

French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization

Minutes from the TCC Hybrid Meeting on May 12, 2022

ATTENDANCE:

In-person and remote via Zoom:

Autumn Radcliff	William High	Tristan Winkler
John Ridout	Jane Pies (minutes)	Hannah Bagli
Stephen Williams	Hannah Cook	Stephen Sparks
Daniel Sellers	Adrienne Isenhower	Jessica Trotman
Janna Bianculli	Troy Wilson	Vicki Eastland
Chris Cairns	David Wasserman	Lucy Crown
Chris Lee	Bill Marley	Nick Sheuer

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Chair, Autumn Radcliff called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 11:00 AM. A roll call followed, and quorum was established for conducting the business of the TCC.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Radcliff called for public comments. No public comments were received.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Radcliff indicated that the consent agenda included the April 2022 TCC minutes and the modification to the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). She requested approval of the TCC agenda, as well. Tristan Winkler added that Item 5B will be removed from this month's agenda.

Janna Bianculli motioned to approve the consent agenda with the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the TCC agenda, as presented. William High seconded the motion, which carried unanimously upon a roll call vote and without further discussion.

BUSINESS

New LAPP Projects 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 \$13,897,000. 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.

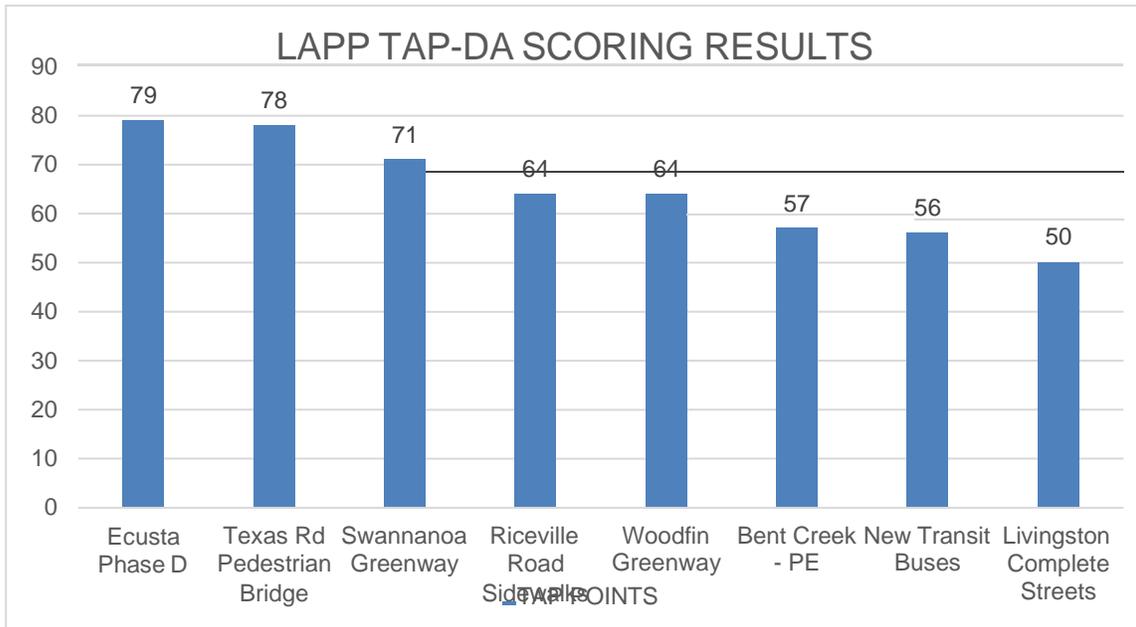
Item of note: In Previous rounds of LAPP funding call for projects, previous projects that were funded for construction have been historically considered for funding prior to the scoring process (Example: NorthRAD Greenway in 2020). Thus, existing projects would receive first consideration. In this round, 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

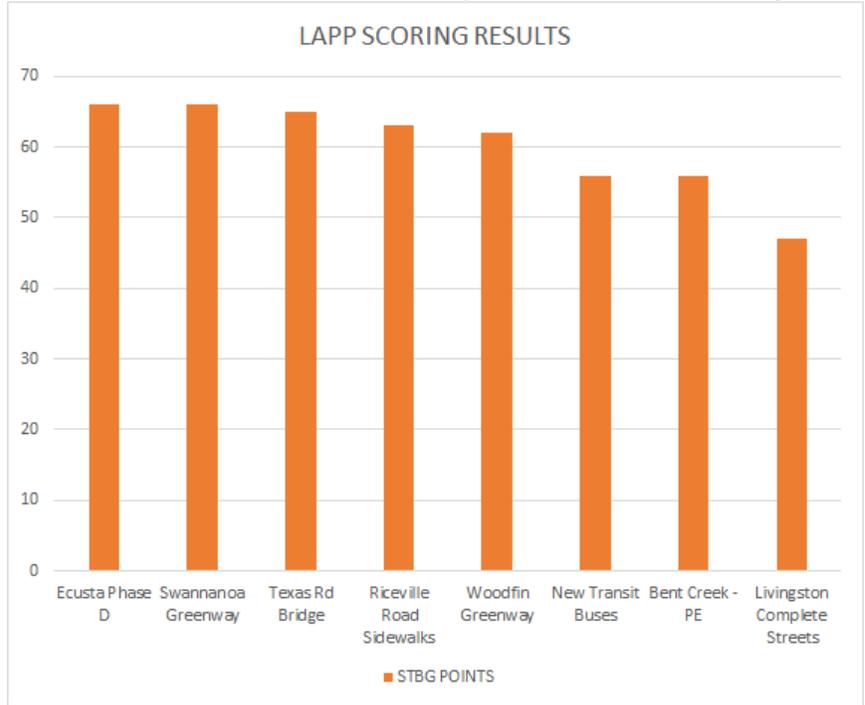
LAPP Project Selection Staff Ranking

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
			\$29,323,408	\$10,318,354	\$39,641,762

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).



MPO Staff presented on the selected LAPP projects and reviewed the scoring methodology. Projects considered but not recommended at this time are the City of Asheville’s New Transit Buses, the Bent Creek Greenway – Preliminary Engineering, and Livingston Complete Streets.

French Broad River MPO recommends funding the following projects:

- 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)

?

Available	\$22,392,000
Selected	\$21,586,491
Balance Remaining:	\$805,509

Janna Bianculli moved to accept the MPO Staff recommendations for the new LAPP Projects and request approval by the Board as presented. Lucy Crown seconded the motion which passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Draft 2024-2033 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-4400BA
I-2513AA	I-26 Connector (I-40 Improvements & Maintenance)		

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
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)

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-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		

Changes in Construction Start-Dates

STIP ID	Route	Project Description	County(ies)	Division(s)	STI Funding Category	Previous CON StartYear	Updated CON StartYear
U-5888	US 23 BUSINESS	INTERSECTION OF US 23 BUSINESS (NORTH MAIN STREET) AND WALNUT STREET. CONSTRUCT INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS.	HAYWOOD	14	DIV 14	2022	2022
U-6163	SR 3116 (MILLS GAP 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

STIP ID	Route	Project Description	County(ies)	Division(s)	STI Funding Category	Previous CON StartYear	Updated CON StartYear
U-5019E	RIVERWAY MULTI-MODAL NETWORK	CRAVEN STREET BRIDGE IMPROVEMENTS OVER THE FRENCH BROAD RIVER	BUNCOMBE	13	DIV 13	2024	2024
U-5834	SR 3116 (MILLS GAP ROAD)	US 25 (HENDERSONVILLE ROAD) TO SR 3157 (WESTON ROAD). UPGRADE EXISTING ROADWAY.	BUNCOMBE	13	DIV 13	2024	2024
EB-5919	MCDOWELL 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
R-2588B	NC 191	SR 1381 (MOUNTAIN ROAD) TO NC 280 SOUTH OF MILLS RIVER.	HENDERSON	14	DIV 14	2024	2024

STIP ID	Route	Project Description	County(ies)	Division(s)	STI Funding Category	Previous CON StartYear	Updated CON StartYear
U-5783	US 64	SR 1180 (BLYTHE STREET) TO SR 1173 (WHITE PINE DRIVE)/SR 1186 (DANIEL DRIVE). WIDEN ROADWAY.	HENDERSON	14	REG G	2024	2024
R-5921	US 276 (JONATHAN CREEK)	US 19 TO I-40 UPGRADE. MODERNIZEROADWAY.	HAYWOOD	14	DIV 14	2024	2025
EB-5822	NORTH RAD GREENWAY	CONSTRUCT MULTI-USE PATH ALONG RIVERSIDE DRIVE FROM HILL STREET TO US 19/23/70AT BROADWAY	BUNCOMBE	13	DIV 13	2025	2025
I-4409	SR 2500 (BLUE RIDGE 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
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

STIP ID	Route	Project Description	County(ies)	Division(s)	STI Funding Category	Previous CON StartYear	Updated CON StartYear
		PARTS ON NEW LOCATION.					
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	DEAVERVIEW ROAD	US 19/23/74A (PATTON AVENUE) TO WESTMORE DRIVE IN ASHEVILLE. CONSTRUCT SIDEWALK.	BUNCOMBE	13	DIV 13	2027	2027
U-4739	SR 3556 (AMBOYROAD/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
U-5886	SR 1170 (WHITE STREET)	SR 1171 (WILLOW ROAD) TO US 176 (SPARTANBURG HIGHWAY). REALIGN AND EXTEND ROADWAY.	HENDERSON	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.	HENDERSON	14	REG G	2026	2029

STIP ID	Route	Project Description	County(ies)	Division(s)	STI Funding Category	Previous CON StartYear	Updated CON StartYear
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 (KANUGA ROAD)	US 25 BUSINESS (CHURCH STREET) TO SR 1123 (LITTLE RIVER ROAD). UPGRADE ROADWAY.	HENDERSON	14	DIV 14	Beyond 2029	2031
U-4712	US 23 BUSINESS (SOUTH MAIN STREET)	SR 1164 (HYATT CREEK ROAD) TO US 276 (PIGEON STREET). WIDEN TO MULTI-LANES.	HAYWOOD	14	DIV 14	2027	-
U-2801A	US 25A (SWEETEN CREEK ROAD)	US 25 (HENDERSONVILLE ROAD) 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 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS.	BUNCOMBE	13	REG G	2029	-
I-2513C	I-26/I-240	I-26/I-40/I-240 FINAL INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS	BUNCOMBE	13	SW	2029	-

STIP ID	Route	Project Description	County(ies)	Division(s)	STI Funding Category	Previous CON StartYear	Updated CON StartYear
U-6158	US 276	SR 1134 (CRYMES COVE ROAD) 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 (SWANNANOA 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). UPGRADE ROADWAY.	BUNCOMBE	13	DIV 13	Beyond 2029	-
U-6046	NC 81 (SWANNANOA RIVER ROAD)	US 70 (TUNNEL ROAD) TO US 74 (SOUTH TUNNEL ROAD). UPGRADE ROADWAY.	BUNCOMBE	13	DIV 13	Beyond 2029	-
A-0010AA	I-26 (US 19/US 23)	SR 1781 (BROADWAY STREET) TO US 25/70	BUNCOMBE	13	REG G	Beyond 2029	-
I-4400BA	I-26	US 64 INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS	HENDERSON	14	SW	Beyond 2029	-
U-3403B	NC 191 (BREVARD ROAD - OLD HAYWOOD ROAD)	SR 3498 (LEDBETTER ROAD) TO NORTH OF BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY.	BUNCOMBE	13	REG G	Beyond 2029	-

STIP ID	Route	Project Description	County(ies)	Division(s)	STI Funding Category	Previous CON StartYear	Updated CON StartYear
U-5971B	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) TO SR 1200 (WIGGINS ROAD). UPGRADE ROADWAY.	HAYWOOD, BUNCOMBE	13, 14	DIV 14	Beyond 2029	-
U-6172	US 23/US 74 (GREAT SMOKEY MOUNTAINS EXPRESSWAY)	SR 1777 (BALSAM VIEW DRIVE) 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 (OLD HAYWOOD ROAD). CONSTRUCT ACCESS MANAGEMENT AND INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS.	HENDERSON	14	REG G	Beyond 2029	-

STIP ID	Route	Project Description	County(ies)	Division(s)	STI Funding Category	Previous CON StartYear	Updated CON StartYear
U-6048	US 19, US 23	SR 1836 (CHESTNUT MOUNTAIN ROAD) TO SR 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

NCDOT is currently \$8B overprogrammed (down from \$11B last year due to the Infrastructure Bill).

Tristan Winkler shared that with the Draft 2024-2033 STIP, we are looking at \$1.2B in transportation project losses as we trim back the (S)TIP to fit within revenue constraints. There are 17 projects proposed to be "de-committed". Federal regulations require that the development of the (S)TIP is required to be a cooperative process between NCDOT and the MPO/RPOs.

Tristan stated that when considering the 2024-2033 (S)TIP, think about it as "starting from scratch." The first step NCDOT added delivery projects (those scheduled to be constructed by 2026) back into the (S)TIP. Next, they added reconsidered projects with any remaining funds. These projects were added back in based on the year they were prioritized. The final (current) step we are in is determining project "swaps." There are criteria on how the swaps work, including cost restraints. Committed projects will be those starting right-of-way acquisition in 2028, or with right-of-way in the first five years of the (S)TIP (awaiting approval by the Board of Transportation). Several projects still considered committed had their schedules pushed back (especially projects that were scheduled for construction in 2026 or later.)

Moving forward, putting a premium on preliminary engineering is very important, including development of a TIP Project Development Program (MPO), adding preliminary engineering considerations to the SPOT (SPOT Workgroup and limiting uncertainty in the (S)TIP. Also important is limiting uncertainty in the STIP. To note, NC is one of two states with a 10-year STIP (RI is the other).

A webinar for local officials will be held next week, May 17 at 9am.

In the future, we plan to hold local meetings (May/June), conduct public surveys (June/July), draft potential

project swaps with local governments (August), finalize project swaps (September) and adopt the final STIP (Summer 2023).

Discussion occurred regarding if NCDOT is looking at mega-grants to reduce impact of some costs in the region (particularly Division 13). NCDOT staff shared that these grants are being looked at from a statewide perspective currently. Tristan Winkler asked what process is being used to determine what projects are submitted for the grants. NCDOT noted that only projects that meet grant qualifications, have a federal document, will meet the schedule, and are committed or scheduled for delivery can be considered. Each application is considered individually, however.

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. The master plan for the park is available here:

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

Nick Scheuer, the Town Manager of Canton, provided an overview of the park, plans for future improvements, and how the park is expected to link into other transportation improvements. In 2018, Canton was approached by Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy (SAHC) about a 430-acre parcel identified during a Wildlands Network Corridor Study as a major corridor for wildlife to move through (1.5 miles from downtown Canton). Canton was interested in the parcel. Before being rescued by SAHC and their donors, the property was slated to be a NASCAR training facility, an indoor ski slope, a housing development, and a rock quarry. The land sat dormant for 15 years. In the meantime, SAHC raised \$3.2M for the sale of the property and it was turned over to the Town of Canton. The Park has been a huge boom for Canton, especially after the recent catastrophic flooding.

The Grand Opening of Berm Park was on April 23, 2022. Approximately 2500 people attended on this date. The park has enjoyed great attendance from residents and from people around the country. It is very family friendly and there are many recreational options.

Tristan Winkler noted that this project is located by U-6048 which in the Draft STIP is no longer considered committed. The project is on lots of radars as a regional destination. There is a need to improve this corridor and to have follow-up discussion with Division 14.

Information only. No action required.

Corridor Studies

Three 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.) Each study provided multiple opportunities for public input, gave a starting point for a vision of “positive change” and enabled better documentation and involvement at an early stage (before major design and construction). MPO staff provided short summaries on the following studies that were funded with planning funds through the MPO:

- [Biltmore/McDowell Corridor Study](#)

This study was managed by the City of Asheville and was funded by the City and the MPO. It came about from several planned projects on the two corridors that required further study. This study

identified needs such as addressing safety issues, congestion issues, limited bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure and that it is a constrained corridor. Not making improvements to the corridor is likely to result in several intersections with Level Service F (very bad for congestion). Recommendations include several “lane rebalancing” couplets would improve traffic level of service along the corridor and provide space for bicycle and pedestrian facilities.; and more considerations could be made for intersection improvements at major bottlenecks in the study area.

- [Tunnel Road Corridor Study](#)

This study was managed by the MPO, in cooperation with the City of Asheville and Buncombe County. It was considered a “high priority” for improvements in the region. Focus was placed on increasing connectivity to this corridor with declining traffic volumes. Recommendations include to be a parallel street network built in. Also, road treatments that can be done to Tunnel Road increase dramatically if there is interconnectivity between various parcels and options for a parallel road network.

- [Hendersonville Road Corridor Study](#)

This study was managed by the MPO, in cooperation with the City of Asheville and Buncombe County. It was considered a “high priority” for improvements in the region. Much of the study focused on making right-of-way improvements to Hendersonville Road and expanding connectivity options where economically feasible to do or where there is a lower barrier. Some of the transitional areas dial back the urban area road treatments.

Tristan Winkler shared that having a corridor study done can improve the planning process and it better ties together transportation and land use. These reports provide more information for decision-makers and the public before taking the next step in the project development process.

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
- FHWA/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 were 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>
- Legislative updates were provided by MPO staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Radcliff opened the second public comment period. No public comments were received.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Radcliff adjourned the meeting, as there was no further business.