



**French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
Minutes from the TCC Hybrid Meeting on June 13th, 2024

**Minutes**

**ATTENDANCE:**

In-person and remote via Zoom:

Steve Williams	NCDOT Division 14
Troy Wilson	NCDOT Division 14
Suzette Morales	FHWA
Janna Bianculli	Apple Country Transit
Mike Malecek	Town of Mills River
Vicki Eastland	Land of Sky RPO
William High (Vice-Chair)	Buncombe County
Stephen Sparks	NCDOT Div 13
Sam Cullen	Town of Maggie Valley
Steve Cannon	NCDOT Div 13
Ricky Hurley	Town of Woodfin
Eric Rufa	Town of Fletcher
Brendan Merithew	NCDOT Division 13
Nastasha Earl-Young	NCDOT
Chloe Donohoe	Buncombe Co Transit
Ada Sloop	FBRMPO
Erica Anderson	LOSRC
Grayson Molinari	NCDOT, Intern
Kory Price	NCDOT, Intern
Jessica Morriss	City of Asheville
Daniel Sellers	NCDOT TPD
Jodie Ferguson	Haywood County
Chris Medlin	NCDOT Div 13
Ricky Hurley	Woodfin
Dominique Boyd	NCDOT
Ashley Featherstone	WNC Air Quality

**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
Town of Black Mountain
Town of Canton
Town of Waynesville
Hendersonville
Henderson County
Haywood Transit
Biltmore Forest

Additional Attendees:

Tristan Winkler  
Asha Rado(Minutes)

Jon Barsanti  
TOC Planner

Hannah Bagli

### **WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING**

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

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

William High opened the floor for public comment. None was heard.

### **Consent Agenda:**

#### **3A: May 2024 Meeting Minutes:**

[https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024\\_05-09\\_DRAFT.MPO\\_TCC\\_Minutes.pdf](https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024_05-09_DRAFT.MPO_TCC_Minutes.pdf)

#### **3B. Amendments to the FY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program**

##### **What is the Unified Planning Work Program (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 (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.

##### **Proposed Amendments:**

- Remove the Woodfin-Weaverville Greenway Study from FY 2024 (to be moved to FY 2025)
- Remove the Buncombe County Pedestrian Plan from FY 2024 (to be moved to FY 2025)
- Remove the Staffing & Compensation Study from FY 2024 (to be moved to FY 2025)

To note: projects that do not have one paid invoice (an invoice paid by the MPO) by the end of the fiscal year will have to be moved to the next fiscal year which can cause delays if not done ahead of time.

### **3C: Amendments to the FY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program**

#### **What is the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)?**

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This includes line items of work for MPO staff, planning work planned by the region's designated recipient for FTA 5303 Metropolitan Planning Funds (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.

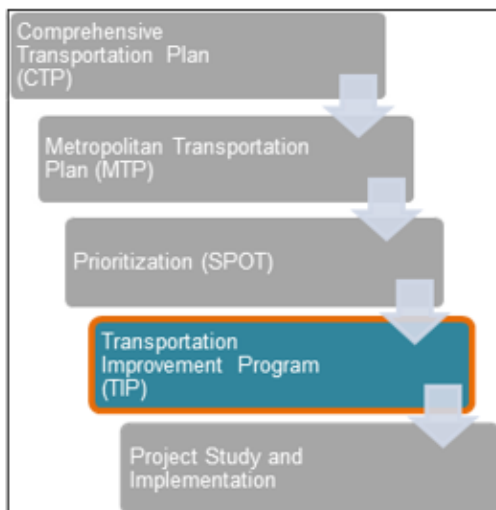
Proposed Amendments:

- Add the Woodfin-Weaverville Greenway Study to FY 2025
- Add the Buncombe County Pedestrian Plan from FY 2025
- Add the Staffing & Compensation Study from FY 2025

***Vicki Eastland moved to accept the consent agenda including the minutes from the May 2024 meeting, the amendments to the FY2024 UPWP and the amendments to the FY2025 UPWP. Steve Williams seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.***

#### **Business:**

### **4A. Amendments to the 2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Plan:**



#### **What is the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)?**

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is our region's document that reflects planned transportation investments over a ten-year period. The TIP describes each project, a schedule for implementation, funding sources, and estimated costs. Current items are for modification of existing projects.

#### **Amendments Summary**

- Rename the North RAD Greenway to the Wilma Dykeman Greenway Extension
- Program 5310 Projects awarded at the May Board meeting into the TIP
- Program JARC Projects awarded at the May Board meeting into the TIP

\*See June Agenda for tables. ([https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024\\_06\\_13\\_TCC-Agenda-Packet.pdf](https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024_06_13_TCC-Agenda-Packet.pdf))

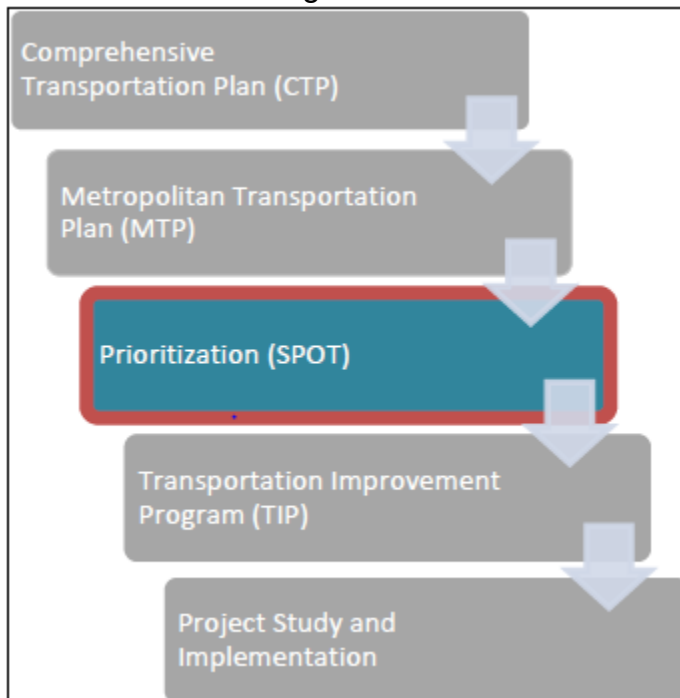
No discussion occurred.

**Steve Williams moved to recommend to the board the amendments to the 2024-2033 TIP. Vicki Eastland seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.**

#### **4. P 7-Draft Local Input Point Assignment for Regional Impact Projects**

##### **Very Brief Overview**

The Prioritization Process (AKA SPOT, AKA P 7) is the process in North Carolina that helps determine the majority of transportation improvements across the State. The process is dictated by the Strategic Highway Investments Act (STI) of 2012 and is generally designed to be a data-driven, transparent process to determine what transportation projects are funded or not. MPOs are engaged throughout the process to submit projects for consideration (along with Divisions and RPOs) as well as local input points that are used to boost the scores of projects competing for Regional Impact or Division Needs funding.

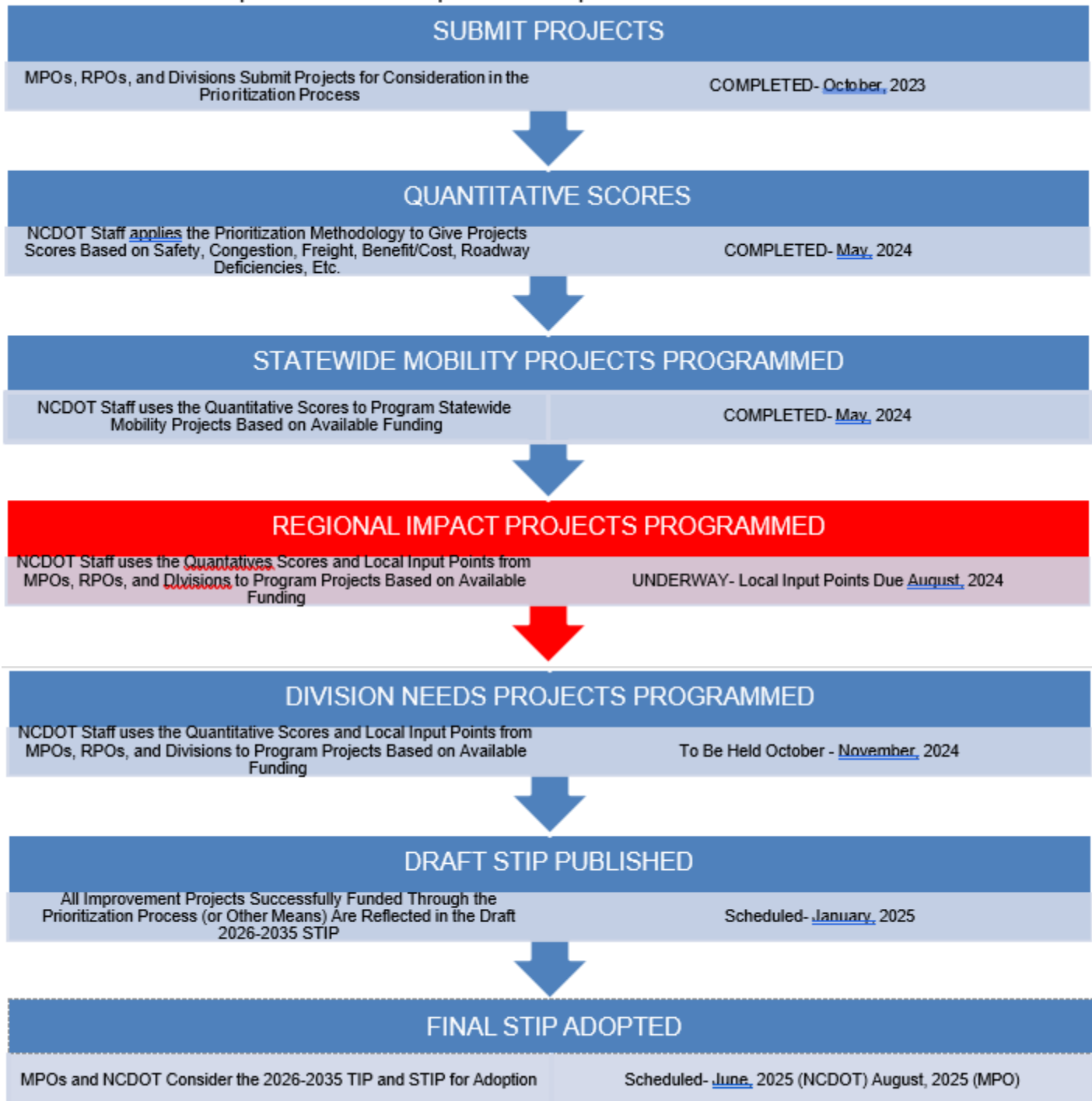


##### **Action Items for Today**

- Overview of the Public Survey that was done across the five-county area for P 7 considerations (the full public survey report is available here: [https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wpcontent/uploads/2024/06/P7\\_Survey\\_Report.pdf](https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wpcontent/uploads/2024/06/P7_Survey_Report.pdf))
- Recommend which projects should receive Draft Local Input Points in the Regional Impact tier

## Where We Are in the Process

There are several steps involved in the prioritization process:



## Funding Tiers

Per the STI law, funding is split into three different funding tiers. Each funding tier has different eligible projects and differs in how projects compete. Information is broken out below:

<b>Funding Tier</b>	<b>Statewide Mobility</b>	<b>Regional Impact</b>	<b>Division Needs</b>
Quantitative Score	100%	70%	50%
<b>MPO Local Input Points</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>25%</b>
Division Local Input Points	0%	15%	25%
Amount of All Funding in the Prioritization Process	40%	30%	30%
Distribution	All Projects Compete Against Each Other	Split Between Seven Regions, Projects Compete Within Each Region	Split Between 14 Divisions, Projects Compete Within Division
Funding	One Big Pot of Funds	Split to Each Region Based on Population	Split Equally Between 14 Divisions
Eligible Projects (in the FBRMPO)	Interstates, Strategic Highway Corridors (US 23/74 in Haywood County), Asheville Airport	US Highways, NC Highways, Anything Not Funded in the Statewide Mobility Tier that is Requested to Cascade	Secondary Roads, Stand-Alone Bike/Ped Projects, Transit Projects, Anything Not Funded in the Statewide Mobility or Regional Impact tiers that is Requested to Cascade

**Statewide Mobility Tier Summary for P 7**

**Quick Summary:** no new projects funded in P 7 in the FBRMPO

**Funding Available:** \$1,033,000,000

**Eligible Projects in Our Region:** Interstates, Strategic Highways (US 23/74 in Haywood County), Asheville Airport

**Competition:** Statewide

Statewide Mobility Projects in the FBRMPO and Scores are Listed Below

Project Category	Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improvement Type	Cost to NCDOT	Statewide Mobility Quantitative Score (Out of 100)
Statewide Mobility	I-40	US 74 (Smokey Mountain Expressway) - Exit 27	NC 215 (CHAMPION DRIVE) - Exit 31	Widen Roadway.	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	\$ 222,300,000	79.59
Statewide Mobility	I-40	SR 1200 (Wiggins Road), Exit 37	SR 1224 (Monte Vista Road)	SR 1200 (Wiggins Road), Exit 37 to SR 1224 (Monte Vista Road). Add additional lanes.	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	\$ 204,600,000	77.90
Statewide Mobility	I-40	NC 215 (Champion Drive) - Exit 31	SR 1200 (Wiggins Road) - Exit 37	Widen Roadway.	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	\$ 424,800,000	76.96
Statewide Mobility	I-26	US 25	US 64 (Four Seasons Boulevard)	Add Additional Lanes.	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	\$ 168,400,000	73.16
Statewide Mobility	I-40	SR 2838 (Porters Cove Road) - Exit 55	N/A	Upgrade interchange improve EB off-ramp connection to SR 2838 (Porters Cove Road)	8 - Improve Interchange	\$ 1,900,000	69.30
Statewide Mobility	US 74 (Great Smokey Mountains Expressway), US 23	Blue Ridge Parkway Interchange	N/A	Blue Ridge Parkway Intersection Improvements	10 - Improve Intersection	\$ 2,500,000	68.98
Statewide Mobility	I-40	SR 1004 (Newfound Road)	N/A	Upgrade interchange to a diamond interchange with round-a-bouts at the ramp junctions.	8 - Improve Interchange	\$ 34,300,000	58.18
Statewide Mobility	I-26	I-26/I-40/I-240 Final Interchange Improvements	N/A	Reconstruct interchange	8 - Improve Interchange	\$ 284,000,000	53.79
Statewide Mobility	I-240	US 25 (Merrimon Avenue)	N/A	Improve Interchange.	8 - Improve Interchange	\$ 118,500,000	52.36
Statewide Mobility	I-26, US 19, US 23	US 25, US 70 (Weaver Boulevard)	SR 2207 (North Buncombe School Road)	Upgrade existing 4-lane section to Interstate Standards	17 - Upgrade Freeway to Interstate Standards	\$ 204,000,000	52.31
Statewide Mobility	I-40	I-240, US 74 Alternate	N/A	Upgrade interchange	8 - Improve Interchange	\$ 175,600,000	51.33
Statewide Mobility	I-26, US 19, US 23	SR 2207 (North Buncombe School Road)	South of SR 2148 (Stockton Branch Road)	Upgrade existing 4-lane section to Interstate Standards	17 - Upgrade Freeway to Interstate Standards	\$ 59,200,000	50.10

## About the Regional Impact Tier

**Quick Summary:** No Funding

**Available Funding Available:** -

**\$191,000,000**

**Eligible Projects in Our Region:** US Highways, NC Highways, Anything Not Funded in the Statewide Mobility Tier that is requested to cascade

**Competition:** Region G (pictured below)



### Process for Developing Draft Local Input Point Assignment

- MPO staff held county-by-county meetings with Board and TCC representatives on local priorities
- MPO staff applied the local input point methodology to score eligible projects in the Regional Impact tier
- The MPO Prioritization Subcommittee made a recommendation on the projects receiving local input points
- The MPO has 1,900 local input points (max 100 points per projects) but the methodology recommends not using all the available points if funding is not available.



Draft 2026-2035 STIP Funding Availability for Selecting Projects from Prioritization 7:  
As of May 17, 2024

STI Funding Category	Funding Availability
Statewide Mobility	\$1,033M
Region A (Divisions 1 & 4)	-\$228M
Region B (Divisions 2 & 3)	-\$32M
Region C (Divisions 5 & 6)	\$992M
Region D (Divisions 7 & 9)	\$458M
Region E (Divisions 8 & 10)	-\$471M
Region F (Divisions 11 & 12)	\$8M
Region G (Divisions 13 & 14)	-\$191M
Division 1	-\$19M
Division 2	-\$85M
Division 3	-\$54M
Division 4	\$24M
Division 5	-\$107M
Division 6	\$126M
Division 7	\$184M
Division 8	\$113M
Division 9	-\$15M
Division 10	-\$108M
Division 11	\$40M
Division 12	-\$72M
Division 13	-\$52M
Division 14	\$51M

\*\*\* Values are as of May 17, 2024, and will change due to, but not limited to, updated project cost estimates and schedule changes for committed projects \*\*\*

To meet federal and state fiscal constraint requirements for the Draft 2026-2035 STIP, schedule changes (delays) for committed projects will need to occur in STI Funding Categories with a negative value. Schedule changes for committed projects may also need to occur in STI Funding Categories with a positive value to meet the same federal and state fiscal constraint requirements in the first five years of the Draft 2026-2035 STIP.

**Alternative #1: Follow the MPO’s Methodology  
Three Highway Priorities and One Non-Highway Project Based on Scores, Plus Two Additional  
Highway Projects for Geographic Equity**

If no funding is available, the methodology says four projects would receive points- three highway projects and one non-highway project.

County	Route	From	To	Type of Improvement	Cost Estimate	MPO Score	SPOT Score
Buncombe	US 19/23 (Smokey Park Highway)	I-40	NC 151 (Pisgah Highway)	Access Management	\$85,700,000	97	46.96
Buncombe	US 25 (Hendersonville Road)	NC 146 (Long Shoals Road)	NC 280 (Airport Road)	Access Management	\$132,200,000	92	37.60
Henderson	US 176 (Spartanburg Highway)	NC 225 (Greenville Highway)	Upward Road	Access Management	\$121,700,000	81	33.26
Haywood	US 19/23 (Asheville Highway/Park Street)	NC 215	Chestnut Mountain Road	Modernization	\$40,200,000	62	16.84
Madison	NC 213 (Cascade Street)	Athletic Street	Bone Camp Road	Access Management/Widening	\$44,300,000	31	12.70

**One Non-Highway Project (Only Non-Highway Project)**

County	Route	From	To	Type of Improvement	Cost Estimate	MPO Score	SPOT Score
Buncombe	WNC Passenger Rail	Asheville	Salisbury	Passenger Rail Service	\$133,000,000	85	41.81

See June Agenda for charts on projects.

Discussion occurred about survey and the survey information.

**Steve Williams moved to recommend the Local Input Points Assignment for Regional Impact Points to the board. Jessica Morriss seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.**

**5A. NCDOT Resiliency Plan**

Nastasha Earle-Young, the Policy Director at NCDOT, will present on NCDOT’s Resiliency Plan.

The 2022 NCDOT Resilience Strategy Report is available here: <https://www.ncdot.gov/initiatives-policies/Transportation/transportation-resilience/Documents/ncdot-resilience-report.pdf>

The NCDOT Resilience Policy is available here: <https://www.ncdot.gov/initiatives-policies/Transportation/transportation-resilience/Documents/ncdot-resilience-policy.pdf>

Discussion occurred around match. Discussion around if the Div 14 study is just data or will there be discussion with people in region. Yes, there will be a steering committee who will meet with

MPO/RPO and others.  
Information Only.

## 6A. Division Project Updates

**Division 13:** [https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Div13\\_June\\_Updates.pdf](https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Div13_June_Updates.pdf)

**Division 14 :** [https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Div14\\_June\\_Updates.pdf](https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Div14_June_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>

## 6E:

### **Committee & Workgroup Updates**

**Prioritization Subcommittee**— met on June 5<sup>th</sup>; next meeting July 10<sup>th</sup>.

-MTP Kick-Off

-P7 Draft Local Input Point Assignment for Regional Impact Projects

**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 April 25<sup>th</sup>; plans to meet in July

Points of Business/Discussion:

- TIP/STIP Updates Needed
- FY 2025 UPWP
- FY 2024 5307 Allocations

**Hellbender Trail Stakeholder Group/Regional Trail Forum Updates**- met on April 23<sup>rd</sup>; next meeting TBD.

⊕ **MPO Studies Status**

<b>Study</b>	<b>Managing Entity</b>	<b>Year Programmed</b>	<b>Status</b>
Reed Creek Greenway Feasibility Study	City of Asheville	2023	Underway
2050 Socio-Economic Projections	FBRMPO	2023	Underway
CTP/MTP Update	FBRMPO	2024	Underway
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	2025	Consultant <u>Selected</u> : Contracting in Progress
Buncombe County Pedestrian Plan	Buncombe County	2025	RFLOI Drafted
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



See June Agenda for Locally Administered Project Updates.

Legislative Updates given.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

William High opened the floor for public comment. No comment was heard.

**ADJOURNMENT**

William High adjourned the meeting at 12:26 PM as there was no further business

