

## Joint MPO/RPO Technical Coordinating Committee & Governing Board

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November 21, 2024 – 12:30 P.M., Hybrid Meeting, In-Person at Land of Sky Regional  
Council or Via Zoom

Login: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85289293744>

Meeting ID:85289293744

Call-In: (312)626-6799

### Agenda

1. **WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING (5 min)**

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    - A. Welcome and Introductions, Approval of Agenda Autumn Radcliff & Anthony Sutton
    - B. Ethics Statement for MPO Board Members Anthony Sutton
  
  2. **PARTNER UPDATES (45-60 min)**

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    - A. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates Tim Anderson/Wanda Payne or Designee
    - B. Transportation Planning Branch Daniel Sellers
    - C. FHWA/FTA Updates Suzette Morales
    - D. Subcommittee/Workgroup Reports, Staff Updates, and Housekeeping MPO Staff
    - E. Legislative Updates MPO Staff
  
  3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA** Autumn Radcliff & Anthony Sutton

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    - A. September, 2024 TCC Minutes
    - B. September, 2024 Board Minutes
  
  4. **BUSINESS (15-30 min)**

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    - A. PROTECT Planning Grant Application MPO Staff
    - B. P7- Division Needs Local Input Point Assignment MPO Staff
    - C. TCC Leadership Elections Autumn Radcliff
    - D. Board Leadership Elections Anthony Sutton
  
  5. **ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES (5 min)**
  6. **TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING (January 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>)**
  7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
  8. **ADJOURNMENT**
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# **FRENCH BROAD RIVER**

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## **MPO Technical Coordinating Committee & Governing Board**

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# Item 3:

## **Consent Agenda**

**Item 3A:** September, 2024 TCC Meeting Minutes

**Item 3B:** September, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

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# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## MPO Technical Coordinating Committee & Governing Board

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# Item 3A:

**September, 2024 TCC Meeting Minutes**

Available here: [https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024\\_09-12\\_DRAFT.MPO\\_TCC\\_Minutes.pdf](https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024_09-12_DRAFT.MPO_TCC_Minutes.pdf)

# Item 3B:

**September, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes**

Available here:

[https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024\\_9\\_19\\_MPO.DRAFT\\_Board\\_Minutes.pdf](https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024_9_19_MPO.DRAFT_Board_Minutes.pdf)

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 4A:

## PROTECT Planning Grant Application

### What is the PROTECT program?

Per USDOT: The Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Discretionary Grant Program is a competitive grant program created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to plan for and strengthen surface transportation to be more resilient to natural hazards, including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides over \$1.4 billion over five years through this program to fund projects that address the climate crisis by improving the resilience of the surface transportation system, including highways, public transportation, ports, and intercity passenger rail.

### What would the MPO be applying for in the PROTECT program?

The MPO would plan on applying for a regional Resiliency Improvement Plan (RIP.) The expected area would cover both the French Broad River MPO and Land of Sky RPO to encompass the five-county (Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania) area. The plan would intend to accomplish:

- Assessment of vulnerability of transportation assets
- Study the potential severity of the impact of weather events to accessibility
- Prioritization of resilience projects
- Consideration of policies to implement resilience improvements
- Community engagement & education
- Would include facilities not included in the State's RIP (secondary routes, municipal assets, and private assets.)

### About the PROTECT NOFO

- Applications are due February 24, 2025
- 0% local match required for planning grants

**Action: Consider Support for an MPO Application for a Five-County Resilience Improvement Plan**

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METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## **French Broad River MPO**

339 New Leicester Highway, Suite 140  
Asheville, NC 28806  
828.251.6622  
mpo@landofsky.org  
11/21/2024

## **U.S. Department of Transportation**

Office of the Secretary  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Subject: Letter of Support for French Broad River MPO's Application for the PROTECT Program Planning Grant**

I am writing to express my strong support for the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in its application for funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) PROTECT program. This funding would be used to develop a Resilience Improvement Plan (RIP) for both the French Broad River MPO and the Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization (RPO), with the French Broad River MPO serving as the lead agency for this critical regional effort.

In the wake of Hurricane Helene and the destruction it wrought upon communities in our region, the French Broad River MPO and the Land of Sky RPO are committed to improving the resilience of their transportation systems, especially as risks from increasing climate change risks, natural disasters, and other disruptions are increasing. The development of a comprehensive Resilience Improvement Plan will allow our organizations to better identify vulnerabilities, prioritize resiliency investments, and ensure that transportation infrastructure in the region remains accessible, safe, and functional in the face of evolving challenges.

The French Broad River MPO has demonstrated a proven track record of effective regional collaboration, data-driven decision-making, and a commitment to advancing sustainable, resilient transportation solutions. With the support of this planning grant, the MPO will be able to engage with stakeholders across local, regional, and state levels, ensuring that the

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RIP aligns with the broader needs of the community and supports the economic vitality of the region.

This planning grant will not only enhance the resilience of transportation infrastructure, but it will also create a roadmap for future investments that will benefit residents, businesses, and visitors. The French Broad River MPO's leadership in this initiative will play an essential role in building a more resilient, adaptive transportation network that can withstand the impacts of climate-related hazards.

In conclusion, I strongly encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to approve this grant application, and I fully support the French Broad River MPO's efforts to develop the Resilience Improvement Plan. This planning process will be an invaluable step toward ensuring a resilient and sustainable transportation system for our communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this important application.

Sincerely,

**Anthony Sutton**

Chair, French Broad River MPO Board

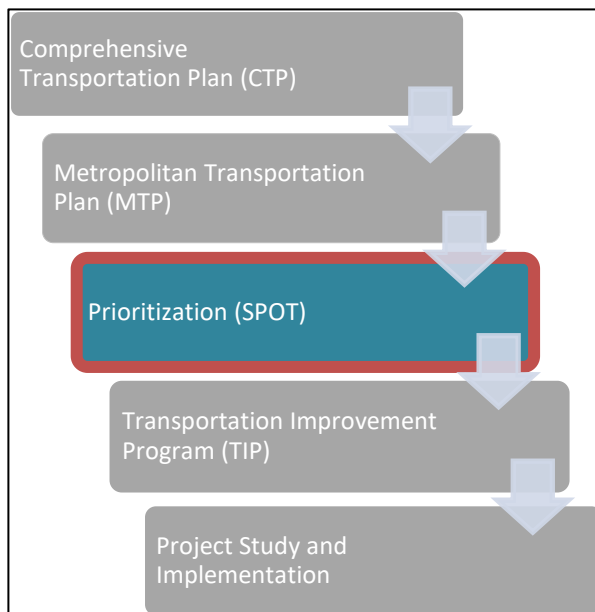
## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 4B:

## P7 – Division Needs Local Input Points

### 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

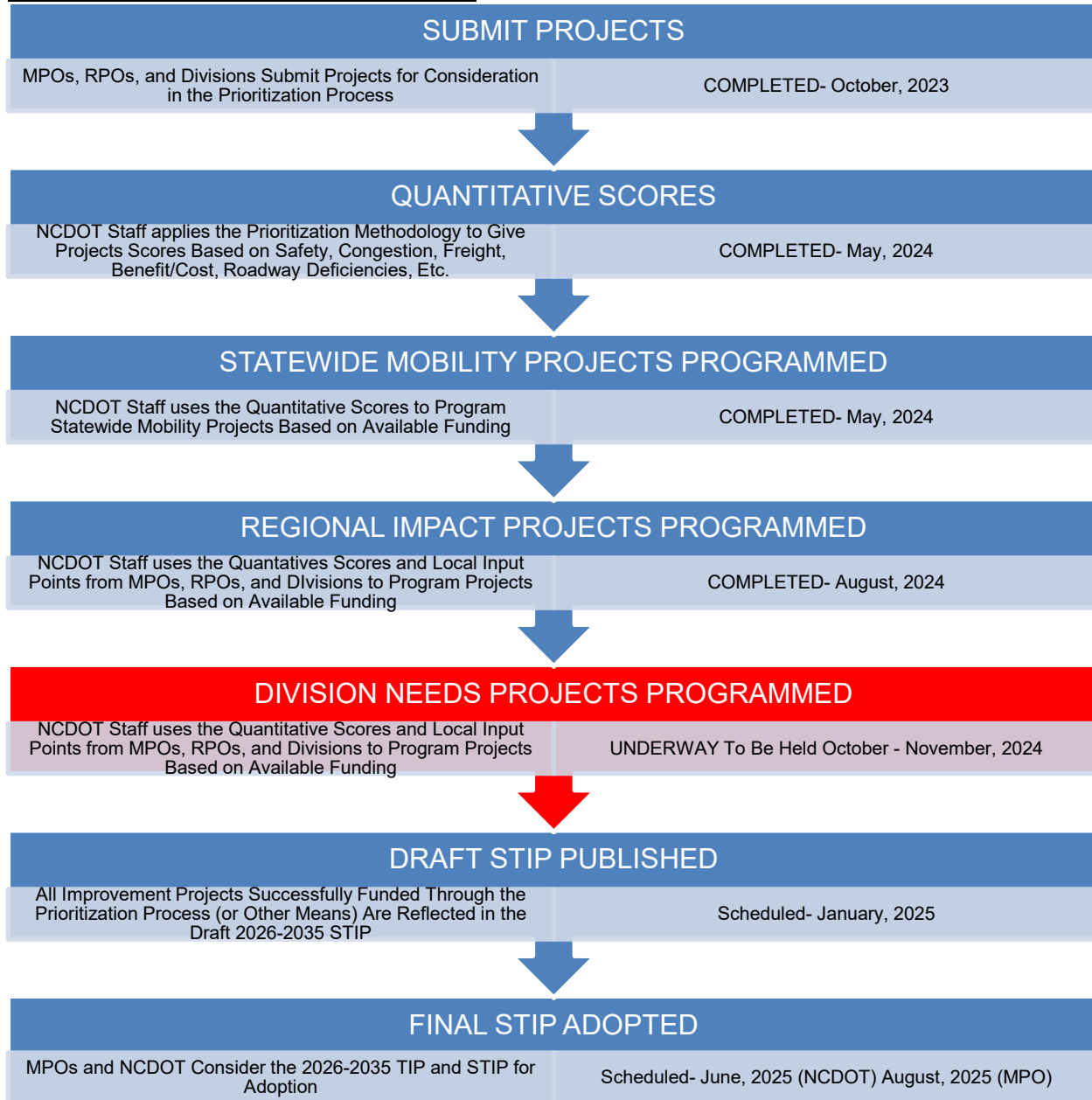
- Approve the final assignment of local input points for Division Needs projects in P7

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

### WHERE WE ARE IN THE PROCESS





# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

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## Staff Report & Recommendations

### PRIORITIZATION FUNDING TIERS

<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

# **FRENCH BROAD RIVER**

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## **Staff Report & Recommendations**

### **Process for Developing Final Local Input Point Assignment**

- MPO staff held county-by-county meetings with Board and TCC representatives on local priorities
- Due to impacts from Hurricane Helene, the October Prioritization Subcommittee, TCC, and Board were cancelled
- Priorities from local meetings were advertised as the Draft Local Input Point list
- A Public Comment Period is being held from October 27<sup>th</sup>-November 20<sup>th</sup> on the Draft Assignment of Points

### **Available Funding**

**Division 13: -\$133,000,000**

**Division 14: -\$35,000,000**

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

### PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR LOCAL INPUT POINTS

County	Mode	Route	From	To	Type of Improvement	Cost Estimate	SPOT Quantitative Score	MPO Score	Draft Local Input Points
Henderson, Buncombe	Highway	SR 1358 (Fanning Bridge Rd)	US 25	NC 280	25 - Improve Multiple Intersections along Corridor	\$ 6,000,000	35.64	85	100
Henderson	Highway	SR 1508 (Berkeley Road), SR 1508 (Signal Hill Road), SR 1511 (Berkeley Road), SR 1519 (Thompson Street)	US 64 (Four Seasons Boulevard)	US 25 Business (Asheville Highway)	16 - Modernize Roadway	\$ 33,300,000	19.50	65	100
Buncombe	Highway	SR 1332 (North Louisiana Avenue)	US 19/23 (Patton Avenue)	SR 1338 (Emma Road)	16 - Modernize Roadway	\$ 30,600,000	13.59	77	100
Buncombe	Bike/Ped	Reed Creek Greenway Connector	Reed Creek Greenway	SR 3602 (Clingman Avenue)	4 - On-Road Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 880,000	39.22	100	100
Henderson	Bike/Ped	Church Street and King Street	US 176	North Main Street	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 2,720,800	35.86	100	100

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

County	Mode	Route	From	To	Type of Improvement	Cost Estimate	SPOT Quantitative Score	MPO Score	Draft Local Input Points
Henderson	Bike/Ped	Above The Mud Greenway Connector	Ecusta Trail	Oklawaha Greenway	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 2,096,200	35.51	100	100
Buncombe	Bike/Ped	Tunnel Road Sidewalks	New Haw Creek Road	Blue Ridge Parkway	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 3,332,200	35.03	100	100
Buncombe	Bike/Ped	Patton Avenue	Old Haywood Road	Johnston Blvd	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 2,462,600	34.91	100	100
Buncombe	Bike/Ped	Bent Creek Greenway (Hominy Creek/WNC Farmer's Market Segment)	Hominy Creek Greenway	French Broad River Greenway	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 2,068,800	33.27	75	100
Buncombe	Bike/Ped	US 70 Sidewalks	Franklin Street	Warren Wilson Road	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 2,010,000	24.49	40	100

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

County	Mode	Route	From	To	Type of Improvement	Cost Estimate	SPOT Quantitative Score	MPO Score	Draft Local Input Points
Buncombe	Bike/Ped	Merrimon Ave	Lake Louise Drive	Brown Street	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 675,000	19.9	25	100
Haywood	Bike/Ped	US 19/23	Bridge Street	Chestnut Mountain Road	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 2,396,000	19.21	25	100
Madison	Bike/Ped	Bailey/Banjo Branch Greenway	Otis T Duck Greenway Northern Termini	Bailey Street	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 2,614,600	13.2	10	100
Haywood	Transit	Haywood County Expansion Vehicles	Two expansion vehicles would allow for new fixed-route service that would provide transit service to Maggie Valley and tie-in to the existing fixed-route between Waynesville and Canton.		1 - Mobility (route-specific) - New Service	\$ 270,000	22.10	75	100

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

### OTHER HIGHWAY PROJECTS CONSIDERED BUT NOT PRIORITIZED

County	Route	From	To	Type of Improvement	Cost Estimate	SPOT Quantitative Score	MPO Score	Draft Local Input Points
Henderson	SR 1127 (Kanuga Road)	US 25 Business (Church Street)	SR 1123 (Little River Road)	16 - Modernize Roadway	\$ 62,600,000	17.06	55	0
Buncombe	SR 1130 (Old US 19/23 Highway)	US 19, US 23 (Smokey Park Highway)	SR 1120 (Youngs Cove Road)	16 - Modernize Roadway	\$ 32,900,000	13.21	54	0
Buncombe	SR 3136 (Cane Creek Road)	US 74 ALT (Charlotte Highway)	SR 3116 (Mills Gap Road)	16 - Modernize Roadway	\$ 99,000,000	11.71	53	0
Buncombe	SR 3412 (Sand Hill Road)	SR 1224 (Sand Hill School Road)	N/A	10 - Improve Intersection	\$ 6,100,000	26.75	46	0
Buncombe	SR 2002 (Riceville Road)	US 70 (Tunnel Road)	SR 2285 (Clear Vista Lane)	16 - Modernize Roadway	\$ 19,800,000	4.47	46	0
Henderson	SR 1525 (Duncan Hill Road)	US 64 (Four Seasons Boulevard)	Signal Hill Road	16 - Modernize Roadway	\$ 26,300,000	9.39	45	0
Buncombe	Peachtree Road Extension	US 25 (Hendersonville Road)	US 25 ALT (Sweeten Creek Road)	18 - Widen Existing Local (Non-State) Roadway	\$ 4,037,000	4.04	39	0

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METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

County	Route	From	To	Type of Improvement	Cost Estimate	SPOT Quantitative Score	MPO Score	Draft Local Input Points
Buncombe	SR 1003 (Reems Creek Road)	US 19, US 23 Busines (Weaverville Highway)	SR 2109 (Ox Creek Road)	16 - Modernize Roadway	\$ 124,500,000	<b>9.26</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>0</b>
Buncombe	SR 2500 (Blue Ridge Road)	NC 9	Blue Ridge Assembly Drive, White Pine Drive	16 - Modernize Roadway	\$ 15,900,000	<b>1.86</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>0</b>
Buncombe	SR 2776 (Old Fort Road)	US 74 ALT (Charlotte Highway)	SR 2782 (Whitaker Road)	16 - Modernize Roadway	\$ 66,800,000	<b>11.20</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>0</b>
Henderson	SR 2162 (Blythe Street)	NC 191(Haywood Road)	US 64 (6th Avenue West)	16 - Modernize Roadway	\$ 17,400,000	<b>14.08</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>
Henderson	SR 1173 (White Pine Drive)	US 64 (Brevard Road)	Hebron Road	16 - Modernize Roadway	\$ 45,200,000	<b>3.51</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>
Henderson	SR 1793 (Tracy Grove Road)	SR 1006 (Howard Gap Road)	N/A	10 - Improve Intersection	\$ 6,100,000	<b>18.85</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

### DIVISION NEEDS BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS CONSIDERED BUT NOT PRIORITIZED

County	Route	From	To	Improvement Type	Cost to NCDOT	SPOT Quantitative Score	MPO Score	Draft Local Input Points
Buncombe	Old Haywood Road Sidewalks	US 19/23/74 (Patton Avenue)	US 19/23/74 (Smokey Park Highway)	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 2,080,400	34.42	85	0
Buncombe	Lake Julian Greenway	French Broad River	Lake Julian	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 3,782,000	33.77	85	0
Buncombe	Fairview Road	Swannanoa River Road	Liberty Street	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 1,630,200	33.51	60	0
Buncombe	Bent Creek Greenway (WNC Farmers Market to Asheville Outlets)	WNC Farmers Market	Asheville Outlets	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 4,696,200	31.13	60	0
Buncombe	US 19 (Smokey Park Hwy)	Rutherford Road	NC 151	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 1,073,600	30.89	50	0
Henderson	Allen Branch Greenway	US 64	I-26	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 2,516,800	30.64	60	0



# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

County	Route	From	To	Improvement Type	Cost to NCDOT	SPOT Quantitative Score	MPO Score	Draft Local Input Points
Buncombe	Reed Creek Greenway Extension	WT Weaver Boulevard	NC 251 (Riverside Drive)	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 1,960,200	29.94	60	0
Henderson	N Main Street/Clear Creek Road Sidewalks	Nix Road	Baldwin Avenue	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 1,953,400	29.3	60	0
Buncombe	SR 2500 (North Blue Ridge Road)	US 70	Fortune St	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 675,800	28.52	35	0
Buncombe	NC 63 (New Leicester Hwy)	Old County Home Road	Mt. Carmel Road	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 667,600	28.4	35	0
Buncombe	North Louisiana Avenue Sidewalks	Mallard Drive	Adams Hill Road	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 314,400	27.69	35	0
Henderson	Fanning Bridge Road	Underwood Road	US 25	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 3,521,400	27.58	60	0

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METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

County	Route	From	To	Improvement Type	Cost to NCDOT	SPOT Quantitative Score	MPO Score	Draft Local Input Points
Henderson	Mills River Valley Trail	French Broad River	NC 191	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 4,312,600	24.19	35	0
Henderson	Greenway-Jackson Park to Blue Ridge CC	Jackson Park	Blue Ridge Community College	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 3,542,600	23.17	35	0
Buncombe	NC 251 (Riverside Drive)	Future 1-26	Woodfin Ave	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 1,753,000	22.89	35	0
Buncombe	US 70 - Swannanoa	SR 2748 (Buckeye Cove Rd)	Ingles driveway	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 1,782,800	21.61	0	0
Haywood	Raccoon Creek Greenway	Waynesville Greenway	Junaluska Elementary School	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 1,427,200	20.5	35	0
Haywood	Richland Creek Greenway-North	Recreation Park	Haywood High Tech Center	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 2,572,400	20.38	10	0

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

County	Route	From	To	Improvement Type	Cost to NCDOT	SPOT Quantitative Score	MPO Score	Draft Local Input Points
Buncombe	Reems Creek Greenway	Quarry Road	Karpen Soccer Field	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 5,183,200	17.34	10	0
Haywood	NC 215 (Champion Drive)	SR 1589 (North Canton Road)	SR 1513 (Thickety Road)	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 1,884,600	14.4	10	0
Madison	Bailey/Banjo Branch Greenway	Otis T Duck Greenway Northern Termini	Bailey Street	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 2,614,600	13.2	10	100
Buncombe	SR 1368 (Lees Creek)	SR 1803 (Tipperary Dr)	SR 1367 (Erwin Hills Rd)	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 524,400	11.31	0	0
Buncombe	US 70A (Charlotte Hwy)	Charles Lytle Lane	Olde Eastwood Village Boulevard	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 253,200	10.89	0	0

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

### DIVISION NEEDS TRANSIT PROJECTS CONSIDERED BUT NOT PRIORITIZED

County	Route	From	Improvement Type	Cost to NCDOT	SPOT Quantitative Score	Total	Draft Local Input Points
Buncombe	Transit Multimodal Facility	City of Asheville Service Area and routes provided by ART	5 - Facility - Passenger Station	\$ 40,000,000	34.58	85	0
Haywood	Haywood County Expansion Vehicles	Two expansion vehicles would allow for new fixed-route service that would provide transit service to Maggie Valley and tie-in to the existing fixed-route between Waynesville and Canton.	1 - Mobility (route-specific) - New Service	\$ 270,000	22.10	75	100
Buncombe	Transit Maintenance Facility	City of Asheville Service Area.	9 - Facility - Maintenance	\$ 55,000,000	23.96	60	0
Buncombe	Expansion Vehicles	City of Asheville Service Area	1 - Mobility (route-specific) - New Service	\$ 9,000,000	19.19	35	0

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## Staff Report & Recommendations

Haywood	Haywood County Transfer Station	The site is located on 50 Armory Drive in Clyde NC. This location houses Haywood Public Transit operated by Mountain Projects Inc. This land was deeded from Haywood County Government to Mountain Projects on December 21, 2007	5 - Facility - Passenger Station	\$ 710,000	11.94	10	0
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**ACTION NEEDED:** approve projects receiving local input points from the MPO.

Prioritization Subcommittee Deviation from the initial Draft Local Input Points:

- Add local input points to two highway projects:
  - North Louisiana Avenue Modernization (Highway) in Buncombe County
  - Berkley/Signal Hill/Thompson Street Modernization (Highway) in Henderson County

**Action: Consider Approval of Final Division Needs Local Input Points Assignment**

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 4C:

### TCC Leadership Elections

Per the [MPO TCC bylaws](#), the TCC is required to elect leadership positions (a chair and vice-chair) every two years. Positions may be held for no more than two consecutive terms. The current TCC chair, Autumn Radcliff (Henderson County) has served two terms as Chair. The current TCC vice-chair, William High (Buncombe County), has served two terms as well.

For the most part, the responsibilities of the chair and vice-chair are to lead and facilitate the TCC meetings. In recent years, the chairs and vice-chairs of the TCC and Board have been requested to attend what we've been calling "leadership" meetings to discuss planned meeting items, general strategy, and more internal items.

Autumn Radcliff will be rolling off leadership after \*eight\* years of service. William High has noted that he would be willing to move to the Chair position.

**ACTION:** Appoint a New TCC Chair and Vice Chair with terms beginning January, 2025.

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 4D:

### Board Leadership Elections

Per the MPO Board Bylaws, the Board is required to elect leadership positions (a chair and vice-chair) every two years. Positions may be held for no more than two consecutive terms. Anthony Sutton (Waynesville) has served as Chair since January, 2023. Jennifer Hensley (Hendersonville) has served as Vice-Chair since the same time. Both are eligible for another two-year term in the same position.

For the most part, the responsibilities of the chair and vice-chair are to lead and facilitate the Board meetings. In recent years, the chairs and vice-chairs of the TCC and Board have been requested to attend what we've been calling "leadership" meetings to discuss planned meeting items, general strategy, and more internal items.

**Action:** Appoint a Board Chair and Vice-Chair with terms beginning January, 2025.

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 6A:

## Division Project Updates

Division 13: [https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Div13\\_September\\_Updates.pdf](https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Div13_September_Updates.pdf)

Division 14: [https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Div14\\_September\\_Updates.pdf](https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Div14_September_Updates.pdf)

# Item 6B:

## TPD Updates

# Item 6C:

## FHWA/FTA Updates

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

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



## FHWA Updates –November 2024

### U.S. DOT Announces \$4.2 Billion in Awards for National Infrastructure Projects

On October 21, 2024, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) [announced](#) more than \$4.2 billion in awards from the [National Infrastructure Project Assistance \(Mega\) Grant Program](#) and the [Infrastructure for Rebuilding America \(INFRA\) Grant Program](#). The U.S. DOT awarded grants to 44 projects in 31 States for modernizing roadways and bridges, improving interchanges, expanding port capacity, and deploying intelligent transportation systems (ITS). More information is available [here](#) and [here](#).

### EPA Announces \$3 Billion in Awards for Clean Ports Program

On October 29, 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [announced](#) more than \$3 billion in awards from the [Clean Ports Program](#). The EPA awarded grants to 55 projects in 27 States and territories for zero-emission port equipment and infrastructure, as well as climate and air quality planning. More information is available [here](#).

### FRA Announces \$2.4 Billion in Awards for Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements

On October 29, 2024, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) [announced](#) more than \$2.4 billion in awards from the [Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements \(CRISI\) Program](#). FRA awarded grants to 122 rail improvement projects in 41 States and Washington, D.C. for various rail safety and service improvements, such as upgrading track, replacing or rehabilitating aging bridges, expanding rail connections at ports, and adding modern locomotives to fleets. More information is available [here](#).

- **North Carolina – ACWR Piedmont Class-III 286K, Safety Capacity & Efficiency Upgrades (Up to \$18,180,012) Aberdeen Carolina & Western Railway Company (ACWR)** The proposed project was selected for Final Design and Construction to upgrade the Aberdeen, Carolina & Western Railway Company (ACWR) rail line between Charlotte and Oakboro, North Carolina. The project will continue efforts to modernize and increase capacity on the Piedmont Subdivision to better serve rail customers by installing almost 30 miles of continuous welded rail (CWR). The project aligns with selection criteria to enhance safety by removing jointed rail laid in the early to mid-1900s that has exceeded its reasonable life expectancy with new 136-lb CWR to accommodate the industry standard of 286,000-lb railcars. The project will upgrade the track to meet FRA Class 3 classification requirements. The ACWR and North Carolina DOT will contribute the 52 percent non-Federal match. This project qualifies for the statutory set-aside for projects in Rural Areas
- **North Carolina – NCRP Carolinian and Piedmont Passenger and Freight Improvements Project (Up to \$105,595,000) North Carolina Railroad Company (NCRP)** The proposed project was selected for Project Development, Final Design, and Construction and includes activities to improve the capacity of the North Carolina Railroad Company's (NCRP) NC-Line to meet the growing demands of both freight and passenger rail traffic. The various project components would add over five miles of sidings, reconstruct up to 69 miles of track, eliminate one grade crossing, and improve track geometry. The project aligns with the selection criteria by enhancing safety and improving system service and performance as the project will increase on-time performance for existing Amtrak routes, allow for additional passenger trains along the growing

corridor, and meet the needs of a growing manufacturing sector. NCRR and North Carolina DOT will contribute the 38 percent non-Federal match.

## **FHWA Announces \$635 Million in Awards for Bridge Investment Program**

On October 31, 2024, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) [announced](#) nearly \$635 million in awards from the [Bridge Investment Program \(BIP\)](#). FHWA awarded grants to 19 States for 22 small and medium-sized bridge projects. More information is available [here](#).

## **FHWA Announces \$130 Million in Awards for Congestion Relief Program**

On October 17, 2024, FHWA announced more than \$130 million in awards from the [Congestion Relief Program](#). FHWA awarded grants to 7 projects in 6 States for various congestion relief projects involving traffic signals, ramp metering, commuter buses, microtransit, rail modernization, and mobility wallets. More information is available [here](#).

## **FHWA Announces \$96 Million in Awards for Advanced Technologies and Innovations**

On October 25, 2024, FHWA [announced](#) more than \$96 million in awards from the [Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation \(ATTAIN\) Program](#). FHWA awarded grants to 20 projects in 16 States for various technologies and innovations involving traffic management systems, vehicle connectivity, pedestrian and intersection safety, and trip planning applications. More information is available [here](#).

- **Smart Signals in Our Communities**  
*North Carolina Department of Transportation*  
*\$11,945,832*

## **FRA Announces \$1 Billion in Available Funding for Intercity Passenger Rail Program**

On October 1, 2024, FRA [announced](#) the availability of more than \$1 billion in funding through the [Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Program](#) for projects not located in the Northeast Corridor. This program funds capital projects that reduce the state of good repair backlog, improve performance, or expand or establish new intercity passenger rail service. The application deadline is December 16, 2024. More information is available [here](#).

## **FHWA Announces \$876 Million in Available Funding for PROTECT Discretionary Grant Program**

On October 1, 2024, FHWA announced the availability of \$876 million in funding through the [Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation \(PROTECT\) Discretionary Grant Program](#). The purpose of the PROTECT Program is to provide grants on a competitive basis for projects that seek to strengthen surface transportation to be more resilient to natural hazards through support of planning activities, resilience improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-risk coastal infrastructure. The application deadline is February 24, 2025. More information is available [here](#).

## U.S. DOT Announces \$10 Million in Available Funding to Accelerate Regional Infrastructure

On October 28, 2024, the U.S. DOT announced the availability of \$10 million in funding through the [Regional Infrastructure Accelerator \(RIA\) Program](#). The RIA Program funds technical resources, planning, and project development to expedite regional transportation infrastructure through innovative financing and delivery methods, including public-private partnerships. The application deadline is January 9, 2025. More information is available [here](#).

## Application Deadlines Approaching for Other U.S. DOT Discretionary Grant Opportunities

Please be aware of the approaching application deadlines for the following discretionary grant opportunities from the U.S. DOT:

- [November 25 – Low Carbon Transportation Materials \(LCTM\) Program](#).
- [December 16 – National Scenic Byways Program \(NSBP\)](#).

## FHWA Proposes To Revise Federal Noise Regulations for Highway Traffic and Construction

On October 18, 2024, FHWA published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) in the Federal Register [[89 FR 83801](#)] to propose revisions to the Federal regulations in [23 CFR Part 772](#) for the abatement of highway traffic noise and construction noise. The public comment deadline is December 17, 2024.

## New Resources and Publications from the U.S. DOT

The U.S. DOT recently published the following resources:

- [Guide for Maintaining Active Transportation Infrastructure for Enhanced Safety](#).
- [Integrating Natural Hazard Resilience into the Transportation Planning Process](#).
- [Model Deployment of the Virtual Coordination Center for Multimodal Integrated Corridor Management](#).
- [Part-Time Shoulder Use Synthesis of Practice](#).
- [Safe Access for Everyone Is Good for Business](#).
- [Systemic Safety User Guide](#).
- [Systems Engineering for Intelligent Transportation Systems \(ITS\)](#).
- [Understanding Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Risks in Transportation](#).
- [Understanding Safety Challenges of Vehicles Equipped with Automated Driving Systems \(ADS\) – Analysis of ADS Disengagements](#).

## New Research from the National Cooperative Highway Research Program

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

- [Flood Forecasting for Transportation Resilience.](#)
- [Incorporating Resilience into Transportation Networks.](#)
- [Intermodal Passenger Facility Planning and Decision-Making for Seamless Travel.](#)

## Upcoming Webinars in November

Here is the registration information for some upcoming webinars:

- [November 8 – Behavioral Science and Nudge Applications in Transportation.](#)
  - [November 12 – Results of a Systemic Study of Pedestrian Safety in Tribal Areas.](#)
  - [November 13 – Regional Infrastructure Accelerator Funding Opportunity Informational Webinar.](#)
  - [November 13 – Risk-Based Safety Planning for Tribes.](#)
  - [November 14 – Resilient Transportation Infrastructure: U.S. DOT Climate Adaptation Plan 2024-2027.](#)
  - [November 19 – Rural Accessibility to Economic Opportunities and Education.](#)
  - [November 20 – Intermodal Passenger Facility Trends in Technology and User Experience.](#)
- [November 21 – Evolving the Practice of Benefit-Cost Analysis](#)

## **Staff Report & Recommendations**

# Item 6D:

### **Committee & Workgroup Updates**

**Prioritization Subcommittee**— met on November 6<sup>th</sup>

Points of Discussion:

- P7 Division Needs Local Input Point Assignment

**5307 Subrecipient Workgroup**- met on November 13<sup>th</sup>

Points of Business/Discussion:

- Hurricane Helene Response
- New FTA Circulars
- JARC/5310 Calls for Projects

**Hellbender Trail Stakeholder Group/Regional Trail Forum Updates**- forum postponed due to Hurricane Helene

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

### MPO Studies Status

Study	Managing Entity	Year Programmed	Status
2050 Socio-Economic Projections	FBRMPO	2024	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	Completed
Cane Creek Greenway Study	Town of Fletcher	2024	Not Started
Woodfin-Weaverville Greenway Study	Town of Woodfin	2025	Consultant Selected; 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

### Additional Items:

**Recommended Actions: Accept the reports.**

# Item 6E:

## Legislative Updates