



French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization
Minutes from the TCC Hybrid Meeting on October 12th 2023

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

In-person and remote via Zoom:

Autumn Radcliff (Chair)	Henderson County
Steve Williams	NCDOT Division 14
Jessica Morris	City of Asheville Transit
Dylan Casper	Buncombe County Transit
Hannah Cook	NCDOT Division 13
Lucy Crown	City of Asheville
Jodie Ferguson	Haywood County
Suzette Morales	FHWA
Brad Hibbs	FHWA
Janna Bianculli	Apple Country Transit
George Hoops	FHWA
Mike Malecek	Town of Mills River
Pat Christie	Village of Flat Rock
Eric Rufa	Town of Fletcher
Daniel Sellers	TPD
Vicki Eastland	Land of Sky RPO
William High (Vice-Chair)	Buncombe County
Stephen Sparks	NCDOT Div 13
Erica Anderson	LOSRC
Ashley Featherstone	WNC Air Quality

Members Without Representation Present:

Town of Biltmore Forest
Madison County
Town of Weaverville
City of Hendersonville
Town of Canton

Town of Clyde
Town of Mars Hill
Town of Laurel Park
Haywood County Transit
Town of Montreat
Town of Black Mountain
Town of Maggie Valley
Town of Waynesville
Town of Woodfin

Additional Attendees:

Tristan Winkler Jon Barsanti Hannah Bagli
Logan DiGiacomo Asha Rado(Minutes)

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Autumn Radcliff opened the floor for public comment. Logan Giacomo presented comments received.

Date	Name	Comment	Method
10/4/23	N/A	Fanning Bridge Road in Fletcher is in tremendous need for improvements. Several dangerous curves, no sidewalks, no bike lanes. Traffic backs up at Hwy 25 for several cycles during rush hour due to lots of cut through traffic.	Website Comment Form
10/4/23	Carol Davis	As a 35 year resident, I am in favor of improving Fanning Bridge Road in Fletcher, NC. The lanes need to be widened, intersections improved, and visibility, especially at intersections improved. I am vehemently opposed to the addition of sidewalks as Fanning Bridge Road is used as a conduit between Airport Road and US 25 (Hendersonville Road). The road is NOT conducive for walking and foot traffic. In addition, the loss of right-way buffers would negatively impact properties on the road and would probably require pedestrian crosswalks...a significant danger given the traffic levels and walkers possibly having to cross from one side of the road to another. Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion.	Website Comment Form

10/4/23	Preston Blakely	This comment serves to show my support for the Fanning Bridge Road improvement. This road is currently overloaded and could desperately use upgrades. Traffic is terrible during points of the day and creates hazards in neighborhoods.	Website Comment Form
10/4/23	Rich Haschke	Fanning Bridge Road in Fletcher needs a sidewalk! It's a main connector between Airport Rd and Hendersonville Road and would provide much easier access for bikes and pedestrians.	Website Comment Form
10/4/23	Becky Haschke	Hello! Please, please consider adding a bike lane and/or a sidewalk to Fanning Bridge Rd in Fletcher. There is nowhere to run/walk our kids. There is a big increase of families with kids in the area, with no safe places to walk. Thank you for your consideration.	Website Comment Form
10/4/23	N/A	Fanning Bridge needs to be widened with a turning lane. And either a bike lane or a ban of bikes on the road. The curve between Fletcher Hills and Windsor Forest needs posts to keep people in their own lane. Too often vehicles coming from Airport Road towards US 25 come around that curve halfway into the incoming lane.	Website Comment Form
10/5/23	N/A	FANNING BRIDGE ROAD. Henderson County.— Improve several Intersections. Particularly Rutledge Rd. and St. John's Roads	Website Comment Form
10/5/23	Olga Grooman	I support the improvements on Fanning Bridge Road- which is in dire need of them! Road widening and sidewalks can mitigate the congestion on this road as well as adjacent Hwy 25.	Website Comment Form
10/10/23	N/A	When traffic on Fanning Bridge Rd has a green light more than a few will speed through the intersection onto Rutledge Rd. This makes it very hazardous to drive out of my	Website Comment Form
		neighborhood, Windsor Forest, from Old Case Rd onto Rutledge. I am glad we have the signal lights because the situation was more hazardous before they were installed. I think the only solution is to have the Fletcher Police Department park a manned patrol car prominently at the intersection very frequently. Ideally, the cruiser would be parked on the side of Old Case Rd near the intersection. Thank you for considering my comments.	
10/11/23	Andrea Golden	Route SR 1338 (Emma Road), between Boone Street and SR 1332 (North Louisiana Avenue); Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility. The Emma Neighborhood Council discussed this proposal and would like to express our concern. Our community has long expressed the importance of community input in terms of prioritizing the location of sidewalks and other improvements. The sidewalks that run along N.	Website Comment Form

		Louisiana Ave have not yet been completed, and are where the majority of neighborhood residents are forced to walk under dangerous conditions. We would like to express our frustration that this proposal does not reflect the priority and needs of our community's lowest income residents who are most impacted by lack of safe sidewalks due to the transportation barriers that we face. We would like for a representative to visit our neighborhood association to discuss before any further sidewalks investments are earmarked for our community.	
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Consent Agenda:

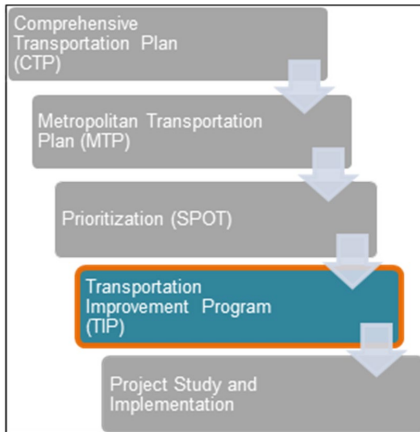
September 2023 Meeting Minutes:

https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/2023_09_14_Minutes_and_Talleys.pdf

Steve Williams moved to accept the consent agenda including the minutes from the September 2023 meeting. Vicki Eastland seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

Business:

Amendments to the 2024-2033 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.

Modifications Summary

Amendments to the TIP this month are all the amendments that have been held on to while the new TIP and STIP were going through the process of being adopted by the MPO and

Board of Transportation, respectively. Of note, there have been a few project schedule delays to allow time for planning and/or right of way including the North RAD Greenway, Woodfin Greenway, and Riverwalk Greenway. This set of amendments also includes the addition of Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects funds to the Ecusta Trail, which were granted earlier this year. Additions to the TIP include several highway safety projects, as well as three rail safety projects, targeting crossings in Asheville, Black Mountain, and Canton. Deletions from the TIP include U-5973 (intersection improvements on Weaverville Hwy) and BL-0079 (the Texas Rd pedestrian bridge project in Montreat). Finally, this set of amendments reflects cost increases to I-2513AC, a section of the I-26 connector project that involves widening I-26/I-240 north of I-40 to Haywood Rd in Asheville.

(Insert tables here at later date)

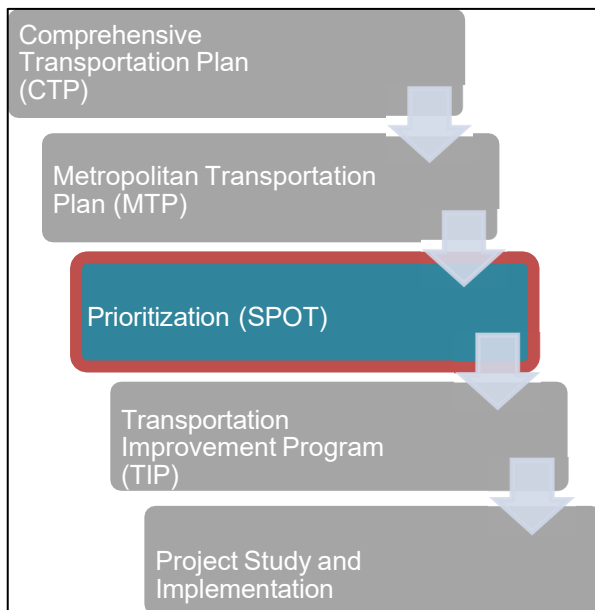
William High moved to recommend to the Board for adoption of Amendments to the 2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Jessica Morriss seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

P 7.0 Project Submittals

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?

Date	Event
July, 2023	Local Government Discussions on Potential Submittals
August, 2023	Draft Submittal List (Board Action Required)
August- September, 2023	Public Comment on Draft Submittal List
October, 2023	Final Submittal List (Board Action Required)
February, 2024	Data Review
March, 2024	Local Input Point Methodology Adoption (Board Action Required)
April, 2024	Statewide Mobility Projects Programmed
May, 2024	Draft Local Input Point Assignment for Regional Impact Projects
May-June, 2024	Public Comment on Draft Local Input Point Assignment for Regional Impact Projects

June, 2024	Final Local Input Point Assignment for Regional Impact Projects
August, 2024	Regional Impact Projects Programmed
October, 2024	Draft Local Input Point Assignment for Division Needs Projects
October-November, 2024	Public Comment on Draft Local Input Point Assignment for Division Needs Projects
November, 2024	Final Local Input Point Assignment for Division Needs Projects
February, 2025	Draft 2026-2035 TIP/STIP Released
August, 2025	Final 2026-2035 TIP/STIP (Board Action Required)

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

Recommended Changes Approved by the Prioritization Subcommittee

- Remove US 25 (Hendersonville Road) Access Management from Rock Hill Road to NC 146 (Long Shoals Road)
- Consolidate Two Projects on US 25 (Merrimon Avenue) to One Roadway Upgrade Project from I-240 to Wembley Drive
- Modify the US 70 (Tunnel Road) and US 74 Alt (South Tunnel Road) Project. Previous termini: Beaucatcher Tunnel to NC 81 (Swannanoa River Road.) Modified Termini: Beaucatcher Tunnel to US 74 Alt (South Tunnel Road.)
- Add Peachtree Road Extension to provide a connection between US 25 (Hendersonville Road) and US 25 Alt (Sweeten Creek Road) in a section where there is no connection for 2.2 miles
- Add NC 63 (New Leicester Highway) Intersection Improvements at Newfound Road, Ramsey Road, and Gouges Branch Road. Project initiated through public comment.
- Grade separation of Norfolk Southern Rail line at Blue Ridge Road. Request came in from NCDOT Rail Division.

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 6th – Wednesday, October 18th

Public Comment Procedures

Via Email, Phone, or In-Person/Zoom at the MPO Board meeting on October 19th. 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	Buncombe	Rail

Projects Removed

Route	From	To	Improvement Type	County	Mode
US 25 (Hendersonville Road)	NC 146 (Long Shoals Road)	Rock Hill 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:

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
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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
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TIP	Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Specific Improvement Type	County(ies)
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	NC 191 Southern Intersection	11 - Access Management	Henderson

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

New Highway Submittals

Route	From	To	Improvement Type	County	Funding Tier
Peachtree Road Extension	Peachtree Road	US 25 Alt (Sweeten Creek Road)	New Location	Buncombe	Division Needs
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	US 74 Alt (South Tunnel Road)	Roadway Upgrade- Road Diet with Intersection Improvements	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)	Wembley Drive	I-240	Roadway Upgrade	Buncombe	Regional Impact

US 70 (West State Street)	Blue Ridge Road	NC 9	Road Diet	Buncombe	Regional Impact
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Route	From	To	Improvement Type	County	Funding Tier
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
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Route	From	To	Improvement Type	County	Funding Tier
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
NC 63 (New Leicester Highway)	Newfound Road	Gouges Branch Road	Multiple Intersection Improvements	Buncombe	Regional Impact

New Bike/Ped Submittals

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

Route	From	To	Project Description	County
SR 1477 (Riverside Drive)	North of I-240	SR 1517 (Hill Street)	3 - On-Road Designated Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	Buncombe
US 70 (Tunnel Road)	New Haw Creek Road	Blue Ridge Road	7- Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility	Buncombe
Reed Creek Greenway Connector	Reed Creek Greenway	SR 3602 (Clingman Avenue)	4 - On-Road Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	Buncombe
NC 251 (Riverside Drive)	Future I-26	Woodfin Avenue	7- Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility	Buncombe
Lake Julian Greenway	French Broad River	Lake Julian	2 - Off- Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	Buncombe
Fairview Road	Swannanoa River Road	School Road	7- Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility	Buncombe
Patton Avenue	Old Haywood Road	Johnston Boulevard	7- Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility	Buncombe
Merrimon Avenue	Lake Louise	Brown Street	7- Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility	Buncombe
Bent Creek Greenway (WNC Farmers Market to Asheville Outlets)	WNC Farmers Market	Asheville Outlets	2 - Off- Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	Buncombe
Old Haywood Road Sidewalks	US 19/23/74 (Patton Avenue)	US 19/23/74 (Smokey Park Highway)	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	Buncombe

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
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Route	From	To	Project Description	County
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
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

Route	From	To	Project Description	County
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 accommodation 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
Norfolk Southern Line	Blue Ridge Road	-	New Grade Separated Crossing	Buncombe

Tristan Winkler presented. Discussion occurred, Vicki Eastland discussed RPO project submittals. Janna Bianculli, wanted to let the TCC know that Henderson County might alter the bike ped proposals before the Board meeting.

Jessica Morriss moved to recommend to the Board for approval of Draft Submittals for P 7.0. William High seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

Safe Streets for All Action Plan Committee Roster

The FBRMPO and LOSRPO SS4A RFLOI was released to the public on September 22nd and proposals are due on November 10th at 5pm. As part of the plan, the consultant will work with a steering committee composed of staff of member governments of the FBRMPO and LOSRPO. Below is a draft list of steering committee members selected by MPO and RPO staff:

Division 13: Hannah Cook

Division 14: Steve Williams

Asheville: Chris Carins

Buncombe County: William High

Hendersonville: Brent Detwiler

Henderson County: Autumn Radcliff

Waynesville: Elizabeth Teague

Haywood County: Jodie Ferguson

Madison County: Forest Gilliam

Brevard: Aaron Bland

Transylvania County: Darby Terrell

NCDOT Safety Unit: Brian Murphy

NCDOT Safety Unit: Scott Collier

Hannah Bagli presented.

Vicki Eastland moved to recommend to the Board to approve SS4A Action Plan Committee Roster. Lucy Crown seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Update

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

The current MOU is available here: <https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/FBRMPO-MOU.pdf>

Tristan Winkler Presented, information only.

Division Project Updates:

Division 13 : Hannah Cook presented https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Div13_October_Updates.pdf

Division 14 : Steve Williams presented https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Div14_October_Updates.pdf

TPD Updates: Daniel Sellers presented

FHWA/FTA Updates : Suzette Morales presented

FHWA Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Website: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/>

FTA Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Website: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/BIL>

FHWA Updates – October 2023

Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations Approved Through November 17, 2023

The President signed a [continuing resolution](#) on September 30, 2023 to approve Federal funding programs for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 through November 17, 2023.

FHWA Announces \$9.6 Billion in Available Funding for the Bridge

Investment Program On September 27, 2023, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published a [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) to announce the availability of up to \$9.62 billion in funding for Large Bridge Project Grants through the [Bridge Investment Program](#). Grants are available for bridges with total eligible project costs over \$100 million, with minimum grant awards of \$50 million, and maximum grant awards of 50 percent of the total eligible project costs. Here are the application deadlines:

- November 27, 2023, for consideration of funding from FY 2023 and FY 2024;
- August 1, 2024, for consideration of funding from FY 2025; and
- August 1, 2025, for consideration of funding from FY 2026.

FHWA Announces \$100 Million in Available Funding for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

On September 13, 2023, FHWA [announced](#) the availability of \$100 million in funding through the Electric Vehicle Charger Reliability and Accessibility Accelerator Program to repair and replace existing, but non- operational, electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Eligible applicants for this program are limited to State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) and local governments. The application deadline is November 13, 2023. More information is available [here](#).

USDOT Announces Technical Assistance Opportunities for the Thriving Communities Program

On September 12, 2023, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) [announced](#) that the [Thriving Communities Program](#) is now accepting applications for FY 2023. Applicants interested in receiving technical assistance and peer learning support, have until November 15, 2023 to submit a Letter of Interest. Applicants interested in providing technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support, have until November 28, 2023 to submit an application. More information is available [here](#) and [here](#).

Application Deadlines Approaching for Other USDOT Discretionary Grant Opportunities

Please be aware of the approaching application deadlines for the following discretionary grant opportunities from the USDOT:

- [October 10 – Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation \(SMART\) Grants Program](#);
- [October 10 – Pilot Program for Transit-Oriented Development \(TOD\) Planning](#); and
- [November 6 – Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Transportation Projects \(NSFLTP\) Program](#).

EPA Starts 2-Year Conformity Grace Period for New MOVES4 Emissions Model

On September 12, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a [notice](#) in the Federal Register to announce the availability of the latest Motor Vehicle Emission Simulator model major release (MOVES4) for official purposes outside of California. MOVES4 is the latest version of the EPA's state-of-the-science modeling tool for estimating emissions from cars, trucks, buses, and motorcycles based on the latest data and regulations. This notice starts a two-year grace period (i.e., September 12, 2025) before MOVES4 will need to be used as the latest EPA emissions model for transportation conformity determinations outside of California, both in new regional emissions analyses and in new hot-spot analyses. More information is available [here](#).

Census Bureau Publishes Technical Corrections for a Subset of Urban Areas from the 2020 Census

On September 12, 2023, the Census Bureau published a [notice](#) in the Federal Register to make technical corrections to their previous [notice](#) published on December 29, 2022. For a small number of urban areas in California, Georgia, and Louisiana, the Census Bureau updated the population totals, housing counts, and land areas. FHWA and FTA will use these technical corrections to update the Transportation Management Area (TMA) designations published in the [Federal Register](#) on June 5, 2023. Stay tuned for more information.

FHWA Seeking Nominations for the 2024 Environmental Excellence Awards

On September 20, 2023, the FHWA Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty announced the opening of the [2024 Environmental Excellence Awards \(EEA\) Program](#). The EEA Program recognizes outstanding transportation projects, processes, and partners that use FHWA funding sources to go above and beyond compliance to achieve environmental excellence. EEA nominations will be accepted through November 3, 2023. More information is available [here](#).

FHWA Seeking Public Comments on Intention to Collect Information from States and MPOs

On August 31, 2023, the FHWA Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty published a [notice](#) in the Federal Register to request public comments on the agency's intention to collect information from State DOTs and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) regarding planning and research work programs, periodic progress reports, and periodic financial reports, as part of [23 CFR Part 420](#) and [2 CFR Part 200](#). On September 6, 2023, FHWA published a [notice](#) in the Federal Register to extend the public comment period until November 6, 2023. FHWA will summarize and/or include public comments in its information collection approval request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

FHWA Publishes Resources on Travel Time Data, Crosswalks, Equity, Research, and Human Capital

FHWA recently published the following resources:

- [Application of Travel Time Data and Statistics to Travel Time Reliability Analyses: Handbook and Support Materials](#);
- [Crosswalk Marking Selection Guide](#);
- [Equity Considerations in Asset Management: Case Studies](#);
- [FHWA Federal-Aid Division State Planning and Research Subpart B \(SPR-B\) Program](#); and
- [State Human Capital Plans Guidance: Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Access

In July 2023, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) published a research [report](#) entitled, “Practical Measures for Advancing Public Transit Equity and Access.” The report identifies a set of replicable measures that public transportation providers and their partners can use to advance equity for those who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and/or inequality. These include practical strategies such as advisory committees and intergovernmental partnerships as well as analytical techniques that quantify how public transit links people to opportunities.

NCHRP Publishes Research on Rural Access, Freight Integration, Life-Cycle Planning, and Probe Data

The National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) recently published the following research:

- [Access to Jobs, Economic Opportunities, and Education in Rural Areas](#);
- [Integrating Freight Movement into Twenty-First-Century Communities' Land Use, Design, and Transportation Systems](#);
- [Implementation of Life-Cycle Planning Analysis in a Transportation Asset Management Framework](#);
- [Life-Cycle Planning Analysis in a Transportation Asset Management Framework](#); and
- [Use of Probe Data for Freight Planning and Operations](#).

Upcoming Webinars on Automation, Project Delivery, Asset Management, and Pedestrian Safety

Here is the registration information for some upcoming webinars and virtual peer exchanges in October and November:

- [October 4 – Automated Vehicle Road Readiness](#);
- [October 12, 26 – Accelerating Project Delivery through Innovative Procurement, Partnerships, and Financing Methods \(Parts 1 and 2\)](#);
- [October 18 – Communicating Transportation Asset Management](#);
- [October 23-24 – FHWA/FTA Virtual Peer Exchange on Transit Asset Management Integration](#); and
- [November 1-2 – FHWA/FTA Virtual Peer Exchange on Highway Asset Management Integration](#).

[Global Benchmarking Webinar Series: Improving Pedestrian Safety on Urban Arterials](#):

- [October 2 – The Movement and Place Framework](#);
- [October 23 – A Safe System Approach to Road Safety Audits](#); and

[November 7 – Speed Management Policies and Practices](#).

Committee & Workgroup Updates

Prioritization Subcommittee— met on September

6th Points of Discussion:

- P 7.0 Submittal List
- LAPP Update
- MOU Update

Transit Operators' Workgroup— last met on September

18th; Points of Business/Discussion:

- **October 18th Agenda:**
 - 5307 funding updates

- NCDOT Regional Transit Study Update
- Updates from Agencies

5307 Subrecipient Workgroup- met on September 12th, 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.

Hellbender Trail Stakeholder Group/Regional Trail Forum Updates- forum held in August. Next Stakeholder Group TBD.

MPO Studies Status

Study	Managing Entity	Year Programmed	Status
Reed Creek Greenway Feasibility Study	City of Asheville	2023	Underway
2050 Socio-Economic Projections	FBRMPO	2023	Consultant Selected
CTP/MTP Update	FBRMPO	2024	RFLOI Drafted, Awaiting Approval
Safe Streets for All Regional Action Plan	FBRMPO	2024	Procurement In-Progress
Patton Avenue Corridor Study	City of Asheville	2023	Consultant Selected
Ridgecrest Connector Greenway Feasibility Study	Town of Black Mountain	2023	Consultant Selected
Cane Creek Greenway Study	Town of Fletcher	2024	Agreement Being Drafted

Woodfin-Weaverville Greenway Study	Town of Woodfin	2024	Agreement Drafted
Buncombe County Multimodal Master Plan	Buncombe County	2024	Agreement Being Drafted
Hellbender Implementation Plan	FBRMPO	2024	Not Started
Regional ITS Plan	FBRMPO	2024	Not Started
Travel Survey/Model Upgrades	FBRMPO	2024	Not Started
Staffing & Implementation Study	FBRMPO	2024	Not Started

Legislative Updates given.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

ADJOURNMENT

Autumn Radcliff adjourned the meeting at 12 :19 PM as there was no further business.