

French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization
Minutes from the Governing Board Meeting on June 20th, 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
Autumn Radcliff	Henderson County
Daniel Sellers	NCDOT TPD
Larry Harris	Urban Transit
Anne Coletta	Village of Flat Rock
Kim Roney	City of Asheville
Stephen Sparks	NCDOT
Jim McAllister	Town of Woodfin
Charles McGrady	BOT Div 14
Dr Ralph Hamlett	Town of Canton
Tom Widmer	Town of Montreat
Jim Player	Town of Fletcher
Archie Pertiller	Town of Black Mountain
Mike Eveland	Town of Montreat
David White	Rural Transit
Troy Wilson	NCDOT
Suzette Morales	FHWA
Hannah Smith	NCDOT Div 13
Shannon Gonce	Mills River
Matt Wechtel	Madison County
Wanda Payne	NCDOT Div 14
George Banta	Town of Laurel Park
Steve Cannon	NCDOT Division 13

Kevin Ensley	Haywood County
Nastasha Earle-Young	NCDOT
Angela Reece	Town of Black Mountain

Members without Representation present:

Town of Biltmore Forest
BOT 13
Town of Clyde
Buncombe County
Town of Weaverville
Town of Mars Hill
Henderson County

Additional Attendees:

Tristan Winkler (FBRMPO) Hannah Bagli (FBRMPO) Jon Barsanti (FBRMPO)
Asha Rado (LOSRC, Minutes) Susan Bean (Public) Ada Sloop (FBRMPO)
Grayson Molinari (NCDOT, Intern)

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & ROLL CALL

Anthony Sutton called the meeting to order at 1:01PM and welcomed everyone. He read the Ethics Statement and inquired if there were any conflicts of interest to note for today’s meeting. No conflict’s were had.

Quorum was announced to conduct the business of the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anthony Sutton opened the floor for public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

3A. May 2024 Board Minutes: https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024_5_16_MPO.DRAFT_Board_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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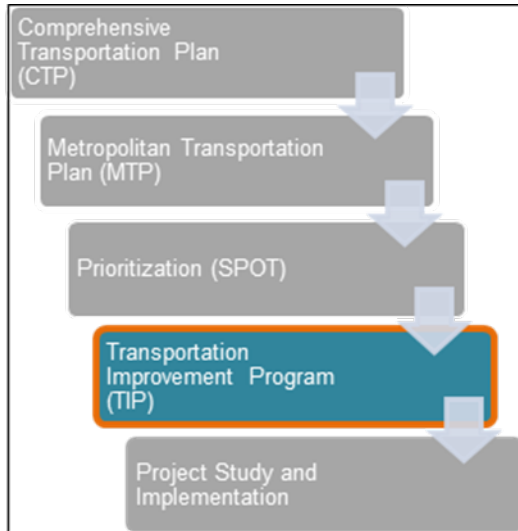
Proposed Amendments:

- 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

Larry Harris moved to approve the consent agenda including the May 2024 meeting minutes, the Amendments to the FY 2024 UPWP, the Amendments to the FY 2025 UPWP and the TAC agenda. Shannon Gonce seconded the motion which passed upon a roll call vote.

Business

4A. Amendments to the 2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)



What is the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)?

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

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

- Delay to Liberty Road Interchange
- Add Funding for Riceville Road Sidewalks and Delay Construction

(*See agenda : https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024_06_20_Board-Agenda-Packet.pdf for charts)

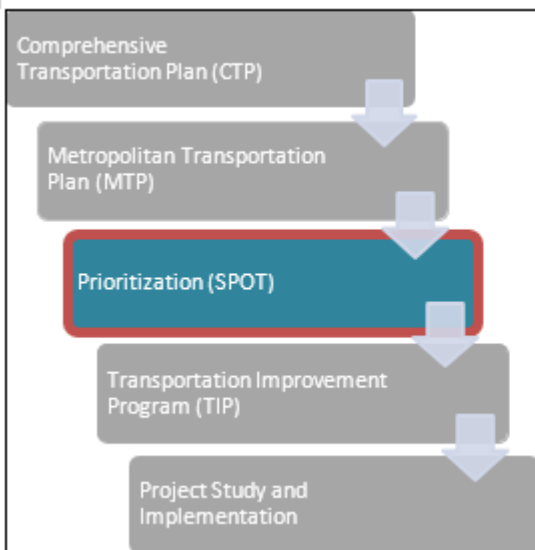
No Discussion Occurred

Larry Harris moved to approve amendments to the 2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Program. Shannon Gonce seconded, and the motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

4B. 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.

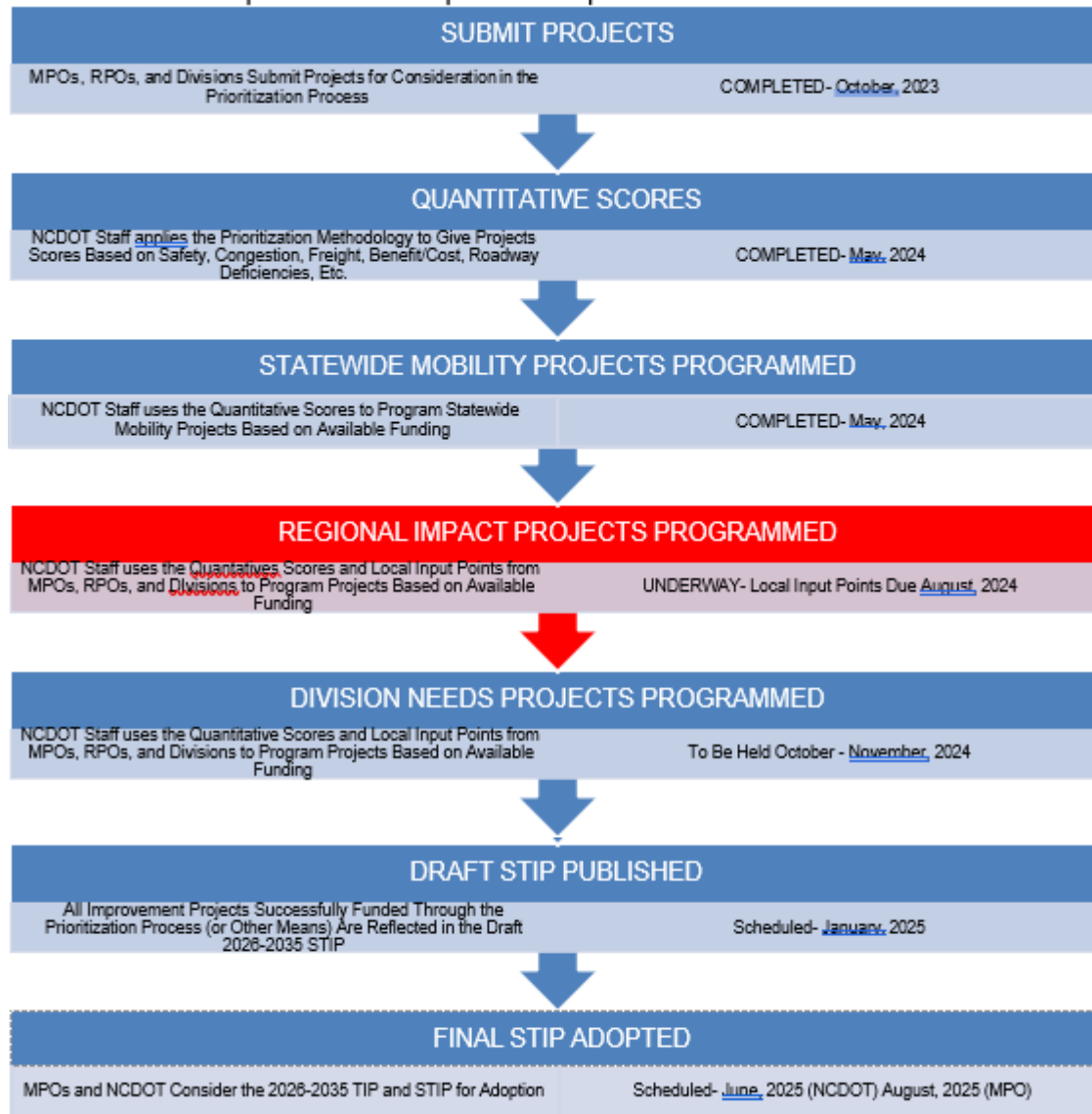


Action Items for Today

- 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/wp-content/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:

Funding Tier	Statewide Mobility	Regional Impact	Division Needs
Quantitative Score	100%	70%	50%
MPO Local Input Points	0%	15%	25%
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

(*See agenda : https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024_06_20_Board-Agenda-Packet.pdf for charts)

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

*Draft 2026-2035 STIP Funding Availability for Selecting Projects from Prioritization 7.0
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.

MPO Prioritization Subcommittee Recommendation:

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 agenda : https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024_06_20_Board-Agenda-Packet.pdf for charts)

Discussion on what exactly the negative comments were. Clarification on projects and funding occurred.

Larry Harris moved to approve the Draft Local Input Points on the selected projects. Shannon Gonce seconded the motion and it unanimously passed 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>

No Discussion occurred.

Information Only.

6A. Division Project Updates

Division 13: 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

6B. TPD Updates

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>

(*See agenda : https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024_06_20_Board-Agenda-Packet.pdf for more in depth FHWA June updates)

6D. IMD Updates

6E.

Committee & Workgroup Updates

Prioritization Subcommittee— met on June 5th; next meeting July 10th.

-MTP Kick-Off

-P7 Draft Local Input Point Assignment for Regional Impact Projects

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 April 25th; 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 23rd; next meeting TBD.

Legislative Updates:

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Anthony Sutton adjourned the meeting at 2:35PM as there was no further business before the Board.