

**French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
 Minutes from the Governing Board Meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

**Attendance:**

In-Person and Remote via the Zoom Platform:

Anthony Sutton	Town of Waynesville
Jennifer Hensley	City of Hendersonville
Steve Williams	NCDOT Div 14
George Banta	Town of Laurel Park
Kim Roney	City of Asheville
Daniel Sellers	NCDOT TPD
Amanda Edwards	Buncombe County
Larry Harris	Urban Transit
Hannah Smith	NCDOT Div 13
Anne Coletta	Village of Flat Rock
Catherine Cordell	Town of Weaverville
George Banta	Town of Laurel Park
Kim Roney	City of Asheville
Stephen Sparks	NCDOT
Jim McAllister	Town of Woodfin
Charles McGrady	BOT Div 14
Esther Manheimer	City of Asheville
Kevin Ensley	Haywood County
Tom Widmer	Town of Montreat
Jim Player	Town of Fletcher
Archie Pertiller	Town of Black Mountain
Stuart Bass	Town of Clyde
Mike Eveland	Town of Montreat
Rebecca McCall	Henderson County
Troy Wilson	NCDOT
Suzette Morales	FHWA
Angela Reece	Town of Black Mountain

Members without Representation present:

Town of Biltmore Forest
BOT 13
Town of Canton
Rural Transit
Town of Maggie Valley
Town of Mills River
Madison County
Town of Mars Hill

Additional Attendees:

Tristan Winkler (FBRMPO)      Hannah Bagli (FBRMPO)      Logan DiGiacomo (FBRMPO)  
Jon Barsanti (FBRMPO)      Asha Rado (LOSRC, Minutes)      Ada Sloop (FBRMPO)  
Christopher Todd(Public)      Ian Baille (LOSRC, Clean Vehicles Coalition)

**WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & ROLL CALL**

**Anthony Sutton called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM and welcomed everyone. He read the Ethics Statement and inquired if there were any conflicts of interest to note for today’s meeting. No conflicts were noted with the business before the body.**

Quorum was announced to conduct the business of the Board.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Anthony Sutton opened the floor for public comment. No comments were heard.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**February 2024 Board Minutes:** [https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2024\\_2\\_15\\_MPO.DRAFT\\_Board\\_Minutes.pdf](https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2024_2_15_MPO.DRAFT_Board_Minutes.pdf)

**3B. Modification to the 2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Program (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	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total PLANNING</b>		-	<b>\$390,000</b>	<b>\$296,000</b>	<b>\$313,000</b>	<b>\$313,000</b>	<b>\$313,000</b>	<b>\$313,000</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Programmed</b>		-	<b>\$390,000</b>	<b>\$296,000</b>	<b>\$313,000</b>	<b>\$313,000</b>	<b>\$313,000</b>	<b>\$313,000</b>	-	-	-	-	-

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	<p><b>Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (Direct Attributable)</b></p> <p>- Decrease funds in FY 2025 in PLN from \$290,000 to \$237,000</p> <p><b>Local</b></p> <p>- Decrease funds in FY 2025 in PLN from \$63,000 to \$59,000</p>
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 Citizens' Advisory Committee (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 long-range planning having worked as a Sustainable Transportation Consultant in Maine.

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## 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 [mipo@landofsky.org](mailto:mipo@landofsky.org) or mail it to:

French Broad River MPO  
339 New Leicester Highway, Suite 140  
Asheville, NC 28808



### 3D. Resolution of Support- Black Mountain Multimodal Planning Grant Application

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 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 2024

ATTEST:

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Anthony Sutton, FBRMPO Board Chair

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Tristan Winkler, Director French Broad River MPO

***Jim Player moved to approve the consent agenda including the February 2024 Meeting Minutes, the Modifications to the 2024-2033 TIP, the CAC application, the Resolution of Support for the Town of Black Mountain Multimodal Planning Grant Application and the TAC agenda. Larry Harris 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.



(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

• <b>Madison County</b>	• 1.35%	• \$ 1,888.54
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## Key Initiatives

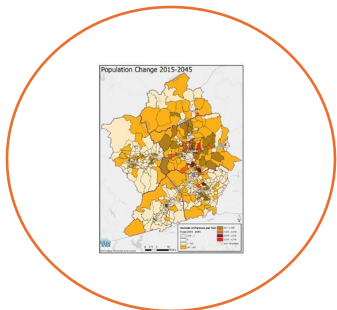
- **2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)**
- The MTP is the guiding document for transportation planning in the French Broad River MPO Planning Area. The MTP develops goals, objectives, and outlines key
- projects to accommodate growth and other challenges expected to face the region over the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

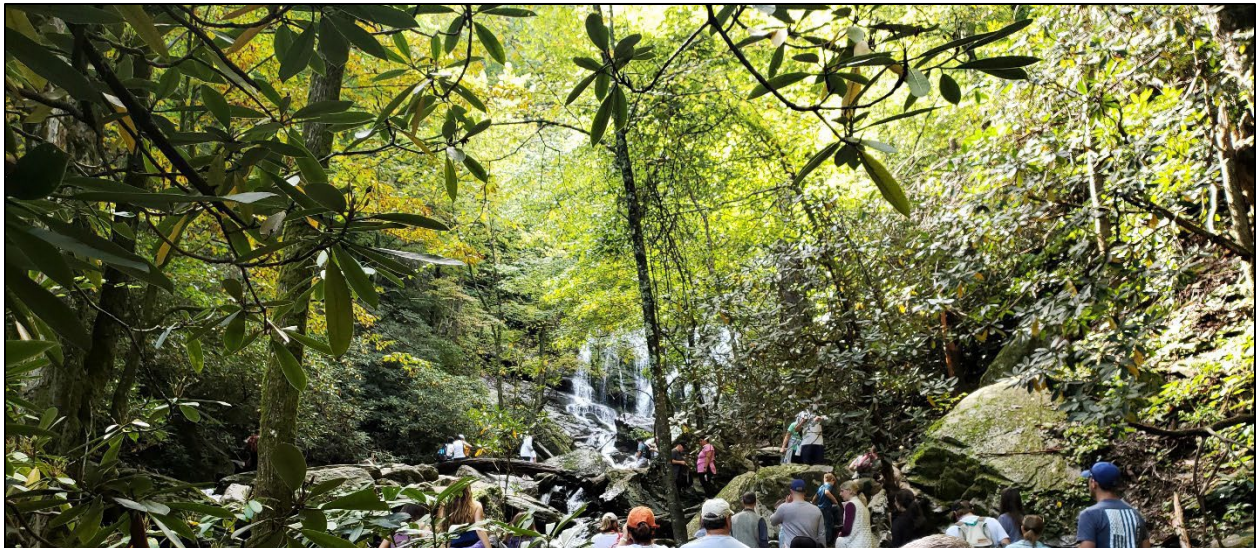
## Statewide and Extra-Regional Planning (\$75,000)

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:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Study</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Managing Entity</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Year Programmed</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Description</b></li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reed Creek Greenway Feasibility Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of Asheville</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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,               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• and public engagement.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2050 Socio-Economic Projections</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FBRMPO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023 (Started</li> <li>• 2024)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• projections for the region’s Travel Demand Model.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CTP/MTP Update (CRRSSA Funded)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FBRMPO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MPO will hire a consultant to develop the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) that will incorporate a CTP update into the workflow.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managing Entity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year Programmed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Description</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe Streets for All Regional Action Plan (Safe Streets for All-Grant Funded)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FBRMPO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patton Avenue Corridor Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City of Asheville</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2023</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ridgecrest Connector Greenway Feasibility Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Town of Black Mountain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2023 (Started 2024)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managing Entity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Year Programmed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Description</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cane Creek Greenway Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FBRMPO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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"> <li>preliminary cost estimates, and public engagement.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Woodfin-Weaverville Greenway Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FBRMPO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>

• Study	• Managing Entity	• Year Programmed	• Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hellbender Implementation Plan (CRRSSA</li> <li>• Funded)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FBRMPO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> <li>• awareness.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional ITS Plan (CRRSSA</li> <li>• Funded)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FBRMPO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MPO will hire a consultant to develop a Regional Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Plan that covers the MPO</li> <li>• Planning Area.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel Survey/Model Upgrades (CRRSSA</li> <li>• Funded)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FBRMPO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MPO will hire a consultant to update the region’s travel survey and provide updates to the Travel</li> <li>• Demand Model.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staffing &amp; Implementation Study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land of Sky RC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2024</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Regional Council will hire a consultant to review and make recommendations on MPO compensation and</li> <li>• staffing levels.</li> </ul>

## FTA Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning Activities

II-A Data and Planning Support		
II-A-I	<b>Networks and Support Systems</b>	<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><b>Work Product:</b> Monthly ridership reports, on-time-performance reports, fare revenue reports, etc.</p>

II-A-2	<b>Travelers and Behavior</b>	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	<b>Transportation Modeling</b>	
<b>II-B Planning Process</b>		
II-B-1	<b>Targeted Planning</b>	<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><b>Work Product:</b> 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	<b>Regional Planning</b>	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><b>Work Product:</b> Deliverables associated with Comprehensive Operational Analysis and Financial Implementation plan will be developed by the City of Asheville.</p>
II-B-3A	<b>Special Studies Operations</b>	
II-B-3B	<b>Corridor Studies Operations</b>	
II-B-3C	<b>Special Studies Pass-Through</b>	
<b>III-A Planning Work Program</b>		

III-A-1	<b>Planning Work Program</b>	<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><b>Work Products:</b> 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	<b>Metrics and Performance Measures</b>	
<b>III-B Transportation Improvement Program</b>		
III-B-1	<b>Prioritization</b>	
III-B-2	<b>Metropolitan TIP</b>	
III-B-3	<b>Merger/Project Development</b>	
<b>III-C Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI) and Other Regulatory Requirements</b>		
III-C-1	<b>Title VI Compliance</b>	<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><b>Work Product:</b> FY 23-25 City of Asheville Title VI Plan Update.</p>
III-C-2	<b>Environmental Justice</b>	
III-C-3	<b>Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Planning</b>	<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>
		<b>Work Product:</b> Quarterly DBE reports for FTA.
III-C-4	<b>Planning for Elderly</b>	
III-C-5	<b>Safety/Drug Control Planning</b>	<p>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.</p> <p><b>Work Product:</b> PTSP Committee meetings notes, performance measures, reports and submissions for FTA.</p>

<b>III-C-6</b>	<b>Public Involvement</b>	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. <b>Work Product:</b> Public meetings and survey results.
<b>III-C-7</b>	<b>Private Sector Participation</b>	
<b>III-D Statewide and Extra-Regional Planning</b>		
<b>III-D</b>	<b>Statewide and Extra-Regional Planning</b>	
<b>III-E Management and Operations</b>		
<b>III-E</b>	<b>Management, Operations, Program Support Administration</b>	

		MPO Planning and Admin - PL104			Safe and Accountable Transportation Options PL 104 Set-Aside (Program Code Y410)			STBGDA (Flexed to PL)		CRRSSA		Total	
FTA CODE	TASK CODE	TASK DESCRIPTION	Local 20%	Federal 80%	TOTAL	Local 20%	Total	Federal 100%	Local	Federal	Total		
	<b>II-A</b>	<b>Data and Planning Support</b>	\$ 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		
	<b>II-B</b>	<b>Planning Process</b>	\$ 42,000	\$ 168,000	\$ 210,000	\$ 9,100	\$ 15,200	\$ 60,800	\$ 76,000	\$ -	\$ 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	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 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	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 76,000		
	<b>III-A</b>	<b>Planning Work Program</b>	\$ 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		
	<b>III-B</b>	<b>Transp. Improvement Plan</b>	\$ 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		
	<b>III-C</b>	<b>Cvl Rgts. Cmp./Otr .Reg. Reqs.</b>	\$ 12,125	\$48,500	\$ 60,625	\$ -	\$11,500	\$ 14,375	\$ -	\$15,000	\$ 60,000		
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	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
44.27.00	III-C-4	Planning for the Elderly	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
44.27.00	III-C-5	Safety/Drug Control Planning	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
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	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
	<b>III-D</b>	<b>Statewide &amp; Extra-Regional Planning</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$40,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 10,000	\$40,000	\$ 50,000		
44.27.00	III-D-1	Statewide & Extra-Regional Planning	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$10,000	\$40,000	\$50,000	\$ 10,000	\$40,000	\$ 50,000		
	<b>III-E</b>	<b>Management Ops, Program Suppt Admin</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,180	\$124,720	\$ 155,900	\$ 31,180	\$124,720	\$ 155,900		
44.27.00		Management Operations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,180	\$124,720	\$ 155,900	\$ 31,180	\$124,720	\$ 155,900		
44.27.00		Program Support Administration	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
	<b>TOTALS</b>		\$94,125	\$376,500	\$ 470,625	\$ 9,100	\$ 59,255	\$237,020	\$ 296,275	\$ 153,380	\$613,520		

FTA Code

MPO Planning & Admin- PL 104

STBGDA (Flexed to PL)

CRRSSA

Total

**2024**  
**French Broad River**  
**Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**  
**Self-Certification Process**

339 New Leicester Highway, Suite 140 • Asheville, NC 28806 • [www.fbrmpo.org](http://www.fbrmpo.org)  
 Long-Range Transportation Plan • Transportation Improvement Program  
 Highway Planning • Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning • Transit Planning • Air Quality  
 Public Involvement

## Introduction

CFR 450.336 requires the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to annually certify to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) that their planning processes are addressing the major issues facing the urban area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements of:

- Section 134 of Title 23 U.S.C., section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. app. 1607); and
- Section 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506 (c) and (d)); and
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title VI assurance executed by each state under 23 U.S.C. 324 and 29 U.S.C. 794; and
- Section 103 (b) of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) (Public Law 102-240) regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises (DBE) in the FHWA and FTA funded planning projects; and
- The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) (Public Law 101-136) 104 Stat. 327, as amended and U.S. DOT regulations “Transportation for Individuals with Disabilities” (49 CFR parts 27, 37, and 38).

In addition, the following checklist was provided by NCDOT to help guide the French Broad River MPO as they review their processes and programs for self-certification. There are several transportation acronyms that have been defined above and several more that will be used frequently below including: CFR – Code of Federal Regulations; U.S.C. – United States Code; MTP – Metropolitan Transportation Plan; CMP – Congestion Management Process/Plan; TIP – Transportation Improvement Program; TMA – Transportation Management Area; and, EO – Executive Order.

The MPO’s responses are in **bold**.

## 2024 French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Self-Certification Process

### Checklist

1. Is the MPO properly designated by agreement between the Governor and 75% of the urbanized area, including the central city, and in accordance in procedures set forth in state and local law (if applicable)? [23 U.S.C. 134 (b); 49 U.S.C. 5303 (c); 23 CFR 450.306 (a)]

**Response: Yes.**

2. Does the policy board include elected officials, major modes of transportation providers and appropriate state officials? [23 U.S.C. 134 (b); 49 U. S. C. 5303 (c) 23 CFR 450.306 (i)]

**Response: Yes, the French Broad River MPO Governing Board (MPO policy**



board) is primarily comprised of elected officials. However, the Board amended the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to include Urban and Rural Transit Representatives as formal members of the Board. The Urban and Rural Transit Board members are not an elected official.

3. Does the MPO boundary encompass the existing urbanized area and the contiguous area expected to become urbanized within the next 20 year forecast period? [23 U.S.C. 134 (c), 49 U.S.C. 5303 (d); 23 CFR 450.308 (a)]

**Response: Yes, the French Broad River MPO has recently modified its MPO boundary to encompass a portion of the recently defined urbanized area (UZA) boundary, as designated by the 2020 United States Census. The MPO has expanded in some places in Buncombe and Haywood counties and contracted in some places in Buncombe, Haywood, Madison, and is now fully removed from Transylvania County.**

**The Memorandum of Understanding is currently being updated to account for those boundary changes.**

4. Is there a currently adopted (Unified) Planning Work Program (U/PWP)? 23 CFR 450.314

**Response: Yes.**

a. Is there an adopted prospectus? **Response: Yes.**

b. Are tasks and products clearly outlined? **Response: Yes.**

c. Is the UPWP consistent with the MTP? **Response: Yes, in that work tasks in the UPWP are completed that will aid the development and maintenance of the MTP.**

d. Is the work identified in the UPWP completed in a timely fashion?

**Response: Yes.**

5. Does the urban area have a valid transportation planning process? 23 U.S.C. 134; 23 CFR 450

**Response: Yes. The recent federal certification review indicated that result.**

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**Self-Certification Process**

- a. Is the transportation planning process continuous, cooperative, and comprehensive?  
**Response: Yes.**
- b. Is there a valid MTP? **Response: Yes.**
- c. Did the MTP have at least a 20 year horizon at the time of its adoption?  
**Response: Yes.**
- d. Does it address the 10 planning factors? **Response: Yes.**
- e. Does it cover all modes of applicable to the area? **Response: Yes.**
- f. Is it financially constrained? **Response: Yes.**
- g. Does it include funding for the maintenance and operation of the system?  
**Response: Yes.**
- h. Does it conform to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) if applicable?  
**Response: Yes.**
- i. Is it updated/reevaluated in a timely fashion (at least every 4 or 5 years)?  
**Response: Yes. It was updated and approved by the TAC in November of 2020.**
6. Is there a valid TIP? 23 CFR 450.324, 326, 328, 332 **Response: Yes.**
- a. Is it consistent with the MTP? **Response: Yes.**
- b. Is it fiscally constrained? **Response: Yes, see 5f above.**
- c. Is it developed cooperatively with the state and local transit operators?  
**Response: Yes.**
- d. Is it updated at least every 4 years and adopted by the MPO and Governor?  
**Response: Yes.**
7. Does the urban area have a Congestion Management Process (CMP)? (TMA only)  
23 CFR 450.320 **Response: Yes.**
- a. Is it consistent with the MTP? **Response: Yes.**
- b. Was it used for the development of the TIP? **Response: Yes.**
- c. Is it monitored and reevaluated to meet the needs of the area? **Response: Yes.**
8. Does the urban area have a process for including environmental mitigation discussions in the planning process? **Response: Yes.**
- a. How? **Response: Yes, in consultation with NCDOT.**
- b. Why not? **Response: N/A.**

**2024**  
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9. Does the planning process meet the following requirements:
- a. 23 U.S.C. 134, 49 U.S.C. 5303, and this subpart? **Response: Yes**
  - b. In nonattainment and maintenance areas, sections 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506 (c) and (d)) and 40 CFR part 93 **Response: The MPO Planning Area does not have nonattainment or maintenance areas.**
  - c. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2000d-1) and 49 CFR part 21 **Response: Yes**
  - d. 49 U.S.C. 5332, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age in employment or business opportunity **Response: Yes**
  - e. The appropriate sections of the current federal transportation funding bill regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in USDOT funded projects **Response: Yes**
  - f. 23 CFR part 230, regarding the implementation of an equal employment opportunity program on Federal and Federal-aid highway construction contracts; **Response: Yes**
  - g. The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and 49 CFR parts 27, 37, and 38 **Response: Yes**
  - h. The Older Americans Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 6101), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance; **Response: Yes**
  - i. Section 324 of title 23 U.S.C. regarding the prohibition of discrimination based on gender **Response: Yes**
  - j. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) and 49 CFR part 27 regarding discrimination against individuals with disabilities **Response: Yes**
  - k. All other applicable provisions of Federal law. (e.g. Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations) **Response: Yes**
10. Does the urban area have an adopted Public Involvement Plan (PIP)/Public Participation Plan? 23 CRR 450.316 (b)(1) **Response: Yes.**
- a. Did the public participate in the development of the PIP? **Response: Yes.**
  - b. Was the PIP made available for public review for at least 45-days prior to adoption? **Response: Yes.**
  - c. Is adequate notice provided for public meetings? **Response: Yes.**
  - d. Are meetings held at convenient times and at accessible locations? **Response: Yes.**
  - e. Is the public given an opportunity to provide oral and/or written comments on the planning process? **Response: Yes.**
  - f. Is the PIP periodically reviewed and updated to ensure its effectiveness? **Response: Yes, it was updated in January 2021.**
  - g. Are plans/program documents available in an electronic format, i.e. MPO website?

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**Response: Yes.**

11. Does the area have a process for including environmental, state, other transportation, historic, local land use and economic development agencies in the planning process? (23 CFR 450.324(h)) **Response: Yes.**

a. How? **Response: The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) has many of these agencies on the committee and participating in the planning process.**

b. Why not? **Response: N/A.**

No Discussion occurred.

***Larry Harris moved to approve the FY2025 UPWP and Self-Certification of the Metropolitan Planning Process. Kim Roney seconded, and the motion passed upon a roll call vote.***

## 5A. P7 Public Survey

### What's P 7.0 Again?

P 7.0 is the 7th iteration of the Strategic Prioritization Process (SPOT), the data-driven process used in North Carolina to prioritize transportation projects. The final product of the SPOT process is the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), which identifies projects that will be funded during the following ten year period. P 7.0 will determine what new projects are funded in the 2026-2035 STIP.

### P 7.0 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 survey will be promoted in several different ways including digital advertisements, social media posts, flyers distributed around the region, disposable coasters distributed throughout our region, newsletters/email lists, and amplification from our TCC & Board members. **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.**

### How Will People Be Made Aware of the Survey?

The survey will be promoted in several ways including digital advertising, social media posts, flyers & disposable coasters with scannable QR codes distributed throughout the region, and through any relevant MPO & RPO email lists. **We will also lean on TCC & Board members to amplify the survey in their respective jurisdictions.**

### 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.

## **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://frenchbroadrivempo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2024-FBRMPO-Certification-Final-Report-.pdf>

Information Only.

Discussion occurred around EJ populations and if they were looked at in general for our region or at specific neighborhoods.

## **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 cost of chargers.

## **6A. Division Project Updates**

Division 13: [https://frenchbroadrivempo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Div\\_13\\_March\\_Updates.pdf](https://frenchbroadrivempo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Div_13_March_Updates.pdf)

Division 14: [https://frenchbroadrivempo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Div14\\_March\\_Updates.pdf](https://frenchbroadrivempo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Div14_March_Updates.pdf)

**6B. TPD Updates** given by Daniel Sellers

**6C. FHWA/FTA Updates** given by Suzette Morales

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

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

**6D. NCDOT IMD Updates:**

**6E. Committee & Workgroup Updates**

**Prioritization Subcommittee**-met on March 6<sup>th</sup>; next meeting April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

-Draft Memorandum of Understanding

-P 7.0 Local Input Point Methodology

**Transit Operators' Workgroup**- last met on September 18<sup>th</sup>; next meeting TBD Points of Business/Discussion:

- **September 18<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup>; next meeting TBD.

**MPO Studies Status**

**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:**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Anthony Sutton opened the floor again for public comment. No comments were heard.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Anthony Sutton adjourned the meeting at 2:46PM as there was no further business before the Board.