

Technical Coordinating Committee

October 13, 2022 – 11:00 A.M., Hybrid Meeting via Zoom or at Land of Sky Regional Council

Login: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87699807677>

Meeting ID: (646)558-8656

Call-In: 87699807677

Agenda

1. WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING (10 min)
 - A. Welcome and Introductions, Approval of Agenda Autumn Radcliff
 2. PUBLIC COMMENT
 3. CONSENT AGENDA Autumn Radcliff
 - A. September, 2022 TCC Minutes
 - B. Letter of Support- Ecusta Trail NSFLTP Grant Application
 - C. Letter of Support- Above the Mud Reconnecting Communities Planning Grant Application
 - D. Amendment to the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
 4. BUSINESS (0 min)
 - A. 5310 Call for Projects MPO Staff
 - B. Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Call for Projects MPO Staff
 - C. Amendments to the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) MPO Staff
 - D. Call for Planning Projects MPO Staff
 5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (45-60 min)
 - A. Made x Mountains Project Bradley Spiegel, Mountain Biz Works
 - B. I-4700 Presentation: Blue Ridge Parkway Bridge Nathan Moneyham, NCDOT
 6. REGULAR UPDATES (15 min)
 - A. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates Mark Gibbs/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 (September 8th)
 9. PUBLIC COMMENT
 10. ADJOURNMENT
-

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 3:

Consent Agenda

Item 3A: September, 2022 TCC Minutes

Item 3B: Letter of Support for Ecusta Trail Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Program (NSFLTP) Grant Application

Item 3C: Letter of Support for the City of Hendersonville's Above the Mud Application to the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Planning Grant

Item 3D: Amendment to the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 3A:

September, 2022 TCC Minutes

French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization

Minutes from the TCC Hybrid Meeting on September 8, 2022

ATTENDANCE:

In-person and remote via Zoom:

William High	Scott Adams	Tristan Winkler
Brendan Merithew	Jane Pies (minutes)	Hannah Bagli
Stephen Williams	Vicki Eastland	Jodi Ferguson
Daniel Sellers	Matthew Cable	Jessica Trotman
Stephen Sparks	Troy Wilson	Steve Cannon
Kevin Moore	Harry Buckner	Chris Medlin
Eric Rufa	Hannah Cook	Matt Baker
Tyler Morrow	Logan DiGiacomo	Elise Bielen
Bucky Galloway	Matt Manley	Eddie McFalls

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Vice Chair, William High called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 11:08 AM. A roll call followed, and NO quorum was established.

PUBLIC COMMENT

William High opened the floor for public comments. No public comments were received.

CONSENT AGENDA

Item moved to next month's agenda.

BUSINESS

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

WNC Passenger Rail Study

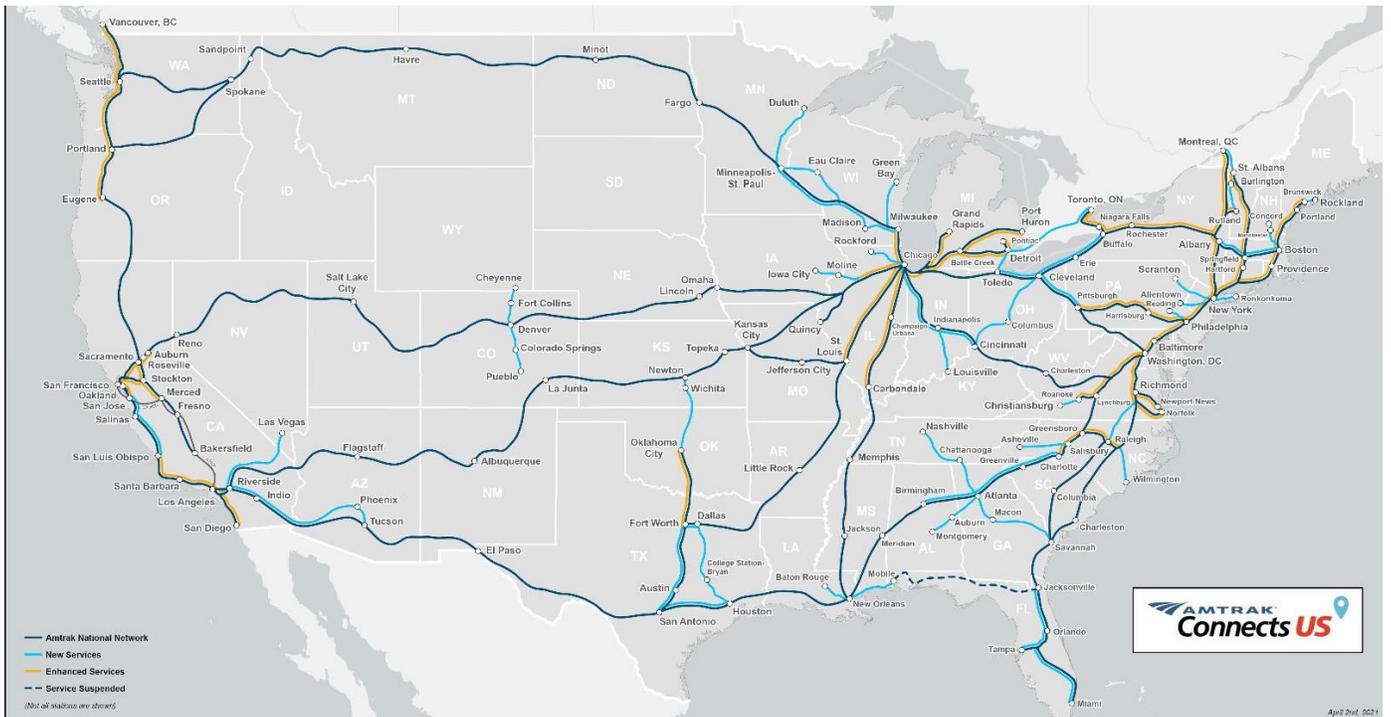
The NCDOT Rail Division has started work on a study to look at the feasibility of reintroducing passenger rail to Western North Carolina and potentially take advantage of additional rail funding being made available through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA.)

Eddie McFalls, PE, of the NCDOT Rail Division provided an update on the study and potential next steps for bringing back passenger rail to WNC.

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations



Amtrak Proposed Future Connections, Including Asheville

Information only. No action required.

I-2513 (I-26 Connector) Update

Project Background: I-2513 is actually a series of interstate and related roadway improvements that are in various stages of TIP/STIP development.

I-2513A (now split into AA, AB, AC)- Funding Committed,

I-2513AA- Reconstruct Pavement from Sand Hill Road to Monte Vista Road (\$31.7 Million)

I-2513AB- I-26/I-40 AND I-40/US 19/23 (SMOKEY PARK HIGHWAY) INTERCHANGES. CONSTRUCT THE FOLLOWING IMPROVEMENTS: WIDEN I-40 EASTBOUND TO I-26 EASTBOUND RAMP, WIDEN I-26 WESTBOUND BETWEEN I-40 RAMPS, CONSTRUCT NEW I-40 WESTBOUND TO US 19/23 (SMOKEY PARK HIGHWAY) (\$23.6 Million)

I-2513C- NORTH OF I-40 TO SR 3548 (HAYWOOD ROAD). WIDEN TO SIX LANE FREEWAY. (\$220.8 Million)

Right-of-Way: 2023

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

I-2513B- Funding Committed, Widening with New Bridges over the French Broad River from Haywood Road to Broadway Street (\$686.6 Millions)

Right-of-Way: 2024

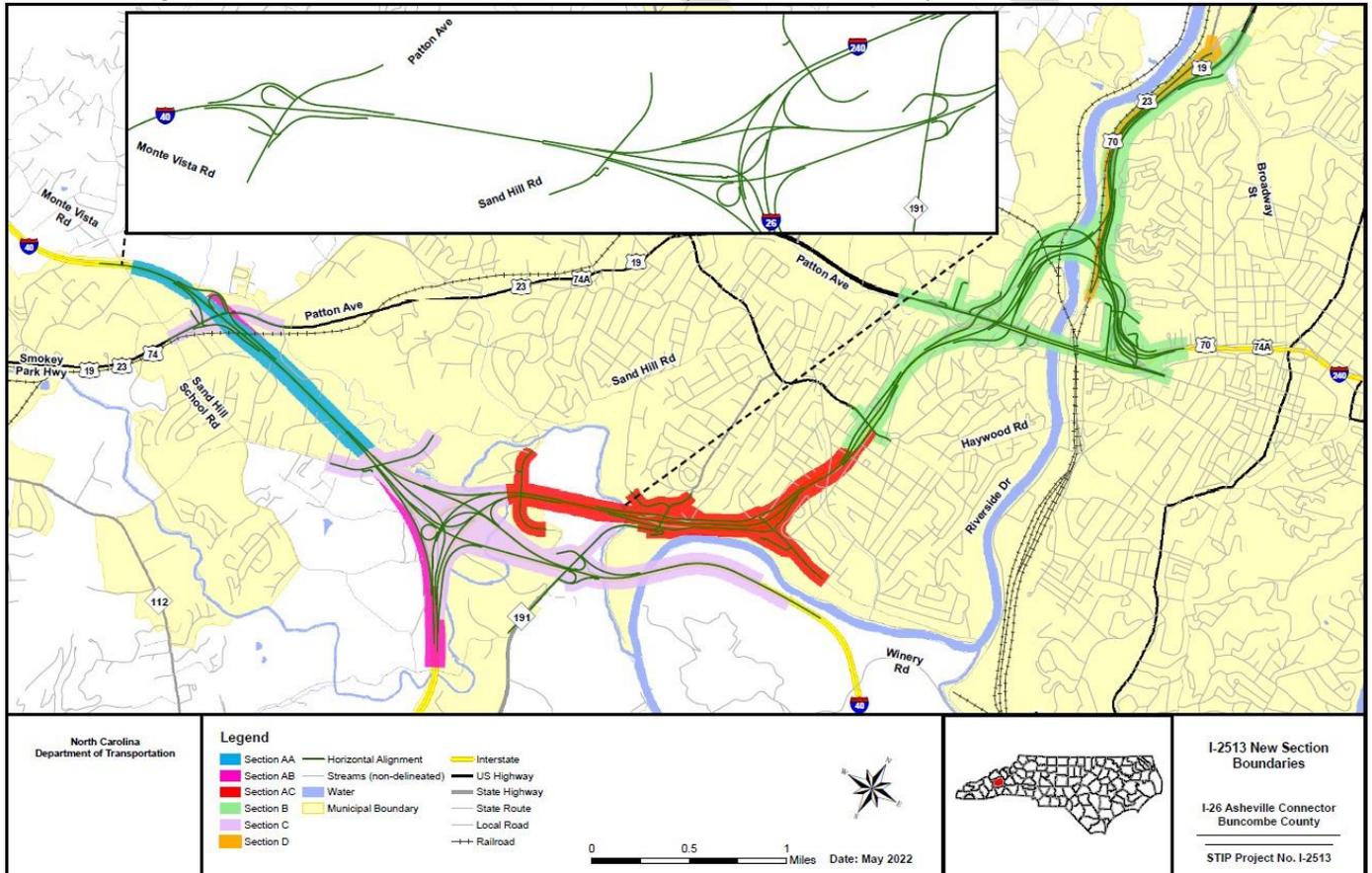
I-2513C- Funding NOT Committed, Final Interchange Improvements to I-26/I-40/I-240 FUNDING

NOT COMMITTED

I-2513D- Funding Committed, Improvements to Riverside Drive from Hill Street to Broadway Street (\$31.5 Million)

Right-of-Way: 2024

Kevin Moore, PE, the project manager at NCDOT provided an update on the project's timeline, recent changes in designs, and the "betterments" that were developed between the City of Asheville and NCDOT.



FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Information only. No action required.

Locally Administered Project Program (LAPP) Update

Tristan Winkler provided a presentation on two topics related to the Locally Administered Project Program:

- 1) Current Finances- MPO staff recently requested a full breakdown of updated project schedules and cost estimates at the request of the Prioritization Subcommittee to determine potential near-term requests for additional funding as well as projects whose timelines may change. MPO staff will provide an update.
- 2) NCDOT LAPP Workgroup(s)- NCDOT is currently leading an effort to determine potential policy changes to enable more efficient and successful delivery of LAPP projects. MPO staff is taking part in the workgroup along with City of Asheville Capital Projects staff. MPO staff will provide a short update.

About the Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP)

LAPP funding through the MPO is currently the largest source of funds for bicycle and pedestrian projects in the region. The program is made up of Surface Transportation Block Grant- Direct Allotment (STBGDA), Transportation Alternatives Program- Direct Allotment (TAPDA), and Carbon Reduction Program funds through FHWA. All of these programs have different eligibilities and requirements but have funding programmed through the MPO. The current list of projects funded through this program include (note: this list does not include recently approved projects.)

Project	TIP ID	Sponsor	Route	From	To
NC 251 (Riverside Drive)/Beaverdam Creek Greenway	EB-5774	Buncombe County	NC 251 (Riverside Drive)	Broadway	Elk Mountain Road
Hominy Creek Greenway	EB-5824	Buncombe County	Hominy Creek Greenway	Hominy Valley Park	Enka High School
Reems Creek Greenway	EB-5821	Buncombe County	Reems Creek Greenway	Western Edge of Weaverville	Karpen Soccer Fields
Bent Creek Greenway	EB-5823	Buncombe County	Bent Creek Greenway	Hominy Creek River Park	WNC Farmer's Market

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Project	TIP ID	Sponsor	Route	From	To
Coxe Avenue Complete Streets	EB-5831	City of Asheville	Coxe Avenue	Patton Avenue	Short Coxe Avenue
North RAD Greenway	EB-5822	City of Asheville	(Riverside Drive)	Hill Street	US 19/23/70 at Broadway
Nasty Branch Greenway	U-5019A	City of Asheville	Nasty Branch (Formerly Town Branch) Greenway	Dr. Wesley Grant Sr. Southside Center	McDowell/Southside Intersection
French Broad River West Greenway	U-5019B	City of Asheville	French Broad River West	French Broad River Park	Haywood Road
NC 63 (New Leicester Highway) Sidewalks Project	U-5190	City of Asheville	NC 63	Patton Avenue	City Limits
New Haw Creek Road Sidewalks	EB-5947	City of Asheville	New Haw Creek Road	Beverly Road	Bell Road
Johnston Boulevard Sidewalks	EB-5944	City of Asheville	Johnston Boulevard	Patton Avenue	Iona Circle
Onteora Boulevard Sidewalks	EB-5948	City of Asheville	Onteora Boulevard	Lincoln Avenue	Raleigh Road
Greenway Connectors	EB-5790	City of Asheville	Various on-street bicycle and pedestrian connections between planned greenways in the East of the Riverway District	-	-
School Zone Safety	BL-0006	City of Asheville	Various (primarily within school zones)	-	-
Lexington Avenue Complete Streets	EB-5830	City of Asheville	Lexington Avenue	Patton Avenue	Southside Avenue
Biltmore Ave at White Fawn Drive Signal	HL-0014	City of Asheville	SR 3214 (Biltmore Avenue)	White Fawn Drive	-
Clear Creek Greenway	BL-0008	City of Hendersonville	Clear Creek Greenway	Berkeley Mills Park	Lakewood Road

Project	TIP ID	Sponsor	Route	From	To
Ecusta Trail Phase I	BL-0007A	Henderson County	Ecusta Multi-Use Path	Kanuga Road	US 64/Battle Creek Road
Haywood Road Resurfacing	HL-0003	NCDOT Division 13	US 19/23 Business (Haywood Road)	Patton Avenue	Ridgelawn Drive
Charlotte Street Ramp	HL-0012	NCDOT Division 13	US 70 (Charlotte Street) at I-240	-	-
Broadway Sidewalks	BL-0005	NCDOT Division 13	Broadway Avenue/NC 251	US 19/23 Northbound Exit Ramp	Riverside Drive
Riverwalk Greenway Section B	EB-5547A	Town of Black Mountain	Riverwalk Greenway Section A	Black Mountain Avenue	Flat Creek
Bridge Replacement	HL-0013	Town of Black Mountain	9th Street	-	-
Champion Drive Multi-Use Path	EB-5945	Town of Canton	Champion Drive	North Canton Road	Thickety Road
US 19 Bike/Ped Improvements	EB-5926	Town of Maggie Valley	Us 19 (Soco Road)	US 276	Fie Top Road
Mills River Valley Trail	EB-5946	Town of Mills River	NC 280	French Broad River	NC 191 (Haywood Road)
Riverwalk Greenway Section A	EB-5547B	Town of Black Mountain	Riverwalk Greenway Section B	Into the Oaks Trail	Black Mountain Avenue

Information only. No action required.

REGULAR UPDATES

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

Division 14 Updates: https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/092022_Div14_FBRMPO-Const_Update-combined.pdf

NCDOT Transportation Planning Division: Updates given.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair High adjourned the meeting at 12:45PM.

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 3B:

Letter of Support for the Ecusta Trail Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Program (NSFLTP) Grant Application

The City of Brevard has been working with Henderson County as well as the Land of Sky RPO and French Broad River MPO on a grant application for the Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Program (NSFLTP) to provide construction funding for the Ecusta Trail in Transylvania County and parts of Henderson County.

A letter of support has been provided from the French Broad River MPO Board chair. This item is informational.

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY2022 NSFLTP Grant Application – Ecusta Rail Trail: A Multimodal Gateway to the Pisgah National Forest and the Blue Ridge Parkway

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The French Broad River MPO strongly supports the NSFLTP grant application for the Ecusta Rail Trail: A Multimodal Gateway to the Pisgah National Forest and the Blue Ridge Parkway which is the result of a collaboration between the City of Brevard, Henderson County, City of Hendersonville, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), Friends of the Ecusta Trail, Conserving Carolina, and other local stakeholders.

The Ecusta Rail Trail will provide an active transportation and recreation corridor that improves access to jobs, public resources, opportunities for low-income communities, and connections to the Pisgah National Forest and the Blue Ridge Parkway. As part of a statewide and regional greenway spine identified in the NCDOT Great Trails State Plan, this project will connect to the recreational hiking and mountain biking epicenter of the Pisgah National Forest, bringing economic development, tourism, and equitable access to the region and its residents.

The French Broad River MPO includes the Ecusta Trail in its 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan as well as the Hellbender Regional Trail Plan. This trail provides an important link for non-vehicular modes and provides safe access to the outdoor recreation destinations that make our region a special place to live.

By supporting these efforts, USDOT can showcase a project that aligns closely with the Biden Administration's objectives, including enhancing access to opportunities for historically marginalized communities, creating an equitable transportation system that works for everyone, creating jobs and economic opportunity to an area where the local paper mill industry has declined, repurposing an abandoned and recently acquired rail corridor, and transitioning to a more environmentally conscience network that prioritizes non-motorized users. This project will deliver healthy, climate-friendly, resilient, and integrated transportation and recreation options for residents and visitors of Brevard, the Pisgah National Forest, and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Thank you for considering our application for NSFLTP Program funding.

Sincerely,

Larry B. Harris
Chair, French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization Board

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 3C:

Letter of Support for the City of Hendersonville's Above the Mud Application for a Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program Planning Grant

The City of Hendersonville has been working with the French Broad River MPO on a planning grant application through the new Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program for its Above the Mud project. The Above the Mud project consists of four phases:

1. Build a new multi-use path to connect the Ecusta Trail to the Oklawaha Greenway
2. Improve the resiliency of flood-prone sections of the Oklawaha Greenway
3. Improve the pedestrian environment along 7th Avenue through a Phases II & III of the 7th Avenue Streetscaping Project
4. Determine other crossings and improvements that may strengthen the connection between 7th Avenue, Downtown Hendersonville, the Ecusta Trail, and other nearby destinations

A letter of support has been provided from the French Broad River MPO Board chair. This item is informational.

October 6, 2022

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC, 20590

To Whom it May Concern:

The French Broad River MPO offers its strong support for the City of Hendersonville's application for a Planning Grant being submitted to the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program. We support this grant application and the focus of this plan to improve the safety and mobility of residents and travelers in Western North Carolina and provide connections to communities that have been severed from other parts of the City in the past.

The French Broad River MPO understands the need to improve the connectivity of the region and remove or mitigate the barriers that have disconnected parts of Hendersonville from the rest of the City. The construction of US 64, like many arterials around the region and country, were built to improve the travel times of commuters and travelers but while many residents have enjoyed the benefits of these arterials, others have been disconnected, isolated, and left behind.

The Above the Mud project helps to reconnect a growing part of Hendersonville, 7th Avenue, that is becoming a destination for many, by building safe and resilient infrastructure for bicyclists and pedestrians and transforming 7th Avenue to be a more pedestrian-friendly corridor. The connection between the Oklawaha Greenway and the Ecusta Trail will connect two major greenways that would open up access to destinations throughout Henderson County and enable more residents to travel in a healthier and more sustainable way.

The French Broad River MPO supports the City of Hendersonville's request for federal funding for a Planning Grant through the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program This plan will have significant benefits by helping to build a more resilient and equitable transportation network.

Sincerely,

Larry B. Harris
Chair, French Broad River MPO

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 3D:

Amendment 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 MPO plans to purchase software to assist with Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project tracking and making TIP information more easily available to the MPO's members and the public. Three quotes will be collected, in accordance with procurement requirements.

The FY 2023 UPWP would be amended to include specific language about software purchases for the TIP under the administrative line item (III-E.) The amendment would not change local dues or the total MPO budget but would utilize funds leftover from lapses in staffing.

Action: Recommend Approval of the Amendment to the FY 2023 UPWP

Item 4A:

5310 Call for Projects

Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities – Section 5310

What is this program?

This program provides formula funding to states for the purpose of assisting private nonprofit groups in meeting the transportation needs of older adults and people with disabilities when the transportation service provided is unavailable, insufficient, or inappropriate to meeting these needs.

What are eligible projects under this program?

Traditional Section 5310 project examples include:

- buses and vans
- wheelchair lifts, ramps, and securement devices
- transit-related information technology systems, including scheduling/routing/one-call systems
- mobility management programs
- acquisition of transportation services under a contract, lease, or other arrangement

Nontraditional Section 5310 project examples include:

- travel training
- volunteer driver programs
- building an accessible path to a bus stop, including curb-cuts, sidewalks, accessible pedestrian signals or other accessible features
- improving signage, or way-finding technology
- incremental cost of providing same day service or door-to-door service
- purchasing vehicles to support new accessible taxi, rides sharing and/or vanpooling programs
- mobility management programs

What is an example of a recent local 5310 project?

Haywood Public Transit/Mountain Projects has used 5310 funding to provide transportation for human service agencies, the elderly, people with disabilities, and the general public of Haywood County. Specific services have included expanded Nutrition Access and paratransit with the service area.

5310 information continued on next page

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Funding Available

FY 2022's Section 5310 Allocation

FY 2022 FTA Section 5310 Funds Available to Asheville UZA	\$511,257
Section 5310 Admin at 10%	\$51,125
Remaining Section 5310 after Admin	\$460,132

Application and Project Selection Timeline

2022 Call for Projects Application Timeline

October 31, 2022	5310 and JARC Call for Projects opens
December 15, 2022	5310 and JARC applications due to FBRMPO
January 2023 (early month)	FBRMPO Prioritization Subcommittee meets to review 5310 and JARC applications
January 2023 (mid month)	TCC approves 5310 and JARC project selection
January 2023 (end of month)	MPO Board votes on 5310 and JARC project selection
February 2023	MPO Board approves TIP Amendments for 5310 and JARC Projects

Action: Recommend the Board Approve Opening the 5310 Call for Projects

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 4B:

JARC Call for Projects

Urbanized Area Formula Grants (JARC) – Section 5307

What is this program?

The Urbanized Area Formula Funding program (49 U.S.C. 5307) makes federal resources available to urbanized areas for transit capital and operating assistance in urbanized areas and for transportation-related planning. Specifically, the **Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC)** grant program is intended to fund the development and maintenance of transportation services designed to transport welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals to and from jobs and activities related to their employment. The FBRMPO has a local resolution to use 10% of Section 5307 funds for **Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC)** eligible projects.

What are eligible projects under this program?

JARC funds may be used for planning, capital or operating costs of providing access to jobs and employment training for low-income individuals. The City of Asheville, as the Designated Recipient of 5307 and JARC funds in our region, reserves the right to use up to 10 percent of the JARC funding to support program administrative costs. Eligible projects could include:

- Late-night and weekend service;
- Guaranteed ride home service;
- Shuttle service;
- Expanding fixed route public transit routes, including hours of service or coverage;
- Demand-responsive van service;
- Ridesharing and carpooling activities;
- Transit-related aspects of bicycling (e.g., adding bicycle racks to vehicles, providing secure bicycle parking at transit stations, or support for bicycle sharing programs in the vicinity of transit stations).

What is an example of a recent local JARC project?

Asheville Rides Transit (ART), the City of Asheville's bus transit system, has used JARC funding for Route 170 which connects downtown Black Mountain to downtown Asheville. The service provides 8 trips per day, Mon. - Sat., 5:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. The route offers service to the general public, and also connects to the Black Mountain Trailblazer deviated fixed route service provided by Buncombe County and operated by Mountain Mobility.

5307 (JARC) information continued on next page

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Funding Available

FY 2022's Section 5307 (JARC) Allocation

Regional JARC - FY 2022 at 10% of FTA 5307 Amount allocated to Asheville Urbanized Area	\$408,394
---	-----------

Application and Project Selection Timeline

2022 Call for Projects Application Timeline	
October 31, 2022	5310 and JARC Call for Projects opens
December 15, 2022	5310 and JARC applications due to FBRMPO
January 2023 (early month)	FBRMPO Prioritization Subcommittee meets to review 5310 and JARC applications
January 2023 (mid month)	TCC approves 5310 and JARC project selection
January 2023 (end of month)	MPO Board votes on 5310 and JARC project selection
February 2023	MPO Board approves TIP Amendments for 5310 and JARC projects

Action: Recommend the Board Approve Opening the JARC Call for Projects

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

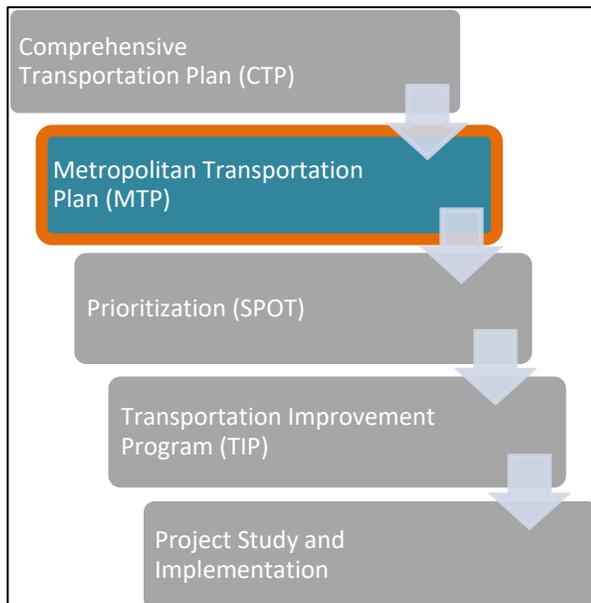
Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 4C:

Amendments to the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Very Brief Overview

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is a federally-required planning document that MPOs are required to update and maintain to reflect planned transportation investments in the region over the next twenty-five years. The MTP is required to be fiscally constrained, meaning that projects in the MTP have to be reasonably expected to work within projected revenues. The French Broad River MPO is required to update its MTP every five years with the last update completed in September, 2020. NOTE: an amendment was made in June, 2021.



Amendment Summary

- 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

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

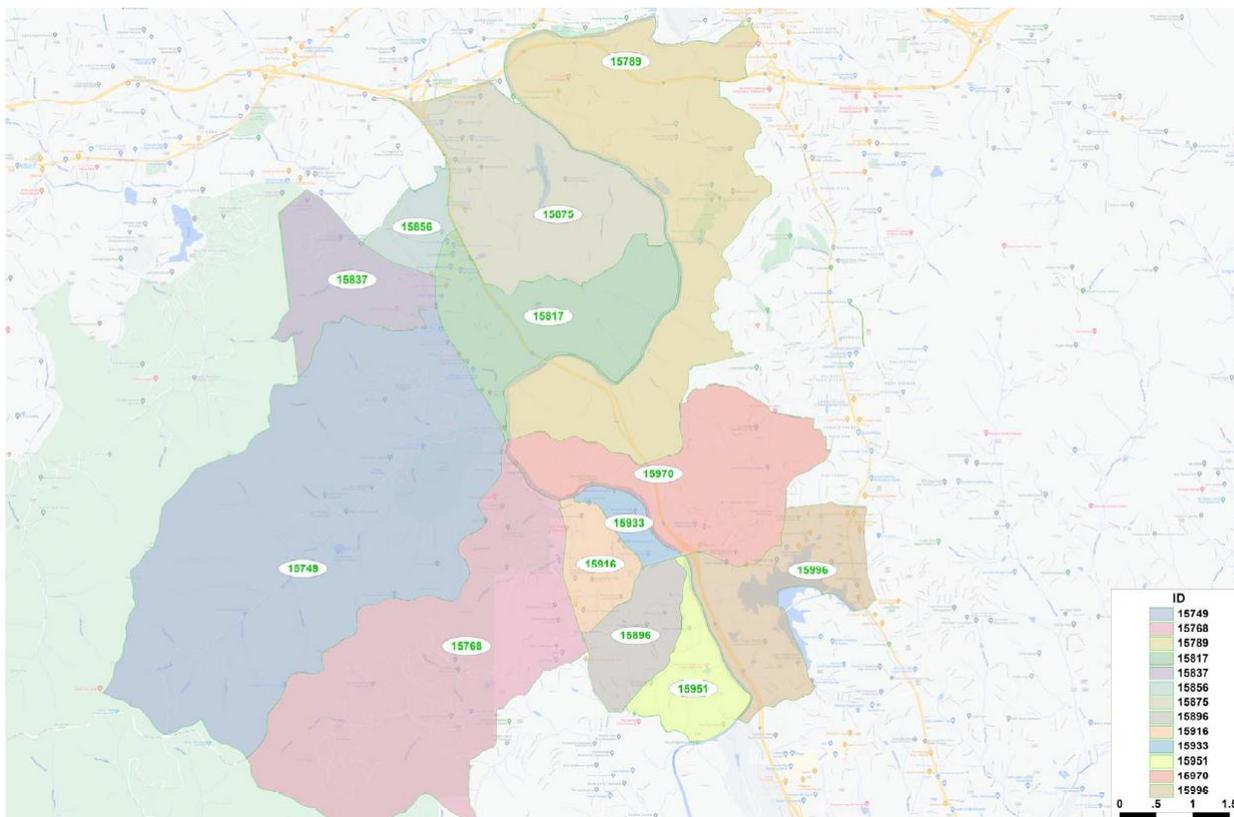
Staff Report & Recommendations

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



FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

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)

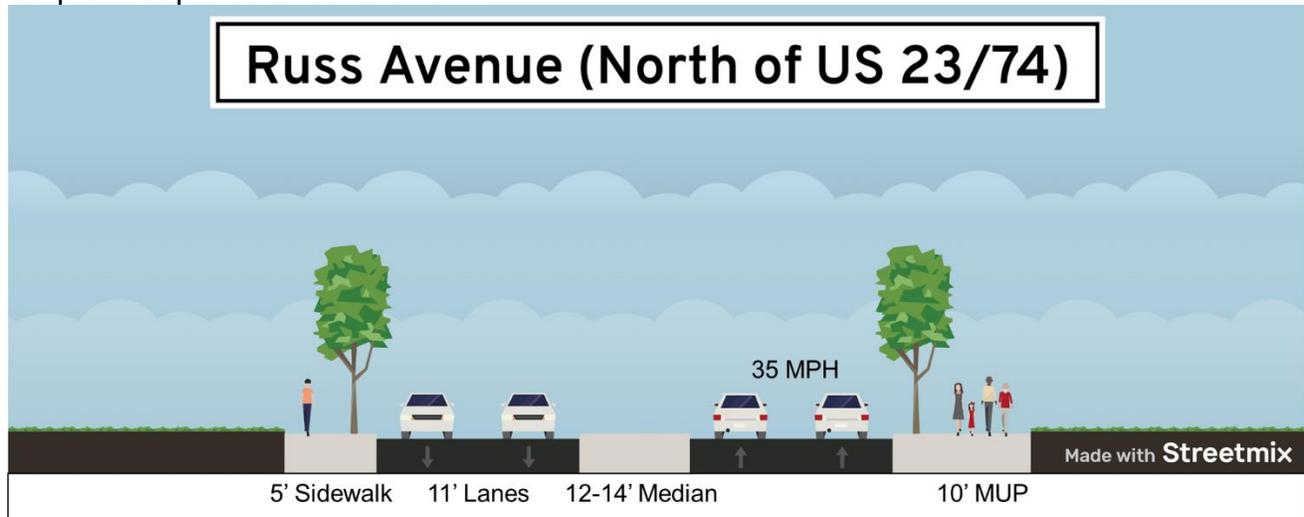
From: US 23/74 (Smokey Mountains Expressway)

To: US 19 (Dellwood Road)

Improvement Type: Access Management

Jurisdictions Impacted: Haywood County, Town of Waynesville

Proposed Updated Cross-Section:

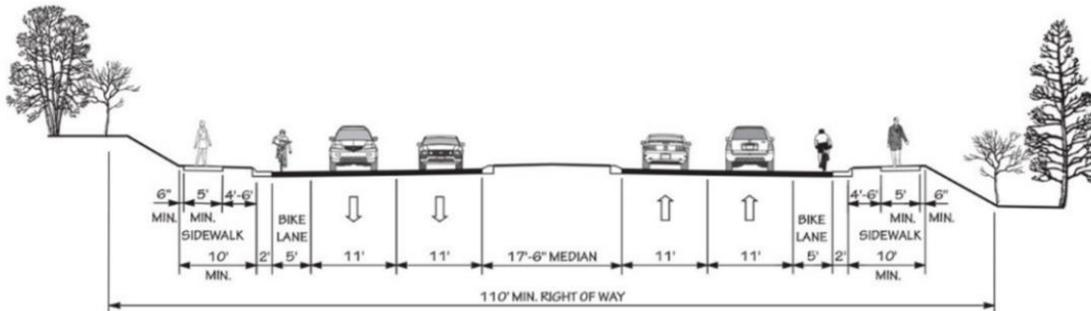


FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

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.ashevillenc.gov/projects/college-patton-bike-lane-project/>

Action: Recommend the Board Approve the MTP Amendments

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 4D:

Call for Planning Projects

The French Broad River MPO will be holding a call for planning projects. The call for projects will open on Friday, October 28th with applications due on **Friday, December 16th**. Local governments and NCDOT may apply. Successful projects will be programmed in the FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program.

For this call for projects, no specific funding amounts are being designated. Projects will be selected at the discretion of the Prioritization Subcommittee, TCC, and Board. A 20% local match is required for all projects (local match may not come from in-kind or (most) federal sources.)

Eligible Uses

- Transportation Master Plan, Corridor Studies, Access/Mobility Studies, Inventories of Existing Routes, and Right of Way Investigations
- Future population, Employment, and Economic Growth Studies
- Traffic studies such as circulation plans, traffic count programs, intersection analysis, and small area studies
- Bicycle and Pedestrian planning such as bicycle parking, sidewalk/bicycle lane master plans and trail and greenway plans
- Economic Impact Studies for Transportation Investments
- GIS data development/mapping applications
- Transportation related health impact assessments
- Environmental Justice Analysis

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

- Conceptual/Scoping Studies and Limited Engineering Design (specifically up to 15 percent “line and grade” design per NCDOT guidance), also known as “Preliminary Plans” or “Functional Roadway” plans

Not Eligible:

- Surveying
- Property Acquisition
- Site Preparations
- Environmental Planning/NEPA Analysis
- Transit Operations and Management
- Construction Projects

All successful projects will be subject to federal requirements and those required by the MPO’s Lead Planning Agency, the Land of Sky Regional Council.

Application materials will be sent to the MPO TCC and Board following the October meeting.

Action: Recommend the Board Approve Opening the Call for Planning Projects

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 5A:

Made x Mountains Program

Bradley Spiegel with Mountain BizWorks will provide an overview on the Made x Mountains program that plans to be engaging with local governments and community stakeholders to develop plans to strengthen the bonds between communities and outdoor recreation opportunities. Per the Made x Mountains website:

Made By Mountains is here to celebrate and build a stronger sense of pride in our region around the extraordinary outdoor recreation industry that these mountains have made, the mountain towns and cities that were literally built from the mountains, and the exceptional people who have made their lives here. We are building a shared narrative that will help people from the Smokies to the Blue Ridge, High Country to the Foothills all tell a collective story of how these mountains have made them who they are today.

And we want to invite others to have these mountains make them, too, so that we can recruit, retain, and grow companies and people who appreciate all these mountains have to offer, and who will continue to care for and steward them for generations to come.

This is a collective effort, powered by people from every part of the outdoor economy. With support from the [Appalachian Regional Commission](#), this brand was developed by the [Growing Outdoors Partnership](#), a collaborative of 18 different organizations ranging from outdoor industry to economic development to local and state government and academia.

Three core organizations – the [Outdoor Gear Builders of WNC](#), [Mountain BizWorks](#), and the [NC Outdoor Recreation Industry Office](#) – collaborated with industry leaders and key figures from across Western North Carolina to develop and launch this program. We worked with the outdoor-focused marketing and design company [Outpost](#) to bring the brand to life and tapped Graham Averill, a local who writes for publications like *Outside* and *Blue Ridge Outdoors*, to craft our anthem and [Tommy Penick](#) to create our movie. And we are thankful and fortunate to have leading lights from across Western North Carolina join us to share their [Made By Mountains stories](#).

Now, the future of this work is in the hands of the community. Dozens of partners have been involved in bringing the brand to life, and we are always looking for more companies, communities, and people who are passionate about the mountains of Western North Carolina, and want to tell their own stories, and help spread the word of how WNC is Made By Mountains.

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 5B:

I-4700 Update: Blue Ridge Parkway Bridge

The I-4700 project is the widening of I-26 from I-40 to NC 280 (Airport Road.) A major part of the project is going to be the removal of the Blue Ridge Parkway Bridge over I-26 with a new bridge going in nearby.

Nathan Moneyham, Division Construction Engineer for NCDOT Division 13, will provide a presentation on the process that is planned for the bridge replacement.

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 6A:

Division Project Updates

Division 13 Updates: <https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/D13-Construction-October-2022-combined.pdf>

Division 14 Updates:

Item 6B:

TPD Updates

Item 6C:

FHWA/FTA Updates

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 6D:

Committee & Workgroup Updates

Prioritization Subcommittee— met October 5th; next meeting November 2nd

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 October 6th; next meeting TBD

Additional Items:

Recommended Actions:

Accept the reports.

Item 6E:

Legislative Updates