



French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization

Minutes from the TCC Hybrid Meeting on March 9, 2023

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Meeting ID: 88289308321

Call-In: (301)715-8592

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

In-person and remote via Zoom:

Autumn Radcliff	Tristan Winkler	Eddie McFalls	Jon Barsanti
Hannah Cook	Jane Pies (minutes)	Hannah Bagli	Alexius Farriss
Steve Williams	Jodie Ferguson	Chris Lee	
Vicki Eastland	Dylan Casper	Jessica Trotman	
Pat Christie	Troy Wilson	Scott Adams	
Harry Buckner	Daniel Sellers	Lucy Crown	
Anna Sexton	Logan DiGiacomo	Jessica Morriss	
William High	Janna Bianculli	Kaitland Finkle	

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Autumn Radcliff called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 11:05AM. A roll call followed, and quorum was established to conduct the business before the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Autumn Radcliff opened the floor for public comments. No public comments were received.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vicki Eastland moved to accept the consent agenda consisting of approval of the minutes from the February 2023 meeting, the Amendment to the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), the Resolution of Support for the Transportation Demand Management Program, and the TCC agenda. William High seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

BUSINESS

Draft 2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): I-4400BA Swap

The Draft 2024-2033 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) was developed in reaction to rising construction costs for transportation projects. Instead of programming new projects through P 6.0 (the usual process), the Board of Transportation and Prioritization Workgroup stopped the P 6.0 process in 2021 and worked to develop a process to determine what projects would remain on the STIP for the 2024-2033 iteration and which projects would be removed and required to re-compete in future rounds of prioritization.

The process developed for the Draft 2024-2033 STIP included the following steps:

- 1) Prioritize projects by which round of prioritization a project was funded in (i.e., prioritize projects that have been funded in the STIP for longer) as well as the points received until available funding is exhausted.
- 2) Enable projects to be swapped in and out so long as the following rules are followed:
 - a. MPO/RPO and Division must agree to any swaps by March 17, 2023
 - b. A project(s) being swapped in must not exceed 110% of the cost of the project(s) being swapped out
 - c. Projects changing funding tier must follow the typical prioritization rules for cascading projects:

		PROJECT OUT		
		Statewide Mobility	Regional Impact	Division Needs
PROJECT IN	Statewide Mobility	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
	Regional Impact	X	Eligible	Eligible
	Division Needs	X	X	Eligible

The initial Draft 2024-2033 STIP was released in April, 2022. Since that time, the NC General Assembly approved a bill, later signed by the Governor, that allowed for the transfer of Sales Tax revenues into the Highway Trust Fund and Highway Fund, adding additional funding and enabling more projects to be added back to the STIP. The [revised Draft 2024-2033 STIP](#) was released in August, 2022.

Project Status in the French Broad River MPO:

Statewide Mobility

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

Projects In		Projects Out	
TIP ID	Project	Project	TIP ID
I-2513AB	I-26 Connector (Partial I-26/I-40/I-240 Interchange Improvements)	NC 191 (Brevard Road) Widening	U-3403B
I-2513AC	I-26 Connector (Widening from I-40 to Haywood)	NC 63 (New Leicester Highway) Access Management	U-5972
U-5783	US 64 Improvements (Laurel Park)	NC 63 (New Leicester Highway) and US 19 (Patton Avenue) Intersection Improvements	U-5971B
U-6049	South Main Street Bridge Widening (Hendersonville)	NC 280 (Boylston Highway) Access Management	U-6124
U-2801A	US 25A (Sweeten Creek Road) Widening	US 25 (Weaverville Highway) and New Stock Road Intersection Improvements	U-5973
A-0010AA	Future I-26 Widening		

Division Needs (Division 13)

Projects In		Projects Out	
TIP ID	Project	Project	TIP ID
I-4409	I-40/Blue Ridge Road New Interchange	N Louisiana Avenue Improvements (Patton to Emma)	U-6162
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		
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		
U-5832	NC 81 (Swannanoa River Road) Improvements (Biltmore to S Tunnel)		

Division Needs (Division 14)

Projects In		Projects Out	
TIP ID	Project	Project	TIP ID

R-2588B	NC 191 Widening (NC 280 to Mountain Road)	US 23/74 Improvements (Balsam View to Old Balsam)	U-6172
U-5839	US 276 (Russ Avenue) Improvements (Main Street to US 23/74)		
U-5888	N Main @ Walnut Intersection Improvements		
U-5886	White Street Improvements		
R-5921	US 276 (Jonathan Creek Road) Improvements		
R-5748	Kanuga Road Improvements		
EB-5860	Blythe Street Sidewalks		
EB-5963	Grove Street Sidewalks		
U-4712	South Main Street Widening (Hyatt Creek to US 276 (Pigeon St))		
U-6158	US 276 @ Crymes Cove Road Intersection Improvements		
U-6159	US 276 (Russ Avenue) Access Management (US 23/74 to US 19 (Dellwood Road))		
U-6048	US 19/23 Improvements (Chestnut Mountain to Wiggins Road)		

MPO Process Since the Release of the Draft TIP

MPO staff has convened meetings with County and Municipal groups to discuss potential project swaps. These meetings included staff of Buncombe County & Municipalities, Haywood County & Municipalities, and the Henderson Transportation Advisory Committee.

Proposed Swaps

Only one swap has been officially proposed, coming from Henderson County and approved by their Transportation Advisory Committee:

Project to Swap In:

TIP ID: I-4400BA

Description: Improvements to the I-26/US 64 Interchange Current

Funding Tier: Statewide Mobility

Cost: \$29,500,000

Project to Swap Out:

TIP ID: R-5748

Description: Modernization of Kanuga Road from Church Street to Little River Road Current

Funding Tier: Division Needs (14)

Cost: \$52,200,000

Public Survey

MPO staff developed an online survey for prioritization considerations, in coordination with NCDOT and the Citizens Advisory Committee.

William High moved to recommend the proposed project swap of improvements to the I-26/US 64 Interchange Current and removing the modernization of Kanuga Road from Church Street to Little River Road Current to MPO Board. Vicki Eastland seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

Draft 2024-2033 TIP/STIP: U-2801A Segmentation

Background

U-2801A is a TIP project to widen Sweeten Creek Road from Rock Hill Road to the US 25/NC 280 intersection. The current status of the road is as follows:

Cross-Section	Two-Lane Undivided
Current Complete Street Elements	Intermittent Sidewalks, No Bike Facilities
Proposed Cross-Section	Four-Lane Divided
Proposed Complete Street Elements	Multi-Use Path and Sidewalks
Volumes	14,000-19,500
Projected Volumes	25,000-35,000
Overlapping or Adjacent Communities of Concern	4

In a recent meeting with NCDOT Division 13, Buncombe County, and Buncombe Municipalities, staff was informed that the cost of U-2801A has increased from \$195 million to more than \$250 million. NCDOT also informed staff that a cost increase of that magnitude would require U-2801A to potentially be (once again) defunded in the STIP.

A follow-up meeting with NCDOT, Buncombe County, and City of Asheville staff determined that the best course of action would be to develop costs for a reduced cross-section that would be for three-lanes, intersection improvements, and complete streets improvements instead of the four-lane divided typical that was previously used. The updated costs were delivered on February 28th with no significant decrease in cost between the four-lane and the three-lane.

Options Moving Forward:

1) Take No Action

Results: U-2801A would be decommitted in the STIP and would be required to go through future rounds of prioritization to get funded again.

2) Segment the Project at Mills Gap Road, Keep the Northern Section (Mills Gap Road to Rock Hill Road) on the STIP

Results: The southern section would be decommitted in the STIP and would be required to go through future rounds of prioritization to get funded again, the northern section would move forward with project development.

-Maintaining the four-lane divided cross-section would be recommended for the Northern section; a three-lane cross-section would not likely meet project Purpose & Need.

-At this time it is not guaranteed this would keep the Northern Section “committed” in the STIP

Cross-Section	Two-Lane Undivided
Current Complete Street Elements	Intermittent Sidewalks, No Bike Facilities
Proposed Cross-Section	Four-Lane Divided
Proposed Complete Street Elements	Multi-Use Path and Sidewalks
Volumes	19,000-19,500

Projected Volumes	33,000-35,000
Overlapping or Adjacent Communities of Concern	2

3) Segment the Project at Mills Gap Road, Keep the Southern Section (Mills Gap Road to Rock Hill Road) on the STIP

Results: The northern section would be decommitted in the STIP and would be required to go through future rounds of prioritization to get funded again, the southern section would move forward with project development.

-A three-lane or four-lane divided cross-section could be considered (it is currently being developed as a four-lane divided.) A three-lane would need to go through the merger team due to likely issues with project Purpose & Need.

-At this time it is not guaranteed this would keep the Southern Section “committed” in the STIP

Cross-Section	Two-Lane Undivided
Current Complete Street Elements	Intermittent Sidewalks, No Bike Facilities
Proposed Cross-Section	Four-Lane Divided
Proposed Complete Street Elements	Multi-Use Path and Sidewalks
Volumes	14,000-15,500
Projected Volumes	25,000-27,500
Overlapping or Adjacent Communities of Concern	2

4) Other

The deadline for swaps is March 17th so there is limited time to gather additional information.

Prioritization Subcommittee Recommendation: Option #2- Segment U-2801A at Mills Gap and prioritize the Northern Section (Mills Gap Road to Rock Hill Road) for inclusion in the STIP; have the Southern Section (Mills Gap Road to US 25/NC 280) re-compete in future rounds of prioritization.

TW no guarantee of keeping both segments 2 and 3 on the books. David says likely to get one of segments funded.

Jessica Morris moved to recommend to the MPO Board Option 2, Segment the Project at Mills Gap Road, Keep the Northern Section (Mills Gap Road to Rock Hill Road) on the STIP. Janna Bianculli seconded the motion which passed upon a roll call vote.

Final FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The French Broad River MPO is required to develop a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and present a draft in February with the final version approved in March.

What is a UPWP?

The UPWP is a federally mandated document for MPO’s 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.

A draft of the UPWP was presented and approved in February.

Major Changes between the FY 2023 and FY 2024 UPWP

-Less emphasis is being put on data, modeling, and travelers' behavior to reflect work completed in FY 2022 and FY 2023.

-Work added for P 7.0 includes project submittals, local input point methodology, and regional impact point assignments.

-More funding is being put towards special study administration with a number of carryover studies as well as the award of funds for a Safe Streets for All Action Plan

-More emphasis is being put on regional planning for MTP development and 5307 suballocation formula updates

-A Staffing & Compensation Study has been added to the list of studies to be done

-Percentage of local dues has been recalculated using 2020 decennial census figures. Carryover dues have also been applied.

William High moved to recommend approval of the FY 2024 UPWP. Steve Williams seconded the motion which passed upon a roll call vote.

FY 2024

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**FRENCH
BROAD
RIVER**

METROPOLITAN PLANNING
ORGANIZATION
A PROGRAM OF LAND OF SKY

**Fiscal Year 2024 Unified Planning Work Program for
the
French Broad River Metropolitan Planning
Organization**

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INTRODUCTION

In compliance with Federal law and guidelines, the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) has developed a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Fiscal Year 2024 that will help to carry out a cooperative, comprehensive, and continuous transportation planning process for the FBRMPO Planning Area.

In general, the UPWP is the FBRMPO's budget for personnel tasks and planning studies, either carried out by the MPO or studies using MPO planning funds carried out by member governments. The UPWP is largely funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA), with reimbursements managed by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. UPWP's can have six general funding sources:

-Statewide Planning and Research Program (SPR)- These are federal planning funds used by NCDOT to conduct work for the French Broad River MPO. A 20% local match is required. (No SPR funds are programmed in FY 2024 UPWP)

-FHWA Section 104(f) Funds- These funds are dedicated to MPO planning areas to perform metropolitan transportation planning tasks. A 20% local match is required.

-FTA Section 5303 Funds- These funds are used for transit planning in the MPO planning area by the region's 5303 Direct Recipient, the City of Asheville. The FTA provides 80% of these funds, NCDOT provides 10%, and the City of Asheville provides the 10% local match

-FTA Section 5307 Funds- These funds are distributed to the region and are eligible for transit capital, operations, and planning. Planning tasks carried out with these funds by 5307 (sub)recipients or the MPO are required to be documented in the UPWP.

-FHWA Surface Transportation Block Grant Program- Direct Attributable Funds- The funds are dedicated to Transportation Management Areas and these funds can be used for transportation planning. A 20% local match is required.

-Local Match- the match required to utilize federal planning funds is charged to MPO member governments in direct proportion to proportion of population within

the MPO, per the most recent decennial census. The 2020 US Census will be utilized to calculate local dues for FY 24.

NARRATIVE OF SECTION 104(f) WORK TASKS TO BE PERFORMED

II-A Data and Planning Support		
II-A-1	Networks and Support Systems	Continued collection of various metrics- VMT, traffic volume counts, traffic crashes, transit system data, air travel data. Updates to Street Systems, Parking Inventory, Transit Systems, Bike/Ped Facilities Inventory. Any changes to Functional Classification as a result of changes to the UZA will be processes. An initial Capacity Deficiency Analysis will be completed with the update to the Travel Demand Model. WORK PRODUCTS: updated data, inventories, Capacity Deficiency Analysis, any functional classification changes required.
II-A-2	Travelers and Behavior	Modifications to base-year (2020) data as needed, continued bike/ped counts. WORK PRODUCTS: Bike/Ped Counts
II-A-3	Transportation Modeling	Forecasts of Future Travel Patterns as a result of the 2050 Socio-Economic Projections, initial development of Financial Models. WORK PRODUCTS: Draft Future Travel Patterns
II-B Planning Process		
II-B-1	Targeted Planning	Compilation of existing local Hazard Mitigation & Disaster plans, attendance at Clean Air/Clean Vehicle meetings, incorporation of EV plans, attendance at State and Regional Freight and Resilience planning meetings.
II-B-2A	Regional Planning	Development of MTP Goals & Objectives, Existing Conditions for the MTP. Amendments to the 2045 MTP as necessary. Updated 5307 Suballocation Formula. WORK PRODUCTS: MTP 2050 Goals & Objectives, Updated 5307 Suballocation Formula
II-B-2B	Safe & Accessible Transportation Options	Identify and Develop Complete Streets projects in the region for inclusion in the MTP 2050.

II-B-3	Special Studies Operations	Oversight for MPO-funded Special Studies (Cane Creek Greenway, Woodfin-Weaverville Greenway Connections, Patton Avenue Corridor Study, Fonta Flora Greenway Study, Safe Streets for All Action Plan, 2050 Socio-Economic Forecast. WORK PRODUCT: Getting Special Studies underway and completed.
III-A Planning Work Program		
III-A-1	Planning Work Program	Amendments to the FY 2024 UPWP as necessary, Development of the FY 2025 UPWP and coordination with the City of Asheville on the FTA Section 5303 Narrative. WORK PRODUCTS: Amendments to the FY 2024 UPWP, Draft and Final FY 2025 UPWP
III-A-2	Metrics and Performance Measures	Maintain federally-required performance measures, provide quarterly reports to NCDOT. WORK PRODUCTS: Quarterly Reports, Transit Performance Targets
III-B Transportation Improvement Program		
III-B-1	Prioritization	Coordinate with local partners on P 7.0. Project submissions, Local Methodology development, and Regional Impact point assignment expected in FY 2025. LAPP project coordination will continue. Continued assistance to local governments on federal and state discretionary grants. Annual 5310 & JARC Calls for Projects.
III-B-2	Metropolitan TIP	Adoption of the 2024-2033 TIP, Quarterly Amendments to the TIP, updates to the TIP AGOL map.
III-B-3	Merger/Project Development	Attendance at Merger meetings, Express Designs, Feasibility Studies, and Bike/Ped studies.
III-C Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI) and Other Regulatory Requirements		
III-C-1	Title VI Compliance	Updated Title VI Plan, Maintain Title VI Compliance WORK PRODUCTS: Updated Title VI Plan
III-C-2	Environmental Justice	Continued Environmental Justice Analysis as part of the development of the 2050 MTP
III-C-3	Minority Business Enterprise Planning	Nothing planned this fiscal year.

III-C-4	Planning for Elderly	Nothing planned this fiscal year.
III-C-5	Safety/Drug Control Planning	Nothing planned this fiscal year.
III-C-6	Public Involvement	Updates to the PIP as necessary, Public Engagement for P 7.0, Hellbender Trail Forum
III-C-7	Private Sector Participation	Nothing planned this fiscal year.
III-D Statewide and Extra-Regional Planning		
III-D	Statewide and Extra-Regional Planning	Attendance at NCAMPO, NC-Public Transit Association, SPOT Workgroup, AMPO, USDOT webinars and trainings, NC BikeWalk Summit, NC Transportation Summit.
III-E Management and Operations		
III-E	Management, Operations, Program Support Administration	<p>Staff meetings, agendas, minutes, and preparation for the Board, TCC, subcommittee, and workgroup meetings. Continued contracting for TIP software that enables enhanced tracking and public interface. Maintenance of the MPO website and social media sites. All other internal trainings, meetings, and administration. Routine travel for local engagements. A compensation and staffing study will be undertaken for MPO staff.</p> <p>WORK PRODUCTS: Updated website, agendas, minutes, presentations, travel authorization forms, reimbursement requests, timesheets, TIP software, social media presence. MPO Compensation and Staffing Study.</p>

TABLES OF UPWP FTA SECTION 5303 WORK TASKS TO BE PERFORMED

II-A Data and Planning Support		
II-A-1	Networks and Support Systems	<p>The City of Asheville Transit Planning Division collects and analyzes various data related to the operation and maintenance of the transit system. This includes ridership data compiled from the Automatic Passenger Counters, fare data collected from the fareboxes, performance data collected from the real-time GPS and AVL system, etc. The data is used in reporting current system functions, as well as analyze the impact of system service changes, and to plan for future service improvements to increase system-wide ridership.</p> <p>Work Product: Monthly ridership reports, on-time-performance reports, fare revenue reports, etc.</p>
II-A-2	Travelers and Behavior	<p>The City of Asheville Transit Planning Division utilizes land use and demographic data in partnership with the MPO and the City's Planning and Urban Design department to coordinate land use and transportation decision-making on proposed new developments. In addition, the information is used in planning improvements to the transit system to ensure connectivity among ART's fixed-route service and to other regional modes of transportation.</p>
II-A-3	Transportation Modeling	

II-B Planning Process

II-B-1	Targeted Planning	<p>The City will be beginning a planning process for the development of a new/expanded downtown transit center. Preliminary planning activities will be performed in FY 24 and will include an analysis of the operational needs for ingress/egress of the site, as well as a space needs analysis for passengers and staff portions of a new transit center space.</p> <p>Work Product: Deliverables will consist of space needs diagrams and quantities and a report regarding ingress/egress and staging needs for the new transit center.</p>
II-B-2	Regional Planning	<p>The City of Asheville Transit Planning Division continues to implement recommended service improvements in the transit master plan, as well as Implement the vision/long range plan outlined in the Multimodal Transportation Plan. Participate in the Regional Transit Operators meetings to discuss prioritization of regional transit projects. Attend TCC (Technical Coordinating Committee), and other transit advisory board meetings. In FY24 and FY25 the City of Asheville plans to work with Buncombe County to develop a joint Transit Master Plan.</p> <p>Work Product: Deliverables associated with joint Transit Master Plan to be developed by the City of Asheville and Buncombe County.</p>
II-B-3A	Special Studies Operations	

II-B-3B	Corridor Studies Operations	
II-B-3C	Special Studies Pass-Through	
III-A Planning Work Program		
III-A-1	Planning Work Program	<p>Program Administration entails working on multiple reporting and managerial functions. Program administration includes monitoring subrecipients planning and grant activities, and reporting requirements for (drug/alcohol, NTD, FTA, etc.), work with the MPO to develop the UPWP per federal and state requirements, manage and administer the City's FTA and State grants, manage FTA compliance program, monitor and oversee the operations and maintenance contracts for the fixed-route and paratransit services. In FY23 the City of Asheville, as the designated recipient will undergo the FTA Triennial Review.</p> <p>Work Products: Completed FTA Triennial Review (FYs 19-22). Quarterly and Annual FTA Reports, Complete annual NTD reporting; work on Subrecipient Agreements and reports; Drug and Alcohol Reports, etc.</p>
III-A-2	Metrics and Performance Measures	
III-B Transportation Improvement Program		
III-B-1	Prioritization	
III-B-2	Metropolitan TIP	

III-B-3	Merger/Project Development	
III-C Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI) and Other Regulatory Requirements		
III-C-1	Title VI Compliance	<p>In FY 23, the City will update the 3-year Title VI Program Plan for submission to FTA. The City will continue conducting Title VI analysis for any future route and/or fare changes.</p> <p>Work Product: FY 23-25 City of Asheville Title VI Plan</p>
III-C-2	Environmental Justice	
III-C-3	Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Planning	<p>The FTA Region IV Office approved the City FY 23-25 DBE Goals in August 2022, which includes closely coordinating with the City’s Small and Minority-Owned Business Program. Continue evaluating individual transit projects to ensure adherence to the City’s DBE Goals and federal DBE requirements.</p> <p>Work Product: Quarterly DBE reports for FTA.</p>
III-C-4	Planning for Elderly	
III-C-5	Safety/Drug Control Planning	<p>The City has an approved Public Transportation Safety Plan. Required meetings and monitoring of performance measures will take place.</p> <p>Work Product: PTSP Committee meetings notes, performance measures, reports and submissions for FTA.</p>
III-C-6	Public Involvement	<p>The City will be conducting public involvement as part of the joint Transit Master Plan that will be prepared by the City with Buncombe County in FY 24 and FY 25.</p>

		Work Product: Public meetings and survey results.
III-C-7	Private Sector Participation	
III-D Statewide and Extra-Regional Planning		
III-D	Statewide and Extra-Regional Planning	
III-E Management and Operations		
III-E	Management, Operations, Program Support Administration	

SPECIAL STUDIES SUMMARY

FY	Study	Managing Entity	Summary
2024	Woodfin-Weaverville Greenway Connection	Town of Woodfin	This study will hire a consultant to provide recommendations on potential alignments to connect the Woodfin Greenway project (EB-5547) to the planned Reems Creek Greenway in Weaverville. The study will look at potential alignments including along Future I-26, NC 251, and any other alignment deemed reasonable that would provide a safe, accessible route for bicyclists and pedestrians between the two identified greenway corridors. Preliminary cost estimates and public engagement will be included as well.
2024	Cane Creek Greenway Study	Town of Fletcher	This study will hire a consultant to provide recommendations towards the implementation of the planned Cane Creek Greenway corridor between the Bill Moore Community Park and the French Broad River. The study will include potential alignments, preliminary cost estimates, and public engagement.
2023	2050 Socio-Economic Projections	French Broad River MPO	This study will hire a consultant to provide projections of employment, population, school-aged population, and other information needed at the TAZ-level to provide 2050 projections for the region's Travel Demand Model.
2023	Patton Avenue Corridor Study	City of Asheville	This study will hire a consultant to provide recommendations on long-term improvements to the Patton Avenue corridor from the Jeff Bowen Bridge to Biltmore Avenue in Downtown Asheville. Improvements that may be considered include intersection improvements, opportunities to improve street network connectivity, forecasting future growth and land use, and bicycle and pedestrian improvements along the corridor.

FY	Study	Managing Entity	Summary
2023	Reed Creek Greenway Extension Study	City of Asheville	This study will hire a consultant to provide recommendations on the extension of the Reed Creek Greenway in North Asheville to connect the facility to NC 251 to the north and Downtown Asheville to the south. The study will include potential alignments, preliminary cost estimates, and public engagement.
2023	Fonta Flora Greenway Study	Town of Black Mountain	This study will hire a consultant to provide recommendations on the construction of a multi-use path as part of the Fonta Flora Trail from the Eastern Town Limits of Black Mountain to NC 9 in Downtown Black Mountain. The study will include potential alignments, preliminary cost estimates, and public engagement.

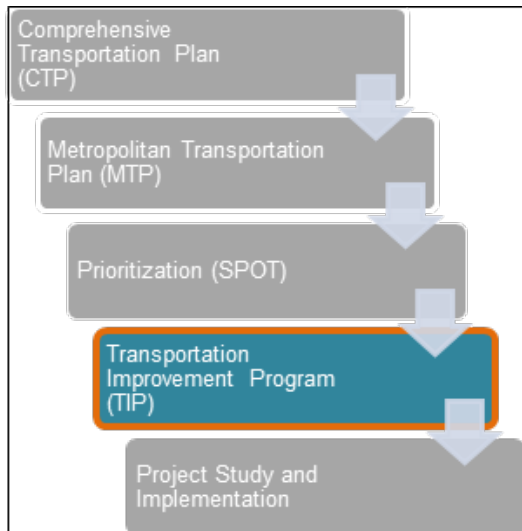
LOCAL MATCH FOR FY 2024 UPWP

Local match for federal Metropolitan Planning funds (either PL or STBGDA flexed to PL) is required in order to access these funds. The French Broad River MPO’s budget for FY 2024 consists of a total of \$623,375, necessitating a 20% local match of \$124,675.

This local match is split between paying entities of the region (some counties pay on behalf of some of their municipalities), based on the jurisdiction proportion of the MPO’s population from the 2010 Dicennial Census. These funds also include a contribution of unspent local dues from the previous fiscal year. The estimated dues for FY 2024 have changed from FY 2023 with the application of the 2020 decennial census to update due percentages.

	FY 2024 Amount	Local Dues Based on 2010 Census	Local Dues Based on 2020 Census
Total	\$623,375		
Federal Share	\$498,700		
Local Share	\$124,675		
Carryover Local Dues	\$10,467.81	-	-
Buncombe County	\$42,773.55	36.56%	37.52%
Henderson County	\$26,254.66	23.64%	23.03%
City of Asheville	\$24,567.43	21.07%	21.55%
Haywood County	\$11,354.60	10.60%	9.96%
City of Hendersonville	\$3,933.07	3.32%	3.45%
Town of Waynesville	\$2,838.64	2.49%	2.31%
Madison County	\$2,485.24	2.32%	2.18%

Amendments to the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)



What is the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)?

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is our region's document that reflects planned transportation investments over a ten-year period. The TIP describes each project, a schedule for implementation, funding sources, and estimated costs. Current items are for modification of existing projects. No new projects or amendments are included for March 2023.

Modifications Summary

The modifications to the TIP largely include segmenting HS-2014 into several projects breaks to improve safety on various roads including, but not limited to, Asheville Hwy, US 19, and US 64. The Blue Ridge Parkway/US 23/US 74 interchange project is also being segmented at the request of the Division and the MPO into U-6172A & U-6172B. The Ecusta Trail project (BL-0007) is being modified to adjust preliminary engineering allotment to 80% of the total contract cost at the request of Henderson County. To reflect the latest delivery schedule, both segments of the Black Mountain Riverwalk Greenway project (EB-5547A & EB-5547B) are being delayed, allowing additional time for preliminary engineering and right-of-way, respectively. The Lexington Ave bike/ped project (EB-5830) is being deleted from the TIP at the request of the MPO.

Janna Bianculli moved to recommend approval for the modifications to the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (excluding the Henderson County request). Vicki Eastland seconded the motion which passed upon a roll call vote.



FBRMPO TIP Amendments

March 2023 Amendments

TIP/STIP No.	Jurisdiction/Project Name/Limit	Category	Amendment Description	Funding Type	Current Phase	Funding Amt	FY
R-2588B	NC 191 - SR 1381 (MOUNTAIN ROAD) TO NC 280 SOUTH OF MILLS RIVER.	Highway & Intersection	PROJECT TO NO LONGER UTILIZE BUILD NC BONDS. PROJECT TO UTILIZE FEDERAL FUNDS.	T	Right-of-Way	\$2,600,000	2023
				T	Utilities	\$7,750,000	2023
				T	Right-of-Way	\$1,900,000	2024
				NHP	Construction	\$24,954,000	2024
				NHP	Construction	\$32,645,000	2025
				NHP	Construction	\$26,254,000	2026
				NHP	Construction	\$18,822,000	2027
NHP	Construction	\$9,926,000	2028				
U-6172A	Blue Ridge Parkway Interchange Improvements (US 23/US 74 -)	Highway Safety Project	SEGMENT U-6172 INTO SEGMENT A AT THE REQUEST OF THE DIVISION AND MPO.	BGLT5	Right-of-Way	\$110,000	2029
				BGLT5	Utilities	\$100,000	2029
				BGLT5	Construction	\$1,700,000	Post
U-6172B	US 23/US 74 (Great Smokey Mountains Expressway), Modernize Roadway (SR 1777 (Balsam View Dr) - SR 1158 (Old Balsam Rd))	Highway & Intersection	SEGMENT U-6172 INTO SEGMENT B AT THE REQUEST OF THE DIVISION AND MPO.	BGLT5	Right-of-Way	\$100,000	2029
				BGLT5	Utilities	\$250,000	2029
				BGLT5	Construction	\$2,750,000	Post

Information only. No action required.

WNC Passenger Rail Update

MPO Board Chair, Anthony Sutton, and MPO Director, Tristan Winkler, attended a meeting in Raleigh on plans and opportunities to expand passenger rail. NCDOT is planning to submit a number of corridors to the Corridor ID program, including the Asheville-to-Salisbury corridor. Letters of support have been requested to be submitted by March 3rd.

It has also come to staff's attention that the preliminary study on the Salisbury-to-Asheville extension is nearing completion. Eddie McFalls with NCDOT's Integrated Mobility Division will provide an update to the TCC and Board on the study and the Corridor ID program.

Expressions of Interest

28 existing corridors

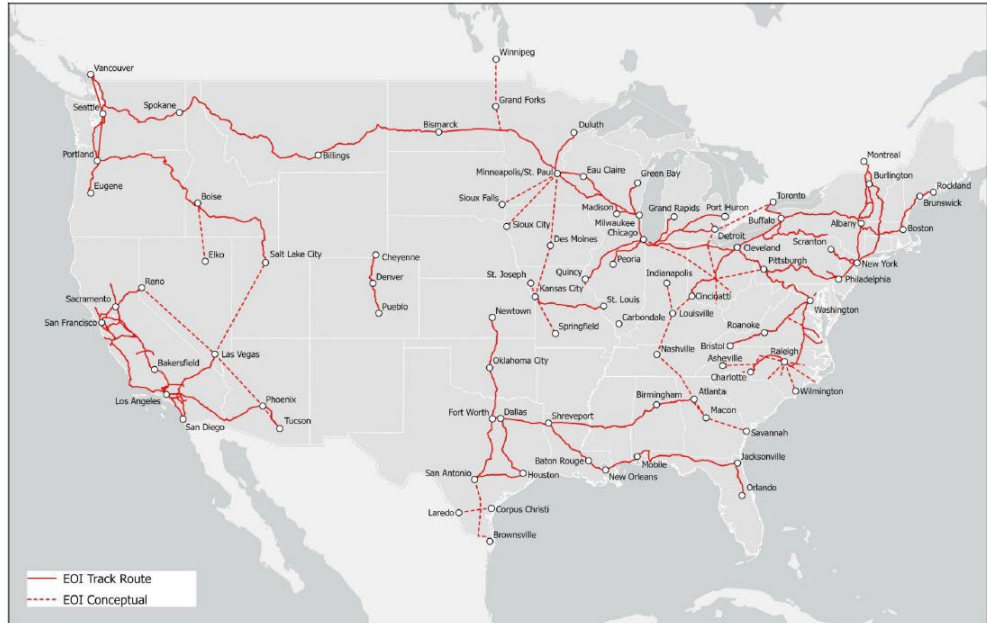
25 EOIs from state
3 from other entities

13 extensions

10 EOIs from states
3 from other entities

70 new corridors

41 EOIs from states
29 from other entities



Information only. No action required.

City of Asheville Close the GAP Plan Presentation

The MPO provided funding to the development of a Greenway, ADA, and Pedestrian Plan known as the “Close the GAP” plan. The adopted plan is available here:

https://issuu.com/trafficpd/docs/close_the_gap_-_final_plan_appendix_277d639b17df64

Lucy Crown with the City of Asheville provided a presentation on the plan.

Information only. No action required.

REGULAR UPDATES

- Division 13 Updates: [Division 13 Updates](#)
- Division 14 Updates: [Division 14 Updates](#)
- Transportation Planning Division Updates provided.
- FHWA/FTA Updates:
 - FHWA Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Website: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/>
 - FTA Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Website: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/BIL>

Committee & Workgroup Updates

Prioritization Subcommittee— met on March

1st Points of Discussion:

- Project Swaps

- U-2801A Segmentation
- Passenger Rail- Corridor ID Program

Transit Operators' Workgroup—met on November 29, 2022

Points of Business/Discussion:

- FTA 5310/JARC funding applications were due by 12/15/22
- NCOT/IMD (Integrated Mobility Division) will be working with FBRMPO and Land of Sky RPO on a Coordinated Regional Transit Plan
 - MPO Staff's current understanding of this process is that these documents can act as an update of the existing Locally Coordinated Plan (LCP, required for use of FTA 5310 Program – Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities

NCDOT/IMD will post a Call for Applications for their Multimodal Planning Grant Program, date as of 11/29/22 was “January 2023”; as of 1/4/23, no current info on NCDOT/IMD website, MPO Staff will check for updates

- Next Transit Operator's Workgroup meeting: March 2023

5307 Subrecipient Workgroup- met on October 18, 2023 MPO

Staff noted:

- Updated Urbanized Areas (UZAs) from US Census, statistics released end of December 2022, maps planned for release end of January 2023
- Discussion of 5307 Sub-Recipients allocation formula; MPO staff and Work Group members noted this could be reexamined once new UZA data and maps are finalized.

Citizens' Advisory Committee- met June 24th; next meeting TBD

Hellbender Trail Stakeholder Group- last meeting October 6th; next meeting TBD

- Regional Trail Forum meeting held on February 13th to continue with the aim of planning for an event in August/September 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Autumn Radcliff opened the floor for public comment. No comments were heard.

ADJOURNMENT

Autumn Radcliff adjourned the meeting at 1:11PM as there was no further business.