

MPO Governing Board

August 25, 2022 – 1:00 P.M., Hybrid Meeting, In-Person at Land of Sky Regional Council
or Via Zoom

Login: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86268431141>

Meeting ID: 86268431141

Call-In: (646)931-3860

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
 2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

 3. **CONSENT AGENDA** Larry Harris

 - A. May, 2022 Minutes
 - B. Modification to the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - C. Amendments to the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
 4. **BUSINESS (10-20 min)**

 - A. Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan Grant Application MPO Staff
 5. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (45-60 min)**

 - A. Draft 2024-2033 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Update MPO Staff
 - B. Carbon Reduction Program MPO Staff
 - C. NC Clean Transportation Plan Jen Weiss, NCDOT
 6. **REGULAR UPDATES (15 min)**

 - A. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates Tim Anderson/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 (5 min)**
 8. **TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING**
 9. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
 10. **ADJOURNMENT**
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FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 3:

Consent Agenda

Item 3A: May, 2022 Board Minutes

Item 3B: Modification to the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Item 3C: Amendments to the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 3A:

May, 2022 MPO Board Minutes

French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting
Minutes from the Governing Board Meeting on May 26, 2022

Attendance:

In-Person and Remote via the Zoom Platform:

Chair Larry Harris (Black Mountain Council)

Tristan Winkler (FBRMPO)

John Ridout (FBRMPO)

Hannah Bagli (FBRMPO)

Jane Pies (LOSRC – Minutes)

Kim Roney (Asheville Council)

Annel Colletta (Flat Rock Council)

Bill Lapsley (Henderson Commission)

Bob Davy (Fletcher Council)

Rebecca McCall (Henderson Commission)

Kevin Ensley (Haywood Commission)

Matt Wechtel (Madison Commission)

Daniel Sellers (NCDOT TPD)

Steve Williams (NCDOT Division 14)

Stephen Sparks (NCDOT Division 14)

Brandon Rogers (Haywood Commission)

Jennifer Hensley (Hendersonville Council)

Shanon Gonce (Mills River Council)

George Banta (Laurel Park Council)

Gwen Wisler (Asheville Council)

Hannah Cook (NCDOT Division 13)

John Chase (Weaverville Council)

Bill Marley (FHWA)

Brendan Merithew (NCDOT Division 13)

Marshall Williams (NCDOT Division 13)

Chuck McGrady (NCBOT)

Wanda Austin (NCDOT Division 14)

Tim Love (Buncombe Economic Development)

Parker Sloan (Buncombe Commission)

Davis Wasserman (NCDOT STIP Manager)

Troy Wilson (NCDOT Division 14)

Christopher Todd (Laurel Park)

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & ROLL CALL

Chair, Larry Harris called the meeting to order at approximately 1:00 PM and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He read the Ethics Statement and inquired if there were any conflicts of interest to note for today's meeting. No conflicts were noted with the business before the body.

Quorum was announced to conduct the business of the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry Harris opened the floor for public comment. Mark Hunt, Buncombe County Resident spoke in support of funding for the Woodfin Greenway (Item 4A). Lisa Raleigh, Executive Director of Blue Link advocated for Woodfin Greenway, also (Item 4A).

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

CONSENT AGENDA

Bill Lapsley moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the April 2022 meeting minutes, the Modification to the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Letter of Support for the Asheville Transit Buses and Bus Facilities & Low or NO Emission Vehicles Grants Programs Grant Application, and the TAC agenda as presented. Chuck McGrady seconded the motion which carried unanimously upon a roll call vote, and without further discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

New LAPP Project Approval

LAPP Project Selection

The initial 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 \$13,987,000. Funding amounts are available for FY 2027 and FY 2028.

Since the call for projects was released, 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.

Item of note: 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. The Prioritization Subcommittee recommended funding the Woodfin Greenway additional funding within the confines scoring methodology.

1. Recommended Projects

LAPP Project Selection Staff Recommendations

Recommended for Funding	Local Government	Project	Federal Funds Requested	Local Cost Share	Total
	City of Asheville	Transit Buses	\$2,000,000	\$500,000	\$2,500,000
Recommended	City of Asheville	Swannanoa Greenway	\$2,500,000	\$3,600,000	\$6,100,000
	City of Asheville	Livingston Complete Street	\$5,136,917	\$1,284,230	\$6,421,147
Recommended	NCDOT 13	Riceville Road Sidewalks	\$830,000	\$220,000	\$1,050,000

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

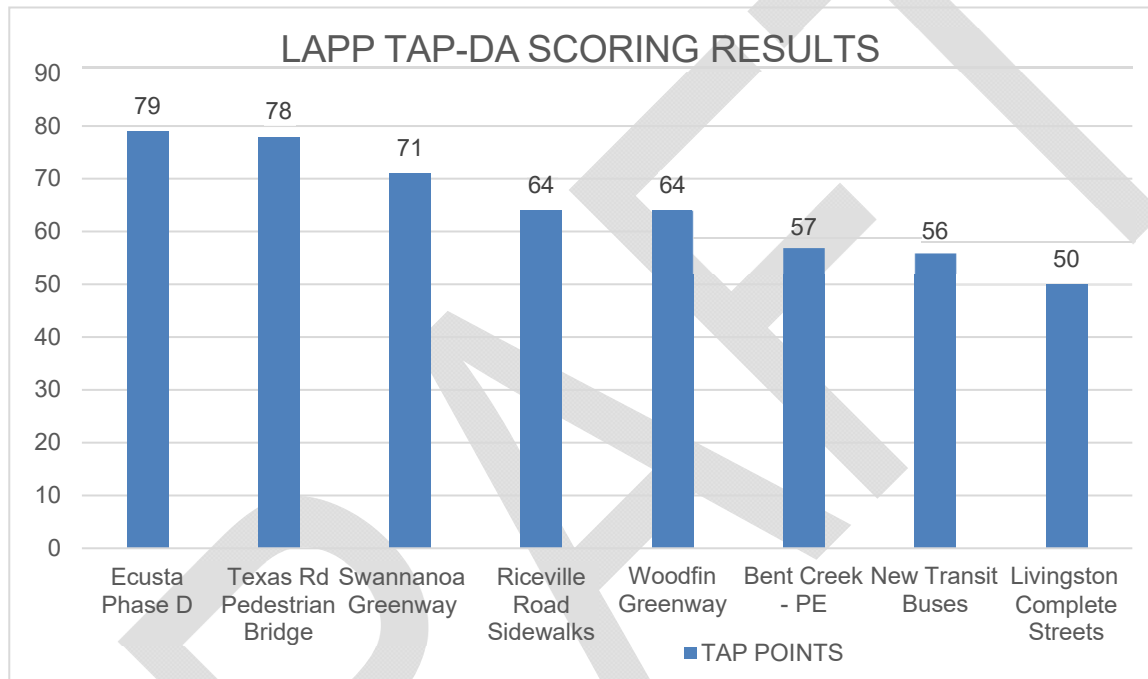
Recommended	Town of Montreat	Texas Bike/Ped Bridge	\$152,800	\$38,200	\$191,000
Recommended	Buncombe County	Woodfin Greenway	\$7,636,457	\$1,909,115	\$9,545,572
	Buncombe County	Bent Creek South PE	\$600,000	\$150,000	\$750,000
Recommended	Henderson County	Ecusta Phase D	\$10,467,234	\$2,616,809	\$13,084,043
			\$29,323,408	\$10,318,354	\$39,641,762

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

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.

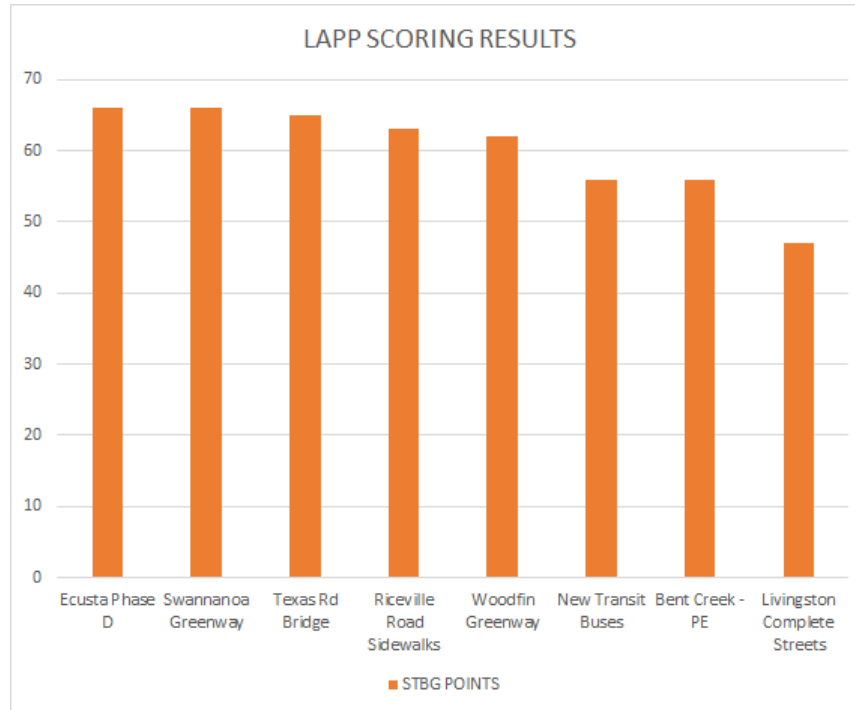


The STGB-DA scoring methodology resulted in Ecusta Phase D And Swannanoa Greenway being the highest rated projects, Texas Bridge Road Pedestrian Bridge (3rd), Riceville Road Sidewalks (4th), Woodfin Greenway (5th), New Transit Buses for ART (6th- tie), Bent Creek Greenway (6th -tie), and then Livingston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

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations



Staff Recommendation

The Prioritization Subcommittee and TCC recommend funding:

- Ecusta Phase D (Henderson County) \$10,467,234
- Swannanoa Greenway (City of Asheville) \$2,500,000
- Texas Road Pedestrian Bridge (Town of Montreat) \$152,800
- Riceville Sidewalks (NCDOT Division 13) \$830,000
- Woodfin Greenway Additional Funding Request \$7,636,457

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Available \$22,392,000

Selected \$21,586,491

Balance Remaining: \$805,509

Chuck McGrady moved to approve the new LAPP selection. Jennifer Hensley seconded the motion which carried unanimously upon a roll call vote.

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Draft 2024-2033 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

The Draft 2024-2033 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) was made available to MPOs and RPOs on Monday, April 25th. The portion of the STIP that includes projects in the French Broad River MPO is available here: <https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/D13-Construction-May-2022-combined.pdf>

General Background

The 2024-2033 STIP reflects the need to right-size the State's transportation budget, currently more than \$8 billion overprogrammed. This process involves determining what projects would remain committed within the STIP and what currently committed projects would be de-committed and subject to future rounds of prioritization. This approach should facilitate a more reliable STIP and enable more funding to be available for future rounds of prioritization.

Project Breakdown by Funding Tier

Statewide Mobility

Statewide Mobility Committed	\$967,483,000
Statewide Mobility Decommited	\$241,976,000

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-2513AA	I-26 Connector (I-40 Improvements & Maintenance)		

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Regional Impact

Regional Impact Committed	\$293,719,000
Regional Impact Decommited	\$730,992,000

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)

Division 13 Needs Committed	\$302,024,000
Division 13 Needs Decommited	\$136,801,000

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

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

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		

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Division Needs (Division 14)

Division 14 Needs Committed	\$267,674,000
Division 14 Needs Decommited	\$100,751,000

Projects In		Projects Out	
TIP ID	Project	Project	TIP ID
R-2588 B	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		

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Changes in Construction Start-Dates

STIP ID	Route	Project Description	County(ies)	Division(s)	STI Funding Category	Previous CON Start Year	Updated CON Start Year
U-5888	US 23 BUSINESS	INTERSECTION OF US23 BUSINESS (NORTHMAIN STREET) AND WALNUT STREET. CONSTRUCT INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS.	HAYWOOD	14	DIV 14	2022	2022
U-6163	SR 3116 (MILLSGAP ROAD)	SR 3136 (CANE CREEK ROAD) INTERSECTION. REALIGN INTERSECTION AND ADD LEFT TURN LANES.	BUNCOMBE	13	DIV 13	2023	2023
U-5839	US 276 (RUSS AVENUE)	US 23/74 TO US 23 BUSINESS (MAIN STREET). UPGRADE CORRIDOR.	HAYWOOD	14	DIV 14	2023	2023

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

STIP ID	Route	Project Description	County(ies)	Division(s)	STI Funding Category	Previous CON Start Year	Updated CON Start Year
U-5019E	RIVERWAY MULTI-MODAL NETWORK	CRAVEN STREET BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS OVERTHE FRENCH BROAD RIVER	BUNCOMBE	13	DIV 13	2024	2024
U-5834	SR 3116 (MILLSGAP ROAD)	US 25 (HENDERSONVILLE ROAD) TO SR 3157 (WESTON ROAD). UPGRADE EXISTING ROADWAY.	BUNCOMBE	13	DIV 13	2024	2024
EB-5919	MCDOWEL L STREET CHOCTAW STREET	SOUTHSIDE AVENUE TO CHOCTAW STREET AT BILTMORE AVENUE. CONSTRUCT PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS.	BUNCOMBE	13	DIV 13	2024	2024
I-2513D	SR 1477 (RIVERSIDE DRIVE)	SR 1517 (HILL STREET) TO SR 1781 (BROADWAY STREET)	BUNCOMBE	13	DIV 13	2024	2024
I-2513B	I-40, I-26	SR 3548 (HAYWOOD ROAD) TO US 19/23 AT SR 1781 (BROADWAY)	BUNCOMBE	13	SW	2024	2024
I-2513AC	I-26/I-240	WIDEN TO SIX LANE FREEWAY.	BUNCOMBE	13	REG G	2024	2024

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

R-2588 B	NC 191	SR 1381 (MOUNTAIN ROAD) TO NC 280 SOUTH OF MILLS RIVER.	HENDERSON	14	DIV 14	2024	2024
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FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

STIP ID	Route	Project Description	County(ies)	Division(s)	STI Funding Category	Previous CON Start Year	Updated CON Start Year
U-5783	US 64	SR 1180 (BLYTHE STREET) TO SR 1173 (WHITE PINE DRIVE)/SR1186 (DANIEL DRIVE). WIDEN ROADWAY.	HENDERSON	14	REG G	2024	2024
R-5921	US 276 (JONATHAN CREEK)	US 19 TO I-40 UPGRADE. MODERNIZE ROADWAY.	HAYWOOD	14	DIV 14	2024	2025
EB-5822	NORTH RAD GREENWAY	CONSTRUCT MULTI-USEPATH ALONG RIVERSIDE DRIVE FROM HILL STREET TO US 19/23/70 AT BROADWAY	BUNCOMBE	13	DIV 13	2025	2025
I-4409	SR 2500 (BLUERIDGE ROAD)	CONVERT I-40/SR 2500 (BLUE RIDGE ROAD) GRADE SEPARATION TO INTERCHANGE. WIDEN SR 2500 (BLUE RIDGE ROAD) TO THREE LANES FROM US 70 TO SOUTH OF I-40 AND UPGRADE ROADWAY SOUTH OF I-40 TO SR 2713.	BUNCOMBE	13	DIV 13	2025	2025

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

I-4759	I-40	I-40/SR 1228 (LIBERTY ROAD). CONVERT GRADE SEPARATION TO AN INTERCHANGE AND CONSTRUCT TWO LANE ROADWAY NORTH OF I-40 TO SR 1224 AND FOUR LANE ROADWAY SOUTH OF I-40 TO US 19/US 23/NC 151 WITH	BUNCOMBE	13	SW	2025	2025
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FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

STIP ID	Route	Project Description	County(ies)	Division(s)	STI Funding Category	Previous CON Start Year	Updated CON Start Year
EB-5860	BLYTHE STREET	BLYTHE STREET, US 64(BREVARD ROAD) TO NC 191 (HAYWOOD ROAD). CONSTRUCT SIDEWALKS.	HENDERSON	14	DIV 14	2026	2027
EB-5963	GROVE STREET	BARNWELL STREET TO US 176 (SPARTANBURG HIGHWAY). CONSTRUCT SIDEWALK.	HENDERSON	14	DIV 14	2026	2027
EB-5965	DEAVERVIE WROAD	US 19/23/74A (PATTON AVENUE) TO WESTMORE DRIVE IN ASHEVILLE. CONSTRUCT SIDEWALK.	BUNCOMBE	13	DIV 13	2027	2027
U-4739	SR 3556 (AMBOY ROAD /MEADOW ROAD)	I-240 TO NC 81/SR 3214(BILTMORE AVENUE). WIDEN TO MULTI-LANES WITH NEW BRIDGE OVER THE FRENCH BROAD RIVER.	BUNCOMBE	13	DIV 13	2029	2028

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

U-5886	SR 1170 (WHITE STREET)	SR 1171 (WILLOW ROAD) TO US 176 (SPARTANBURG HIGHWAY). REALIGNAND EXTEND ROADWAY.	HENDERSO N	14	DIV 14	2026	2029
U-6049	NC 225 (SOUTH MAIN STREET)	SOUTH MAIN STREET AT SOUTH KING STREET TO US 176. WIDEN BRIDGE 440143 TO 5-LANES.	HENDERSO N	14	REG G	2026	2029

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

STIP ID	Route	Project Description	County(ies)	Division(s)	STI Funding Category	Previous CON Start Year	Updated CON Start Year
U-6047	NC 112 (SARDIS ROAD/SANDHILL ROAD)	NC 191 (BREVARD ROAD) TO US 19/23(SMOKEY PARK HIGHWAY). WIDEN ROADWAY.	BUNCOMBE	13	DIV 13	2028	2031
R-5748	SR 1127 (KANUGAROAD)	US 25 BUSINESS (CHURCH STREET) TO SR 1123 (LITTLE RIVERROAD). UPGRADE ROADWAY.	HENDERSON	14	DIV 14	Beyond 2029	2031
U-4712	US 23 BUSINESS (SOUTH MAIN STREET)	SR 1164 (HYATT CREEKROAD) TO US 276 (PIGEON STREET). WIDEN TO MULTILANES.	HAYWOOD	14	DIV 14	2027	-
U-2801A	US 25A (SWEETEN CREEK ROAD)	US 25 (HENDERSONVILEROAD) TO SR 3081(ROCK HILL ROAD)	BUNCOMBE	13	REG G	2027	-
U-5973	WEAVERVILLE	US 19 BUSINESS (WEAVERVILLE HIGHWAY) AND SR 1740 (NEW STOCK ROAD). CONSTRUCT	BUNCOMBE	13	REG G	2029	-

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

		INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT S.					
I- 2513C	I-26/I-240	I-26/I-40/I-240 FINAL INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS	BUNCOMBE	13	SW	2029	-

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

STIP ID	Route	Project Description	County(ies)	Division(s)	STI Funding Category	Previous CON Start Year	Updated CON Start Year
U-6158	US 276	SR 1134 (CRYMES COVERROAD) AND RACCOON ROAD. INTERSECTION REALIGNMENT.	HAYWOOD	14	DIV 14	Beyond 2029	-
U-6162	SR 1332 (NORTH LOUISIANA AVENUE)	US 19/23 (PATTON AVENUE) TO SR 1338(EMMA ROAD). MODERNIZE ROADWAY.	BUNCOMBE	13	DIV 13	Beyond 2029	-
U-5832	NC 81 (SWANNANO RIVER ROAD)	SR 3214 (BILTMORE AVENUE) TO US 74A(SOUTH TUNNEL ROAD). WIDEN EXISTING ROADWAY.	BUNCOMBE	13	DIV 13	Beyond 2029	-
U-5837	SR 2002 (RICEVILLE ROAD)	US 70 (TUNNEL ROAD) TO SR 2285 (CLEAR VISTA LANE). UPGRADEROADWAY.	BUNCOMBE	13	DIV 13	Beyond 2029	-
U-6046	NC 81 (SWANNANO RIVER ROAD)	US 70 (TUNNEL ROAD) TO US 74 (SOUTH TUNNEL ROAD). UPGRADE ROADWAY.	BUNCOMBE	13	DIV 13	Beyond 2029	-
A-0010A	I-26 (US 19/US23)	SR 1781 (BROADWAY STREET) TO US	BUNCOMBE	13	REG G	Beyond 2029	-

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

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I-4400B A	I-26	US 64 INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS	HENDERSON	14	SW	Beyond 2029	-
U-3403 B	NC 191 (BREVARD ROAD - OLD HAYWOOD ROAD)	SR 3498 (LEDBETTER ROAD) TO NORTH OF BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY.	BUNCOMBE	13	REG G	Beyond 2029	-

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

STIP ID	Route	Project Description	County(ies)	Division(s)	STI Funding Category	Previous CON Start Year	Updated CON Start Year
U-5971 B	ASHEVILLE	US 19 (PATTON AVENUE) AND NC 63(NEW LEICESTER HIGHWAY). CONSTRUCT FINAL INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS.	BUNCOMBE	13	REG G	Beyond 2029	-
U-5972	ASHEVILLE	NC 63 (NEW LEICESTER HIGHWAY), US 19/23 (PATTON AVENUE) TO NEWFOUND ROAD. CONSTRUCT ACCESS MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENTS.	BUNCOMBE	13	REG G	Beyond 2029	-
U-6159	US 276 (RUSS AVENUE)	US 23-74 (GREAT SMOKEY MOUNTAIN EXPRESSWAY) TO US 19(DELLWOOD ROAD). ACCESS MANAGEMENT.	HAYWOOD	14	DIV 14	Beyond 2029	-
U-6048	US 19, US 23	SR 1836 (CHESTNUT MOUNTAIN ROAD) TOSR 1200 (WIGGINS ROAD). UPGRADE ROADWAY.	HAYWOOD , BUNCOMBE	13, 14	DIV 14	Beyond 2029	-

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

U-6172	US 23/US 74 (GREAT SMOKEY MOUNTAINS EXPRESSWAY)	SR 1777 (BALSAM VIEWDRIVE) TO SR 1158 (OLD BALSAM ROAD) MODERNIZE ROADWAY.	HAYWOOD, JACKSON	14	DIV 14	Beyond 2029	-
U-6124	NC 280 (BOYLSTON HIGHWAY)	NC 191 (HAYWOOD ROAD) TO NC 191 (OLDHAYWOOD ROAD). CONSTRUCT ACCESS MANAGEMENT AND INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS.	HENDERSON	14	REG G	Beyond 2029	-

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

STIP ID	Route	Project Description	County(ies)	Division(s)	STI Funding Category	Previous CON Start Year	Updated CON Start Year
U-6048	US 19, US 23	SR 1836 (CHESTNUT MOUNTAIN ROAD) TOSR 1200 (WIGGINS ROAD). UPGRADE ROADWAY.	HAYWOOD, BUNCOMBE	13, 14	DIV 13	Beyond 2029	-

Schedule and Considerations Moving Forward

For the MPO's process, the following tasks and general dates are planned:

Task/Event	Date	Lead Agency
Local Meetings (by County)	May/June, 2022	MPO
Public Engagement	June/July, 2022	MPO w/ NCDOT
Draft Project Swaps (if any)	August, 2022	MPO, NCDOT
Final Project Swaps (if any)	September, 2022	MPO, NCDOT
Revised STIP Released	Winter, 2022/2023	NCDOT
Public Comment	Spring/Summer, 2023	MPO, NCDOT
Final STIP Adopted	Summer, 2023	MPO, NCDOT

Tristan Winkler provided a summary presentation. He shared that projects with Right-of-Way programmed by 2028 are considered "committed." The Draft STIP results in \$1.2B in project losses, with \$1.8B projects remaining committed. Proposed to be "de-committed" are 17 projects. Regional Impact is the hardest hit funding by tier. In Buncombe County, \$1,026,169,000 (85%) in projects are to be decommitted, with Haywood County losing \$123,151,000 (10%) in projects and Henderson County losing \$63,900,000 (5%). Schedule changes is a major reason for cost increases and delays.

Information only. No action required.

Chestnut Mountain Nature Park

The Chestnut Mountain Nature Park opened to the public on Saturday, April 23rd on a large parcel south of US 19/23 and east of the Town of Canton. The park has been under development for several years, led by the Town of Canton and Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy. The park is expected to be a new regional destination for mountain biking as well as opportunities for hiking and other recreation.

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

The master plan for the park is available here:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/d75d6b2e41354d5a975d854f68248011>

Tristan Winkler gave a presentation on the park. The park is located just outside the town of Canton. This corridor was set to be improved, but unfortunately it is now on the list to be decommitted (HD144505 – US19/23 Modernization). Tristan visited the park and believed it has completely changed and activated this corridor and highlights the need to keep this project committed.

Information only. No action required.

Corridor Studies

Corridor studies were conducted by the City of Asheville and the French Broad River MPO (in cooperation with the City of Asheville and Buncombe County.) MPO staff will provide short summaries on the following studies that were funded with planning funds through the MPO:

- [Biltmore/McDowell Corridor Study](#)
- [Tunnel Road Corridor Study](#)
- [Hendersonville Road Corridor Study](#)

These studies were adopted by the City of Asheville in December 2021.

MPO Staff presented on the studies. The Corridor Studies are a recap of special studies funded by MPO in last couple of years. They are in partnership with Buncombe County, City of Asheville and the MPO. NCDOT was part of the steering committees, as well. Each study provided multiple opportunities for public input (and the documents may be a tool for better public understanding moving forward). They give a starting point for a vision of “positive change” for each corridor and enables better documentation and involvement at an early stage – before major design and construction.

Information only. No action required.

REGULAR UPDATES AND INFORMATION ITEMS

- Division 13 Updates: <https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/D13-Construction-May-2022-combined/pdf>
- Division 14 Updates: https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/052022_Div14_FBRMPO-Const_Update-combined.pdf
- TPD Updates: TPD updates were provided.

- FHWH/FTA Updates: FTA updates were provided.
- FBRMPO Committee & Workgroup Updates:
 - Prioritization Subcommittee – Met May 4th, next meeting June 1st
 - Transit Operators Workgroup – next meeting TBD
 - 5307 Subrecipient – next meeting TBD
 - Citizen’s Advisory Committee – met April 13th, next meeting TBD
 - Hellbender Trail Stakeholder Group – last meeting February 3rd, next meeting May 24th
- Legislative updates provided by MPO Staff

Additional Items:

- USDOT Multimodal Discretionary Grant Open Through May 23rd. Information here: <https://www.transportation.gov/grants/multimodal-project-discretionary-grant-notice-funding-opportunity>
- USDOT Safe Streets for All Program expected to open in May. Preliminary information here: <https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2022-03/Safe-Streets-and-Roads-for-All-Fact-Sheet-March-2022.pdf>
- FHWA Provided a Report to Congress on Complete Streets. The report is available here: <https://highways.dot.gov/sites/fhwa.dot.gov/files/2022-03/Complete%20Streets%20Report%20to%20Congress.pdf>
- USDOT released the National Roadway Safety Strategy in January. The guidance is available here: <https://www.transportation.gov/NRSS>
- FTA FY 2022 Funding Apportionments available here: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/apportionments/current-apportionments>

PUBLIC COMMENT

Larry Harris opened the floor for public comment. No comments were received.

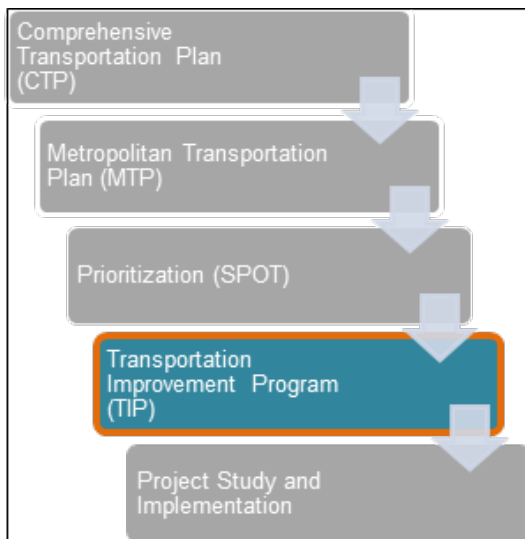
ADJOURNMENT

Chair Harris adjourned the meeting at 2:10 PM as there was no further business.

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 3B:

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



What is the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)?

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is our region's document that reflects planned transportation investments over a ten-year period. The TIP describes each project, a schedule for implementation, funding sources, and estimated costs. Current items are for modification of existing projects. No new projects or amendments are included for August, 2022.

Modifications Summary

The modifications to the TIP largely include delays to projects for additional planning and design- most of the delays are projects that have been awarded funds through

the MPO's Locally Administered Project Program (LAPP.) Another modification adds funding to the MPO's PL Supplement in order to meet the special studies that are reflected in the MPO's FY 2023 UPWP (Item 4C.)

A full table of the proposed modifications to the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program is below.

Action: Consider Approval of the Modifications to the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program

TCC Recommendation: Approve

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 3C:

Amendments to the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

What is a UPWP?

The UPWP is a federally mandated document for MPOs to produce that serves 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, and any programmatic support or planning being funded by FTA 5307 Support.

Amendment Summary

The amendment adds two "special studies":

1) Asheville Bike/Ped Counting Equipment

The MPO awarded funding to the City of Asheville to purchase bicycle and pedestrian counters. This award was requested as part of a requirement from the TIGER grant that was awarded to Asheville as part of the RADTIP project in order to better monitor and measure the effectiveness of the project.

This project was initially programmed in the FY 2019 UPWP and was expected to be completed in FY 2022 but ran into issues with the equipment that was initially delivered.

2) Biltmore Avenue Feasibility Study

The MPO awarded funding to the City of Asheville to develop a feasibility study for the improvement of the Biltmore and McDowell corridors to look at how multimodal infrastructure could be added while considering congestion and other safety needs.

This project was initially programmed in the FY 2017 UPWP and was completed in FY 2022 but final payments were not processed at the end of FY 2022, requiring an amendment to the UPWP to show it as a continuing study.

Action: Consider Approval of the Amendments to the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program

TCC Recommendation: Approve

The FY 2023 UPWP would be amended as shown below:

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 4A:

Safe Streets for All Safety Action Planning Grant Application to USDOT

What is Safe Streets for All?

[Safe Streets for All](#) is a new grant program offered through USDOT that was created as part of the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law aiming at achieving zero roadway death and serious injuries. It is a discretionary grant, meaning eligible entities may apply directly to USDOT for funding and USDOT makes awards based on the merits of proposals and other factors to ensure some level of geographic equity. \$5 billion is expected to be made available over the next five years for this program.

The Safe Streets for All program makes different types of funding available to help improve safety.

- Develop or update a comprehensive safety action plan (Action Plan).
- Conduct planning, design, and development activities in support of an Action Plan.
- Carry out projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan.

However, jurisdictions may not apply for implementation funding unless there is an Action Plan in place. A couple of jurisdictions have plans that have some parts of an Action Plan, but as of this writing, none have enough to be eligible to apply for implementation funds.

Proposed Application for the Region

The French Broad River MPO staff recommends submitting a joint application for an Action Plan with the Land of Sky RPO. This would create a five-county Action Plan for Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania counties, enabling jurisdictions in those areas to apply for implementation funds.

This plan would include the following general elements:

- Community & Stakeholder Engagement
- Crash and Risk-Based Analysis
- Safety Hot-Spot Identification
- Project Recommendations
- Programmatic Recommendations

The current draft budget is for \$400,000 total. \$320,000 would be covered by the federal share (if successful) and \$80,000 would be required to come from non-federal sources. The NCDOT Safety Unit plans to make some State funding available for local match and MPO staff has been in discussions with other organizations to potentially alleviate or fully provide the local match as well.

Staff Report & Recommendations

Information from the FHWA Fact Sheet:

Program Purpose

BIL establishes the new Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program, which supports local initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets, commonly referred to as "Vision Zero" or "Toward Zero Deaths" initiatives. The SS4A program supports the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) [National Roadway Safety Strategy](#) and a goal of zero deaths and serious injuries on our nation's roadways.

Statutory Citations

- § 24112; Division J, Title VIII, Safe Streets and Roads for All Grants heading

Funding Features

Type of Budget Authority or Authorization of Appropriations

- Advance appropriations from the General Fund; not subject to any limitation on obligations. [Division J, Title VIII]
- Authorization, subject to appropriation, from the General Fund. [§ 24112(f)(1)]

Set-asides

- For each of FY22-26, DOT may retain and use for administrative expenses up to 2% of the amounts made available for the SS4A program. [§ 24112(f)(2)]

Distribution of Funds

- Not more than 15% of the funds made available to carry out the program for a fiscal year may be awarded to eligible projects in a single State during that fiscal year.
- For each of FY22-26, DOT must award not less than 40% of SS4A funds made available for that fiscal year to projects to develop comprehensive safety action plans. [§ 24112(c)(2)]

Availability of Funds

- Amounts made available under a grant under the program shall remain available for use by the grant recipient until the date that is 5 years after the date on which the grant is provided. [§ 24112(f)(3)]

Federal Share

- The Federal share of the cost of an SS4A project shall not exceed 80% [§ 24112(e)]

Eligible Activities

SS4A funds may be used to:

- Develop a comprehensive safety action plan;
- Conduct planning, design, and development activities for projects and strategies identified in a comprehensive safety action plan; or
- Carry out projects and strategies identified in a comprehensive safety action plan [§ 24112(a)(3)]

Program Features

This is a new program established under the BIL.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are:

- A metropolitan planning organization;
- A political subdivision of a State;
- A federally recognized Tribal government; and

Staff Report & Recommendations

- A multijurisdictional group of entities described above. [§ 24112(a)(2)]

Selection Considerations

When awarding SS4A grants, the BIL requires DOT to consider the extent to which an eligible applicant, and each eligible project proposed to be carried out by the eligible applicant, as applicable:

- Is likely to significantly reduce or eliminate transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries involving various road users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation users, motorists, and commercial operators, within a timeframe proposed by the eligible entity;
- Demonstrates engagement with a variety of public and private stakeholders;
- Seeks to adopt innovative technologies or strategies to promote safety;
- Employs low-cost, high-impact strategies that can improve safety over a wider geographical area;
- Ensures, or will ensure, equitable investment in the safety needs of underserved communities in preventing transportation-related fatalities and injuries;
- Includes evidence-based projects or strategies; and
- Achieves such other conditions as the Secretary considers necessary. [§ 24112(d)(3)]

Action Required: Consider Approval of an MPO/RPO Action Plan Grant Application
TCC Recommendation: Approve

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 5A:

Draft 2024-2033 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Update

The Prioritization process for the development of the 2024-2033 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) has had a number of changes take place over the last month.

Financial Changes: the State budget includes a provision to begin transferring a percentage of State sales tax revenues to transportation funds. This is projected to generate \$7.8 billion over the next ten years to be included in the Draft STIP. This additional enabled some projects to come back into the 2024-2033 STIP that were initially removed, however, this influx of funding was still not sufficient to bring back all of the removed projects.

Projects That Made It Back Into the Revised 2024-2033 STIP

Buncombe County

- U-5832 – Modernization of NC 81 (Swannanoa River Road) from Biltmore Avenue to US 74A (South Tunnel Road)
- U-2801A – Widening of US 25A (Sweeten Creek Road) from US 25/NC 280 to Rock Hill Road
- A-0010AA – Widening and Modernization of Future I-26 from Broadway to Weaver Boulevard

Haywood County

- U-4712 – Widening of South Main Street from US 276 to Hyatt Creek Road
- U-6158 – Intersection Improvements to US 276/Crymes Cove Road/Raccoon Road
- U-6159 – Access Management to US 276 (Russ Avenue) from US 23/74 to US 19 (Dellwood Road)

Buncombe/Haywood County

- U-6048 – Modernization of US 19/23 from Chestnut Mountain Road (Haywood County) to Wiggins Road

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Schedule Changes: due to the new funds being made available, the Prioritization Workgroup has recommended the deadline for proposing swaps be delayed until March 17, 2023. MPOs that are required to do air-quality conformity analyses as part of the TIP development process will have swaps prepared at an earlier date.

General Schedule Moving Forward:

Revised Draft 2024-2033 STIP Released: next few weeks

Project Swaps Due: March 17, 2023

State Considers 2024-2033 STIP for Adoption: May, 2023

FBRMPO Considers 2024-2033 STIP for Adoption: June/August, 2023

Information Only

Item 5B:

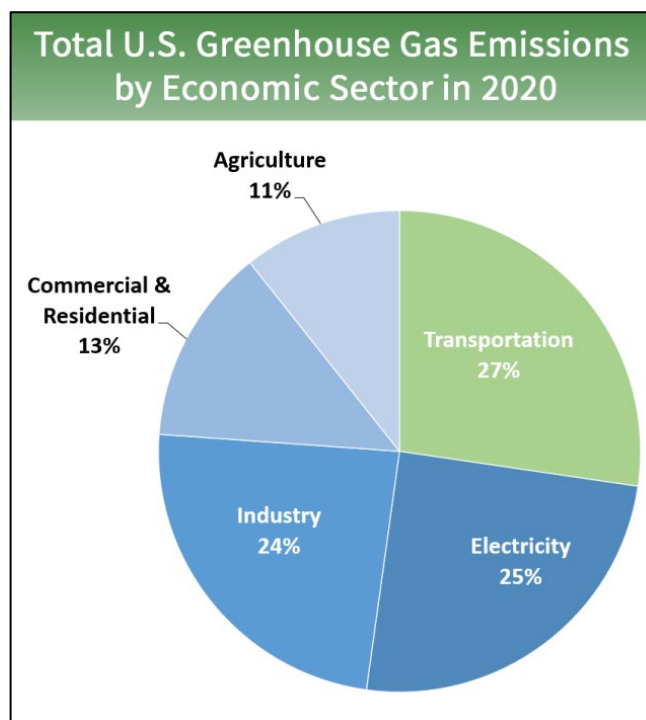
Carbon Reduction Program

What is the Carbon Reduction Program?

The [Carbon Reduction Program](#) is a new funding source through USDOT that was created as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law whose primary purpose is to reduce the carbon emissions from the transportation sector which is now the largest contributor of greenhouse gases in the United States.

The Carbon Reduction Program is function very similarly to the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Transportation Alternatives Program that funds are allocated to States and required to make sub-allocations to urban, small urban, and rural areas. Broad River MPO's annual allocation **\$628,563/year** between FY 2022 and **Eligible Projects**

- CRP funds may be for projects that support reduction of transportation including, but not limited as noted, § 11403; 23 175(c)(1)]
- a project described in 23 149(b)(4) to establish or traffic monitoring, management, and control facility or program, including advanced truck stop electrification systems;
- a public transportation project eligible under 23 U.S.C. 142;
- a transportation alternative (as defined under the Moving Ahead for Progress under the 21st Century Act [23 U.S.C. 101(a)(29), as in effect on July 5, 2012]), including, but not limited to, the construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nonmotorized forms of transportation;
- a project described in 23 U.S.C. 503(c)(4)(E) for advanced transportation and congestion management technologies;



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FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

- deployment of infrastructure-based intelligent transportation systems capital improvements and the installation of vehicle-to-infrastructure communications equipment;
- a project to replace street lighting and traffic control devices with energy-efficient alternatives;
- development of a carbon reduction strategy developed by a State per requirements in 23 U.S.C. 175(d);
- a project or strategy designed to support congestion pricing, shifting transportation demand to nonpeak hours or other transportation modes, increasing vehicle occupancy rates, or otherwise reducing demand for roads, including electronic toll collection, and travel demand management strategies and programs;
- efforts to reduce the environmental and community impacts of freight movement;
- a project that supports deployment of alternative fuel vehicles, including—
- acquisition, installation, or operation of publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure or hydrogen, natural gas, or propane vehicle fueling infrastructure; and
- purchase or lease of zero-emission construction equipment and vehicles, including the acquisition, construction, or leasing of required supporting facilities;
- a project described in 23 U.S.C. 149(b)(8) for a diesel engine retrofit;
- certain types of projects to improve traffic flow that are eligible under the CMAQ program, and that do not involve construction of new capacity; [§ 11403; 23 U.S.C. 149(b)(5); and 175(c)(1)(L)]
- a project that reduces transportation emissions at port facilities, including through the advancement of port electrification; and
- any other STBG-eligible project, if the Secretary certifies that the State has demonstrated a reduction in transportation emissions, as estimated on a per capita and per unit of economic output basis. (Note: FHWA will issue guidance on how the Secretary will make such certifications.) [§ 11403; 23 U.S.C. 133(b) and 175(c)(2)]

The federal share for projects in this program is “generally” 80%.

Other Requirements

Each state is required to produce a Carbon Reduction Strategy in coordination with MPOs within two years with updates every four years.

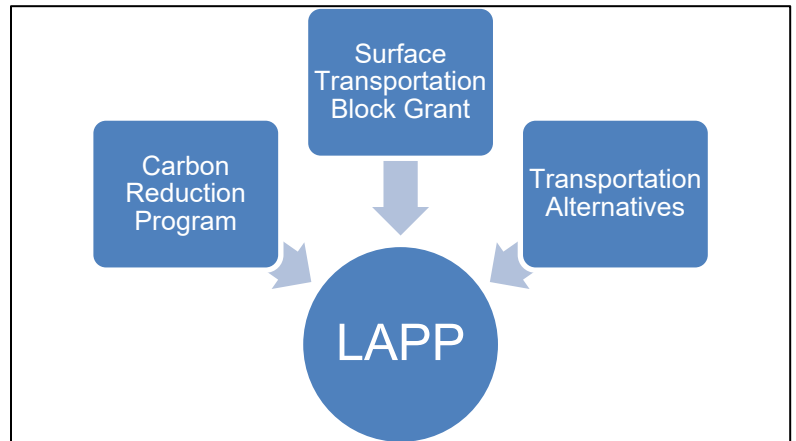
FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Plan for Application to the FBRMPO

Consolidate Carbon Reduction Program, Transportation Alternatives, and Surface Transportation Block Grant funds into the Locally Administered Projects Program



Information Only

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 5C:

NC Clean Transportation Plan

Jen Weiss with NCDOT will present on the NC Clean Transportation Plan, which is currently in progress.

From the [project website](#):

In January 2022, Gov. Roy Cooper signed [Executive Order 246 \(EO 246\)](#), “North Carolina’s Transformation to a Clean, Equitable Economy,” setting the course for North Carolina’s continued work to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions, advance environmental justice and create good paying jobs throughout the state. This executive order builds upon 2018’s [Executive Order 80](#), which established a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent and increase zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) adoption to 80,000 vehicles by 2025.

EO 246 Goals

- Reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions to at least 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions no later than 2050.
- Increase the total number of registered, zero-emission vehicles to at least 1,250,000 by 2030 and increase the sale of ZEVs so that 50 percent of in-state sales of new vehicles are zero-emission by 2030.

Clean Transportation Plan

As part of EO 246, the N.C. Department of Transportation is tasked with developing a Clean Transportation Plan (NCCTP) within 15 months of the order. The NCCTP will recommend actionable strategies for decarbonizing the transportation sector and shall address:

1. Availability, sales and usage of zero-emission vehicles to levels beyond current market projections, including a focus on medium- and heavy-duty ZEVs.
2. Reductions in vehicle miles traveled.
3. Investment in clean transportation infrastructure.
4. Equitable access to clean mobility options.
5. Increased availability of non-vehicle transportation modes.
6. A transition to zero- and low-emission fuels.
7. Other relevant topics.

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

To create the NCCTP, NCDOT will be collaborating with stakeholders to create plans for the rapid decarbonization of North Carolina's transportation sector. This process will take into consideration the diverse viewpoints of all stakeholders and the potential impacts of each recommendation.

Information Only

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 6A:

Division Project Updates

Division 13 Updates: <https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/D13-Construction-August-2022-combined.pdf>

Division 14 Updates: https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/082022_Div14_FBRMPO-Const_Update-combined-3.pdf

Item 6B:

TPD Updates

https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/FBRMPO_LOSRPO_Newletter_2022_5_August.pdf

Item 6C:

FHWA/FTA Updates

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 6D:

Committee & Workgroup Updates

Prioritization Subcommittee— met August 3rd; next meeting September 7th

Transit Operators' Workgroup—next meeting TBD

5307 Subrecipient Workgroup- next meeting TBD

Citizens' Advisory Committee- met June 24th; next meeting TBD

Hellbender Trail Stakeholder Group- last meeting May 24th; next meeting TBD

Additional Items:

Recommended Actions:

Accept the reports.

Item 6E:

Legislative Updates