

# Prioritization Subcommittee

## *Meeting Agenda*

May 4, 2022

9:00 AM

**Meeting to be held via Zoom:** <https://zoom.us/j/91373453789>

**Voting Members on the Committee:** Jessica Morris (City of Asheville, Vice-Chair), Larry Harris (Black Mountain), William High (Buncombe County), Autumn Radcliff (Henderson County), Anthony Sutton (Town of Waynesville), Elizabeth Teague (Town of Waynesville, Chair), Jerry Vehaun (Town of Woodfin)

<b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b>	Elizabeth Teague
<b>2. Public Comment</b>	Elizabeth Teague
<b>3. Approval of April, 2022 Meeting Minutes</b>	Elizabeth Teague
<b>4. Business</b>	
A. Draft 2024-2033 (S)TIP	MPO Staff
B. LAPP Project Selection	MPO Staff
<b>5. News, Events, Updates</b>	Elizabeth Teague
Strive!	
<b>6. Public Comment</b>	Elizabeth Teague
<b>7. Adjournment</b>	Elizabeth Teague

# Item 3

## **Prioritization Subcommittee Meeting Minutes April 6, 2022**

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **Voting Members**

- Jessica Morris, City of Asheville
- Autumn Radcliff, Henderson County
- Larry B. Harris, Town of Black Mountain
- Jerry Vehaun, Town of Woodfin
- William High, Buncombe County

#### Non-Voting Members

- Tristan Winkler, FBRMPO
- John Ridout, FBRMPO
  
- Hannah Bagli, FBRMPO
- Teresa Robinson, NCDOT
- Michael Dawson FHWA
- Stephen Sparks, NCDOT Division 13
- Troy Wilson, NCDOT Division 14
- Hannah Cook, NCDOT Division 13
- Daniel Sellers, NCDOT TPD

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Jessica Morris started the meeting with introductions. A quorum was announced, and roll was called.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was received.

### **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2022 MINUTES AND AGENDA**

*Jerry Vehaun moved to approve the agenda and the March 2022 minutes. Larry Harris seconded the motion, which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.*

## **BUSINESS**

### JARC Project Selection Update

Tristan Winkler updated the group on the JARC Project Selection process and provided a background on the remaining available JARC funds. Dogwood Health Trust informed the Friends of Land of Sky that it would provide an additional \$10,000 to be used as match for the proposed vanpool project, which would be matched with \$10,000 in JARC funds. The remaining available funds would be allocated to the City of Asheville, which informed MPO staff that additional JARC funding could be utilized for Route 170 as well as other eligible routes.

*Larry Harris made a motion to approve the additional JARC funds to the Friends of Land of Sky vanpool and the City of Asheville JARC projects. Jerry Vehaun seconded the motion. All approved.*

### Planning Call for Projects

Tristan Winkler updated the group on the Planning Call for Projects. MPO staff met with the City of Asheville, as requested by the subcommittee, and the City agreed to reduce its funding request to \$222,000 to fit within the \$250,000 that is normally made available for planning studies. The City's application was also made available to NCDOT staff for comment- NCDOT replied and gave comment shortly before this meeting and noted some concerns with some of the language in the application. Larry Harris asked what the specific points of concern were. Tristan Winkler replied that the concerns were generally about how the study was expected to interact with the I-2513 project and its designs.

Tristan Winkler continued that the staff recommendation at this time was to move forward with the City of Asheville's Patton Avenue study as well as the Town of Black Mountain's Fonta Flora Study.

Tristan noted that the Parking and Circulation Study submitted by the Town of Black Mountain should be considered for funding in the FY 2024 UPWP to avoid too many studies going on at once. Jessica Morris asked if that is something that should be approved today or just carried forward for the next round. Tristan replied that it is too early to approve and the study should be considered for the next round of planning studies.

*Jerry Vehaun motioned to approve the Patton Avenue Corridor Study and Fonta Flora Greenway Study for inclusion in the FY 2023 UPWP, Larry Harris seconded the motion. All approved.*

#### LAPP Project Selection – Applications Received

John Ridout provided an update on the LAPP call for projects and the applications received by the MPO, noting that the amount of funding requested exceeded the amount of funding available in this call for projects. John said the scoring of projects would be taking place over the next month with draft scores expected to be available for the May prioritization meeting.

Autumn Radcliff asked if information is available on the status of some projects and how long each existing LAPP project has been programmed. John said that information could be made available.

*Information only.*

#### Discretionary Grant Discussion

Tristan Winkler shared with the group that there have been several requests for information on upcoming discretionary grants and noted that the general situation is that there a lot of grants that are or will be coming available and there is a lot of work needed to better prepare for grant opportunities.

Tristan noted two tools that could be developed by the MPO to assist local governments with the federal grants: a regionally-focused demographic dataset and establishing a local projects “pipeline.” It was noted that establishing a “pipeline” would consist of utilizing planning funds to get to 15% design which could help with grant applications and also help provide more predictability with LAPP projects.

Tristan also noted that due to the number of discretionary grants becoming available and the lack of rule making and notices so far, it is hard to provide local governments with a full picture of what projects may be the best candidates for what grants. He noted that it may be advantageous for the MPO to go after a Safe Streets for All grant to work on a Vision Zero Action Plan for the region and help setup communities for projects and policies to pursue in the future and utilize the grant for more capital projects. Jessica Morris said the City of Asheville would be supportive of the MPO pursuing that grant.

Tristan asked if there was any feedback on the project “pipeline” or any other things that should be considered moving forward. No comments were provided.  
*Information only. No action required.*

## NEWS, EVENTS AND UPDATES

Hannah Bagli shared a short update on Strive.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

## ADJOURNMENT

Jessica Morris adjourned the meeting.

# Item 4A:

## Draft 2024-2033 (S)TIP

The Draft 2024-2033 STIP was released on Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Unlike the release of previous Draft STIPs, there are no new projects to be discussed but, instead, several projects have been proposed to be “de-committed” in order to right-size NCDOT’s budget.

### Statewide Mobility

Projects In		Projects Out	
TIP ID	Project	Project	TIP ID
I-2513B	I-26 Connector (Haywood to Broadway)	I-26 Connector (I-26/I-40/I-240 Interchange Final Improvements)	I-2513C
I-4759	Liberty Road (New Interchange on I-40)	I-26/US 64 Interchange	I-4400BA
I-2513AA	I-26 Connector (I-40 Improvements & Maintenance)		

### Regional Impact

Projects In		Projects Out	
TIP ID	Project	Project	TIP ID
I-2513AB	I-26 Connector (Partial I-26/I-40/I-240 Interchange Improvements)	Future I-26 Widening	A-0010AA
I-2513AC	I-26 Connector (Widening from I-40 to Haywood)	US 25A (Sweeten Creek Road) Widening	U-2801A
U-5783	US 64 Improvements (Laurel Park)	NC 191 (Brevard Road) Widening	U-3403B
U-6049	South Main Street Bridge Widening (Hendersonville)	NC 63 (New Leicester Highway) Access Management	U-5972
		NC 63 (New Leicester Highway) and US 19 (Patton Avenue) Intersection Improvements	U-5971B
		NC 280 (Boylston Highway) Access Management	U-6124
		US 25 (Weaverville Highway) and New Stock Road Intersection Improvements	U-5973

### Division Needs (Division 13)

Projects In		Projects Out	
TIP ID	Project	Project	TIP ID
I-4409	I-40/Blue Ridge Road New Interchange	NC 81 (Swannanoa River Road) Improvements (Biltmore to S Tunnel)	U-5832
I-2513D	NC 251 (Riverside Drive) Improvements (Hill Street to Broadway)	Riceville Road Improvements	U-5837
U-5834	Mills Gap Road Widening	NC 81 (Swannanoa River Road) Improvements (S Tunnel to Tunnel)	U-6046
U-6163	Mills Gap Road @ Cane Creek Road Intersection Improvements	N Louisiana Avenue Improvements (Patton to Emma)	U-6162
U-4739	Amboy/Meadow Road Improvements		
U-6047	Sand Hill/Sardis Road Widening		
EB-5919	McDowell/Choctaw Pedestrian Improvements		
EB-5822	North RAD Greenway		
EB-5965	Deaverview Road Sidewalks		

### Division Needs (Division 14)

Projects In		Projects Out	
TIP ID	Project	Project	TIP ID
R-2588B	NC 191 Widening (NC 280 to Mountain Road)	South Main Street Widening (Hyatt Creek to US 276 (Pigeon St))	U-4712
U-5839	US 276 (Russ Avenue) Improvements (Main Street to US 23/74)	US 276 @ Crymes Cove Road Intersection Improvements	U-6158
U-5888	N Main @ Walnut Intersection Improvements	US 276 (Russ Avenue) Access Management (US 23/74 to US 19 (Dellwood Road))	U-6159
U-5886	White Street Improvements	US 19/23 Improvements (Chestnut Mountain to Wiggins Road)	U-6048
R-5921	US 276 (Jonathan Creek Road) Improvements	US 23/74 Improvements (Balsam View to Old Balsam)	U-6172
R-5748	Kanuga Road Improvements		
EB-5860	Blythe Street Sidewalks		
EB-5963	Grove Street Sidewalks		

### Tasks Ahead

- Hold local meetings to determine potential project swaps
- Develop a public survey for release over the summer
- Deadline: have draft swaps available by August.

# Item 4B:

## **LAPP Project Selection**

Funding amounts for the 2022 STBG-DA and TAP-DA call for projects in the French Broad River MPO region is \$11,042,000 for STBG-DA and \$2,945,000 for TAP-DA totaling \$13,897,000. Funding amounts are available for FY 2027 and FY 2028.

Update: We can consider incorporating additional funding from the bipartisan infrastructure bill has increased the estimated amount of funding available for this call for projects. The new total amount available is now \$22,392,000 (17,179,000 in STBG-DA and \$5,213,000 for TAP-DA) - an increase of \$8,405,000.

Action Item:

1. Woodfin Greenway Additional Funding Request Consideration
2. Recommend Projects for funding to the TCC/Board

### **1. Woodfin Greenway (Buncombe County)**

In Previous rounds of LAPP funding call for projects, previous projects that were funded for construction have been historically considered for funding prior to the scoring process (Example: NorthRAD Greenway in 2020). Thus, existing projects would receive first consideration. In this round, due to the significant funding needed (\$7.6 Million) for the Woodfin Greenway, it was requested that the Greenway undergo the application/scoring process.

Would the Prioritization Subcommittee wish to consider the Woodfin Greenway additional funding request independently (skips to the front of the line) or within the confines scoring methodology. If we wish to consider Woodfin independently, we recommend using the \$8,405,000 in new funds to cover the cost increase.

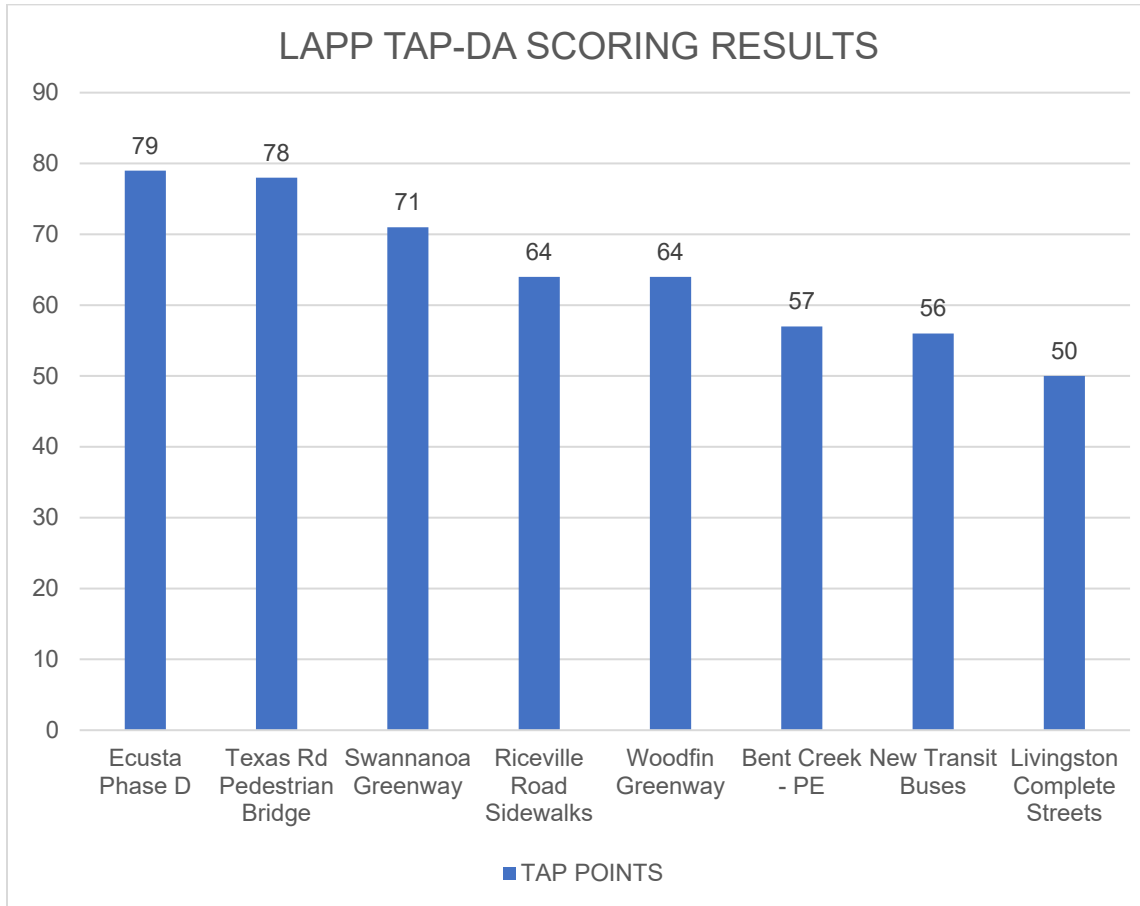


## 2. Recommended Projects

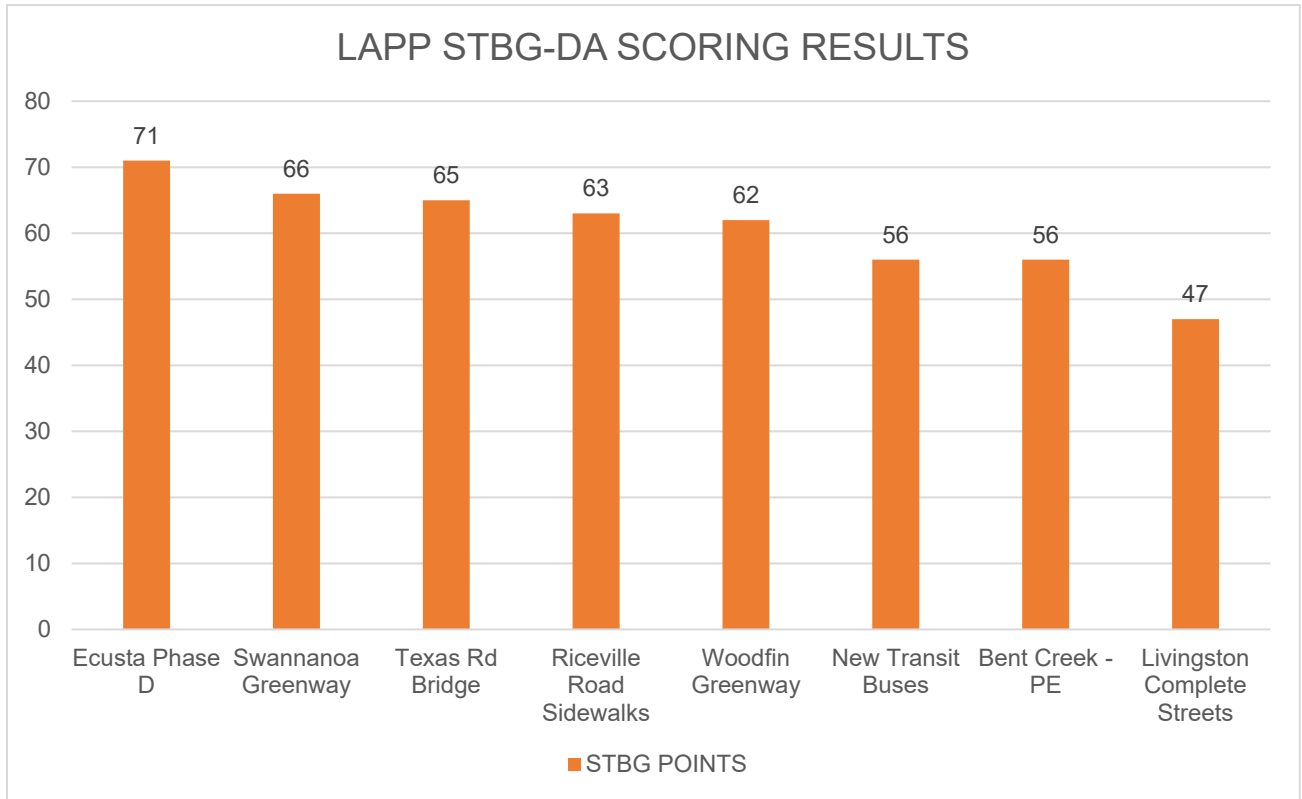
### LAPP Project Selection Staff Ranking

STBG Scoring Rank	Local Government	Project	Federal Funds Requested	Local Cost Share	Total
6th	City of Asheville	Transit Buses	\$2,000,000	\$500,000	\$2,500,000
2nd	City of Asheville	Swannanoa Greenway	\$2,500,000	\$3,600,000	\$6,100,000
8th	City of Asheville	Livingston Complete Street	\$5,136,917	\$1,284,230	\$6,421,147
4th	NCDOT 13	Riceville Road Sidewalks	\$830,000	\$220,000	\$1,050,000
3rd	Town of Montreat	Texas Bridge	\$152,800	\$38,200	\$191,000
5th	Buncombe County	Woodfin Greenway	\$7,636,457	\$1,909,115	\$9,545,572
6th	Buncombe County	Bent Creek South PE	\$600,000	\$150,000	\$750,000
1st	Henderson County	Ecusta Phase D	\$10,467,234	\$2,616,809	\$13,084,043
			<b>\$29,323,408</b>	<b>\$10,318,354</b>	<b>\$39,641,762</b>

LAPP Project Selection based on the TAP-DA methodology resulted in Ecusta Phase D as the highest scoring project (Ecusta is also the highest scoring STBG-DA project). Since Ecusta Phase D exhausts the TAP-DA funding, staff recommends funding part of Ecusta with the entire of the TAP-DA allotment and fund the remaining through the STBG-DA funding pot and then rank/score the remaining projects through the STBG-DA scoring method.



The STGB-DA scoring methodology resulted in Ecusta Phase D being the highest rated project followed by Swannanoa Greenway (2nd), Texas Bridge Road Pedestrian Bridge (3rd), Riceville Road Sidewalks (4th), Woodfin Greenway (5th), New Transit Buses for ART (6th- tie), Bent Creek Greenway (6th – tie), and then Livingston Complete Street (8th).



### Staff Recommendation

French Broad River MPO recommends funding:

- Ecusta Phase D (Henderson County)
- Swannanoa Greenway (City of Asheville)
- Texas Road Pedestrian Bridge (Town of Montreat)
- Riceville Sidewalks (NCDOT Division 13)

This will total \$13,950,034 of our \$13,987,000 in funding with \$36,966 reminding. Incorporating additional funding from the bipartisan infrastructure bill has increased the estimated amount of funding available for this call for projects. With these extra funds, Woodfin Greenways additional funds would also be funded as the fifth project.

## Appendix: Current LAPP Projects

Local Government	Project	Budget Allocation	TIP ID	Year Award Cycle
Buncombe County	Hominy Creek Greenway	\$5,120,000.00	EB-5824	2019
Buncombe County	NC 251 (Riverside Drive)/Beaverdam Creek Greenway	\$4,274,000.00	EB-5774	2019
Buncombe County	Bent Creek Greenway	\$320,000.00	EB-5823	2018
Buncombe County	Reems Creek Greenway	\$480,000.00	EB-5821	2018
City of Asheville	NC 63 (New Leicester Highway) Sidewalks Project	\$2,658,000.00	U-5190	2009
City of Asheville	Johnston Boulevard Sidewalks	\$1,880,000.00	EB-5944	2018
City of Asheville	Onteora Boulevard Sidewalks	\$912,000.00	EB-5948	2018
City of Asheville	French Broad River West Greenway	\$4,200,000.00	U-5019B	2016
City of Asheville	Nasty Branch Greenway	\$3,412,000.00	U-5019A	2016
City of Asheville	Greenway Connectors	\$840,000.00	EB-5790	2016
City of Asheville	New Haw Creek Road Sidewalks	\$1,900,000.00	EB-5947	2018
City of Asheville	Biltmore Ave at White Fawn Drive Signal	\$352,000.00	HL-0014	2020
City of Asheville	Coxe Avenue Complete Streets	\$9,460,000.00	EB-5831	2020
City of Asheville	North RAD Greenway	\$3,303,000.00	EB-5822	2020
City of Asheville	School Zone Safety	\$60,000.00	BL-0006	2020
City of Asheville	Lexington Avenue Complete Streets	\$540,000.00	EB-5830	NA
City of Hendersonville	Clear Creek Greenway	\$1,687,000.00	BL-0008	2020
Henderson County	Ecusta Trail (I, II, II)	\$5,226,000.00	BL-0007	2020
NCDOT Division 13	Broadway Sidewalks	\$474,000.00	BL-0005	2020
NCDOT Division 13	Charlotte Street Ramp	\$668,000.00	HL-0012	2020
NCDOT Division 13	Haywood Road Resurfacing	\$5,014,000.00	HL-0003	2020
Town of Black Mountain	Riverwalk Greenway Phase I	\$937,000.00	EB-5547A	2014
Town of Black Mountain	Riverwalk Greenway Phase II	\$2,398,000.00	EB-5547B	2018
Town of Black Mountain	Bridge Replacement	\$544,000.00	HL-0013	2020
Town of Canton	Champion Drive Multi-Use Path	\$160,000.00	EB-5945	2018
Town of Maggie Valley	US 19 Bike/Ped Improvements	\$1,440,000.00	EB-5926	2018
Town of Mills River	Mills River Valley Trail	\$240,000.00	EB-5946	2018
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$58,499,000.00</b>		

# LAPP Scoring Breakout

Local Government	Project	Method	Mode	Geograph	Service/L	Local Mat	Plan Com	Project Ph	Prior Fund	Missing Li	Overcomi	Connecti	Improve	Safety	Cost Effec	Total	Rank	Cost
	New Transit Buses	Transit	Transit	30	20										6	56	6	\$2,000,000
City of Asheville	Livingston Complete Streets	STBG-DA	Bike/Ped	5	10	0	5	10	0	0	0	5	5	2	5	47	8	\$2,500,000
City of Asheville	Swannanoa Greenway	STBG-DA	Bike/Ped	5	5	15	5	10	5	0	5	4	5	3	4	66	2	\$5,136,917
NC DOT 13	Riceville Road Sidewalks	STBG-DA	Bike/Ped	5	20	0	5	10	0	1	3	5	5	2	7	63	4	\$830,000
Montreat	Texas Rd Bridge Ped Bridge	STBG-DA	Bike/Ped	10	20	0	5	10	0	0	5	5	0	0	10	65	3	\$152,800
Buncombe County	Woodfin Greenway	STBG-DA	Bike/Ped	5	20	0	5	10	5	0	0	5	5	5	2	62	5	\$7,636,457
Buncombe County	Bent Creek - PE	STBG-DA	Bike/Ped	5	10	0	5	5	5	0	3	5	5	5	8	56	6	\$600,000
Henderson County	Ecusta Phase D	STBG-DA	Bike/Ped	5	20	0	5	10	10	0	5	5	5	5	1	71	1	\$10,467,234

Project	Method	Mode	Geographic	Service/Local	Local Match	Plan Compli	Project Phas	Prior Funding	Missing Link	Overcoming	Connections	Safety	Cost Effectiv	Total	Rank	Cost
New Transit Buses	Transit	Transit	30	20									6	56	7	\$2,000,000
Livingston Complete Streets	TAP-DA	Bike/Ped	5	10	0	10	10	0	0	0	8	2	5	50	8	\$2,500,000
Swannanoa Greenway	TAP-DA	Bike/Ped	5	5	15	10	10	5	0	10	4	3	4	71	3	\$5,136,917
Riceville Road Sidewalks	TAP-DA	Bike/Ped	5	20	0	10	10	0	1	3	6	2	7	64	4	\$830,000
Texas Rd Bridge Ped Bridge	TAP-DA	Bike/Ped	10	20	0	10	10	0	0	10	8	0	10	78	2	\$152,800
Woodfin Greenway	TAP-DA	Bike/Ped	5	20	0	10	10	5	0	0	7	5	2	64	4	\$7,636,457
Bent Creek - PE	TAP-DA	Bike/Ped	5	10	0	10	5	5	0	3	6	5	8	57	6	\$600,000
Ecusta Phase D	TAP-DA	Bike/Ped	5	20	0	10	10	10	0	10	8	5	1	79	1	\$10,467,234