

# Prioritization Subcommittee

## *Meeting Agenda*

October 4, 2023

9:30 AM

**Meeting to be held at Land of Sky Regional Council or via**

**Zoom:** <https://zoom.us/j/91373453789>

**Voting Members on the Committee:** Jessica Morris (City of Asheville, Vice-Chair), William High (Buncombe County), Autumn Radcliff (Henderson County), Anthony Sutton (Town of Waynesville), Elizabeth Teague (Town of Waynesville, Chair), Jerry Vebaun (Town of Woodfin), Archie Pertiller (Town of Black Mountain)

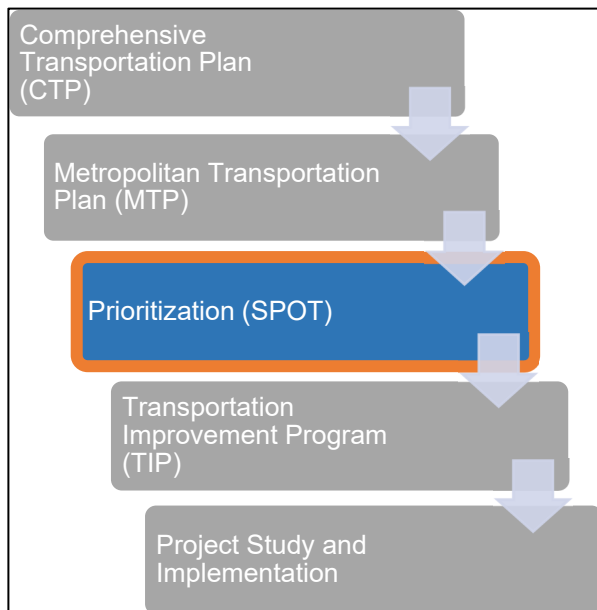
<b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b>	Elizabeth Teague
<b>2. Public Comment</b>	Elizabeth Teague
<b>3. Approval of September, 2023 Meeting Minutes</b>	Elizabeth Teague
<b>4. Business</b>	
A. P 7.0 Submittals	Tristan Winkler, MPO Staff
B. LAPP Update	Tristan Winkler, MPO Staff
C. Memorandum of Understanding Update	Tristan Winkler, MPO Staff
<b>5. News, Events, Updates</b>	Elizabeth Teague
<b>6. Public Comment</b>	Elizabeth Teague
<b>7. Adjournment</b>	Elizabeth Teague

# Item 4A

## P 7.0 Submittals

### What is P 7.0 and the Prioritization Process?

The Prioritization Process (aka SPOT) is the process that determines the majority of capital improvement projects funded through NCDOT and NCDOT's allotment of federal funds. The process is governed by the Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) Law of 2012 that provides the framework for a more data-driven and transparent process that also utilizes local input from NCDOT Divisions, MPOs, and RPOs. In relation to other aspects of transportation planning, the prioritization process serves as the bridge to determine what long-range needs are funded in the TIP/STIP for implementation.



P 7.0 refers to the seventh iteration of the prioritization process in North Carolina and will be the process that determines what new projects are funded in the 2026-2035 TIP/STIP.

### Discussion Points for October Prioritization Subcommittee Meeting

- Revenue projections and the need for potential submittal changes as a result

### What is the Schedule for Events in P 7.0?

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>July, 2023</b>	Local Government Discussions on Potential Submittals
<b>August, 2023</b>	Draft Submittal List (Board Action Required)
<b>August-September, 2023</b>	Public Comment on Draft Submittal List
<b>October, 2023</b>	<b>Final Submittal List (Board Action Required)</b>
<b>February, 2024</b>	Data Review
<b>March, 2024</b>	Local Input Point Methodology Adoption (Board Action Required)
<b>April, 2024</b>	Statewide Mobility Projects Programmed
<b>May, 2024</b>	Draft Local Input Point Assignment for Regional Impact Projects
<b>May-June, 2024</b>	Public Comment on Draft Local Input Point Assignment for Regional Impact Projects
<b>June, 2024</b>	Final Local Input Point Assignment for Regional Impact Projects
<b>August, 2024</b>	Regional Impact Projects Programmed
<b>October, 2024</b>	Draft Local Input Point Assignment for Division Needs Projects
<b>October-November, 2024</b>	Public Comment on Draft Local Input Point Assignment for Division Needs Projects
<b>November, 2024</b>	Final Local Input Point Assignment for Division Needs Projects
<b>February, 2025</b>	Draft 2026-2035 TIP/STIP Released
<b>August, 2025</b>	Final 2026-2035 TIP/STIP (Board Action Required)

**NOTE: MPO Staff has been informed the deadline for submittals may be moved back one month.**

## Revenue Projections

NCDOT provided revenue projections for P 7.0 Notably this includes a negative balance for Region G (the FBRMPO & LOSRPO's region.)

Funding Category	10 year Budget Including Lookback Law minus DA Funding (starting budget)	Amount of STI Committed Projects	Remaining Available Budget for P7.0
Statewide	\$11.6B	\$7.7B	\$3.9B
Region A	\$796M	\$756M	\$40M
Region B	\$1.108B	\$1.074B	\$34M
Region C	\$2.4B	\$1.1B	\$1.3B
Region D	\$1.477B	\$864.5M	\$613M
Region E	\$2.54B	\$2.48B	\$64M
Region F	\$1.28B	\$1.05B	\$230M
Region G	\$884M	\$958M	-\$74M
Division 1	\$806M	\$763M	\$43M
Division 2	\$826M	\$881M	-\$55M
Division 3	\$714M	\$753M	-\$39M
Division 4	\$682M	\$656M	\$26M
Division 5	\$518M	\$502M	\$16M
Division 6	\$660M	\$461M	\$199M
Division 7	\$681M	\$434M	\$247M
Division 8	\$831M	\$757M	\$74M
Division 9	\$692M	\$587M	\$103M
Division 10	\$473M	\$502M	-\$29M
Division 11	\$853M	\$956M	-\$103M
Division 12	\$821M	\$705M	\$116M
Division 13	\$748M	\$643M	\$105M
Division 14	\$753M	\$555M	\$198M

## **Public Engagement**

### **When Will Public Comment Be Open on Draft Submittals?**

Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

### **Public Comment Procedures**

Via Email, Phone, or In-Person/Zoom at the MPO Board meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup>. The comment period has been advertised in the Mountain Xpress with materials available on the MPO website.

## Recommended Changes to the Draft Project List

### Projects to Add

Route	From	To	Improvement Type	County	Mode
NC 63 (New Leicester Highway)	Newfound Road	Gouges Branch Road	Multiple Intersection Improvements	Buncombe	Highway
Peachtree Road Extension	US 25 (Hendersonville Road)	US 25A (Sweeten Creek Road)	New Location	Buncombe	Highway
Norfolk Southern Rail	Blue Ridge Road	-	Construct New Grade Separated Crossing	Buncombe	Rail

### Projects to Remove

Route	From	To	Improvement Type	County	Mode
US 25 (Hendersonville Road)	NC 146 (Long Shoals Road)	NC 280 (Airport Road)	Access Management	Buncombe	Highway

### Projects to Modify

- Combine two US 25 (Merrimon Road) projects into one from I-240 to Wembley Drive as a Roadway Upgrade
- Reduce US 70 (Tunnel Road)/US 74A (South Tunnel Road) project to just include the section from the Beaucatcher Tunnel to US 74A (South Tunnel Road) as a Roadway Upgrade

The current draft list without the changes is below (highlighted projects reflect recommended changes from above):

## Carryover Projects

TIP	Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Specific Improvement Type	County(ies)
A-0010AB	I-26, US 19, US 23	US 25 / 70 (Weaver Boulevard)	SR 2207 (North Buncombe School Road)	17 - Upgrade Freeway to Interstate Standards	Buncombe
A-0010AC	I-26, US 19, US 23	SR 2207 (North Buncombe School Road)	South of SR 2148 (Stockton Branch Road)	17 - Upgrade Freeway to Interstate Standards	Buncombe
I-6018	I-40	I-240, US 74 Alternate		8 - Improve Interchange	Buncombe
I-6021	I-40	SR 2838 (Porters Cove Road) - Exit 55		8 - Improve Interchange	Buncombe
	US 19 (Smokey Park Highway), US 23	I-40	NC 151 (Pisgah Highway)	11 - Access Management	Buncombe
U-6046	NC 81 (SWANNANOA RIVER ROAD)	US 70 (Tunnel Road)	US 74 (South Tunnel Road)	16 - Modernize Roadway	Buncombe
U-6162	SR 1332 (NORTH LOUISIANA AVENUE)	US 19-23 (Patton Avenue)	SR 1338 (Emma Road)	16 - Modernize Roadway	Buncombe
I-6054C	I-40	SR 1200 (Wiggins Road), Exit 37	SR 1224 (Monte Vista Road)	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	Buncombe
U-3403B	NC 191 (BREVARD ROAD - OLD HAYWOOD ROAD)	SR 3498 (LEDBETTER ROAD)	North of Blue Ridge Parkway	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	Buncombe
U-5972	NC 63 (New Leicester Highway)	US 19/23 Patton Ave	Newfound Road	25 - Improve Multiple Intersections along a corridor	Buncombe

TIP	Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Specific Improvement Type	County(ies)
I-2513C	I-26	I-40/I-240		8 - Improve Interchange	Buncombe
U-5837	SR-2002 Riceville Road	US 70 (Tunnel Road)	SR 2285 (Clear Vista Lane)	16 - Modernize Roadway	Buncombe
U-5971B	US 19 (Patton Avenue)	NC 63 (New Leicester Highway). Construct Final Intersection Improvements.		10 - Improve Intersection	BUNCOMBE
U-2801AA	US 25A (SWEETEN CREEK ROAD)	US 25 (Hendersonville Road)	Mills Gap Road	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	BUNCOMBE
U-3403A	NC 191 (Brevard Road / Old Haywood Road)	NC 280 (BOYLSTON HIGHWAY)	TO SR 3498 (LEDBETTER ROAD)	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	Buncombe, Henderson
	NC 280 (Airport Road)	SR 3568 (Rockwood Road)	US 25 (Hendersonville Road)	11 - Access Management	Buncombe, Henderson
U-6173	US 25, US 70	Approximately 1760' North of SR 1584 (Tillery Branch Road)	SR 1727 (Monticello Road)	25 - Improve Multiple Intersections along Corridor	Buncombe, Madison
I-6054A	I-40	NC 215 - Exit 31	US 74 - Exit 27	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	Haywood



<b>TIP</b>	<b>Route / Facility / Project Name</b>	<b>From / Cross Street / Location</b>	<b>To / Cross Street</b>	<b>Specific Improvement Type</b>	<b>County(ies)</b>
U-6160	US 19 (Soco Road)	SR 1304 (Fie Top Road) at Ghost Town in the Sky	Blue Ridge Parkway	16 - Modernize Roadway	Haywood
I-6054B	I-40	NC 215 (Champion Drive)	SR 1200 (Wiggins Road)	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	Haywood, Buncombe
U-6172A	US 23/US 74 (GREAT SMOKEY MOUNTAINS EXPRESSWAY )	SR 1777(Balsam View Drive)	SR 1158 (Old Balsam Rd)	16 - Modernize Roadway	Haywood, Jackson
U-6172B	US 23/US 74 (GREAT SMOKEY MOUNTAINS EXPRESSWAY )	SR 1777(Balsam View Drive)	SR 1158 (Old Balsam Rd)	16 - Modernize Roadway	Haywood, Jackson
I-4400A	I-26	US 25	US 64 (Four Seasons Boulevard)	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	Henderson
R-2588A	NC 191	US 25 (Asheville Highway)	SR 1381 (Mountain Road)	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	Henderson
	SR 1508 (Signal Hill Road), SR 1519 (Thompson Street), SR 1508 (Berkeley Road), SR 1511 (Berkeley Road)	US 64 (Four Seasons Boulevard)	US 25 Business (Asheville Highway)	16 - Modernize Roadway	Henderson
	SR 1525 (Duncan Hill Road)	US 64 (Four Seasons Boulevard)	Signal Hill Road	16 - Modernize Roadway	Henderson
U-6124	NC 280 (BOYLSTON HIGHWAY)	NC 191 Northern Intersection (Old Haywood Road)	NC 191 Southern Intersection (Haywood Road)	11 - Access Management	Henderson

<b>TIP</b>	<b>Route / Facility / Project Name</b>	<b>From / Cross Street / Location</b>	<b>To / Cross Street</b>	<b>Specific Improvement Type</b>	<b>County(ies)</b>
R-5748	SR 1127 (KANUGA ROAD)	US 25 Business (Church Street)	Price Road	16 - Modernize Roadway	Henderson

Modification of carryover projects:

- Kanuga Road (R-5748) modified southern termini from Little River Road to Price Road to avoid impacts to the Flat Rock Historic District
- No projects requested to be removed

## New Highway Submittals

Route	From	To	Improvement Type	County	Funding Tier
US 25 (Hendersonville Road)	Blue Ridge Parkway	NC 146 (Long Shoals Road)	Access Management	Buncombe	Regional Impact
US 25 (Hendersonville Road)	NC 146 (Long Shoals Road)	NC 280 (Airport Road)	Access Management	Buncombe	Regional Impact
US 25 (McDowell Street)/Biltmore Avenue	Vanderbilt Road	College Street	Roadway Upgrade-Unbalanced Couplet with Bike Lanes	Buncombe	Regional Impact
US 70 (Tunnel Road)/US 74A (South Tunnel Road)	Beaucatcher Tunnel	NC 81 (Swannanoa River Road)	Roadway Upgrade-Road Diet on US 70 with Access Management Improvements on US 74A	Buncombe	Regional Impact
US 70 (Tunnel Road)	I-240	Blue Ridge Parkway	Access Management	Buncombe	Regional Impact
US 25 (Merrimon Avenue)/US 19 Business (Weaverville Highway)	Elkmont Road	New Stock Road	Modernization	Buncombe	Regional Impact
US 25 (Merrimon Avenue)	WT Weaver Boulevard	Beaverdam Road	Modernization - improve intersections and sidewalks	Buncombe	Regional Impact
US 25 (Merrimon Avenue)	I-240	WT Weaver Boulevard	Road Diet	Buncombe	Regional Impact
US 70 (West State Street)	Blue Ridge Road	NC 9	Road Diet	Buncombe	Regional Impact

<b>Route</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Improvement Type</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Funding Tier</b>
Blue Ridge Road	NC 9	Blue Ridge Assembly Road	Modernization	Buncombe	Division Needs
Reems Creek Road	US 19 Business (Weaverville Highway)	Ox Creek Road	Modernization	Buncombe	Division Needs
Cane Creek Road	US 74 Alternative (Charlotte Highway)	Mills Gap Road	Modernization	Buncombe	Division Needs
Old Fort Road	US 74 Alternative (Charlotte Highway)	Whitaker Road	Modernization	Buncombe	Division Needs
Sand Hill Road	Sand Hill School Road	-	Intersection Improvement	Buncombe	Division Needs
US 19/23 (Park Street)	Bridge Street	NC 215	Modernization	Haywood	Regional Impact
US 19 (Carolina Boulevard)	Smathers Street	Pleasant Hill Road	Access Management	Haywood	Regional Impact
US 19 (Dellwood Road)	Dayton Drive	US 23/74	Access Management	Haywood	Regional Impact
US 276	Raccoon Road	NC 110	Modernization	Haywood	Regional Impact
US 25 Business (Asheville Highway)	N Main Street	-	Intersection Improvement	Henderson	Regional Impact
US 25 Business (Asheville Highway)	Butler Bridge Road	-	Intersection Improvement	Henderson	Regional Impact
US 176 (Spartanburg Highway)	NC 225	Upward Road	Access Management	Henderson	Regional Impact
US 64 (Chimney Road Road)	Fruitland Road	Gilliam Mountain Road	Modernization	Henderson	Regional Impact

<b>Route</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Improvement Type</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Funding Tier</b>
Fanning Bridge Road	US 25	NC 280	Improve Multiple Intersections	Henderson	Division Needs
White Pine Drive	US 64	Hebron Road	Modernization	Henderson	Division Needs
Blythe Street	US 64	NC 191	Modernization	Henderson	Division Needs
NC 213	Athletic Street	Gabriel's Creek Road	Access Management	Madison	Regional Impact

## New Bike/Ped Submittals

All Bike/Ped Submittals are evaluated at the Division Needs Category

Route	From	To	Project Description	County
Bent Creek Greenway (Hominy Creek/WNC Farmer's Market Segment)	Hominy Creek Greenway	French Broad River Greenway	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	Buncombe
SR 1338 (Emma Road)	Boone Street	SR 1332 (North Louisiana Avenue)	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	Buncombe
SR 2500 (North Blue Ridge Road)	US 70	Fortune St	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	Buncombe
Reems Creek Greenway	Quarry Road	Karpen Soccer Field	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	Buncombe
US 19/23	Bridge Street	Chestnut Mountain Road	2 – Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	Haywood
Champion Drive	N Canton Road	Thickety Road	2 – Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	Haywood
Richland Creek Greenway	Current Richland Creek Greenway termini near Waynesville Rec Center	Waynesville Greenway	2 – Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	Haywood
Raccoon Creek Greenway	Waynesville Greenway	Junaluska Elementary School	2 – Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	Haywood

<b>Route</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>County</b>
Above the Mud Greenway Connector	Ecusta Trail	Oklawaha Greenway	2 – Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	Henderson
Mills River Valley Trail	NC 191	NC 191	2 – Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	Henderson
Oklawaha Greenway Extension	Oklawaha Greenway Southern Termini	Blue Ridge Community College	2 – Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	Henderson
Allen Branch Greenway	US 64	Clear Creek Greenway	2 – Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	Henderson
Brooklyn Avenue	NC 225	Old Spartanburg Highway	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	Henderson
Church & King Street	US 176	N Main Street	8 – Multi-Site Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	Henderson
Fanning Bridge Road	Underwood Road	US 25	2 – Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	Henderson
Bailey/Banjo Branch Greenway	Dr. Otis T Duck Greenway Northern Termini	Bailey Street	2 – Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	Madison

## New Transit Submittals

Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	Description	Specific Improvement Type	County(ies)
Transit Maintenance Facility	City of Asheville Service Area. Location is yet unknown.	Construct a new maintenance facility in order to accommodate additional vehicles and address current maintenance facility capacity through a facility assessment.	9 - Facility – Maintenance	Buncombe
Expansion Vehicles	City of Asheville Service Area	Ten (10) expansion vehicles to match service in the Transit Master Plan and improve service throughout the City by increasing headways and implementing new routes.	1 - Mobility (route-specific) - New Service	Buncombe
Transit Multimodal Facility	City of Asheville Service Area and routes provided by ART Current transit facility is 49 Coxe Ave	Construct a new transit multimodal facility to accommodate vehicles that pick-up and drop transit riders.	5 - Facility - Passenger Station	Buncombe
Transit Multimodal Facility	Haywood Public Transit	Transfer Building with Bathrooms and Side Small Vehicle Maintenance Capabilities	5 - Facility - Passenger Station	Haywood
Expansion Vehicles	Haywood Public Transit	Two (2) expansion vehicles.	1 - Mobility (route-specific) - New Service	Haywood



## New Rail Submittals

Route	From	To	Improvement Type	County(ies)
Norfolk Southern Line	NC 251 (Riverside Drive)	-	3 – Highway-Rail Crossing Improvement	Buncombe
Norfolk Southern Line	Asheville (near Biltmore Village)	Salisbury	5 – Passenger Rail Service	Buncombe, McDowell, Burke, Catawba, Iredell, Rowan

**Action: Consider Recommending the Approval of Draft Submittals for P 7.0**

# Item 4B:

## Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP) Updates

### What is the Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP)?

LAPP is a term that is used to differentiate projects selected by the MPO utilizing direct allotments of federal transportation funds vs. projects that go through NCDOT and other funding streams. LAPP projects are funded with Surface Transportation Block Grant- Direct Allotment (STBGDA), Transportation Alternatives Program- Direct Allotment (TAPDA), and Carbon Reduction Program- Direct Allotment (CRPDA.) There are eligibilities about who is able to receive these funds and what these funds are allowed to be used on. In general, the FBRMPO has largely utilized these funds for bicycle and pedestrian improvement project around the region.

### Changes Requested

- Defund BL-0079 (the Texas Road Pedestrian Bridge) (Town of Montreat)
  - NCDOT updated cost estimates for the project and the Town determined that the costs exceed their initial estimates and plan to consider a locally-funded option
  - This project had \$153,000 in federal funds allocated for use in FY 2024
- Increase funding for HL-0003 (the Haywood Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Project) (NCDOT Division 13)
  - The project manager with NCDOT requested an additional \$80,000 for engineering

### Other Changes

- BL-0078 has requested funding be moved from Construction to Engineering to begin design
- EB-5824 (Hominy Creek Greenway, Buncombe County) has been delayed for additional time for design
- EB-5822 (North RAD Greenway, City of Asheville) has been delayed for additional time for design
- EB-5547A & EB-5547B (Riverwalk Bike/Ped Improvements, Town of Black Mountain) has been delayed for additional time for design

To note: The MPO policy on project delays advises a reconsideration of the projects after two delays. EB-5824, EB-5547A, and EB-5547B have now been delayed two times since their last reconsideration.

**Other Items to Note**

- MPO staff will request annual updates for LAPP projects

# Item 4C:

## Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Update

After updating the MPO's Planning Area, the MPO is required to update its Memorandum of Understanding. Several updates are required, either to update language to current federal law or to change committee and Board designations for members who may or may not apply any longer. After a Draft MOU is established it is required to be approved by EVERY JURISDICTION IN THE MPO.

### Proposed Timeline:

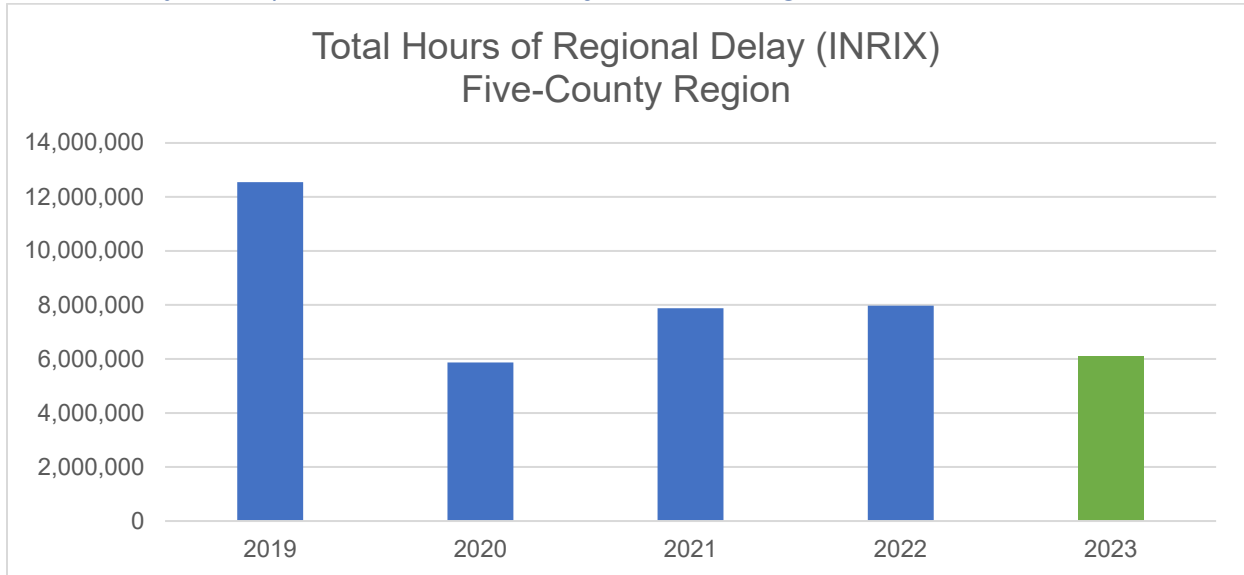
Date	Event
October, 2023	Introduce MOU
November, 2023	Develop Survey for MPO Representatives
December, 2023	Discuss Survey Results
February, 2023	Draft MOU Discussion
March, 2023	Draft MOU Consideration
April, 2023 - ?	Local Government Council Consideration

### Items to Consider Within the MOU:

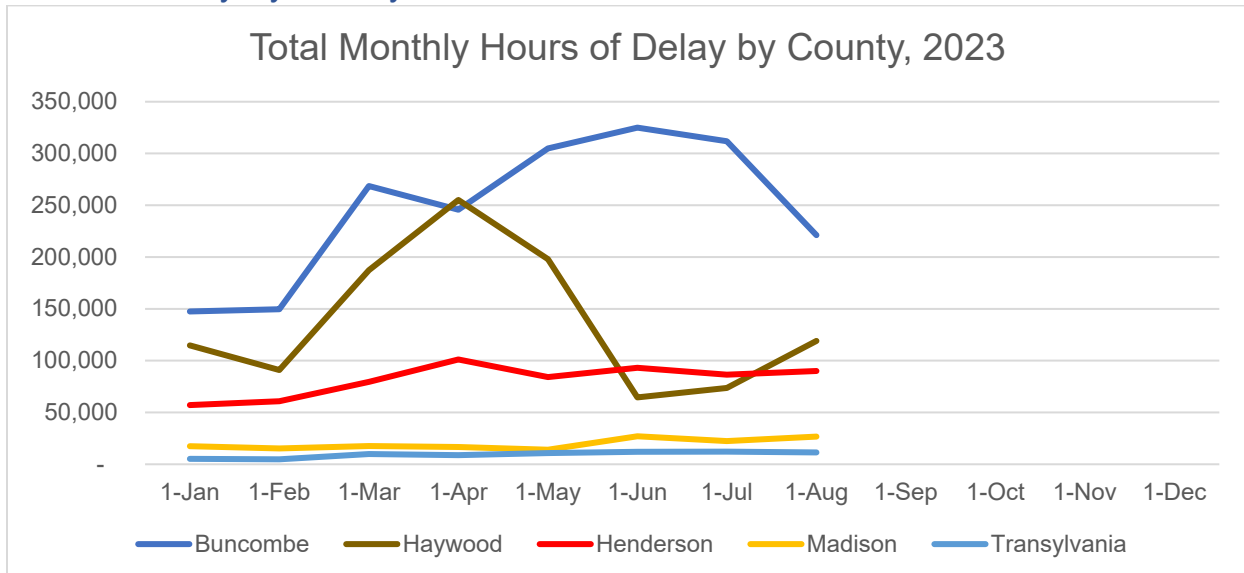
1. MPO Membership
  - a. MPO members to be removed in the updated MOU
    - i. Transylvania County (non-voting) (TCC and Board)
    - ii. State Bicycle Committee Representative for Divisions 13 & 14 (TCC only)- group has been defunct for some time
  - b. MPO members to add
    - i. Transit representative were added via amendment, would be included in the updated list
2. Quorum
  - a. Currently defines quorum for "active" members, inactive members are those that have not attended the previous two meetings, don't count towards quorum
3. Voting Power
  - a. Distribution of Votes
  - b. Veto Votes
  - c. Weighted Voting
4. MPO Roles and Responsibilities

# Data:

Hours of Delay For the Five-County (Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania) Area with 2023 Projected Through End of Year



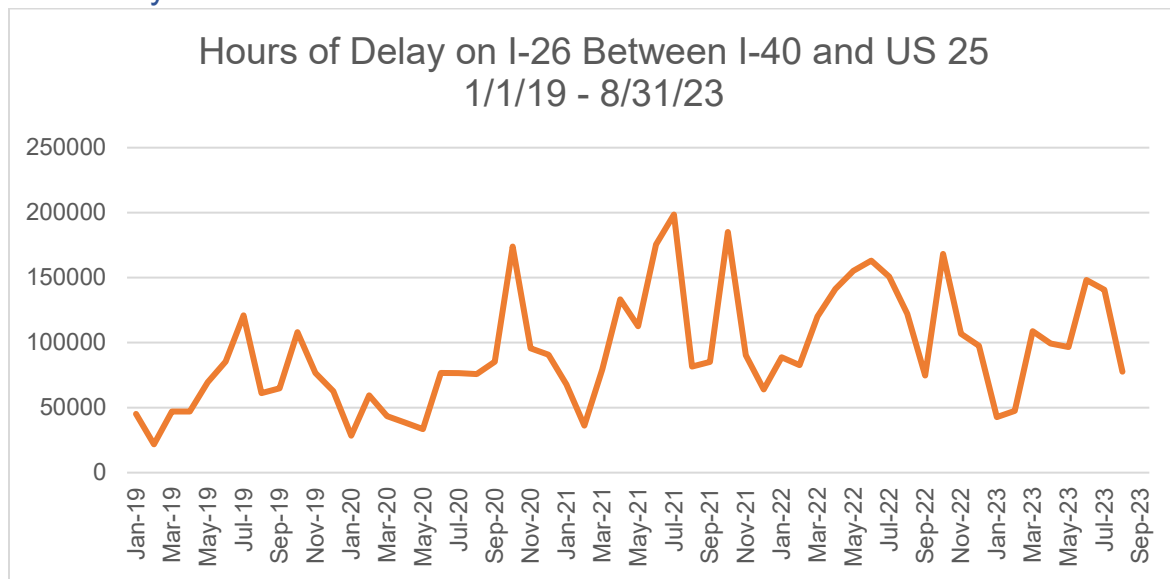
Hours of Delay By County for 2023:



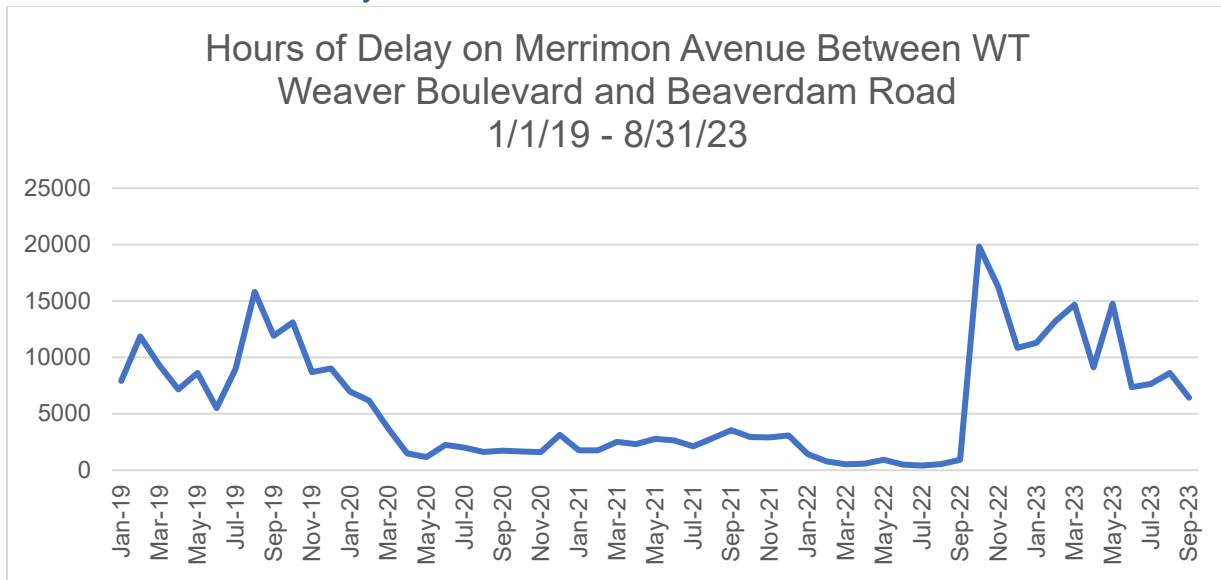
## Top-10 Bottleneck in the Five-County Area – August, 2023

Rank	Route	Location
1	I-40 WB	Exit 27
2	I-26 WB	NC 146
3	I-26 EB	NC 280
4	I-26 WB	NC 280
5	I-26 EB	US 64
6	I-40 WB	Exit 15
7	I-26 WB	NC 191
8	US 25 NB	Beaverdam Road
9	I-40 EB	Exit 37
10	I-40 WB	Exit 37

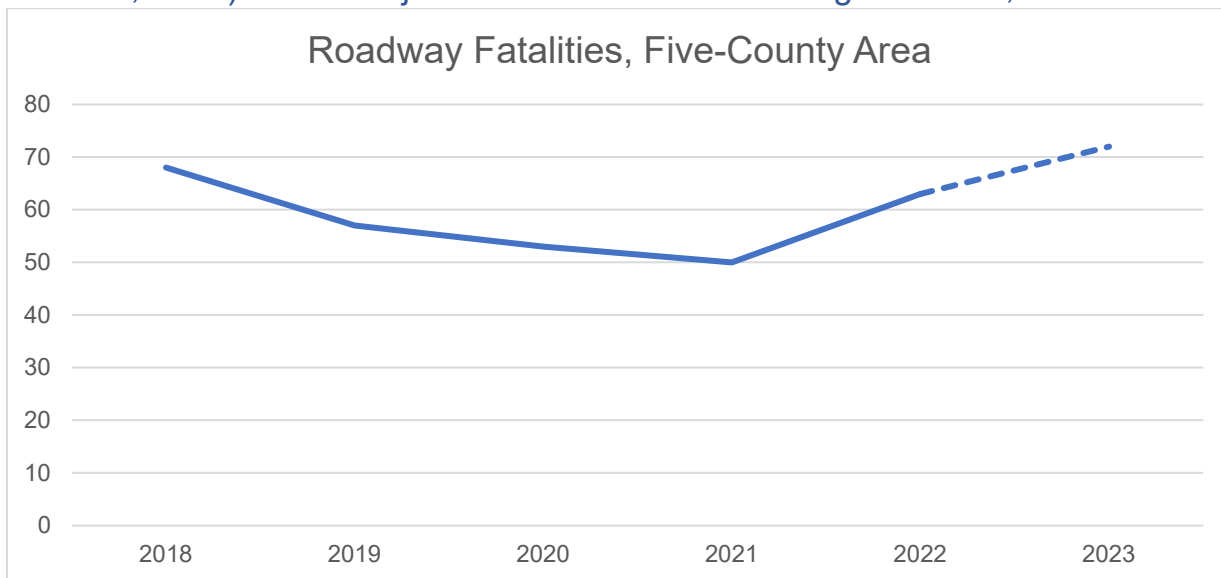
## I-26 Delay



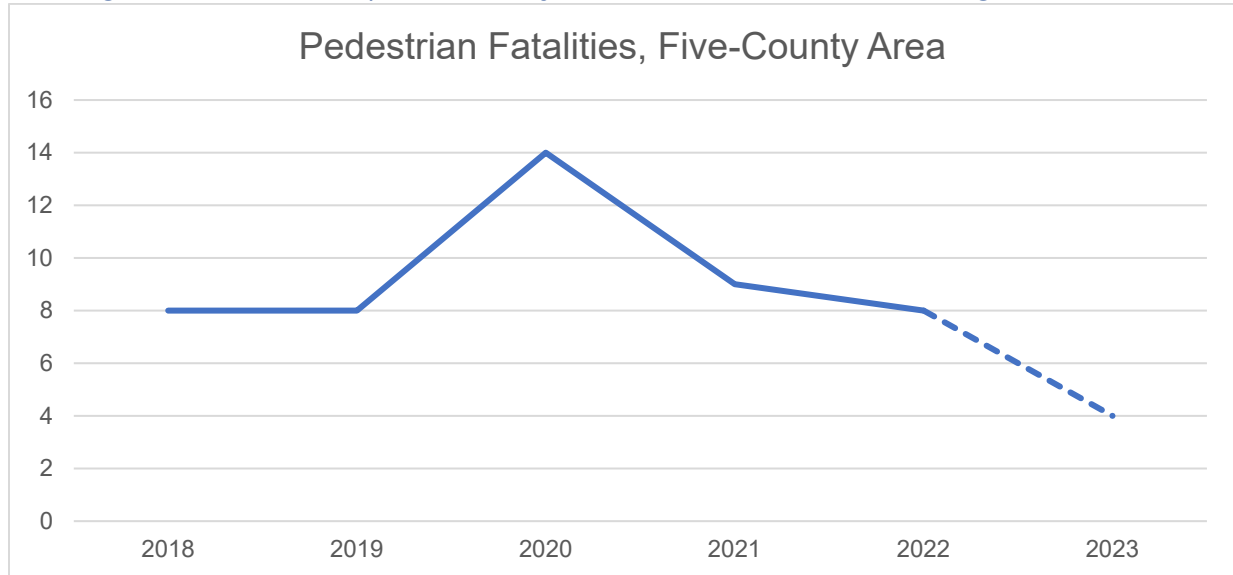
## Merrimon Avenue Delay



## Roadway Fatalities in the Five-County Area (36 Fatalities Reported Through June 30, 2023) \*2023 Projected Based on Data Through June 30, 2023



Pedestrian Involved Fatalities in the Five-County Area (Two Fatalities Reported Through June 30, 2023) \*2023 Projected Based on Data Through June 30, 2023



Bicycle-Involved Fatalities in the Five-County Area (Two Fatalities Reported Through June 30, 2023) \*2023 Projected Based on Data Through June 30, 2023

