

## MPO Governing Board

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October 27, 2022 – 1:00 P.M., Hybrid Meeting, In-Person at Land of Sky Regional Council  
or Via Zoom

Login: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85429549318>

Meeting ID: 85429549318

Call-In: (312)626-6799

### Agenda

1. **WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING (10 min)**

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    - A. Welcome and Introductions, Approval of Agenda Larry Harris
    - B. Ethics Statement for MPO Board Members Larry Harris
  
  2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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  3. **CONSENT AGENDA** Larry Harris

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    - A. September, 2022 Minutes
    - B. Letter of Support for the Ecusta Trail Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Program (NSFLTP) Grant Application
    - C. Letter of Support the Above the Mud Reconnecting Communities Planning Grant Application
    - D. Amendment to the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
  
  4. **BUSINESS (30-45 min)**

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    - A. 5310 Call for Projects MPO Staff
    - B. 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 (30-45 min)**

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    - A. Made x Mountains Bradley Spiegel, Mountain BizWorks
    - B. I-4700 Update: the Blue Ridge Parkway Bridge Nathan Moneyham, NCDOT
  
  6. **REGULAR UPDATES (15 min)**

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    - A. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates Tim Anderson/Wanda Austin or Designee
    - B. Transportation Planning Branch Daniel Sellers
    - C. FHWA/FTA Updates Bill Marley
    - 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:** September, 2022 Board 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)

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 3A:

## September, 2022 Board Minutes

**French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting**  
Minutes from the Governing Board Meeting on September 22, 2022

### **Attendance:**

#### In-Person and Remote via the Zoom Platform:

Chair Larry Harris (Black Mountain Council)  
Tristan Winkler (FBRMPO)  
Hannah Bagli (FBRMPO)  
Shanon Gonce (Mills River Council)  
Kim Roney (Asheville Council)  
Anne Colletta (Flat Rock Council)  
Bill Lapsley (Henderson Commission)  
Bob Davy (Fletcher Council)  
Rebecca McCall (Henderson Commission)  
Matt Wechtel (Madison Commission)  
Daniel Sellers (NCDOT TPD)  
Steve Williams (NCDOT Division 14)  
Elizabeth Teague (Town of Waynesville)  
John Chase (Weaverville Council)  
Sam Cullen (Town of Maggie Valley)  
Janna Bianculli (Apple Country Transit)  
Chuck McGrady (NCBOT)

Jennifer Hensley (Hendersonville Council)  
Scott Adams (FBRMPO)  
Gwen Wisler (Asheville Council)  
Martha Register (NCDOT Rail Division)  
Logan DiGiacomo (FBRMPO)  
Tom Widmer (Montreat Commission)  
Eddie McFalls (NCDOT Rail Division)  
Tim Anderson (NCDOT Division 13)  
Bill Marley (FHWA)  
Brandon Rodgers (Urban Transit)  
Daniel Cobb (Town of Mills River)  
Stephen Sparks (NCDOT Division 13)  
George Banta (Laurel Park Council)  
Kevin Ensley (Haywood Commission)  
Autumn Radcliff (Henderson County)  
Matt Manley (City of Hendersonville)

### **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & ROLL CALL**

Chair, Larry Harris called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM and welcomed everyone. 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**

Chair Harris opened the floor for public comment. No comments were heard.

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

### CONSENT AGENDA

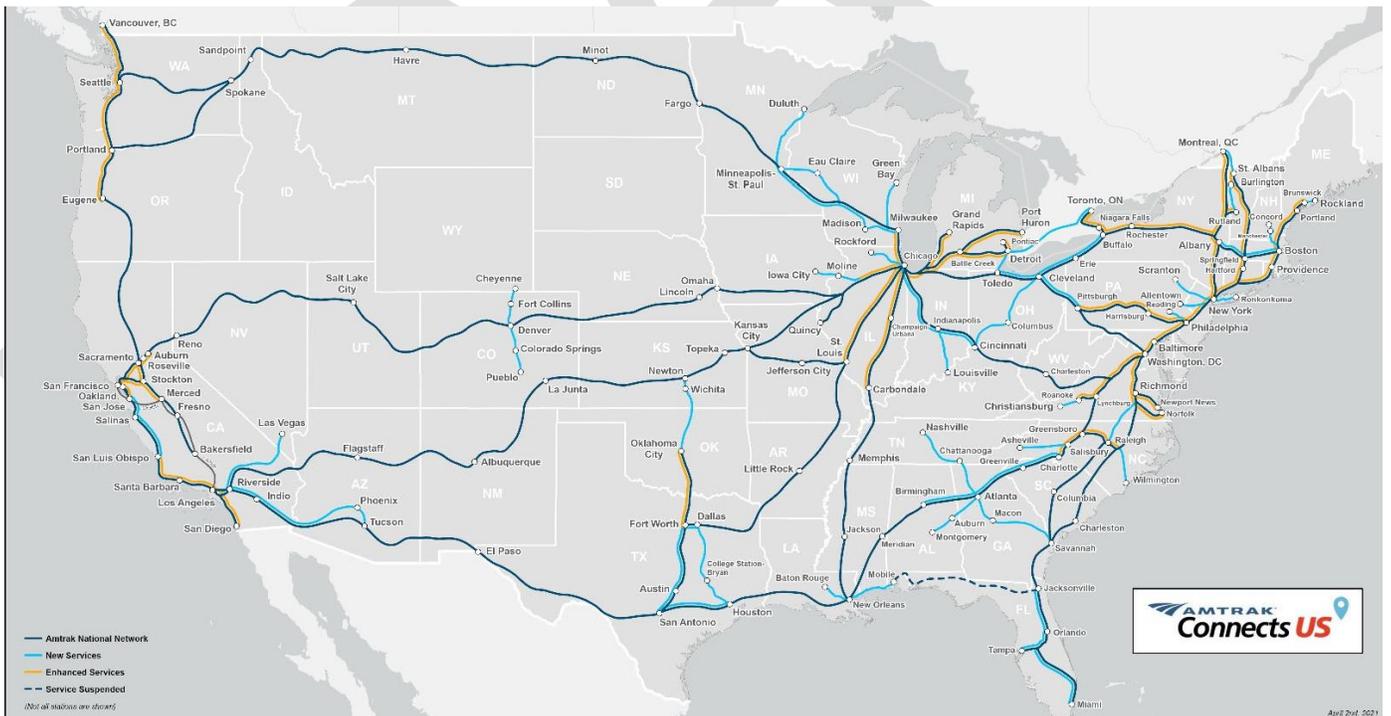
*Shanon Gonce moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the August 2022 meeting minutes as amended (to include that funding was discussed under the Clean Transportation item), the Modification to the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Letter of Support for Apple County Transit 5310 Application, the Letter of Support for NDOT Bridge Improvement Program Application, the Amendments to the FY 2023 United Planning Work Program (UPWP) and the TAC agenda. Gwen Wisler seconded the motion which carried unanimously upon a roll call vote.*

### 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.



Amtrak Proposed Future Connections, Including Asheville

## Staff Report & Recommendations

Eddie McFalls shared that this study is focused on passenger rail service from Salisbury, NC to Asheville, NC. Previous feasibility studies were conducted in 1997, 2001 and 2002. These concluded that service was feasible, particularly when connected with other services.

Discussion occurred about the need for short term as well as long term options, while we are connecting to Salisbury.

**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**

**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)

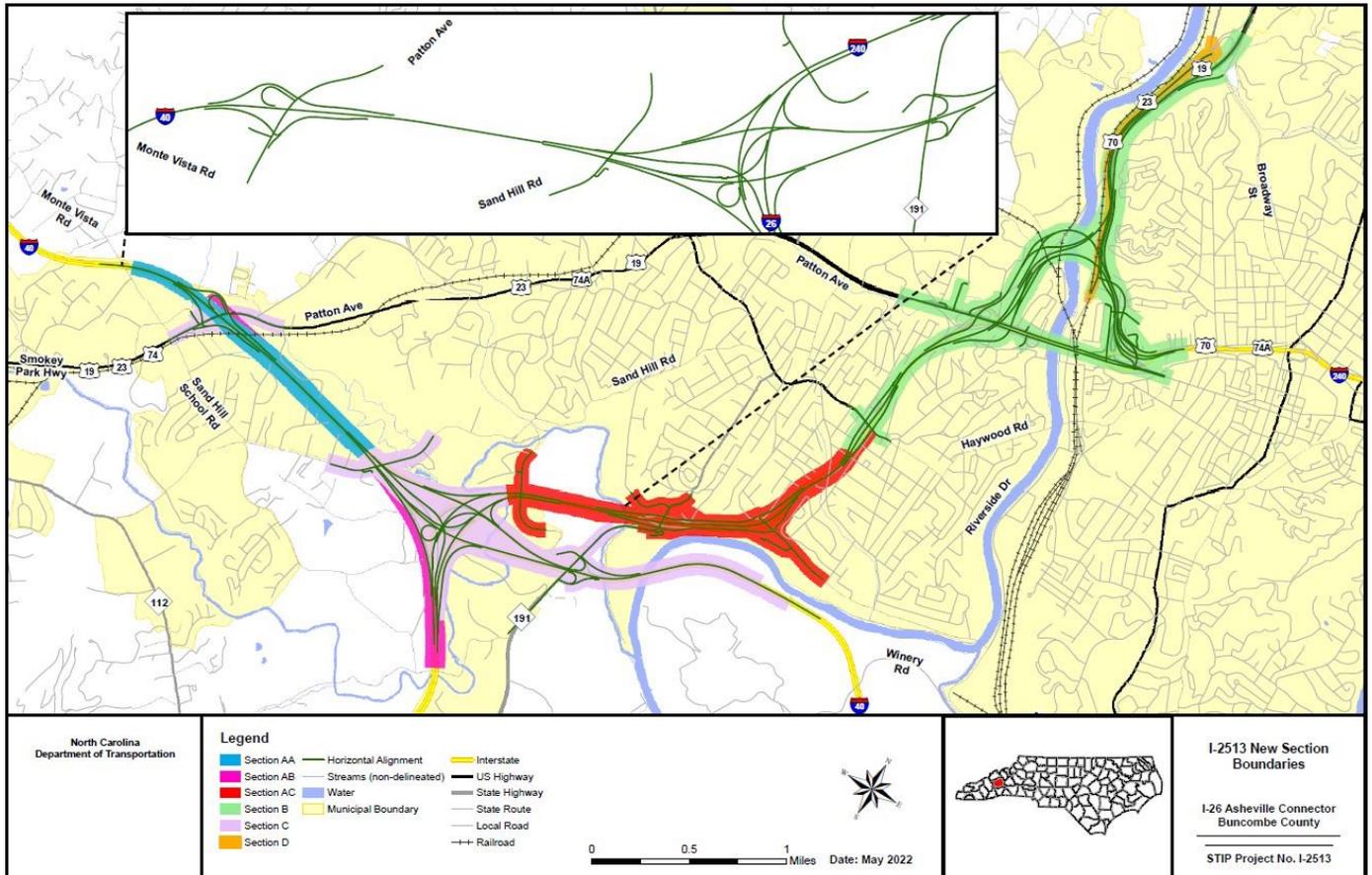
### **Right-of-Way: 2024**

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



Discussion occurred about how to keep graffiti off the connector. Kevin Moore shared that anti-graffiti coatings are being discussed for the retaining walls. Kim Roney mentioned the recommendation to the Aesthetics Committee that east of the bridge on Patton Ave be reduced to 25 mph and questioned how this would affect the design.

**Information only. No action required.**

### Locally Administered Project Program (LAPP) Update

Tristan Winkler offered 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.

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

### 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	NC 251 (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	HL-	City of Asheville	SR 3214 (Biltmore Avenue)	White Fawn	-

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

Drive Signal

0014

Asheville

Drive

Clear Creek Greenway	BL-0008	City of Hendersonville	Clear Creek Greenway	Berkeley Mills Park	Lakewood Road
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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

Tristan Winkler shared that \$61M in federal funds are currently programmed to projects (\$76M in investments, including local match). This does not include the additional \$21M approved but not programmed from the 2022 Call for Projects.

Roughly \$10M in completed LAPP projects include Hendersonville Road Sidewalks, Heart of Fletcher Transportation Improvements, Asheville Replacement Buses and the French Broad River West Greenway. Many jurisdictions in the MPO have been awarded projects. Larger jurisdictions include Buncombe County, the City of Asheville, and Henderson County. Smaller Jurisdictions include City of Hendersonville, Town of Black Mountain,

Town of Canton, Town of Maggie Valley, Town of Montreat, Town of Fletcher, Town of Mills River, the Village of Flat Rock, and the Town of Clyde. 95% of the funds are used for bike/ped projects (the other 5% are for buses, a bridge and a traffic signal.)

Tristan Winkler shared that the major LAPP issues are that costs are increasing, projects are falling behind, there are inconsistencies in updates/oversight and understanding/training. Of the over \$76M in programmed project funding, \$7-11M is expected to go to NCDOT for oversight and management. These issues are not just evident in this MPO, but throughout the State. NCDOT has formed a work group including MPO and RPO representatives to recommend policy changes to improve LAPP success rates. FBRMPO staff supports changing the 15% of construction cost cap for contract administration/CEI for locally administered projects to reflect actual standard costs.

The Prioritization Subcommittee will review updated costs and schedules and potentially recommend changes to projects. NCDOT's LAPP Workgroup is developing a survey for project managers and other stakeholders. MPO and NCDOT will look at potential policy and process changes (change 80/20 to 50/50 or some other ration, require feasibility studies before funding and implementing more requirements for updates and oversight.

**Information only. No action required.**

## **REGULAR UPDATES AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

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](https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/092022_Div14_FBRMPO-Const_Update-combined.pdf)

TPD Updates:

FHWH/FTA Updates:

FBRMPO Committee & Workgroup Updates:

- Prioritization Subcommittee – Met September 7<sup>th</sup>, next meeting October 5<sup>th</sup>
- Transit Operators Workgroup – next meeting TBD
- 5307 Subrecipient – next meeting TBD
- Citizen's Advisory Committee – met June 24<sup>th</sup>, next meeting TBD
- Hellbender Trail Stakeholder Group – last meeting May 24<sup>th</sup>, next meeting TBD

Legislative updates provided by MPO Staff

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Larry Harris adjourned the meeting at 2:34 PM as there was no further business.

# 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

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, 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, that is becoming a destination for many, by building safe and resilient infrastructure for bicyclists and pedestrians and transforming 7<sup>th</sup> 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,

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Larry B. Harris  
Chair, French Broad River MPO

# 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 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue through a Phases II & III of the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Streetscaping Project
4. Determine other crossings and improvements that may strengthen the connection between 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

# 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: Approve the Amendment to the FY 2023 UPWP**

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# 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

### 5310 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

### 5310 Matching Requirements

Project Type	Federal Funds	Local Funds
Capital Projects	80%	20%
Operating Projects	50%	50%
ADA (equipment on vehicles)	90%	10%

### 5310 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: Approve the opening of the 5310 Call for Projects**

**TCC Recommendation: Approve**

# 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

5307 (JARC) 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
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5307 (JARC) Matching Requirements

Project Type	Federal Funds	Local Funds
Capital Projects	80%	20%
Operating Projects	50%	50%

5307 (JARC) 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: Approve the opening of the JARC Call for Projects**

**TCC Recommendation: Approve**

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

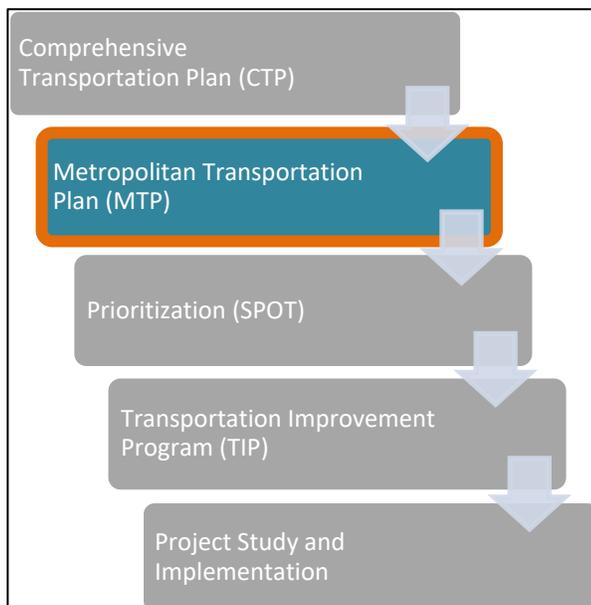
## Staff Report & Recommendations

# 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

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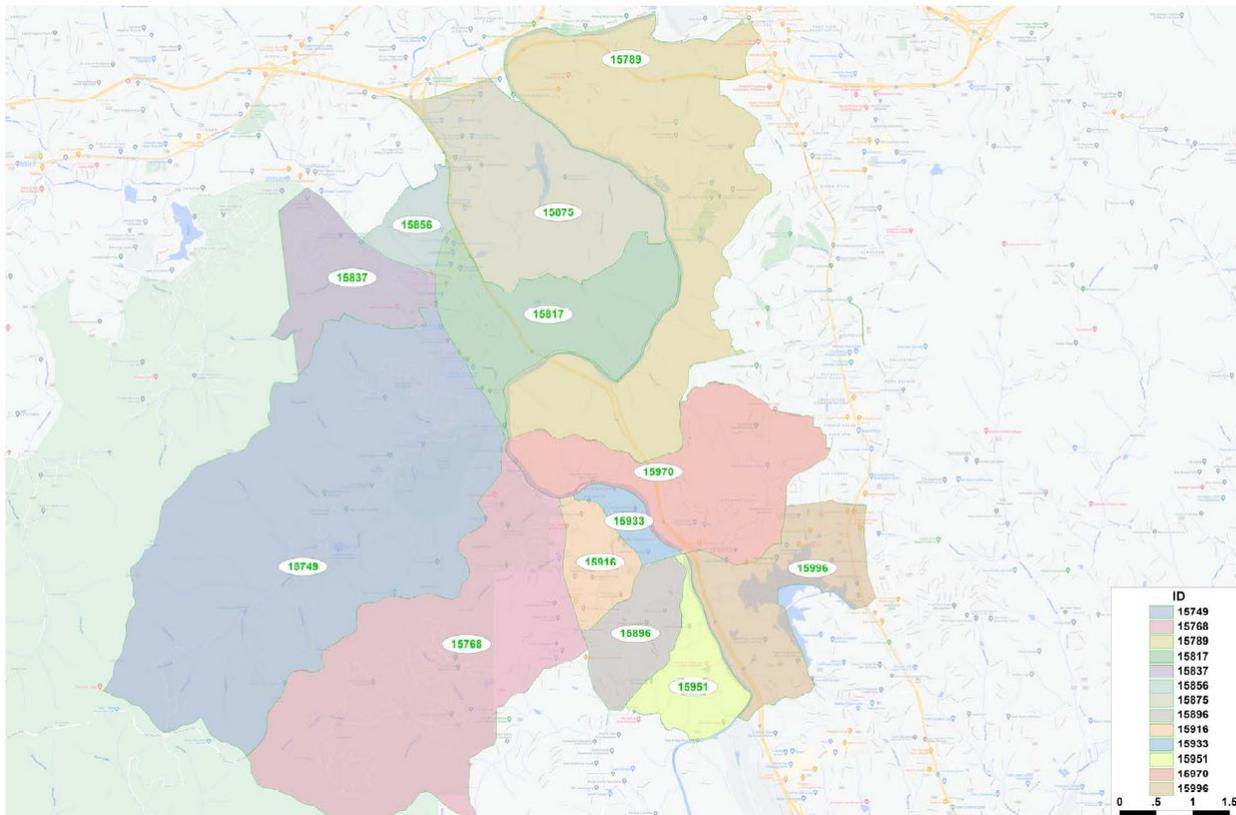
## Staff Report & Recommendations

### 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)

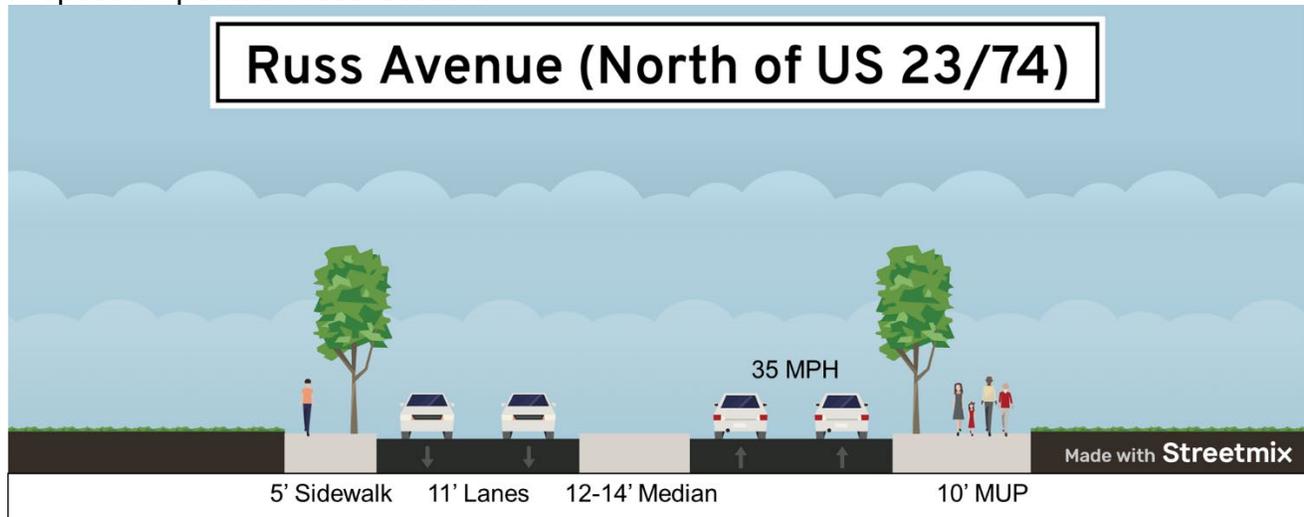
From: US 23/74 (Smokey Mountains Expressway)

To: US 19 (Dellwood Road)

Improvement Type: Access Management

Jurisdictions Impacted: Haywood County, Town of Waynesville

Proposed Updated Cross-Section:

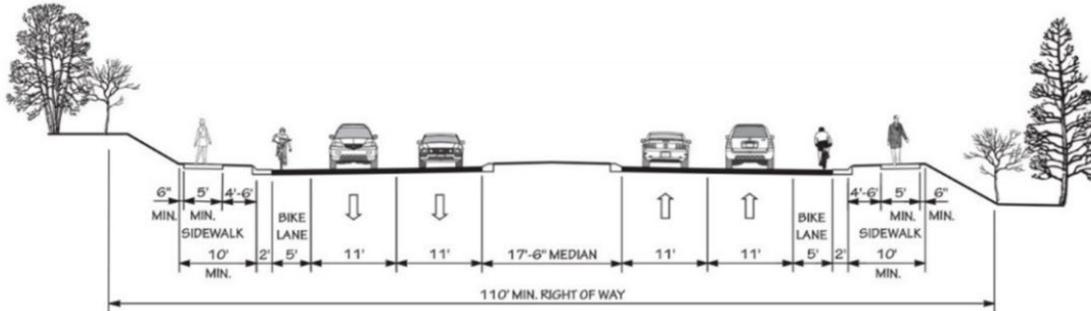


# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

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: Approve the MTP Amendments**  
**TCC Recommendation: Approve**

# 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 28<sup>th</sup> with applications due on **Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**. 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: Approve Opening the Call for Planning Projects**

**TCC Recommendation: Approve**

# 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 5<sup>th</sup>; next meeting November 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Transit Operators' Workgroup**—next meeting TBD

**5307 Subrecipient Workgroup**- met October 19<sup>th</sup>; next meeting TBD

**Citizens' Advisory Committee**- met June 24<sup>th</sup>; next meeting TBD

**Hellbender Trail Stakeholder Group**- last meeting October 6<sup>th</sup>; next meeting TBD

### Additional Items:

### Recommended Actions:

Accept the reports.

# Item 6E:

## Legislative Updates