

Transportation Matters: FBRMPO Monthly Update

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

On Monday, November 15th, President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act into law. This law is expected to bring North Carolina \$7.2 billion in federal funds for highway projects, \$457 million for bridge replacements and repairs, \$109 million for electric vehicle charging stations, \$910 million for public transportation, and additional funding for broadband access and clean drinking water. Besides funding, the law provides five years of authorization for transportation funding and includes several new programs, including some focusing on resilience, rural roadway safety, and pedestrian safety, among others. To pay for the improvements, the law also includes authorization to transfer funds from the general fund, a practice that has become somewhat regular since 2008, largely due to the federal gas tax remaining at 18.4 cents since 1993.

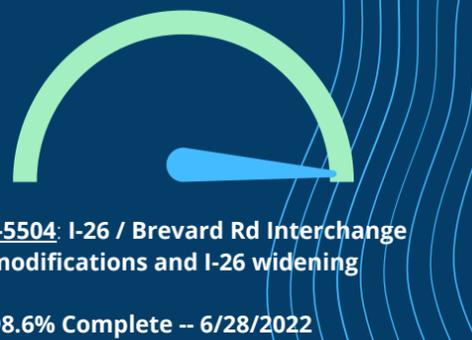
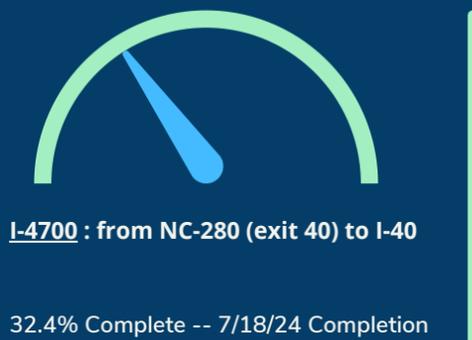
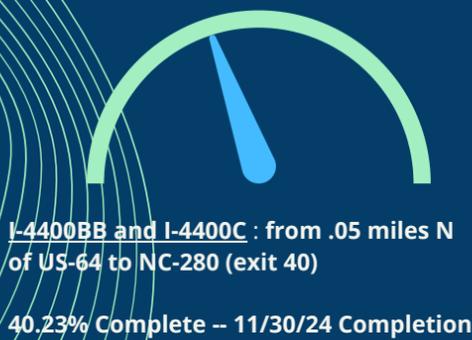
USDOT Climate Action Plan

In early October, USDOT released their Climate Action Plan, which focuses on ensuring that Federally supported transportation infrastructure, along with USDOT policies, programs, and operations, consider climate change impacts and incorporate resilience solutions wherever possible. In January 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order 14008, requiring major Federal agencies to develop an adaptation and resilience plan to address their most significant climate risks and vulnerabilities.

The plan includes a section that addresses Climate Change Impacts and Equity, stating that the DOT will prioritize sites that offer robust transportation options and work to ensure all people can benefit equally from procurement solutions and to diminish the disproportionate burden of climate impacts that some communities endure.



I-26 Construction Update



Around the Region

Active Weaverville

In August, the Town of Weaverville began work on a bicycle/pedestrian plan called Active Weaverville. This project aims to make Weaverville better for pedestrians and bicyclists by focusing on sidewalks, greenways, and on-street bike facilities and the programs/policies that support such infrastructure. This initiative was funded through NCDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant.

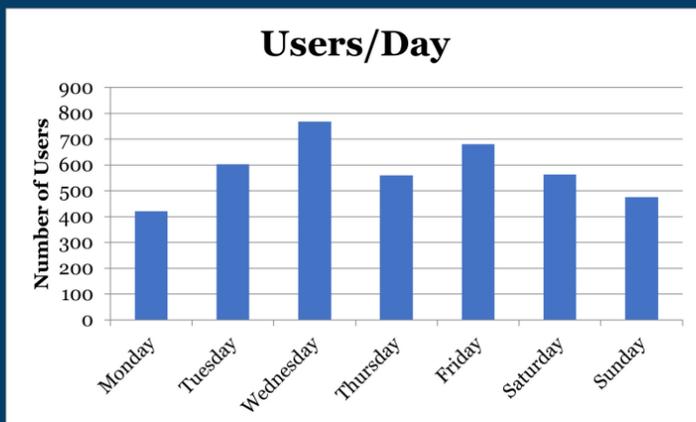
The community input period began in November, with a video update and online survey. On November 8th, there was an opportunity for an in-person meeting between 10 AM and 7 PM at the Weaverville Community Center. Over 60 people attended the event!

Sign up on the [Active Weaverville website](#) for updates on the progress of the plan.



Reed Creek Greenway - Pedestrian Count

Though the brisk fall temperatures have made getting outside a little more tolerable, the MPO took a brief break from counting in October. To make up for it, we are heading back to a late-July count on the Reed Creek Greenway. As always, our trusty Eco-Counter is used on greenways and downtown areas for weeklong periods to gauge usage on these pathways. While no records were broken, we had over 4,000 users during the weeklong period. Though UNCA was out of session in July, it showed a decent amount of people using the greenway! 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!



Automation Invasion

The French Broad River MPO, in partnership with Land of Sky Clean Vehicles Coalition, is hosting a Connected and Autonomous Vehicles Workshop on **December 9th from 1-3pm**.

The workshop will feature speakers from Optimus Ride, Pittsburgh, and NCDOT, with Julie White, the Deputy Secretary of Multimodal Transportation providing the keynote presentation.

Register at: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FZd2BmdzTJ2YzaTapatTVg.

Upcoming Meetings

- **CAV Workshop:** December 9th from 1-3pm
- **MPO TCC:** January 13th from 11am-1pm
- **MPO Board:** January 27th from 1-3pm

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