

a program of Land of Sky

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## 2024- 2033 Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

### Public Comments

The public comment period prior to the adoption of the 2024-2033 TIP was open from July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. It was advertised via news and social media, as well as email distribution lists. Physical copies of the TIP were also distributed throughout our region with instructions on how to submit public comment. Options to submit public comment included email, phone, a form on the French Broad River MPO website, and in-person/virtually at the MPO Board meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Date	Comments Received
8/16/23	I don't understand why this plan only commits 2.4% of the total spend to Bike/Ped/Public Transit (\$102 million out of \$4.2 billion). We know that due to the "induced demand" effect, when new and larger roadways are built people will increase their trips, or move farther away from population centers and require more driving, and the roads will immediately fill up again. Why are we spending such a huge percentage on roadways instead of transportation alternatives that actually have a positive impact on the region, especially in this area with so many beautiful natural resources? I urge the committee to reject this plan and have the courage to radically rethink what transportation can look like in Western NC. As a start, no new roadway projects should be approved that do not meet the Complete Streets guidelines, and there should be at least a 50/50 match between roadways and public transit funding. Public Transit in Western NC is a complete embarrassment to the community, and this funding proposal only furthers that embarrassment.