

French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization

Minutes from the TCC Hybrid Meeting on March 14th, 2024

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

In-person and remote via Zoom:

Autumn Radcliff (Chair)	Henderson County
Steve Williams	NCDOT Division 14
Troy Wilson	NCDOT Division 14
Hannah Smith	NCDOT Division 13
Lucy Crown	City of Asheville
Suzette Morales	FHWA
Janna Bianculli	Apple Country Transit
Jessica Trotman	Town of Black Mountain
Mike Malecek	Town of Mills River
Daniel Sellers	TPD
Vicki Eastland	Land of Sky RPO
William High (Vice-Chair)	Buncombe County
Stephen Sparks	NCDOT Div 13
Sam Cullen	Town of Maggie Valley
Matt Manley	City of Hendersonville
Steve Cannon	NCDOT Div 13
Harry Buckner	Town of Biltmore Forest
Byron Hickox	Town of Canton
Ricky Hurley	Town of Woodfin
Anna Sexton	City of Asheville
Jessica Morriss	Asheville Transit
Eric Rufa	Town of Fletcher

Members Without Representation Present:

Madison County
Town of Weaverville
Town of Mars Hill
Town of Laurel Park
Town of Waynesville
Village of Flat Rock

Town of Clyde
Town of Montreat
Buncombe County Transit
Haywood County

Additional Attendees:

Tristan Winkler	Jon Barsanti	Hannah Bagli
Logan DiGiacomo	Asha Rado(Minutes)	
Abigail Inzce	Ada Sloop	David Gildersleeve
Kenny Bussey	Savannah Parrish	Christina Harris
Ian Baille		

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Autumn Radcliff called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 11:03 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. No comment was heard.

Consent Agenda:

3A: February 2024 Meeting Minutes

https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2024_02_08_DRAFT.MPO_TCC_Minutes-1.pdf

3B: Modification to the 2024-2033 TIP

This is a modification to project U-5616 in the TIP, which refers to the French Broad River MPO Planning Supplement. This modification is to reflect the planning budget for fy 25 as outlined in the fy 25 UPWP.

U-5616 - FRENCH BROAD RIVER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION PLANNING (PL) SUPPLEMENT.

LEAD AGENCY NCDOT	PROJECT TYPE HIGHWAY	COUNTY BUNCOMBE, HAYWOOD, HENDERSON, MADISON	DIVISION(S) 13, 14
CONSTRUCTION YEAR -	LOCALLY ADMINISTERED PROJECT -	ROUTE/ROAD NAME VARIOUS	TOTAL LENGTH 0
TOTAL COST \$1,938,000	PROJECT DESCRIPTION FRENCH BROAD RIVER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION PLANNING (PL) SUPPLEMENT.		

PHASE	FUND SOURCE	PRIOR	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031	FY2032	FY2033	FUTURE
PLANNING	Local	-	\$78,000	\$59,000	\$63,000	\$63,000	\$63,000	\$63,000	-	-	-	-	-
PLANNING	Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (Direct Attributable)	-	\$312,000	\$237,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	-	-	-	-	-
Total PLANNING		-	\$390,000	\$296,000	\$313,000	\$313,000	\$313,000	\$313,000	-	-	-	-	-
Total Programmed		-	\$390,000	\$296,000	\$313,000	\$313,000	\$313,000	\$313,000	-	-	-	-	-

CURRENT CHANGE REASON	Schedule / Funding / Scope- Update Minor cost change in federally-funded or state-funded regionally significant transit, bicycle or pedestrian project that do not exceed either \$1 million or 25% of the original project cost
PROJECT CHANGES	Plan Revision Name changed from "October 2023 Amendments" to "Administrative Modification #3"
FUNDING CHANGES	Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (Direct Attributable) - Decrease funds in FY 2025 in PLN from \$250,000 to \$237,000 Local - Decrease funds in FY 2025 in PLN from \$63,000 to \$59,000
FEDERAL PROJECT COST	Decreased from \$1,562,000 to \$1,549,000 (-0.83%)
TOTAL PROJECT COST	Decreased from \$1,955,000 to \$1,938,000 (-0.87%)

3C. Application for new CAC member:

The Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) is an advisory body to the TCC and Board made up of community members and stakeholders in our region. The CAC serves to advise the MPO's public involvement components of the development of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), as well as the promotion of general public awareness and participation in the regional transportation planning process. The committee also advises the MPO on environmental justice and equity practices. The Committee meets quarterly.

Upcoming Meetings

- April 8th, 2024 at 1:00 pm
- July 8th, 2024 at 1:00 pm
- October 14th, 2024 at 1:00 pm

New Application

Pierce Schwalb recently moved to the area from Anchorage, Alaska where he served as the director of Bike Anchorage – a bicyclist & pedestrian advocacy organization. He was also involved with a number of committees for the city of Anchorage and has previous experience with longrange planning having worked as a Sustainable Transportation Consultant in Maine.

Citizens Advisory Committee Application

The French Broad River MPO's Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) plays a key role in getting the public involved in the transportation planning process. The CAC plans to meet quarterly during regular business hours to discuss the transportation planning process and public engagement strategies.

NAME: Pierce Schwalb

PLACE OF RESIDENCE: Transylvania County

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTED: _____

EMAIL: pierceschwalb@gmail.com

PHONE NUMBER (OPTIONAL): 907-229-2106

HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY SERVED ON ANY FRENCH BROAD RIVER MPO OR LAND OF SKY REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEES? IF YES, WHAT COMMITTEE AND OVER WHAT TIME PERIOD?

No.

PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR INTEREST IN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND WHAT UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE YOU WILL BRING TO THE CAC:

Thank you for your consideration. I recently moved to the area from Anchorage, Alaska where I served as the director of Bike Anchorage - a bicyclist and pedestrian advocacy organization. I participated in many boards and commissions affiliated with the Municipality of Anchorage. I've also worked as a Sustainable Transportation Consultant, where I co-authored the State of Maine's Clean Transportation Roadmap. I have experience with electric vehicle charging, complete streets, and long-range transportation planning.

Thank you for your application!

Please send your application to mpr@landofsky.org or mail it to:

French Broad River MPO
339 New Leicester Highway, Suite 140
Asheville, NC 28806

3D: Letter of Support for Black Mountain Multimodal Planning Grant

The NCDOT Multimodal Planning Grant Initiative is a program developed to encourage the development of comprehensive local bicycle, pedestrian, and multimodal plans for municipalities across North Carolina. The program was developed in 2004 and has awarded approximately \$8.6 million dollars to 266 municipalities across the state. All municipalities in North Carolina are eligible for these funds. The Town of Black Mountain is applying for a comprehensive bicycle and

pedestrian plan through the NCDOT Multimodal Planning Grant Initiative this year.
Recommendation: Approve the letter of support for the Town of Black Mountain's application for a Multimodal Planning Grant through NCDOT.

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE TOWN OF BLACK MOUNTAIN TO PERSUE AN BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN GRANT THROUGH THE NCDOT IMD MULTIMODAL PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the NCDOT has created an annual matching grant program to encourage municipalities to develop comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plans;

WHEREAS, the NCDOT has awarded approximately \$8.6 million since 2004 to 266 municipalities across the state;

WHEREAS, the IMD Multimodal Planning Grant allows any North Carolina municipality to apply for a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plan;

WHEREAS, the Town of Black Mountain will apply for a stand-alone bicycle and pedestrian plan through the grant program,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that be it resolved that the Board of the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby approves of the Town of Black Mountain submitting a grant application for an the IMD Multimodal Planning Grant Program through NCDOT in response to NCDOT's call for projects, make the necessary assurances and certifications with the NCDOT, and to apply for a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plan.

ADOPTED and approved this the 21st day of March 2024

ATTEST:

Anthony Sutton, FBRMPO Board Chair

Tristan Winkler, Director
French Broad River MPO

Jessica Morriss moved to accept the consent agenda including the minutes from the February 2024 meeting, the Modification to the 2024-2033 TIP, the recommendation to add a CAC member and The Letter of Support for Black Mountain Multimodal Planning Grant. Vicki Eastland seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

Business:

4A. Final FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The French Broad River MPO is required to develop a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and adopt a draft in January with the final version approved in March.

What is a UPWP?

The UPWP is a federally mandated document for MPO's to produce that serves the MPO's budget. This includes line items of work for MPO staff, planning work planned by the region's designated recipient for FTA 5303 Metropolitan Planning Funds, selected by the MPO (City of Asheville), as well as studies being carried out using federal planning funds, and any programmatic support or planning being funded by FTA 5307 Support. The Draft UPWP was adopted in January. Minor modifications have been made since that time.

Major Changes between the FY 2024 and FY 2025 UPWP

- increase in local dues: this is being done to maintain current staff and technical capacity with the increased cost of living, salaries, and general costs.
- increase in Special Study management and coordination due to the increased number of MPO-supported projects currently on the books
- major focus on 2050 MTP, P 7.0, Special Studies management
- less of a focus on data collection and management



FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program

a program of Land of Sky

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

MPO Vision & Goals



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Common Acronyms

AMPO

Association of MPOs

ART

Asheville Rides Transit

BOT

Board of Transportation

CAV

Connected and
Autonomous Vehicles

CMP

Congestion Management
Process

CRP

Carbon Reduction
Program

CTP

Comprehensive
Transportation Plan

EJ

Environmental Justice

EPA

Environmental Protection
Agency

FHWA

Federal Highway
Administration

FTA

Federal Transit
Administration

GIS

Geographic Information
System

IIJA

Infrastructure Investment
and Jobs Act

ITS

Intelligent Transportation
Systems

LAP

Locally Administered
Projects

MOU

Memorandum of
Understanding

MPO

Metropolitan Planning
Organization

MTP

Metropolitan
Transportation Plan

NCAMPO

North Carolina
Association of MPOs

NCDOT

North Carolina
Department of
Transportation

NCDOT- IMD

NCDOT Integrated
Mobility Division

NCDOT- TPD

NCDOT Transportation
Planning Division

P 7.0

Prioritization 7.0

PIP

Public Involvement Policy

PL

Planning Funds

SOV

Single Occupancy
Vehicle

SPOT

Strategic Prioritization
Office of Transportation

STBG-DA

Surface Transportation
Block Grant- Direct
Allotment

STIP

State Transportation
Improvement Program

TAP

Transportation
Alternatives Program

TCC

Technical Coordinating
Committee

TOD

Transit Oriented
Development

TDM

Transportation Demand
Management

TIP

Transportation
Improvement Program

TMA

Transportation
Management Area

UPWP

Unified Planning Work
Program

Overview

In compliance with Federal law and guidelines, the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) has developed a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for Fiscal Year 2025 that will help to carry out a cooperative, comprehensive, and continuous transportation planning process for the FBRMPO Planning Area.

FY 2025 promises to be a busy and significant year for transportation planning in the FBRMPO with major projects underway along I-26 and numerous plans being undertaken to address future regional and local needs.

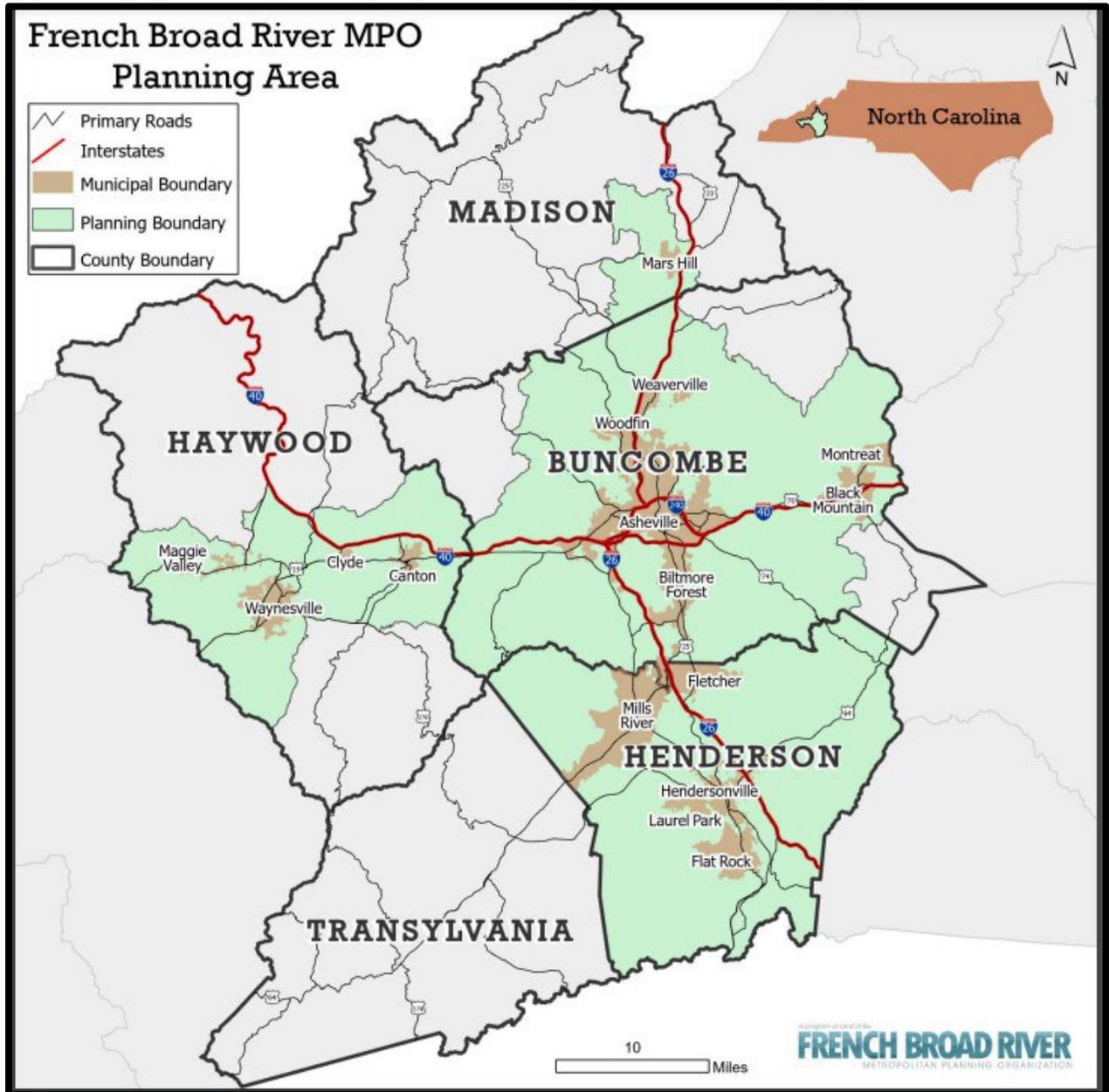
The FY 2025 UPWP lays out the various tasks planned for MPO staff to be completed to maintain federal requirements for the metropolitan planning process as well as address local needs to better prepare our region for the next round of projects either in the TIP or further out for implementation.

The UPWP reflects funding priorities for planning activities in the FBRMPO Planning Area, with the majority of funding utilizing an 80% federal share and a 20% federal share from project sponsors or MPO member governments.



FBRMPO Planning Area

The MPO Planning Area was updated in 2023 to incorporate changes from the 2020 Urbanized Area Boundary in accordance with federal planning requirements.



Funding Sources and Summary

In general, the UPWP is the FBRMPO's budget for personnel tasks and planning studies, either carried out by the MPO or studies using MPO planning funds carried out by member governments. The UPWP is largely funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA), with reimbursements managed by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. UPWP's can have six general funding sources:

-Statewide Planning and Research Program (SPR)- These are federal planning funds used by NCDOT to conduct work for the French Broad River MPO. A 20% local match is required. (No SPR funds are programmed in FY 2024 UPWP)

-FHWA Section 104(f) Funds- These funds are dedicated to MPO planning areas to perform metropolitan transportation planning tasks. A 20% local match is required.

-FTA Section 5303 Funds- These funds are used for transit planning in the MPO planning area by the region's 5303 Direct Recipient, the City of Asheville. The FTA provides 80% of these funds, NCDOT provides 10%, and the City of Asheville provides the 10% local match.

-FTA Section 5307 Funds- These funds are distributed to the region and are eligible for transit capital, operations, and planning. Planning tasks carried out with these funds by 5307 (sub)recipients or the MPO are required to be documented in the UPWP.

-FHWA Surface Transportation Block Grant Program- Direct Attributable Funds- The funds are dedicated to Transportation Management Areas and these funds can be used for transportation planning. A 20% local match is required.

-Safe and Accountable Transportation Options Set-Aside- a required set-aside of 104(f) funds to be used for safety planning for vulnerable users. No match is required.

-Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA)- funds that can be used for various transportation and planning activities with 0% match required.

-Local Match- the match required to utilize federal planning funds is charged to MPO member governments in direct proportion to proportion of population within the MPO, per the most recent decennial census. The 2020 US Census will be utilized to calculate local dues for FY 24.

For MPO funding, PL funds and Surface Transportation Block Grant (flexed to PL) are utilized to cover 80% of MPO expenses with 20% of the funding coming from member government match. Match is determined by the percentage of population within the MPO for each dues paying member. For FY 2025, the total budget for the MPO (not including 5303 activities covered by the City of Asheville) is \$700,000, which requires a local match match of \$140,000. The match responsibilities break out to the following:

	• Percent of MPO Population	• FY 2025 Proposed Match
• Buncombe County	• 37.94%	• \$ 53,122.90
• Henderson County	• 23.39%	• \$ 32,741.62
• City of Asheville	• 21.87%	• \$ 30,619.68
• Haywood County	• 9.96%	• \$ 13,444.77
• City of Hendersonville	• 3.45%	• \$ 4,900.04
• Town of Waynesville	• 2.34%	• \$ 3,282.45
• Madison County	• 1.35%	• \$ 1,888.54

Key Initiatives

- 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)**
 - The MTP is the guiding document for transportation planning in the French Broad River MPO Planning Area. The MTP develops goals, objectives, and outlines key projects to accommodate growth and other challenges expected to face the region over the next 25 years.

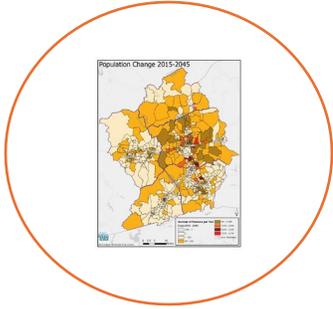


- Safe Streets for All Regional Action Plan**
 - The MPO received a Safe Streets for All grant from USDOT to develop a Safety Action Plan for the five-county area (Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvnaia counties.) Developing this plan will provide a path towards a safer transportation network and enable our region to apply for implementation funds through USDOT.



- Hellbender Regional Trail Network**
 - The MPO adopted the Hellbender Regional Trail Plan in 2020. Work continues on assisting local governments plan and apply for projects that will become key connections to the overall regional trail network as well as educating the public and stakeholders on the need for regional connectivity.





- **WNC Regional Travel Demand Model**
- The MPO helps to maintain the Regional Travel Demand Model that forecasts how anticipated growth will utilize and impact our region's transportation network and can be utilized to evaluate the potential effectiveness of proposed transportation projects. NCDOT provides technical model runs and utilizes the model for traffic forecasting.

- **Memorandum of Understanding Update**
- The Memorandum of Understanding is the document that determines how the MPO works by determining Board and Committee structures as well as other technical procedures that can determine how votes may be determined at the MPO. The MPO plans to finish the
 - update to the MOU in FY 2025.



- **Prioritization 7.0**
- The Prioritization Process in North Carolina helps to determine the majority of capital expenses for transportation projects across the State. The MPO will consider the application of local input points for various projects in the process to help develop the 2026-2035 Transportation Improvement Program and determine
 - what priority projects will be funded or not.



- **WNC Passenger Rail**
- NCDOT was recently awarded funding to begin environmental documentation for the proposed return of passenger rail service to Western North Carolina. The MPO will continue to advocate, coordinate, and educate in cooperation with regional and extra-regional efforts to
 - bring back passenger rail service.



Detailed Task Code List

Data & Planning Support

NETWORKS AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS (\$10,000)

The MPO will continue to update and provide up-to-date data on traffic counts, street system changes, Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), crash data, and bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure changes. This also includes bicycle and pedestrian counts done around the region by MPO and TDM staff. This data is expected to be utilized as part of the MTP, P 7.0, and Safe Streets for All Planning.

TRAVELERS AND BEHAVIORS (\$10,000)

The MPO anticipates some changes may be needed to the base-year demographic data as the 2050 Socio-Economic Projections Study proceeds, but anticipated work in this realm is likely to be more focused on travel-time data for the CMP Biennial Report, expected in Early, 2025. Additional work may be likely with AirDNA data to provide information on the use of short-term rentals in the region.

TRANSPORTATION MODELING (\$25,000)

Considerable work is anticipated under the Transportation Modeling task to incorporate travel demand model runs into the Metropolitan Transportation Planning process as well as beginning financial planning for the Metropolitan Transportation update.



Planning Process

TARGETED PLANNING (\$10,000)

The MPO will continue engagement and coordination with the clean cities coalition, Regional Resilience efforts, Strive Not to Drive, WNC Rail Committee, and Regional Freight Providers (amongst other groups.) This work task will also include the biennial update to the Congestion Management Process.

REGIONAL PLANNING (\$50,000)

The MPO will conduct the majority of tasks for the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update in coordination with a consultant for the MTP as well as a consultant for the 2050 Socio-Economic Projections Study. This will include reevaluating past CTP/MTP projects, developing goals and objectives, and prioritizing highway, bike/ped, transit, rail, and aviation projects through 2050.

SPECIAL STUDIES (\$150,000)

The MPO will continue work on managing and coordinating with various special studies throughout the region. This includes management of the 2050 MTP, 2050 Socio-Economic Projections, Safe Streets for All Action Plan, and the Woodfin-Weaverville Greenway Study. This also includes coordination with MPO-supported planning efforts, including the Patton Avenue Corridor Study, Reed Creek Greenway Study, Ridgecrest Greenway Connector Study, and others. Additional studies without MPO-financial support include bicycle and pedestrian plans for Mars Hill and Woodfin, which will include coordination with MPO staff.

COMPLETE STREETS (\$9,100)

The MPO will continue efforts with the Hellbender Regional Trail and the Regional Trail workgroup to continue coordination efforts with local governments and stakeholders around the Hellbender Regional Trail.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (\$20,000)

The MPO will maintain and amend the FY 2025 UPWP as needed as well as develop a UPWP for FY 2026. The development of the FY 2026 UPWP will include a Call for Planning Projects to enable local governments to utilize planning funds for the development of feasibility studies, corridor studies, or small area plans; or provide support for regional planning efforts.

METRICS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES (\$10,000)

The MPO will continue coordination with NCDOT on the consideration and adoption of federal performance measures and targets, including new targets for greenhouse gas emissions. This item also includes quarterly reports to NCDOT on MPO planning efforts.



Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

PRIORITIZATION (\$50,000)

The MPO anticipates the consideration of local input points for Regional Impact and Division Needs projects as part of P 7.0. This includes the scoring of projects and dissemination of information for decision-makers, stakeholders, and the public.

METROPOLITAN TIP (\$25,000)

The MPO anticipates continued amendments to the 2024-2033 TIP but additional work to be done with the planned release of the Draft 2026-2035 TIP in early, 2025, as a result of P 7.0. While the Draft TIP doesn't plan to be adopted until FY 2026, there is usually a considerable amount of local coordination that occurs after the release of a new Draft TIP.

MERGER AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT (\$25,000)

The MPO anticipates continued coordination on express designs administered during the course of P 7.0, continued meetings on I-2513, continued updates on I-4400/I-4700, and additional merger meetings as required.



Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI) and Other Regulatory Requirements

TITLE VI (\$15,000)

The MPO will update the Title VI plan with updated demographic information and policies and continue to ensure Title VI policies are being followed throughout the planning process.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (\$10,000)

The MPO will provide Environmental Justice analysis work to the MTP 2050 consultant to be utilized through the course of the planning process. Coordination will take place with the Citizens Advisory Committee to ensure the Environmental Justice analysis is robust.

MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PLANNING (\$0)

No work planned for FY 2025

PLANNING FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED (\$0)

No work planned for FY 2025

SAFETY/DRUG-CONTROL PLANNING (\$0)

No work planned for FY 2025

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (\$50,000)

The MPO plans to continue best practices for public participation as part of P 7.0 and the development of the Draft 2026-2035 TIP, the development of the 2050 MTP, amendments to the existing TIP and MTP, and any other tasks where public input is beneficial. The MPO will also continue to engage the public in routine meetings and reach out to community stakeholders and groups to promote equitable input and awareness of MPO activities.

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION (\$0)

No work planned for FY 2025

Statewide and Extra-Regional Planning (\$75,000)

MPO staff will continue to participate in a number of Statewide efforts. These include collaborations with the North Carolina Association of MPOs (NCAMPO.) NCAMPO holds quarterly meetings that are attended by FBRMPO staff as well as an annual conference, typically held in April. The FBRMPO will begin to prepare for hosting the 2026 NCAMPO Conference.

MPO staff will also participate in educational webinars and workshops hosted by FHWA, FTA, NCDOT, AMPO, and other groups that may be hosting webinars and workshops relevant to MPO work. This includes AMPO membership fees and dues.

MPO staff also plans to continue participating in a number of workgroups and committees, including the Prioritization Workgroup, various subcommittees of the workgroup, the Locally Administered Project Workgroup, and others as assigned by NCAMPO, NCDOT, and FHWA.

MPO staff will also continue coordination on a number of extra-regional efforts including coordination on the WNC Passenger Rail project and coordination with neighboring MPOs and RPOs, including the Land of Sky RPO, Southwestern RPO, Isothermal RPO, and Hickory MPO.



Management, Operations, and Program Support Administration (\$155,900)

MPO staff will continue to maintain the MPO Board, TCC, Prioritization Subcommittee, Citizens Advisory Committee, 5307 Subrecipient Workgroup, Regional Transit Operators Workgroup, and the Hellbender Trail Workgroup. This includes the maintenance of minutes, website and agenda materials, providing meeting settings, social media maintenance, internal meetings for preparations, and other meetings and coordination as required by the LPA (Land of Sky Regional Council.)

This task also includes routine travel throughout the region, administrative responsibilities, and purchase and upkeep of software necessary for MPO work, including (but not limited to) GIS, Microsoft Office, Canva, and software that assists with TIP management.



Special Studies

Special studies are initiatives that are either a part of the metropolitan planning process or assist with local aspects of the planning process to help determine the feasibility of projects or treatments or provide a more comprehensive planning perspective to a corridor or small area. The special studies planned to begin or continue through FY 2025 include:

• Study	• Managing Entity	• Year Programmed	• Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reed Creek Greenway Feasibility Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Asheville 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This study will hire a consultant to provide recommendations on the extension of the Reed Creek Greenway in North Asheville to connect the facility to NC 251 to the north and Downtown Asheville to the south. The study will include potential alignments, preliminary cost estimates, and public engagement.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2050 Socio- Economic Projections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FBRMPO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 (Started • 2024) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This study will hire a consultant to provide projections of employment, population, school-aged population, and other information needed at the TAZ-level to provide 2050 projections for the region’s Travel Demand Model.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTP/MTP Update (CRRSSA Funded) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FBRMPO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MPO will hire a consultant to develop the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) that will incorporate a CTP update into the workflow.
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• Study	• Managing Entity	• Year Programmed	• Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Streets for All Regional Action Plan (Safe Streets for All-Grant Funded) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FBRMPO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MPO will hire a consultant to develop a Regional Safety Action Plan for Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania counties to address safety policy and provide safety project recommendations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patton Avenue Corridor Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Asheville 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This study will hire a consultant to provide recommendations on long-term improvements to the Patton Avenue corridor from the Jeff Bowen Bridge to Biltmore Avenue in Downtown Asheville. • Improvements that may be considered include intersection improvements, opportunities to improve street network connectivity, forecasting future growth and land use, and bicycle and pedestrian improvements along the corridor.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ridgecrest Connector Greenway Feasibility Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town of Black Mountain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 (Started • 2024) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This study will hire a consultant to provide recommendations on the construction of a multi-use path as part of the Fonta Flora Trail from the Eastern Town Limits of Black Mountain to NC 9 in Downtown Black Mountain. The study will include potential alignments, preliminary cost estimates, and public engagement.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing Entity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year Programmed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cane Creek Greenway Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FBRMPO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This study will hire a consultant to provide recommendations towards the implementation of the planned Cane Creek Greenway corridor between the Bill Moore Community Park and the French Broad River. The study will include potential alignments, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preliminary cost estimates, and public engagement.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodfin - Weaverville Greenway Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FBRMPO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This study will hire a consultant to provide recommendations on potential alignments to connect the Woodfin Greenway project (EB-5547) to the planned Reems Creek Greenway in Weaverville. The study will look at potential alignments including along Future I-26, NC 251, and any other alignment deemed reasonable that would provide a safe, accessible route for bicyclists and pedestrians between the two identified greenway corridors. Preliminary cost estimates and public engagement will be included as well.
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• Study	• Managing Entity	• Year Programmed	• Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hellbender Implementation Plan (CRRSSA Funded) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FBRMPO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MPO will hire a consultant to develop a Hellbender Trail Implementation Plan that will provide a prioritization of trail segments, implementation strategies, and recommendations to boost awareness.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional ITS Plan (CRRSSA Funded) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FBRMPO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MPO will hire a consultant to develop a Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Plan that covers the MPO Planning Area.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel Survey/Model Upgrades (CRRSSA Funded) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FBRMPO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MPO will hire a consultant to update the region’s travel survey and provide updates to the Travel Demand Model.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing & Implementation Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land of Sky RC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regional Council will hire a consultant to review and make recommendations on MPO compensation and staffing levels.

FTA Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Activities

II-A Data and Planning Support		
II-A-I	Networks and Support Systems	<p>The City of Asheville Transit Planning Division collects and analyzes various data related to the operation and maintenance of the transit system. This includes ridership data compiled from the Automatic Passenger Counters, fare data collected from the fareboxes, performance data collected from the real-time GPS and AVL system, etc. The data is used in reporting current system functions, as well as analyze the impact of system service changes, and to plan for future service improvements to increase system-wide ridership.</p> <p>Work Product: Monthly ridership reports, on-time-performance reports, fare revenue reports, etc.</p>

II-A-2	Travelers and Behavior	The City of Asheville Transit Planning Division utilizes land use and demographic data in partnership with the MPO and the City's Planning and Urban Design department to coordinate land use and transportation decision-making on proposed new developments. In addition, the information is used in planning improvements to the transit system to ensure connectivity among ART's fixed-route service and to other regional modes of transportation.
II-A-3	Transportation Modeling	
II-B Planning Process		
II-B-1	Targeted Planning	<p>The City will be beginning a planning process for the development of a new/expanded downtown transit center - The ART Place Project. Preliminary planning activities will be performed in FY 24 and FY25 and will include an analysis of the operational needs for ingress/egress of the site, as well as a space needs analysis for passengers and staff portions of a new transit center space.</p> <p>Work Product: Deliverables will consist of public involvement and visioning for the future project, space needs diagrams and quantities and a report regarding ingress/egress and staging needs for the new transit center.</p>
II-B-2	Regional Planning	The City of Asheville Transit Planning Division continues to implement recommended service improvements in the transit master plan, as well as Implement the vision/long range plan outlined in the Multimodal Transportation Plan. Participate in the Regional Transit Operators meetings to discuss prioritization of regional transit projects. Attend TCC (Technical Coordinating Committee), and other transit advisory board meetings. In FY24 and FY25 the City of Asheville plans to conduct a Comprehensive Operational Analysis and Financial plan that will analyze base level service after 2020 service improvements and recommend operational service efficiencies and existing and
		<p>future financial investments needed to implement the phases of the transit master plan.</p> <p>Work Product: Deliverables associated with Comprehensive Operational Analysis and Financial Implementation plan will be developed by the City of Asheville.</p>
II-B-3A	Special Studies Operations	
II-B-3B	Corridor Studies Operations	
II-B-3C	Special Studies Pass-Through	
III-A Planning Work Program		

III-A-1	Planning Work Program	<p>Program Administration entails working on multiple reporting and managerial functions. Program administration includes monitoring subrecipients planning and grant activities, and reporting requirements for (drug/alcohol, NTD, FTA, etc.), work with the MPO to develop the UPWP per federal and state requirements, manage and administer the City's FTA and State grants, manage FTA compliance program, monitor and oversee the operations and maintenance contracts for the fixed-route and paratransit services. In FY25, the City of Asheville, as the designated recipient will be conducting routine oversight and monitoring meetings of the City of Asheville subrecipients.</p> <p>Work Products: Routine monitoring reviews of the subrecipients. Quarterly and Annual FTA Reports, Complete annual NTD reporting; work on Subrecipient Agreements and reports; Drug and Alcohol Reports, etc.</p>
III-A-2	Metrics and Performance Measures	
III-B Transportation Improvement Program		
III-B-1	Prioritization	
III-B-2	Metropolitan TIP	
III-B-3	Merger/Project Development	
III-C Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI) and Other Regulatory Requirements		
III-C-1	Title VI Compliance	<p>The City will continue conducting Title VI analysis for any future route and/or fare changes and will monitor Title VI programs and plans of the region's subrecipients.</p> <p>Work Product: FY 23-25 City of Asheville Title VI Plan Update.</p>
III-C-2	Environmental Justice	
III-C-3	Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Planning	<p>The FTA Region IV Office approved the City and urbanized area subrecipient FY 23-25 DBE Goals in August 2022, which includes closely coordinating with the City's Small and Minority-Owned Business Program and working with the City's subrecipients and evaluating individual transit projects and procurements to ensure adherence to the regions DBE Goals and federal DBE requirements.</p>

		Work Product: Quarterly DBE reports for FTA.
III-C-4	Planning for Elderly	
III-C-5	Safety/Drug Control Planning	The City and subrecipients have approved Public Transportation Safety Plans. Required meetings and monitoring of performance measures will take place. Monitoring of Drug and alcohol reporting will also take place. Work Product: PTSP Committee meetings notes, performance measures, reports and submissions for FTA.
III-C-6	Public Involvement	The City will be conducting public involvement as part of the Art Place Project planning and visioning phase and also for the City's Comprehensive Operational Analysis. n that will be prepared by the City with Buncombe County in FY 24 and FY 25. Work Product: Public meetings and survey results.
III-C-7	Private Sector Participation	
III-D Statewide and Extra-Regional Planning		
III-D	Statewide and Extra-Regional Planning	
III-E Management and Operations		
III-E	Management, Operations, Program Support Administration	

		MPO Planning and Admin - PL104			Safe and Accountable Transportation Options PL 104 Set-Aside (Program Code Y410)			STBGDA (Flexed to PL)		CRRSA		Total	
FTA CODE	TASK CODE	TASK DESCRIPTION	Local 20%	Federal 80%	TOTAL	Local 20%	Total	Federal 100%	Local	Federal	Total		
	II-A	Data and Planning Support	\$ 14,000	\$56,000	\$ 70,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,000	\$56,000	\$ 70,000		
44.24.00	II-A-1	Networks and Support Systems	\$ 2,000	\$8,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$8,000	\$ 10,000		
44.23.01	II-A-2	Travelers and Behavior	\$ 2,000	\$8,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$8,000	\$ 10,000		
44.23.02	II-A-3	Transportation Modeling	\$ 10,000	\$40,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$40,000	\$ 50,000		
	II-B	Planning Process	\$ 42,000	\$ 168,000	\$ 210,000	\$ 9,100	\$ 15,200	\$ 60,800	\$ 57,200	\$228,800	\$ 286,000		
44.23.02	II-B-1	Targeted Planning	\$ 2,000	\$8,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$8,000	\$ 10,000		
44.22.00	II-B-2A	Regional Planning	\$ 10,000	\$40,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$40,000	\$ 50,000		
44.22.00	II-B-2B	Complete Streets Planning				\$ 9,100	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
44.27.00	II-B-3A	Special Studies Operations	\$ 30,000	\$120,000	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$120,000	\$ 150,000		
44.27.00	II-B-3B	TDM Coordination				\$ 15,200	\$60,800	\$ 76,000	\$ 15,200	\$60,800	\$ 76,000		
	III-A	Planning Work Program	\$ 6,000	\$24,000	\$ 30,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,000	\$24,000	\$ 30,000		
44.23.02	III-A-1	Planning Work Program	\$ 4,000	\$16,000	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,000	\$16,000	\$ 20,000		
44.24.00	III-A-2	Metrics and Performance Measures	\$ 2,000	\$8,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$8,000	\$ 10,000		
	III-B	Transp. Improvement Plan	\$ 20,000	\$80,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$80,000	\$ 100,000		
44.25.00	III-B-1	Prioritization	\$ 10,000	\$40,000	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$40,000	\$ 50,000		
44.25.00	III-B-2	Metropolitan TIP	\$ 5,000	\$20,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$20,000	\$ 25,000		
44.25.00	III-B-3	Merger/Project Development	\$ 5,000	\$20,000	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$20,000	\$ 25,000		
	III-C	Cvl Rgts. Cmp./Otr. Reg. Reqs.	\$ 12,125	\$48,500	\$ 60,625	\$ -	\$11,500	\$ 14,375	\$ 15,000	\$60,000	\$ 75,000		
44.27.00	III-C-1	Title VI Compliance	\$ 3,000	\$12,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000	\$12,000	\$ 15,000		
44.27.00	III-C-2	Environmental Justice	\$ 2,000	\$8,000	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$8,000	\$ 10,000		
44.27.00	III-C-3	Minority Business Enterprise Planning	\$ -	\$0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0	\$ -		
44.27.00	III-C-4	Planning for the Elderly	\$ -	\$0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0	\$ -		
44.27.00	III-C-5	Safety/Drug Control Planning	\$ -	\$0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0	\$ -		
44.27.00	III-C-6	Public Involvement	\$ 7,125	\$28,500	\$ 35,625	\$ -	\$11,500	\$ 14,375	\$ 10,000	\$40,000	\$ 50,000		
44.27.00	III-C-7	Private Sector Participation	\$ -	\$0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0	\$ -		
	III-D	Statewide & Extra-Regional Planning	\$ -	\$0	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$40,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 10,000	\$40,000	\$ 50,000		
44.27.00	III-D-1	Statewide & Extra-Regional Planning	\$ -	\$0	\$ -	\$10,000	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$ 10,000	\$40,000	\$ 50,000		
	III-E	Management Ops, Program Suppt Admin	\$ -	\$0	\$ -	\$ 31,180	\$124,720	\$ 155,900	\$ 31,180	\$124,720	\$ 155,900		
44.27.00		Management Operations	\$ -	\$0	\$ -	\$ 31,180	\$124,720	\$ 155,900	\$ 31,180	\$124,720	\$ 155,900		
44.27.00		Program Support Administration	\$ -	\$0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0	\$ -		
		TOTALS	\$94,125	\$376,500	\$ 470,625	\$ 9,100	\$ 59,255	\$237,020	\$ 296,275	\$ 153,380	\$613,520	\$ 766,900	
FY Acct	Project		MPO Planning & Admin- PL 104			STBGDA (Flexed to PL)			CRRSA		Total		

Discussion occurred around the 5037 funds and where they fit in with the UPWP and if we can add amendments after we recommend adoption of this item.

Vicki Eastland moved to recommend to the Board to approve the FY 2025 UPWP. Jessica Morriss seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

5A. P 7.0 Public Input Survey:

The MPO, along with guidance from the Land of Sky RPO and NCDOT, has developed a survey aimed at gauging the public's sentiment on projects that were submitted in this round of SPOT (SPOT 7.0). The survey includes all the highway, bike/ped, transit, and rail projects that were submitted, as well as carryover projects from previous rounds of SPOT. Survey takers will be able to see project submittals on a map, and using a sliding scale to indicate how supportive they are of each project. Projects are categorized by county and by mode. All questions are optional, so survey takers may provide input on as many or as few projects as they wish. **The results of the survey will be presented to the MPO's and RPO's Boards and will be used to inform the application of Local Input Points to projects that are a priority to the region.**

Survey Timeline:

Late March	Last Week of May	June
Survey Opens	Survey Closes	Final Report of Results Presented to TCC, Board, and Committees

Information Only.

Discussion about P7 and cost increases and funding availability.

5B. French Broad River MPO Certification Review:

MPOs are required to go through a certification review process every four years to ensure that federal requirements are being followed for the metropolitan planning process. FHWA and FTA staff conducted a certification review of the French Broad River MPO in late, 2023 with a public meeting and on-site review held in December, 2023.

Suzette Morales with FHWA will provide an overview of the certification review, also available on the website here: <https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2024-FBRMPO-Certification-Final-Report-.pdf>

Information Only.

5C. Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Update:

Ian Baille with the Clean Vehicles Coalition will provide an update on some of the recent developments with electric vehicle infrastructure in our region.

Information Only.

Discussion occurred around FHWA helping NCDOT in regard to the NEVI. Sample ordinances to the planning and zoning, and if there were any examples for encourage the installation of stations. Discussion around style of charger plug standards.

Division Project Updates:

Division 13 : Hannah Smith presented. https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Div_13_March_Updates.pdf

Division 14 : Steve Williams presented https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Div14_March_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>

Committee & Workgroup Updates

Committee & Workgroup Updates

Prioritization Subcommittee— met on March 6th; next meeting April 3rd.

-Draft Memorandum of Understanding

-P 7.0 Local Input Point Methodology

Transit Operators’ Workgroup— last met on September 18th; next meeting TBD Points of Business/Discussion:

- **September 18th Agenda:**
 - 5307 funding updates
 - NCDOT Regional Transit Study Update
 - Updates from Agencies

5307 Subrecipient Workgroup- met on January 23rd; plans to meet in April Points of Business/Discussion:

- TIP/STIP Updates Needed
- FY 2025 UPWP
- City of Asheville hired Hendrickson Consulting to assist with grant management

Hellbender Trail Stakeholder Group/Regional Trail Forum Updates- met on November 30th; next meeting 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	Underway
CTP/MTP Update	FBRMPO	2024	Consultant <u>Selected</u> ; Contracting in Progress
Safe Streets for All Regional Action Plan	FBRMPO	2024	Underway
Patton Avenue Corridor Study	City of Asheville	2023	Underway
Ridgecrest Connector Greenway Feasibility Study	Town of Black Mountain	2023	Underway
Cane Creek Greenway Study	Town of Fletcher	2024	Not Started
Woodfin-Weaverville Greenway Study	Town of Woodfin	2024	Consultant Procurement Underway
Buncombe County Multimodal Master Plan	Buncombe County	2024	Interlocal Agreement Underway
Hellbender Implementation Plan	FBRMPO	2024	Not Started
Regional ITS Plan	FBRMPO	2024	Not Started
Travel Survey/Model Upgrades	FBRMPO	2024	Not Started
Staffing & Compensation Study	LOSRC	2024	Not Started

Legislative Updates given.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Autumn Radcliff opened the floor for public comment. No comment was heard.

ADJOURNMENT

Autumn Radcliff adjourned the meeting at 12:42 PM as there was no further business.