

Transportation Matters: FBRMPO Monthly Update

2024-2033 Draft STIP UPDATE!

NCDOT recently released an update to the Draft 2024-2033 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP.) A part of the State budget included a transfer of State sales tax revenues to NCDOT, improving the financial forecast for the STIP over the next ten years and enabling the addition of more projects that were initially shown as decommitted or cut in the first draft of the 2024-2033 STIP.

The additional projects in the French Broad River MPO planning area include:

Buncombe County

- U-5832 – Modernization of NC 81 (Swannanoa River Road) from Biltmore Avenue to US 74A (South Tunnel Road)
- U-2801A – Widening of US 25A (Sweeten Creek Road) from US 25/NC 280 to Rock Hill Road
- A-0010AA – Widening and Modernization of Future I-26 from Broadway to Weaver Boulevard

Haywood County

- U-4712 – Widening of South Main Street from US 276 to Hyatt Creek Road
- U-6158 – Intersection Improvements to US 276/Crymes Cove Road/Raccoon Road
- U-6159 – Access Management to US 276 (Russ Avenue) from US 23/74 to US 19 (Dellwood Road)
- U-6048 – US 19/23 Modernization from Chestnut Mountain Road to Wiggins Road (partially in Buncombe County)

For the full details on the Revised Draft STIP, please visit the MPO website at www.frenchbroadrivermpo.org/tip

Reconnecting Communities Grant

The Reconnecting Communities Grant is a Federal program dedicated to reconnecting communities that were previously cut off from economic opportunities by transportation infrastructure. Funding supports planning grants and capital construction grants, as well as technical assistance, to restore community connectivity through the removal, retrofit, mitigation, or replacement of eligible transportation infrastructure facilities. \$1 billion in discretionary funding will be available over the next 5 years through IIJA. More information is available here:

www.transportation.gov/grants/reconnecting-communities

Clean Transportation Plan

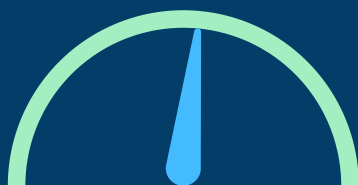
Governer Cooper signed E.O. 246 in January 2022, titled "North Carolina's Transformation to a Clean, Equitable Economy" with the goal of reducing economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions in North Carolina. EO 246 outlines two new goals for the state:

1. Reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions to at least 50% below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions no later than 2050
2. Increase the total number of registered, zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) to at least 1,250,000 by 2030 and increase the sale of ZEVs so that 50% of in-state sales of new vehicles are zero-emission by 2030

NCDOT is tasked with creathing the Clean Transportation Plan within 15 months of the order. The team is working to make a significant, equitable investment and plan into NC's clean transportation future. More info can be found here: <https://www.ncdot.gov/initiatives-policies/environmental/climate-change/Pages/electric-vehicles.aspx> or on the MPO's website under Agendas and Minutes



I-26 Construction Update



I-4400BB and I-4400C : from .05 miles N of US-64 to NC-280 (exit 40)

53% Complete -- 11/30/24 Completion



I-4700 : from NC-280 (exit 40) to I-40

36.27% Complete -- July 2024 Completion

Around the Region

New Staff Intros

Some new faces have joined the MPO team this summer, we are excited to welcome Scott Adams and Logan DiGiacomo to the team!

Scott Adams is an urban planner with experience in public and private sector planning across the United States.

He's worked as a transportation planner for Metro Nashville-Davidson County, the City of Baltimore, Multnomah County, Oregon, STV, Inc, and Concord and Charlotte, NC.

He recently worked as a Regional Planner for Land of Sky Regional Council, serving as the Zoning Administrator for the Town of Montreat.

Scott has a Master of City and Regional Planning from Clemson University, a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication from UNC Asheville, and has been a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners since 2008. Outside of work, you can find Scott on WNC's trails with his wife and dog or gardening year-round.

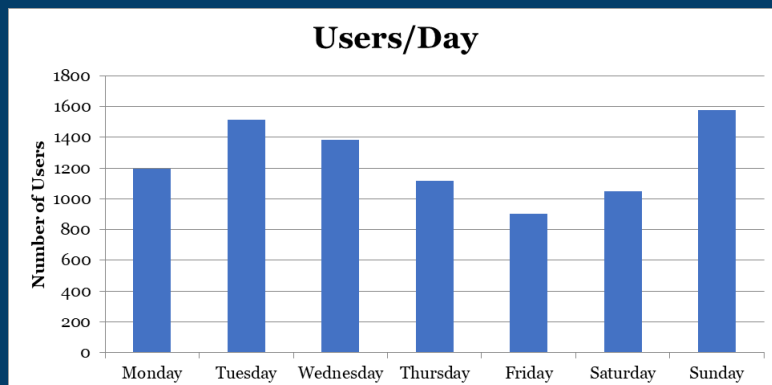


Logan DiGiacomo is the newest Transportation Planner with the French Broad River MPO. Logan is a recent graduate of Appalachian State University's Geography & Planning Department, where he received a Master of Arts in Geography with a Planning concentration as well as a Bachelor of Science in Community and Regional Planning. When he's not at work, he can be found hiking, paddle boarding, and spending time with friends. He is looking forward to working with the MPO and getting to know the community!



Bill Moore Community Park - Pedestrian Count

September may be here, but the days are still warm! Just because summer is winding down in the MPO region does not mean people are not getting out and enjoying trails, greenways, and downtown areas while the days are still long! As always, our trusty Eco-Counter is used on greenways and downtown areas for weeklong periods to gauge usage on these pathways. This count was done at Bill Moore Community Park in Fletcher. This count was completed in early August during a sunny and warm week! With around 8,700 users, this was our largest count of the summer! This path is used by those walking their dogs, playing the disc golf course, or getting in their daily strolls! Check out the graphic below, showing number of users a day during that week. If you ever see our ped counter on your greenway adventures, snap a selfie and tag us @StriveBeyondDrive!



Upcoming Meetings

- **Prioritization Subcommittee:** September 6th, 9am - 11am
- **MPO TCC:** September 8th, 11am - 1pm
- **MPO Board:** September 22nd, 1pm - 3pm

Contact us:

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www.frenchbroadrivermpo.org/