

a program of Land of Sky

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (MTP)

What is the MTP?

The MTP is a federally-mandated transportation plan for urbanized areas, maintained and developed by Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO.) The MTP is required to look 25 years into the future to project needs and prioritize projects. Any transportation project of regional significance or needing federal actions is required to be reflected in the MTP.

The French Broad River MPO developed the 2045 MTP in 2020

Comments on the Proposed Amendments

Comments may be made:

Via Email: mpo@landofsky.org

Via Phone: 828.251.6622 (ask for Tristan Winkler)

At the MPO Board: to be held at Land of Sky Regional Council (with a virtual option) on Thursday, October 27th at 1:00 PM

What Amendments are Being Proposed?

Three general items are being considered for these amendments to the MTP:

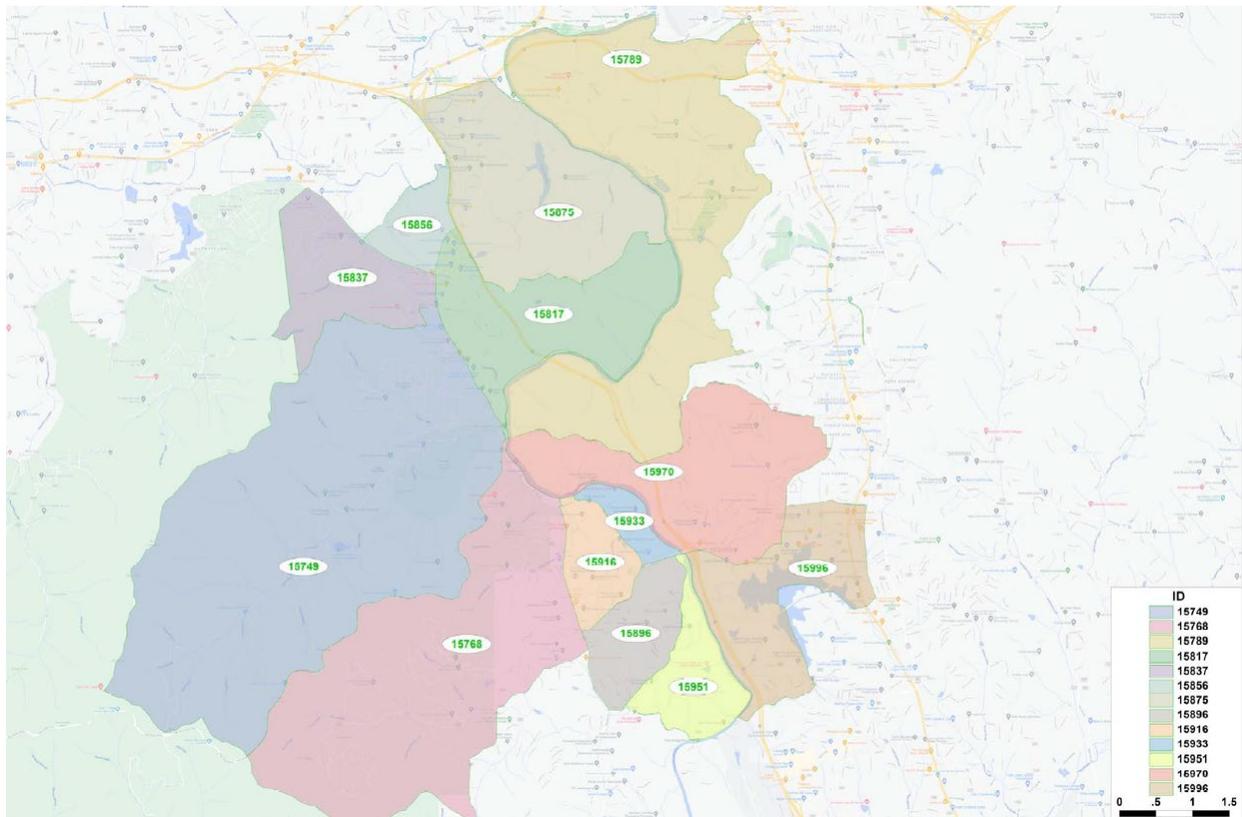
- 1) Amendments to the Transportation Analysis Zones in the region's Travel Demand Model, requested by NCDOT, necessitated by HE-0001
- 2) Modification to the Proposed Cross-Section for U-6159 (US 276 in Haywood County)
- 3) Addition of the College/Patton Bike Lane project in Downtown Asheville

Amendments to the Transportation Analysis Zones

The MPO, with NCDOT, develops and maintains the five-county (Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania) region's Travel Demand Model which helps to forecast future traffic volumes through socio-economic projections. The MPO adopted the most recent projections in 2020 with the adoption of the MTP, but NCDOT has requested an amendment to adopt changes deemed necessary due to the changes to site accessibility and plans for the around the HE-0001 and Project Ranger area.

The proposed changes would maintain the same overall projected growth in population and employment for the five-county region but would split a TAZ in southern Buncombe County to create a new TAZ, 652 (mapped as 15789 below.)

TAZ	2015 Population	2015 Employment	2045 Population	2045 Employment
652	0	0	761	4025



Modification to U-6159

MPO staff coordinated with the Town of Waynesville and Haywood County to recommend a new cross-section for U-6159, a project that is funded in both the 2020-2029 and 2024-2033 (State) Transportation Improvement Program. The new cross-section would line-up with recommendations in the Draft Haywood County Greenway Master Plan and provide bicycle accommodations in-line with the FHWA Bikeway Selection Guide and updated NCDOT guidance, based on roadway volumes and vehicle speeds.

These cross-sections are intended to provide a general idea of the outcome of planned improvement projects and do not reflect the most up-to-date designs and should not be used to determine potential right-of-way impacts.

U-6159 Information

Route: US 276 (Russ Avenue)

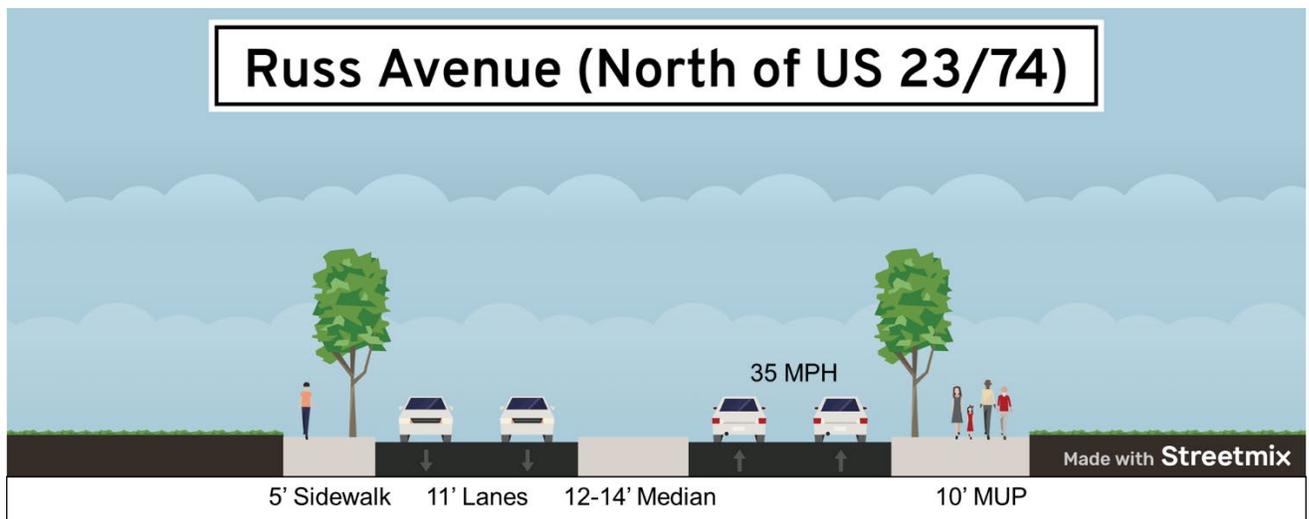
From: US 23/74 (Smokey Mountains Expressway)

To: US 19 (Dellwood Road)

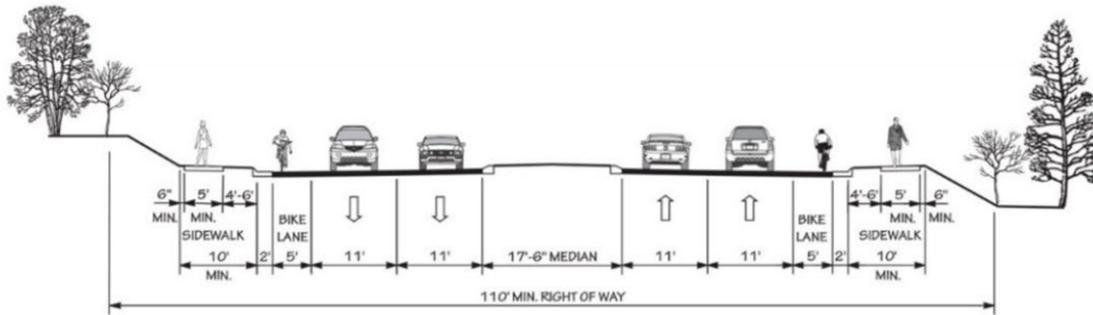
Improvement Type: Access Management

Jurisdictions Impacted: Haywood County, Town of Waynesville

Proposed Updated Cross-Section:



Current MTP Cross-Section:



Anticipated Cross-Section

Addition of the College/Patton Bike Lane Project

The City of Asheville plans to add bike lanes to College Street and Patton Avenue in Downtown Asheville between Spruce Street and Pritchard Park and Biltmore Avenue and Pritchard Park, respectively. As part of adding bike lanes, each road will have one vehicular travel lane removed.

Both College Street and Patton Avenue are considered major regional roads that impact regional mobility and are reflected in the region's travel demand model. Making this amendment will change the model's number of vehicular travel lanes to provide better traffic forecasts and projections.

To note: this project does not have any federal funds programmed so the approval of this amendment does not impact plans for this project's construction.

More information on this project is available here: <https://www.ashevollenc.gov/projects/college-patton-bike-lane-project/>