ <u>47,740.50</u>

** Fare box revenue is not an applicable source for local share funding

FY 2022 Local Share Certificate (page 2)

I, the undersigned representing (*Legal Name of Applicant*) **French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization** do hereby certify to the North Carolina Department of Transportation, that the required local funds for the FY 2022 Community Transportation Program and 5307 Governors Apportionment will be available as of **July 1, 2021**, which has a period of performance of July 1, 2021– June 30, 2022.

Signature of Authorized Official

Type Name and Title of Authorized Official

Date

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Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 4A:

FTA ARPA Funding Distribution

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law. Through ARPA, the Asheville Urbanized Area received \$4.25 million in 5307 Urban Transit Formula funds. These funds are intended to be used to help transit agencies in the wake of COVID-19.

Section 5307 Urban Transit Formula Funds make federal resources available to urbanized areas for transit capital and operating assistance. An urbanized area is an incorporated area with a population of 50,000 or more.

In 2017, the French Broad River MPO completed a 5307 Sub-Allocation Study to determine how funds should be divided amongst operators in the region. The Board approved a continuation of the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) set-aside and a three year formula phase-in period, as well as approving the City of Asheville to act as the Designated Recipient for 5307 funds.

ARPA funding is essentially supplemental 5307 funding and is being apportioned with the same formula; however, just as the Board approved CARES Act distribution, it is recommended that the Board approve the exclusion of the 10% JARC set-aside for ARPA funds.

Why get rid of the 10% JARC set-aside for ARPA funding?

The 10% JARC set-aside was adopted with the intention of providing a competitive pot of funds to help spur regional connectivity. In order to program these funds, MPO Staff holds a call for projects, evaluates projects, and takes recommendations from TCC and Board before the designated recipient can begin contracting. This is a process that works in non-emergency situations, but takes a considerable amount of time. Thus, it is recommended that the Board approve the distribution of ARPA 5307 funds to exclude the 10% JARC set-aside.

Year of FTA 5307 Funding Apportionment	City of Asheville/ Asheville Transit Services	% of Total*	Buncombe County/ Mountain Mobility	% of Total*	Haywood County/ Mountain Projects	% of Total*	Henderson County/ Apple Country Public Transit	% of Total*	Total 5307 Apportionment to Asheville Urbanized Area
American Rescue Plan	\$1,812,935	42.6%	\$1,217,130	28.6%	\$354,689	8.3%	\$867,774	20.4%	\$ 4,252,528

MPO Staff is seeking the Board to approve the exclusion of the 10% JARC set-aside for ARPA funds and approval that additional modifications to funding distribution be determined by the direct recipient and subrecipient after mutual agreement.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 5307 URBAN TRANSIT FUNDING SUBALLOCATION FORMULA FOR THE ARPA FUNDS DESIGNATED FOR THE ASHEVILLE URBANIZED AREA WITHOUT A 10% JARC SET ASIDE

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was created to help transit agencies prevent, prepare for, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic under the Section 5307 FTA Urbanized Area Transit Funding Formula Program; and

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WHEREAS, the Asheville Urbanized Area receives an apportionment of FTA Section 5307 Urban Transit Formula funds annually, and the City of Asheville is the Designated Recipient for Section 5307 Urban Transit Formula funds in our region with Buncombe, Haywood, and Henderson Counties eligible for a portion of Section 5307 FTA Urban Transit Funds as subrecipients to the City of Asheville; and

WHEREAS, the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization completed the Section 5307 Urban Transit Formula Funding Suballocation Study to determine how to distribute FTA Section 5307 Urban Transit Formula funds apportioned to the Asheville urbanized area; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of the study's recommendations included a resolution to set aside 10% of Section 5307 FTA Urban Transit Formula Funds for Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) for which a call for projects would be held annually; and

WHEREAS, the study's adoption approved a three year phase-in period starting in state FY2018 through the end of state FY2020 during which the following percentages were to be applied for distribution of annual apportionments to the Asheville Urbanized Area from Section 5307 FTA Urban Transit Formula Funds between eligible agencies; and

<i>5307 Apportionment Formula Allocations after 10% JARC Set-aside</i>				
Year	City of Asheville% of Total	Buncombe County% of Total	Haywood County% of Total	Henderson County % of Total
1st Year (state FY 2018)	66.6%	9.8%	5.4%	18.2%
2nd Year (state FY 2019)	54.6%	19.2%	6.9%	19.3%
3rd Year (state FY 2020)	42.6%	28.6%	8.3%	20.4%

WHEREAS, ARPA Act funding is being added to Section 5307 FTA Urban Transit Formula Funding and must be distributed in the same manner as Section 5307 FTA Urbanized Area Transit Funding Formula funds; and

WHEREAS, the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization Board has reviewed the recommendations provided by the current recipients of Section 5307 FTA Urban Transit Formula funds including the City of Asheville, Buncombe County, Haywood County, and Henderson County, who convened and discussed ARPA Act funding on April 13, 2020,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 5307 Urban Transit Formula Funding made available to the Asheville UZA through ARPA will be distributed to subrecipients based on the Adopted French Broad River MPO 5307 Suballocation Formula without a 10% set-aside for regional Job Access Reverse Commute activities, and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the distribution of 5307 Urban Transit Formula funds from the American Rescue Plan follow the French Broad River MPO's 5307 Suballocation Formula with the exclusion of the regional competition for Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funding; and that additional modifications to the distribution of these funds may be determined by the direct recipient

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and subrecipients, based on eligible expenses, funding availability, and any other consideration mutually agreed to by both parties

Year of FTA 5307 Funding Apportionment	City of Asheville/ Asheville Transit Services	% of Total*	Buncombe County/ Mountain Mobility	% of Total*	Haywood County/ Mountain Projects	% of Total*	Henderson County/ Apple Country Public Transit	% of Total*	Total 5307 Apportionment to Asheville Urbanized Area
American Rescue Plan	\$1,812,935	42.6%	\$1,217,130	28.6%	\$354,689	8.3%	\$867,774	20.4%	\$ 4,252,528

ADOPTED: This the 27th day of May, 2021

Larry B. Harris, FBRMPO Board Chair

Attest, Tristan Winkler,
French Broad River MPO Director

TCC & 5307 Subrecipient Workgroup Recommendation: Approve the Proposed Distribution of ARPA Transit Funds

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METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

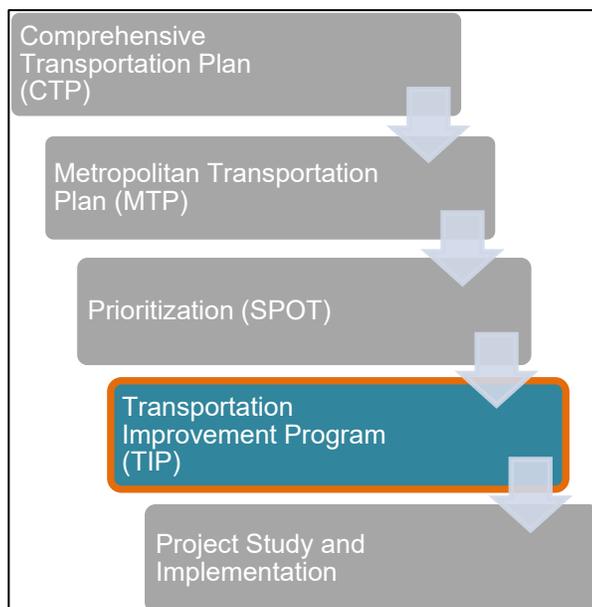
Item 4B:

Amendments to the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

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 Amendments Overview



This round includes a number of amendments and modifications to highway, bicycle/pedestrian, transit and aviation projects. Some highlights include:

- I-2513B (I-26) and I-2513D (Riverside Drive) delaying ROW from FY 22 to FY 24 to align with construction schedule
- U-5548, Brown Avenue, removal of project from TIP
- EB-5547, Black Mountain Riverwalk Greenway, split into two segments and construction delayed from FY 22 to FY 23
- EB-5945, Champion Drive, change scope from sidewalk to multi-use path
- Remove inactive transit projects from TIP
- AO-0001, Asheville Regional Airport, add project to TIP to reflect federal funding received

The full list of TIP amendments follows in full and are currently posted for public review and comment on the [TIP page](#) of the MPO website.

TCC Recommendation: Approve the Proposed TIP Amendments

2020 – 2029 TIP AMENDMENTS

TIP Amendments and Modifications for Consideration

Amendments #5 - May 2021

[Link to FBRMPO TIP Page](#)

This round of amendments includes changes to highway, bicycle/pedestrian, transit, and aviation projects. These amendments reflect NCDOT ITEM Ns from March, April and May of 2021. There are also a number of amendments as requested by local governments and the MPO.

FUNDING SOURCES KEY (HIGHWAY AND NON-HIGHWAY)

FUNDING	FUNDING DESCRIPTION	FUNDING	FUNDING DESCRIPTION
ADTAP	Appalachian Development Transportation Assistance Program	FSPR	State Planning and Research
APD	Appalachian Development	FUZ/5307	Urbanized Area Formula Program (5307)
BA	Bonus Allocation	HFB	Highway Fund Bridge Replacement Program
BG	Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (Uncategorized)	HP	Federal-Aid High Priority
BGANY	Surface Transportation Program (Any Area)	HSIP	Highway Safety Improvement Program
BGBA	Surface Transportation Program (Bonus Allocation)	JARC	Job Assistance and Reverse Commute (5316)
BGDA	Surface Transportation Program (Direct Attributable)	L	Local
BGLT5	Surface Transportation Program (Less than 5K)	NHP	National Highway Performance Program
BGOFF	Surface Transportation Program (Off System Bridge)	NHPB	National Highway Performance Program(Bridge)
BOND R	Revenue Bond	NHPBA	National Highway Performance Program(Bonus Allocation)
CMAQ	Congestion Mitigation	NHPIM	National Highway Performance Program (Interstate Maintenance)
DP	Discretionary or Demonstration	O	Other - Local, Non Federal or State Funds
FBBF	Bus and Bus Facilities Formula (5339)	RR	Rail-Highway Safety
FBUS	Bus and Bus Facilities (5339)	RTAP	Rural Transit Assistance Program
FED	Unidentified Federal Funding	S	State
FEPD/5310	Elderly and Persons with Disability (5310)	S(M)	State Match
FF	Federal Ferry	SMAP	Operating Assistance and State Maintenance
FLTP	Federal Lands Transportation Program	SRTS	Safe Roads to School
FMOD	Fixed Guideway Modifications	STHSR	Stimulus High Speed Rail
FMPL	Metropolitan Planning (5303)	T	State Highway Trust Funds
FNF	New Freedom Program (5317)	TA	Transportation Alternatives Program (Uncategorized)
FNS	New Starts - Capital (5309)	TAANY	Transportation Alternatives Program (Any Area)
FNU	Non Urbanized Area Formula Program (5311)	TADA	Transportation Alternatives Program (Direct Attributable)
FSGR	State of Good Repair (Rail) (5337)	TALT5	Transportation Alternatives Program (Less than 5K)

WORK TYPE (ACTIVITY)

CODE	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION	CODE	ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION
A	Acquisition	P	Paving
C	Construction	PL	Planning / Design
CB	Construction (BUILD NC)	PE	Preliminary Engineering
CG	Construction (GARVEE)	R	Right of Way
CP	Capital	RB	Right of Way (BUILD NC)
F	Feasibility Study	RG	Right of Way (GARVEE)
O	Operations	U	Utilities

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS TO HIGHWAY PROJECTS IN THE 2020-2029 FBRMPO TIP - Amendment #5 - May 2021

PROJECT / TIP ID (Sorted A-Z)	ROUTE(S)	DIVISION(S)	COUNTY	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TIP Amendment Detail	TOTAL COST (in thousands)	ACTIVITY	FUNDING	COST (in thousands)												
									2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	POST YEARS		
A-0010AA	I-26/US 19/US 23	13	Buncombe	I 26 (US 19/ US 23), SR 1781 (Broadway Street) to US 25	Project to no longer utilize BUILD NC bonds	\$ 149,601	R C	T								14,233	14,233	14,234		106,901	
B-4442	US 19/US 23/US 25/US 70	13	Buncombe	Replace bridge 100370, and bridge 100373 over Reems Creek	Cost increase exceeding \$2 Million and 25% thresholds	\$ 26,800	R C	NHPB			200										
HB-0002	I-40	14	Haywood	Replace bridges 430248 and 430249 over Beaverdam Road	Programmed for preliminary engineering only at the request of the structures managemnet unit																
HB-0003	I-40	14	Haywood	Replace bridge 430239 over Incinerator Road	Programmed for preliminary engineering only at the request of the structures managemnet unit																
HB-0004	I-40	14	Haywood	Replace bridge 430243 over Champion Drive	Programmed for preliminary engineering only at the request of the structures managemnet unit																
HB-0006	US 74	14	Haywood	Replace bridge 430126 over I-40	Programmed for preliminary engineering only at the request of the structures managemnet unit																
HL-0013	9th Street	13	Buncombe	Replace bridge 100522 over Tomahawk Branch in Black Mountain	Allocate funding for preliminary engineering previously progammed for construction	\$ 680	PE C	BGDA L BGDA L			120 30			424							

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS TO HIGHWAY PROJECTS IN THE 2020-2029 FBRMPO TIP - Amendment #5 - May 2021

PROJECT / TIP ID (Sorted A-Z)	ROUTE(S)	DIVISION(S)	COUNTY	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TIP Amendment Detail	TOTAL COST (in thousands)	ACTIVITY	FUNDING	COST (in thousands)																
									2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	POST YEARS						
HS-2014C	Various	14	Haywood, Henderson, Macon	Install snowplowable markers and pavement markings for wrong way ramp arrows on various freeway ramps	Add new project break at the request of the transportation mobility and safety division	\$ 50	C	HSIP		\$ 50															
I-2513B	I-26	13	Buncombe	I-26, SR 3548 (Haywood Road) to SR 1781 (Broadway)	Change procurement to design-build. Delay right-of-way from FY 22 to FY 24 to align with construction schedule.	\$ 832,067	RG	NHP					3,432	3,432	3,432	3,432	3,432	3,432	3,432	30,888					
							R	NHP					27,222	27,222	27,222										
								S(M)					4,444	4,444	4,444										
							U	NHP					6,033	6,033	6,033										
							CG	NHP					23,166	23,166	23,166	23,166	23,166	23,166	23,166	23,166	23,166	23,166	23,166	208,494	
							C	NHP					36,800	27,600	46,000	41,400	23,000	46,000	9,200						
S(M)					14,400	10,800		18,000	16,200	9,000	18,000	3,600													
I-2513D	SR 1477 (Riverside Drive)	13	Buncombe	SR 1477 (Riverside Drive), SR 1517 (Hill Street) to SR 1781 (Broadway Street)	Change procurement to design-build. Delay right-of-way from FY 22 to FY 24 to align with construction schedule.	\$ 42,100	R	BGANY					7,800	7,800	7,800										
							U					2,800													
							C					795	3,776	3,776	3,776	3,777									
I-5834A	I-40	14	Haywood	I-40, Mile Marker 27 to Mile Marker 30. Pavement rehabilitation.	Segment project into segments A and B and accelerate construction from FY 23 to FY 22 to reflect latest interstate maintenance priority.	\$ 13,000	C	NHPIM			6,500	6,500													
I-5834B	I-40	14	Haywood	I-40, Mile Marker 30 to Mile Marker 34. Pavement rehabilitation.	Segment project into segments A and B at the request of the division.	\$ 20,000	C	NHPIM				10,000	10,000												
I-5890	I-40	13	Buncombe	I-40, mile marker 55 to mile marker 67.5. Pavement rehabilitation.	Project to utilize GARVEE bonds.	\$ 23,160	CG	NHPIM	3,088	1,544	1,544	1,544	1,544	1,544	1,544	1,544	1,544	1,544	1,544	6,176					

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS TO HIGHWAY PROJECTS IN THE 2020-2029 FBRMPO TIP - Amendment #5 - May 2021

PROJECT / TIP ID (Sorted A-Z)	ROUTE(S)	DIVISION(S)	COUNTY	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TIP Amendment Detail	TOTAL COST (in thousands)	ACTIVITY	FUNDING	COST (in thousands)											
									2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	POST YEARS	
U-2801A	US 25A (Sweeten Creek Road)	13	Buncombe	US 25A (Sweeten Creek Road), US 25 (Hendersonville Road) to SR 3081 (Rock Hill Road)	Project to no longer utilize BUILD NC bonds	\$ 164,920	R	T						37,366	37,367	37,367				
							U	T					2,240	2,240	2,240					
							C	BGANY									11,525	11,525	11,525	11,525
U-5548	Brown Avenue	14	Haywood	Brown Avenue, realignment from Boyd to 1200 ft south of the intersection. Project includes construction of new roadway (School Street), raised crosswalk, painted crosswalks, refuge island, bulbout and signage.	Remove project from TIP at the request of the local government	\$ 500		BGDA			400									
							C	L												
U-5616	Various	13,14	MPO Planning Area	French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (PL) Supplement	Increase FY 2022 amount to reflect STBGDA funding	\$ 3,620		BGDA	587	250	306	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	
							PL	L	147	63	76	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63	63
U-5971AA	US 19/NC 63	13	Buncombe	US 19 (Patton Avenue) and NC 63 (New Leicester Highway). Construct drainage improvements.	Add segment AA not previously programmed at the request of the division. Work to be performed by state forces.	\$ 650	R				100									
							C	T			550									
U-6251A	New Route - Enka Heritage Road	13	Buncombe	New Route - Enka Heritage Road, US 19/23 (Smokey Park Highway) to Walkoff Way. Construct access road on new location.	Segment U-6251 into segments A and B at the request of the division	\$ 2,750		APD		1,750										
							C	L		1,000										
U-6251B	US 19/23 (Smokey Park Highway)	13	Buncombe	US 19/23 (Smokey Park Highway), Enka Heritage Road intersection. Construct final intersection improvements.	Segment U-6251 into segments A and B at the request of the division and right of way in FY 21 not previously programmed	\$ 975	R			700										
							C	L			275									

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS and MODIFICATIONS TO BIKE/PED PROJECTS IN THE 2020-2029 FBRMPO TIP - Amendment # 5 - May 2021

PROJECT / TIP ID (Sorted A-Z)	ROUTE(S)	DIVISION(S)	COUNTY	DESCRIPTION	TIP Amendment Detail	TOTAL COST (in thousands)	ACTIVITY	FUNDING	COST (in thousands)										
									2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	POST YEARS
BL-0005	SR 1781 (Broadway) /NC 251	13	Buncombe	Construct pedestrian improvements from US 19/23 northbound exit ramp to north of SR 1477 (Riverside Drive)	Accelerate preliminary engineering and construction from FY 22 to FY 21 at the request of the division	\$388	PE	BGDA		51									
								S(M)		13									
							C	BGDA		259									
								S(M)		65									
EB-5547A	Black Mountain Riverwalk Greenway	13	Buncombe	Construct multi-use path from Black Mountain Avenue to Flat Creek Greenway	Split project into two segments at the request of the local government	\$1,171	PE	BGDA			94								
								L			23								
							R	BGDA				75							
								L				19							
C	BGDA					768													
	L					192													
EB-5547B	Black Mountain Riverwalk Greenway	13	Buncombe	Construct multi-use path from Black Mountain Avenue to the Into the Oaks Trail	Split project into two segments at the request of the local government. To allow additional time for planning an design, delay construction from FY 22 to FY 23	\$2,973	PE	BGDA			160								
								L			40								
							R	BGDA				120							
								L				30							
C	BGDA					2,098													
	L					525													
EB-5790	Asheville, On-street crossings	13	Buncombe	Asheville, On-street crossings and connections for bicyclists and pedestrians in Asheville's east of the riverway.	To allow additional time for planning an design, delay construction from FY 21 to FY 22	\$1,050	C	BGDA			840								
								L			210								
EB-5945	Champion Drive	14	Haywood	Champion Drive, North Canton Road to Thickety Road. Construct multi-use path.	Modify project scope from sidewalk to multi-use path	\$200	R	BGDA		160									
								L		40									

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS and MODIFICATIONS TO TRANSIT PROJECTS IN THE 2020-2029 FBRMPO TIP - Amendment #5 - May 2021

PROJECT / TIP ID (Sorted A-Z)	Transit Partner	DESCRIPTION	TIP Amendment Detail	TOTAL COST (in thousands)	FUNDING	Cost in Thousands										
						2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	POST YEARS
TA-6626	City of Asheville	Asheville Rides Transit Purchase Vehicles	Remove FY 21 funding. Re- allocated to TG- 0011	\$ 1,250	5339		1,000									
					L		250									
TA-6703	City of Asheville	Asheville Rides Transit Lo-No Transit Vehicle Purchase	Updated description	\$ 6,570	FBUS											
					L	950	960	1,455								
TG-0011	City of Asheville	Buses and Bus Facilities	Changed funding from FY 20 to FY 21	\$ 1,250	5339		1,000									
					L		250									
TM-5321, TM- 5315, TN-5007, TG-6182A, TD- 5282, TA-6704	City of Asheville	Various	Delete projects from TIP; Inactive													

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS and MODIFICATIONS TO AVIATION PROJECTS IN THE 2020-2029 FBRMPO TIP - Amendment #5 - May 2021

PROJECT / TIP ID (Sorted A-Z)	Aviation Partner	DESCRIPTION	TIP Amendment Detail	TOTAL COST (in thousands)	FUNDING	Cost in Thousands										
						2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	POST YEARS
AO-0001	Asheville Regional Airport (AVL)	Airport Terminal Building Modernization	Add project to TIP	\$ 153,808	AIP (FAA Funds)			2,884								
					State			4,750	4,750	4,750						
					Local (Aiport Capital)			71,424	65,250							

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FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO THE 2020-2029 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

WHEREAS, the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) provides transportation planning services for the jurisdictions and transit providers within the French Broad River MPO Planning Area; and

WHEREAS, the Board has found that the French Broad River MPO is conducting transportation planning in a continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive manner; and

WHEREAS, the French Broad River MPO Board adopted the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program on October 24, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the FBRMPO Board (Transportation Advisory Committee) has reviewed the proposed amendments and modifications that are listed below and finds them satisfactory for addition to the TIP; and

WHEREAS, the French Broad River MPO has made these amendments available for public comment in accordance with the MPO's Public Involvement Policy;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby adopts the following modifications to the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (see next page):

ADOPTED: This the 27th Day of May, 2021

Larry B. Harris, FBRMPO Board Chair

Attest, Tristan Winkler, Director
French Broad River MPO

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 5A:

I-2513 (I-26 Connector) Update

The I-2513 project (aka The I-26 Connector) is a major interstate project through the City of Asheville that includes building new interstate bridges across the French Broad River to remove interstate traffic from the Jeff Bowen Bridge, a widening of this section of I-26/I-240, and upgrades to the I-26/I-240/I-40 interchange, but numerous other improvements to the local network as well.

Overall, I-2513 is a large part of the overall effort to upgrade I-26 in the French Broad River MPO region, including the on-going widenings south of I-40 that are part of the I-4700 and I-4400 projects as well as the widening associated with A-0010AA, which is a funded and committed project north of I-2513 to Weaverville.

I-2513 is currently considered funded and committed with Sections A & B set to begin in FY 24 but Section C has been delayed until FY 30 (a decision made as part of the TIP delays approved in February, 2021.)

NCDOT staff will present on the ongoing work that includes coordination with the I-26 Working Group, the City of Asheville's I-26 Aesthetics Committee, the Burton Street Community, and others, as well as current efforts in the design process.

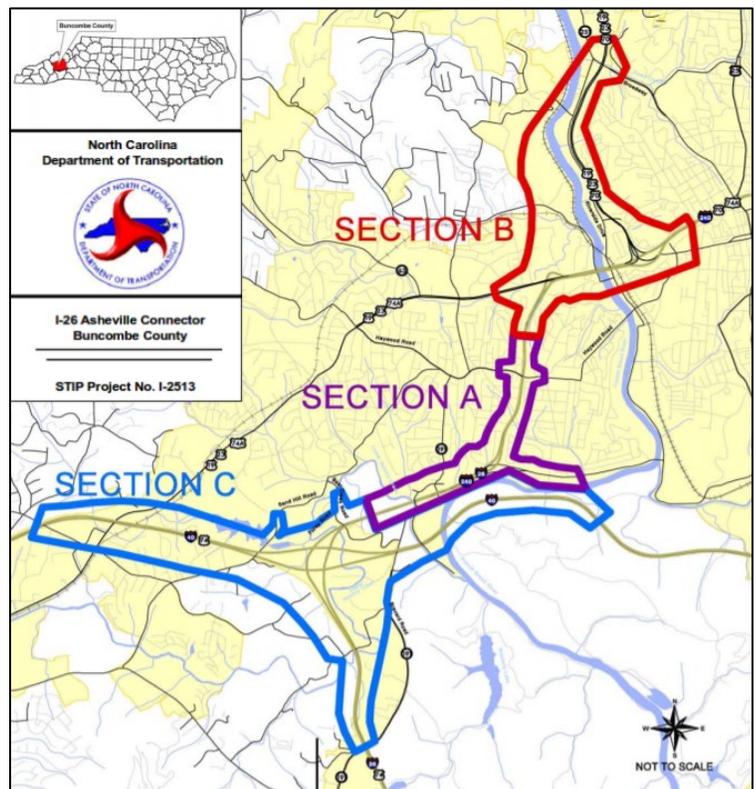


Figure 1 I-2513 Sections from NCDOT- Note the termini of Sections A & C have been modified to increase the scope of Section A and decrease the scope of Section C

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 5B:

Wildlife Crossings in Western North Carolina

The French Broad River MPO region is full of and surrounded by protected and natural lands that are home to a thousands of animals, including black bear, deer, elk, foxes, and many, many more. However, road networks can serve as barriers to wildlife trying to migrate, get to food, water, or anywhere else they need to go.

Where wildlife and roadway infrastructure meet, without accommodations, the risks to the wildlife are immense, but the risks to drivers are considerable as well. In 2019, there were 20,331 recorded crashes between cars and wildlife in North Carolina- a number that has generally increased over time.

Over the past few years, a group has been brought together to discuss how to improve wildlife and transportation infrastructure in Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee, with a focus on potential wildlife crossings along I-40 through the Pigeon River Gorge. These meetings have been largely facilitated by the National Parks Conservation Association and others, but have included MPO, NCDOT, and FHWA staff. More recently, a group was formed out of these discussions called "[Safe Passage](#)" to help promote safer wildlife crossings along I-40 but in other places in our region, including US 19.

To discuss these efforts, we've invited Jeffrey Hunter and Steve Goodman with the National Parks Conservation Association as well as Liz Hillard with the Wildlands Network to provide a presentation on their work and the need for better wildlife crossings.



Figure 2 A Wildlife Underpass in Colorado - Photo Credit: The Denver Post

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 6A:

Division Project Updates

Division 13 Updates: http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/D13_May2021.pdf

Division 14 Updates: http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/D14_May2021.pdf

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 May 4th; next meeting June 1st

Transit Operators' Workgroup— last meeting May 25th

Citizens' Advisory Committee- next meeting July 14th

Regional Transit Study- drafting final materials

Corridor Studies- Final documents for Hendersonville Road and Tunnel Road studies have been received; to be reviewed by Buncombe County and the City of Asheville

Recommended Actions:
Accept the reports.

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 6E:

Legislative Updates