



French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization
Minutes from the TCC Hybrid Meeting on May 11, 2023

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

In-person and remote via Zoom:

Autumn Radcliff	Tristan Winkler	Susan Bean	Jon Barsanti
Bill Marley	Jane Pies (Minutes)	Hannah Bagli	Joe Balcken
Steve Williams	Jodie Ferguson	Erica Anderson	Brendan Merithew
Vicki Eastland	Dylan Casper	Jessica Trotman	Kenny Armstrong
Ed Evans	Troy Wilson	Scott Adams	William High
Harry Buckner	Daniel Sellers	Lucy Crown	Logan DiGiacomo
Nathan Bennett	Stephen Sparks	Jessica Morriss	
Eric Rufa	Janna Bianculli	Kaitland Finkle	

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Autumn Radcliff called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 11:06AM. 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 March 2023 meeting, and the TCC agenda. William High seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

BUSINESS

Modifications to 5310 Programming

The City of Asheville's FY2022 allocation of 5310 funding is proposed to increase from \$210,000 to \$223,471, a \$13,471 increase.

This funding increase reflects corrections to funding amounts listed at the January 19, 2023 MPO Board

meeting (shown below), as MPO staff noted shortly afterward that Buncombe County’s \$57,720 and City of Asheville’s \$210,000 (\$267,720 total) was only 52% of total 5310 funds; FTA rules require a minimum of 55% of total funds allocated to Traditional Projects:

		Buncombe County RIDE (Other)	Buncombe County SEDTAP (Trad)	City of Asheville Paratransit (Trad)	LOSRC Senior Companions (Other)	Madison County Transportation Authority (Other)
	Score (out of 100 points)	90	95	95	83	85
1/10/23 Alt. - City of Asheville forgoes 10% Admin. set-aside (gets 6% instead); all projects 100% funded	Requested Amount	\$42,482	\$57,720	\$210,000	\$136,620	\$33,414
	Funded Amount	\$42,482	\$57,720	\$210,000	\$136,620	\$33,414
	Funded Amount, Percent of Total Funding Available	18.47%	20.53%	74.68%	59.38%	14.52%

MPO Staff communicated this funding change to City of Asheville staff and the following funding changes are proposed:

- The City of Asheville’s 5310 (Traditional) funding will increase from \$210,000 to \$223,471.
- The City of Asheville will receive the 5310 fund balance, \$17,550, for administrative costs. **NOTE:** The City of Asheville has previously received 10% of 5310 funds for administrative costs, but will receive 3% of 5310 funds in this cycle.
- Funding levels for all other entities remain the same.

The table below summarizes currently proposed funding levels.

		Buncombe County RIDE (Other)	Buncombe County SEDTAP (Trad)	City of Asheville Paratransit (Trad)	LOSRC Senior Companions (Other)	Madison County Transportation Authority (Other)
	Score (out of 100 points)	90	95	95	83	85
2/27/23 Alt. - City of Asheville forgoes 10% Admin. set-aside (gets \$17,550/3% instead); all projects 100% funded	Requested Amount	\$42,482	\$57,720	\$223,471	\$136,620	\$33,414
	Funded Amount	\$42,482	\$57,720	\$223,471	\$136,620	\$33,414
	Funded Amount, Percent of Total Funding Available	18.47%	20.53%	79.47%	59.38%	14.52%

Scott Adams presented.

Jessica Morriss moved to recommend funding the 5310 projects at their requested funding levels and allocate the remaining 5310 funds to the City of Asheville for administration of 5310 funds to sub-recipients. William High seconded the motion which passed upon a roll call vote.

Modifications to JARC Programming

The City of Asheville's FY2022 allocation of 5307/JARC funding is proposed to increase from \$254,270 to \$408,394, a \$153,674 increase.

In recent years, MPO policy has been to allocate 10% of regional 5307 funds (FTA Urbanized Area Formula Grants, \$4,083,938 for Asheville UZA in FY2022) for JARC projects.

The initial \$254,270 of JARC funding will fund Asheville Rides Transit (ART) Bus Route 170, which provides service between downtown Asheville and downtown Black Mountain.

The remaining \$153,674 of JARC funding will fund ART Bus Route S3, which provides service between downtown Asheville and the WNC Agricultural Center (adjacent to and serving Asheville Regional Airport). Asheville City Council approved the funding increase at their March 28, 2023, city council meeting.

Scott Adams presented.

Jessica Morriss moved to recommend approving the updated JARC funding request from City of Asheville. William High seconded the motion which passed upon a roll call vote.

PM2 & PM3 Performance Targets

NCDOT reported its 2-year and 4-year statewide targets for the federally required performance measures for pavement condition, bridge condition, travel time reliability, truck freight reliability, and CMAQ on December 15, 2022. The 2-year targets represent performance at the end of calendar year 2023, while the 4-year targets reflect performance at the end of 2025.

NCDOT set these targets taking into account recent performance trends, current and planned STIP projects, and variables that influence the measures in each performance area. The primary considerations taken into account when establishing these targets are:

- The State's economic growth and resulting VMT trends in recent years are **expected to continue over the next several years.**
- Projects and funding levels in the STIP are unlikely to **significantly change performance over the next 2-4 years.**
- Project **costs over the past two years have increased significantly** due to inflation and a great deal of uncertainty remains about costs and economic conditions over next four years.
- Given these factors, the targets maintain a **conservative and balanced stance given the unknowns.** NCDOT will continue to monitor and report performance on a regular basis and has an opportunity to assess performance after 2023 and adjust the 2025 targets if necessary.

What will performance look like in 2023 and 2025?

New travel patterns vs. return to pre-2020 equilibrium

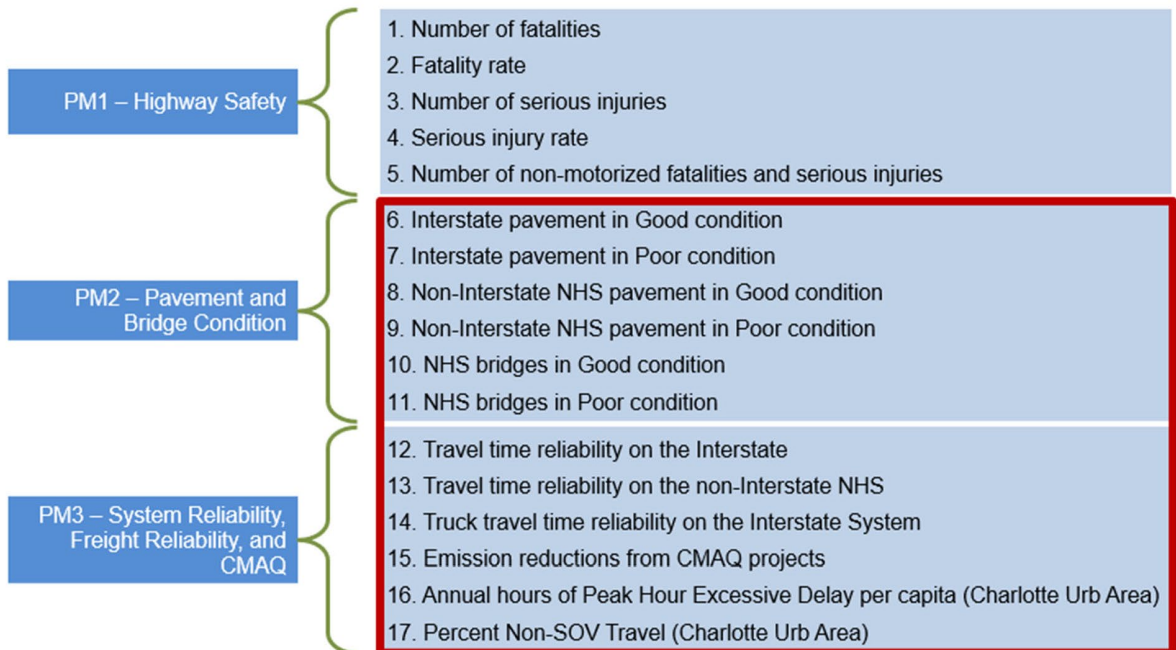
Effects of hybrid and remote work

Changes in carpooling and transit use

Economic conditions and fuel prices

Changes to the STIP due to cost increases

Performance Measures:



FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

NCDOT Draft Statewide Targets:

Pavement Condition:

Performance Measure	2023 Target	2025 Target
Percent of Interstate Pavement in Good Condition	60%	62%
Percent of Interstate Pavement in Poor Condition	1.8%	1.5%
Percent of Non-Interstate NHS Pavement in Good Condition	30%	31%
Percent of Non-Interstate NHS Pavement in Poor Condition	3.5%	3.0%

Bridge Condition:

Performance Measure	2023 Target	2025 Target
Percent of NHS Bridges by Deck Area in Good Condition	38%	36%
Percent of NHS Bridges by Deck Area in Poor Condition	5%	5%

Travel Time Reliability:

Performance Measure	2023 Target	2025 Target
Percent of Person-Miles Traveled on the Interstate that are Reliable	75%	75%
Percent of Person-Miles Traveled on the Non-Interstate NHS that are Reliable	70%	70%
Truck Travel Time Reliability Index	1.70	1.70

Logan DiGiacomo presented.

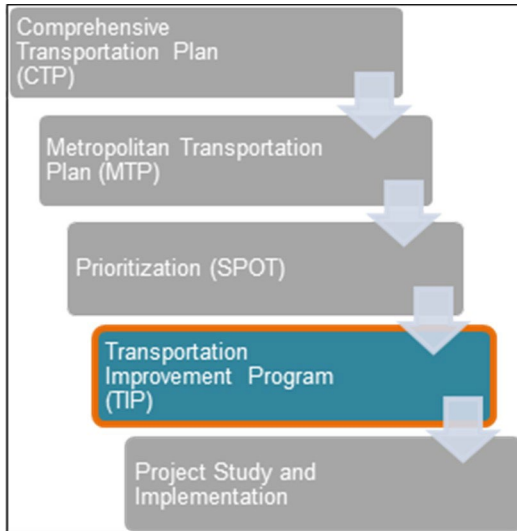
William High moved to recommend adopting the NCDOT recommended statewide targets. Vicki Eastland seconded the motion which passed upon a roll call vote.

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METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

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

Modifications to the TIP largely include shifting the funding and/or schedule of several Locally Administered Projects.

This includes, but is not limited to, changes to the Ecusta Trail, Black Mountain Riverwalk Greenway, Woodfin Greenway, and Bent Creek Greenway projects. There are also four Locally Administered Project additions to the TIP: Riceville Road sidewalk improvements, the Swannanoa Greenway project, phase II of the Ecusta Trail project, and the Montreat Texas Road pedestrian bridge project. Beyond Locally Administered Projects, the bridge replacement over 9th street in Black Mountain (HL-0013) is delaying construction from fy 23 to fy 24 to allow additional time for right-of-way acquisition. Finally, the Russ Ave upgrade project (U-5839) is also delaying construction from fy 23 to fy 24 to allow additional time for planning and design.

Logan DiGiacomo presented.

Steve Williams moved to recommend to the Board to approve the modifications to the 2020-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Jessica Morriss seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

Congestion Management Process (CMP) Biennial Report

As a Transportation Management Area (TMA), the French Broad River MPO is required to maintain a Congestion Management Process (CMP) for the region which includes congestion monitoring on a biennial basis. A draft biennial report is included below. A presentation will be provided.

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

What is a CMP?

“A congestion management process (CMP) is a systematic and regionally- accepted approach for managing congestion that provides accurate, up-to-date information on transportation system performance and assesses alternative strategies for congestion management that meet State and local needs.”

When was the CMP last updated?

The full CMP was updated in 2018 and is available on the MPO website here:

https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/DraftCMP_2018-1-1.pdf

The previous biennial report was completed in 2021 with data focusing on 2019.

Tristan Winkler presented.

William High moved to recommend the MPO Board to accept the report. Steve Williams seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Draft 2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update

Draft 2024-2033 TIP Update

The “final” Draft 2024-2033 TIP is available here: <https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/tip/>

This includes the swap that was approved by the MPO Board and NCDOT to swap-in the I-26/US 64 Interchange Improvements in place of Kanuga Road Modernization as well as the split of the Sweeten Creek Road widening.

Several other changes were made to project schedules as part of the “final” Draft STIP for projects in the FBRMPO region. That includes a one-year delay for the Liberty Road Interchange in Buncombe County on I-40 as well as a three-year delay for the planned widening of NC 112 (Sand Hill/Sardis Road), also in Buncombe County.

ROUTE/CITY	DESCRIPTION	PROJECT ID	CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE DRAFT 2024-2033 STIP (AUGUST 2022)	CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE FINAL 2024-2033 STIP (MARCH 2023)	CONSTRUCTION DRAFT STIP TO FINAL STIP CHANGE
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FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

I-40	I-40/SR 1228 (LIBERTY ROAD). CONVERT GRADE SEPARATION TO AN INTERCHANGE AND CONSTRUCT TWO LANE ROADWAY NORTH OF I-40 TO SR 1224 AND FOUR LANE ROADWAY SOUTH OF I-40 TO US 19/US 23/NC 151 WITH PARTS ON NEW LOCATION.	I-4759	2025	2026	1 YEAR DELAY
NC 112 (SARDIS ROAD/SANDHILL ROAD)	NC 191 (BREVARD ROAD) TO US 19/23 (SMOKEY PARK HIGHWAY). WIDEN ROADWAY.	U-6047	2028	2031	3 YEAR DELAY

ROUTE/CITY	DESCRIPTION	PROJECT ID	CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE DRAFT 2024-2033 STIP (AUGUST 2022)	CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE FINAL 2024-2033 STIP (MARCH 2023)	CONSTRUCTION DRAFT STIP TO FINAL STIP CHANGE
US 25A (SWEETEN CREEK ROAD)	US 25 (HENDERSONVILLE ROAD) TO SR 3116 (MILLS GAP ROAD)	U-2801AA	2031	FUNDED FOR PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING ONLY	PROJECT UNCOMMITTED
US 25A (SWEETEN CREEK ROAD)	SR 3116 (MILLS GAP ROAD) TO ROCK HILL ROAD	U-2801AB	2031	2031	PROJECT SPLIT; COMMITTED
I-26	US 64 INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS	I-4400BA	FUNDED FOR PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING ONLY	2029	PROJECT BECOMES COMMITTED
SR 1127 (KANUGA ROAD)	US 25 BUSINESS (CHURCH STREET) TO SR 1123 (LITTLE RIVER ROAD). UPGRADE ROADWAY.	R-5748	2029	FUNDED FOR PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING ONLY	PROJECT UNCOMMITTED

Next Steps:

The Board of Transportation plans to approve the Draft STIP at its June meeting. The FBRMPO plans to consider adoption of the Draft TIP at its August meeting.

Information Only. No action required.

Regional Trails Forum Update

- Regional Trail Forum meeting held on March 15th to continue with the aim of planning for an event in August 2023 with a rain date in September
- We have booked Smoky Park Supper Club for an August 31st event!
- Our theme is Networking Greenways
- ½ day with an optional greenway walk after closing/lunch
- Elected Official Coffee Hour in the morning before the event

- Topics will potentially include
 - Equity
 - Health/Wellness
 - Economic Impacts of Greenways
 - Networking Best Practices
- Bret Baronak from Carolina Thread Trail is the tentative keynote speaker
- Will be getting the group back together in the next few weeks, the doodle should be live!
- We plan on having sessions geared towards staff and interested citizens, mark your calendars!

Information only. No action required.

REGULAR UPDATES

Division 13 Updates: https://frenchbroadrivemp.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Div13_May_Updates-1.pdf

Division 14 Updates given.

- 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 May

3rd Points of Discussion:

- CMP
- Draft 2024-2033 TIP
- PM 2 & PM 3
- Park and Rides

Transit Operators' Workgroup— last met on November 29, 2022; Points of Business/Discussion:

- Next Transit Operator's Workgroup meeting: May 15 (1-2 p.m.), Sept. 18 (2-3 p.m.), and Nov. 6, 2023 (1-2 p.m.)
- **May 15 Tentative Agenda:**
 - **5307 funding updates**
 - For 5307 funding, Haywood County leaving Urbanized Area in FY 2024.
 - For FY 2022, FY 2023, Haywood County is still eligible for 5310, 5307 funds.
 - FY 2024 funds are the start of 5311 (Rural) funds, plus state Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) funds for Haywood County.
 - FY 2025 and beyond, new State formula for 5311 funds? (NCDOT-IMD to discuss, no committee at this time)

- **Henderson County Transit Plan update?**
- **Joint City of Asheville-Buncombe County Transit Plan update?** (\$300,000 from each entity, for \$600,000 total study)
- **NCDOT-IMD, Coordinated Regional Transit Plan**, for French Broad River MPO and Land of Sky RPO, status? (Bryan Lopez, NCDOT-IMD and AECOM)

5307 Subrecipient Workgroup- met on April 4, 2023 Points of

Business/Discussion:

- Updated Urbanized Areas (UZAs) from US Census finalized and published January 9, 2023
- Asheville UZA land area shrank from 262 to 250 sq. mi., population increased from 279,201 to 285,495; new UZAs: Waynesville, 24,285 pop.; Canton, 8,812 pop., Brevard, 13,059 pop.
- FY 2023 allocations:
 - City of Asheville, 42.6%
 - Buncombe County, 28.6%
 - Haywood County, 8.3%
 - Henderson County, 20.4%
- FY 2024 allocations (proposed):
 - City of Asheville, 46.8%
 - Buncombe County, 32.0%
 - Haywood County, n/a
 - Henderson County, 21.2%
- Discussion of 5307 Sub-Recipients allocation formula; MPO staff and Work Group members agreed to the following approach:
 - No new funding formula study at this time in light of Henderson County and Asheville-Buncombe County transit studies underway.
 - Keep the formula the same, albeit with updated FTA National Transit Database (NTD) operational data, but not population data from ESRI Community Analyst; only official US Census population data is the preferred source for population data.

Citizens' Advisory Committee- next meeting TBD

Hellbender Trail Stakeholder Group/Regional Trail Forum Updates- last meeting October 6th; next meeting TBD

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.