

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 3A:

## August, 2022- TCC Minutes

### French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization

Minutes from the TCC Hybrid Meeting on August 11, 2022

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

In-person and remote via Zoom:

Autumn Radcliff	William High	Tristan Winkler
Brendan Merithew	Jane Pies (minutes)	Hannah Bagli
Stephen Williams	Vicki Eastland	Jodi Ferguson
Daniel Sellers	Matthew Cable	Jessica Trotman
Janna Bianculli	Troy Wilson	Erica Anderson
Jessica Morriss	Harry Buckner	Lucy Crown
Eric Rufa	Nathan Bennett	Daniel Cobb
Kaitland Finkle	Teresa Robinson	Bill Marley
Anna Sexton	Tim Anderson	

#### **WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING**

Chair, Autumn Radcliff called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 11:02 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 May 2022 TCC minutes and the modification to the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and amendments to the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). She requested approval of the TCC agenda, as well.

*Vicki Eastland motioned to approve the consent agenda with the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) the Amendments to the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work and the TCC agenda, as presented. Jodi Ferguson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously upon a roll call vote and without further discussion.*

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

### BUSINESS

#### Safe Streets for All Regional Action Planning Grant Application to USDOT

##### What is Safe Streets for All?

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

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

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

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

##### **Proposed Application for the Region**

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

This plan would include the following general elements:

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

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

Tristan Winkler presented on Safe Streets for All grant program offered by USDOT. A joint application is recommended across the region, including the FBRMPO and the LOSRPI. An Action Plan is required to pursue the funds. Safety trends in our area are trending in the wrong direction, with too many motorcycle, bike and truck involved crashes. This puts an additional burden on local hospitals. NCDOT Safety Unit and a local non-profit are potential funders for the local match for the plan. Applications are due September 15, 2022.

***Lucy Crown moved to recommend approval of an MPO/RPO Action Plan Grant Application. Jessica Morriss seconded the motion which passed upon a roll call vote.***

### INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

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

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

**Financial Changes:** The State budget includes a provision to begin transferring a percentage of State sales tax revenues to transportation funds. This is projected to generate \$4-6 billion over the next ten years. This additional funding is likely to bring some projects back into the 2024-2033 STIP that were initially removed but not all the removed projects.

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

#### **General Schedule Moving Forward:**

Revised Draft 2024-2033 STIP Released: next few weeks

Project Swaps Due: March 17, 2023

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

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

Tristan Winkler shared that in the new state budget, some sales tax revenues are being transferred to the DOT. In comparison to the April 2022 STIP, the August 2022 STIP now includes some of the projects that were decommitted and an acceleration of some projects remaining on the schedule.

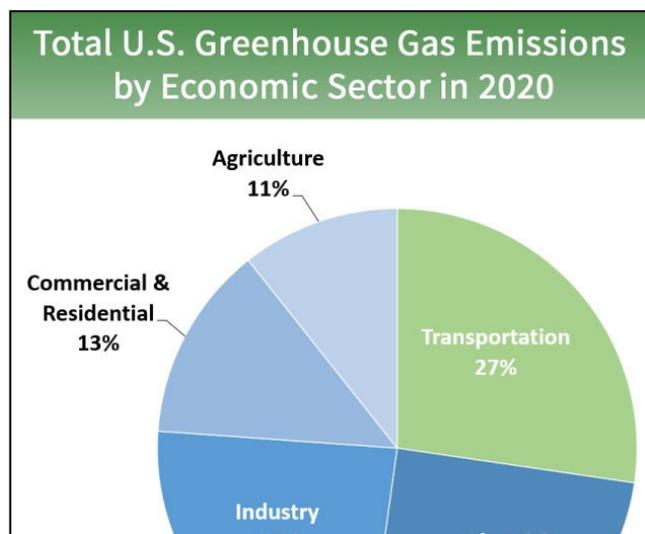
#### ***Information only. No action required***

#### **Carbon Reduction Program**

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

The Carbon Reduction Program is function very similarly to the Surface

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



set to and (TAP) in States are large The French is FY 2026.



# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

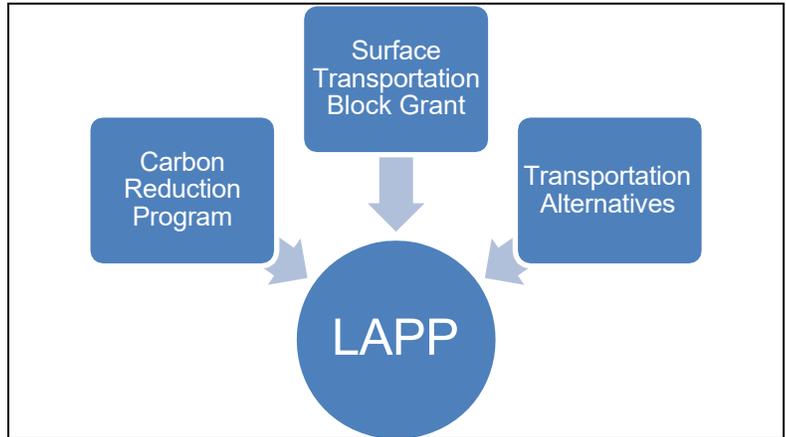
will issue guidance on how the Secretary will make such certifications.) [§ 11403; 23 U.S.C. 133(b) and 175(c)(2)]

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

### **Other Requirements**

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

**Plan for Application to the FBRMPO** Consolidate Carbon Reduction Program, Transportation Alternatives, and Surface Transportation Block Grant funds into the Locally Administered Projects Program



**Information only. No action required.**

**NC Clean Transportation Plan**

Jen Weiss, Senior Advisor for Climate Change Policy with NCDOT presented on the NC Clean Transportation Plan and National EV charging Infrastructure.

**NC Clean Transportation Plan**

In NC, the transportation sector is the number one emitter of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (36% of emissions). The electricity sector is doing more to reduce emissions, bringing the transportation sector to the top. In 2018, Governor Roy Cooper signed Executive Order No 80 which called for a reduction in economy wide emissions by 40% below 2005 levels by 2025. It also required an increase in the total number of registered ZEVs to at least 80,000 by 2025 and a reduction in energy consumption in state-owned buildings by 40% below 2002-2003 levels. In 2022, Governor Cooper signed Executive Order No 246, requiring a reduction in economy wide emissions by 50% below 2005 levels by 2030, and increase in total number of registered ZEVs to at least 1.25M by 2030, and an increase in sales of ZEVs for that 50% of in-state sales are zero emission by 2030.

NCDOT was directed to develop the NC Clean Transportation Plan. This is a large broad stakeholder process. Our goal is to bring stakeholders together to share best-practices and increase awareness. Also, to access the opportunities, challenges, and considerations with creating a more equitable clean transportation system. It is important to develop strategies with an emphasis on near-term action and accountability metrics to track progress for priorities. We currently have five different workgroups developing Action Plans, which meet from May through September. After public information sessions and NCDOT drafts the report, the final report will be presented on April 7, 2023.

Work group topic areas include light duty ZEVs, medium/heavy duty ZEVs, fleet transition, vehicle miles traveled and clean transportation infrastructure. Themes addressed are equitable access, education and outreach, incentives and finance, economic and workforce development, health impacts and policies and programs.

**National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program**

As part of the 5-year Federal Program, \$5B is earmarked for electric vehicle charging as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. North Carolina is estimated to receive \$109M in funding over the next 5 years, with \$16M being available the first year. All states must submit EV Infrastructure Deployment Plans to the DOE/DOT Joint Office by August 1, 2022. We hope to be approved by the end of September.

As part of phase 1 of the NEVI station criteria, there must be 50 miles or less spacing between stations along Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs). In phase 2, Community-Based Charging, stations can be placed 50 miles apart along any public road on a site that is publicly accessible. NCDOT will not own the stations but will help in maintaining them. NEVI funding may be used for planning, site design and operations and utility upgrades.

For more information: <https://www.ncdot.gov/initiatives-policies/environmental/climate-change/Pages/clean-transportation-plan.aspx>.

Discussion occurred as to if it is possible to make additions to the Alternative Fuel Corridors, such as US23/74 and US441 in the western part of the state? Jen Weiss shared that even if an area isn't approved for an AFC during phase 1, it can be reconsidered for phase 2.

***Information only. No action required.***

#### **REGULAR UPDATES**

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

Division 14 Updates: [https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/082022\\_Div14\\_FBRMPO-Const\\_Update-combined-3.pdf](https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/082022_Div14_FBRMPO-Const_Update-combined-3.pdf)

NCDOT Transportation Planning Division: Updates were given

FHWA: Updates were given

Legislative Updates: Updates were given

Committee & Workgroup Updates:

Prioritization Subcommittee- met August 3<sup>rd</sup>; next meeting September 7<sup>th</sup>

Transit Operators' Workgroup- next meeting TBD

5307 Subrecipient Workgroup- next meeting TBD

Citizens' 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

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Radcliff adjourned the meeting at 12:29 PM, as there was no further business.