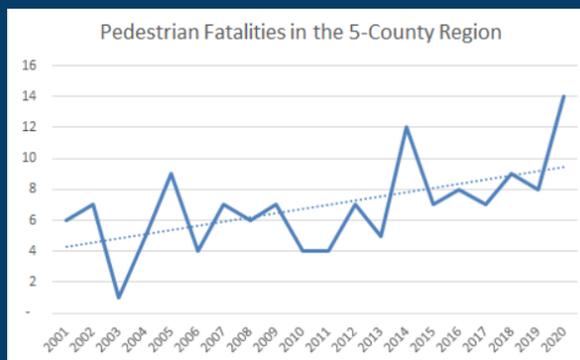


Transportation Matters: FBRMPO Monthly Update

2020 Safety Data

In 2020, the five-county region (Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania) recorded 14 pedestrian fatalities- a grim new record for the region, surpassing the 12 pedestrian fatalities recorded in 2014. The 14 pedestrian fatalities in 2020 made up 25% of all roadway fatalities in the region- another grim record based on data going back to 2001. This is also the first year a pedestrian fatality was recorded in each of the five counties. While 2020 had some different conditions than past years with the beginning of the pandemic, pedestrian crashes and fatalities in the region have been steadily increasing. What is not known in this data is how much this relates to use. Is this a reflection of people walking a lot more? We don't have the data on that. Overall, there have been a lot of improvements in this realm in terms of local initiatives and policy changes, but the problem is one that continues to grow.



New Interchange I-26

On January 27th the MPO Board will consider an amendment to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) to incorporate a proposed project that would provide a new interchange on I-26 between Exits 33 (Brevard Road) and 37 (Long Shoals Road.) The project, HE-0001, is expected to cost roughly \$30 million and would tie-in to the access road at the Pratt & Whitney site and connect to NC 191 (Brevard Road). While the project is expected to be funded with State Commerce funds, the project is required to be identified in the MTP in order to obtain required federal approvals. If you want to make public comment, email us at mpo@landofsky.org or join our Board meeting on the 27th.



I-26 Construction Update



I-4400BB and I-4400C : from .05 miles N of US-64 to NC-280 (exit 40)

40.23% Complete -- 11/30/24 Completion



I-4700 : from NC-280 (exit 40) to I-40

35.47% Complete -- July 2024 Completion



I-5504: I-26 / Brevard Rd Interchange modifications and I-26 widening

98.6% Complete -- March 2022

Around the Region

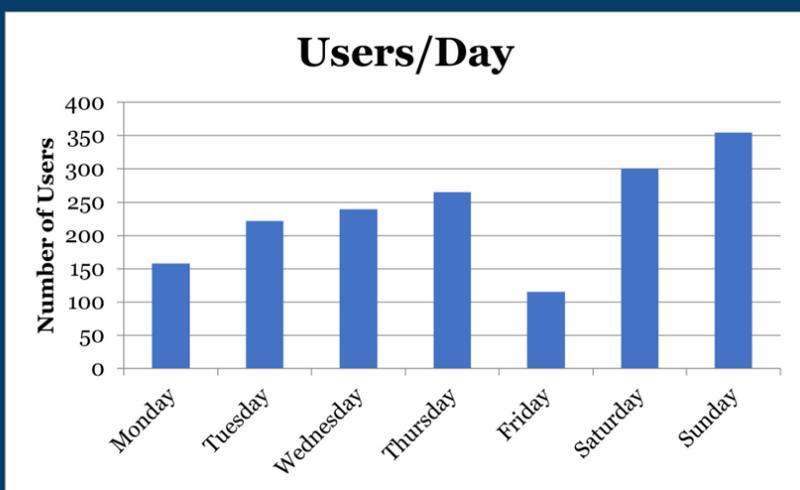
UPWP Call for Projects

The UPWP is the MPO's budget for planning activities through the fiscal year, including in-house planning activities and special studies undertaken in the region using MPO planning funds. These studies can range from bicycle and pedestrian plans to economic impact studies to transportation-related health impact analyses.

This Call for Projects serves to identify short-range transportation planning activities throughout the region. There is no set budget allocated at this time for federal planning (PL) funds. Projects require a 20% local match from the project sponsor, and studies selected will be implemented as part of the FY2023 UPWP. Please view the call for projects on our website: http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/PWP_CallforProjects_FY23.pdf. Local governments that are members of the FBRMPO are eligible to apply for UPWP Planning funds.

Mills River Park- Pedestrian Count

With the cooler weather rolling in, it is a perfect time to utilize one of the many greenways and paths around the region to enjoy the late fall! As always, our trusty Eco-Counter is used on greenways and downtown areas for weeklong periods to gauge usage on these pathways. This count was done at the Mills River Park in late November, during the Thanksgiving holiday. Though nothing like our summer count, about 1,650 users is a decent number for a chilly holiday week! Check out the graphic below, showing number of users a day during that week. If you ever see our ped counter on your greenway adventures, snap a selfie and tag us @StriveBeyondDrive!



NCDOT Funding Workshop

Save the Date for January 21st at 1:00 PM to join the MPO and NCDOT for a 'Funding Workshop.' The workshop will provide participants with an overview of how transportation funds are programmed and distributed in North Carolina with more information on the forthcoming 2024-2033 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). More information about how/where to attend the workshop will be available in January.

Upcoming Meetings

- **MPO TCC:** January 13th from 11am-1pm
- **MPO/NCDOT Funding Workshop:** January 21st from 1-2:30PM
- **MPO Board:** January 27th from 1-3pm

Contact us:

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www.frenchbroadrivermpo.org/