

MPO Governing Board

March 20, 2025 – 1:00 P.M., Hybrid Meeting, In-Person at Land of Sky Regional Council or

Via Zoom

Login: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89218712714>

Meeting ID: 892 1871 2714

Call-In: (312)626-6799

Agenda

1. **WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING (10 min)**

 - A. Welcome and Introductions Anthony Sutton
 - B. Ethics Statement for MPO Board Members Anthony Sutton
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONSENT AGENDA** Anthony Sutton

 - A. February, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes
 - B. FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program and Self-Certification Checklist
 - C. Amendments to the 2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
4. **BUSINESS (60-75 min)**

 - A. Safety Targets Lauren Blackburn, VHB
 - B. Resolution of Support: New Clyde Highway Reduced Conflict Intersection MPO Staff
 - C. 2050 Preferred Growth Scenario Selection MPO Staff
 - D. 5310 Project Selection MPO Staff
 - E. JARC Project Selection MPO Staff
5. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (10-15 min)**

 - A. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Jessika Bond, Land of Sky
6. **REGULAR UPDATES (15 min)**

 - 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
7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES (5 min)**

8. **TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING (May 15th)**

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Item 3:

Consent Agenda

Item 3A: February, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Item 3B: FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) & Self-Certification Checklist

Item 3C: Amendments to the 2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

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METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 3A:

February, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Available here: https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2025_2_20_MPO.DRAFT_Board_Minutes.pdf

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 3B:

FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) & Self-Certification Checklist

Summary: The MPO's FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program and Self-Certification Checklist is due at the end of March. Any transportation planning efforts or use of efforts using federal planning funds are required to be reflected in the document.

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's adoption is a necessary step for the application of FTA 5303 funds, due at the end of January.

Major Changes between the FY 2025 and FY 2026 UPWP

- no change in local dues
- major focus on data management to begin work on the next base year for the 2055 MTP
- less of a focus on the 2050 MTP (adoption scheduled for September)
- major focus on P 8.0
- Call for Planning Projects scheduled for Fall, 2025

What is Self-Certification?

Self-Certification is an annual requirement for MPOs to note the work being done to keep the MPO in-line with federal requirements.

The FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program and Self-Certification Checklist is available here: https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/UPWP_FY2026_Updated.pdf

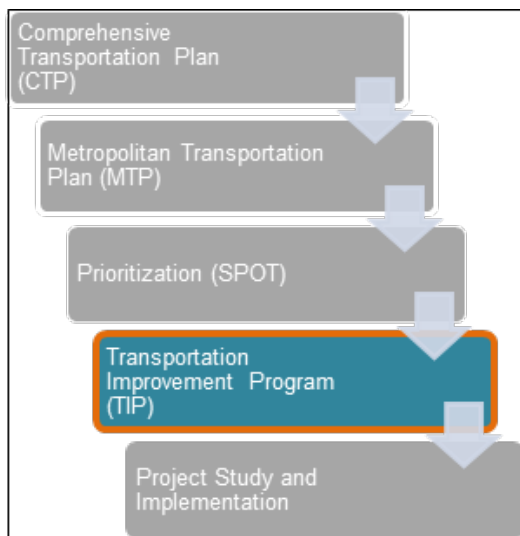
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METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 3C:

Modification 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.

Modification Summary

Only one modification to approve this month.

- Modification to BL-0008 (Clear Creek Greenway) at the request of the City of Hendersonville. Construction funds will be shifted from FY24 to FY25.

TIP Amendment Summaries can be found here: <https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/MarchTIPModifications.pdf>

Staff Recommendation: Approve the Modification

Action Required: Consider Adoption of the modification to the TIP.

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Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 4A:

Safety Targets

Since 2016, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) established five highway safety performance measures in accord with regulations set forth in the Federal MAP-21 and FAST Act transportation funding bills. These performance measures are:

1. *Number of fatalities;*
2. *Rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled;*
3. *Number of serious injuries;*
4. *Rate of serious injuries per 100 million vehicle miles traveled; and*
5. *Number of combined non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries.*

The Need to Revisit: the MPO Board voted to reject the Safety Target alternatives presented during the February, 2025 Board meeting. In meetings with FHWA, MPO staff has been informed that a failure to adopt safety targets could result in non-compliance and an inability to amend the TIP.

The MPO Board will be asked to adopt the State's Safety Targets or Adopt Separate Safety Targets.

Lauren Blackburn (VHB) will present on potential alternative targets.

NCDOT Safety Targets: https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/SafetyPerformanceMeasures_2025Targets_Memo_FrenchBroadRiverMPO_121824.pdf

Lauren Blackburn Target-Setting Slides: <https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Goals-Targets-0325.pptx>

Relevant Regulations: : https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/SafetyTargets_S450.pdf

Action Required: Recommend safety targets to the MPO Board (No TCC Recommendation)

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 4B:

Resolution of Support: Reduced Conflict Intersection Proposal

Summary: NCDOT Division 14 is requesting a resolution of support from the French Broad River MPO to implement a Reduced Conflict Intersection and US 19/23 (Carolina Boulevard) and Waitsel Way, between Clyde and Canton in Haywood County.

Why This Location Is Being Proposed: The intersection has been identified by NCDOT for a high number of moderate to severe injuries, as well as a recent fatality, with a strong connection to left-turning movements.

What Does The Proposed Intervention Do: The project is expected to reduce crashes at this location by implementing a reduced conflict intersection, which would eliminate left turning movements. [FHWA's Proven Safety Countermeasures associate the treatment with a 63% reduction in fatal and injury crashes.](#)

What Funds Would Be Used: Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)- federal safety funds that NCDOT programs towards safety projects.

Why a Resolution of Support Is Being Requested: Despite being a proven safety counter measure, Reduced Conflict Intersection projects can be controversial due to the restriction of turning movements. NCDOT is requesting local support before beginning the project.

More Information from NCDOT

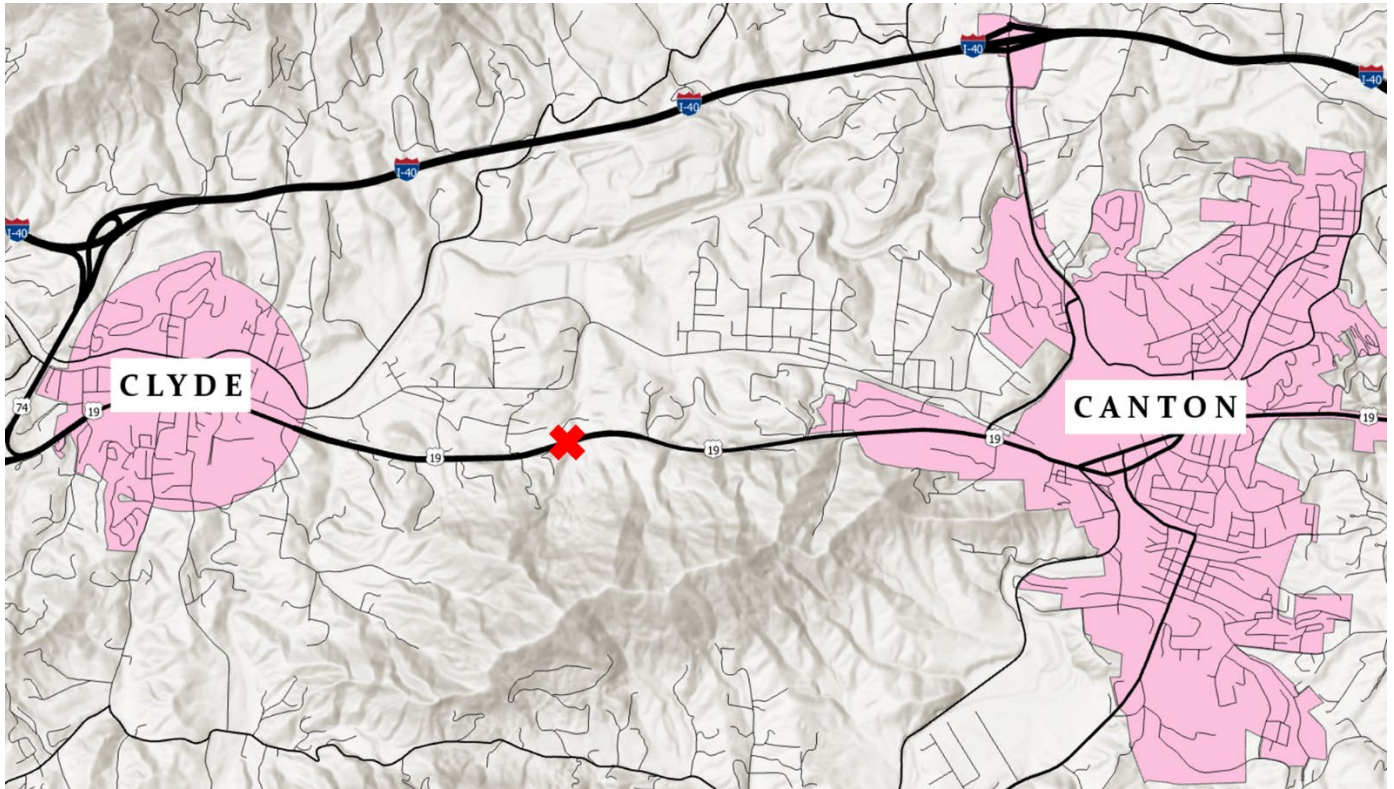
RCI Benefit Study: <https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/RCI-Benefit-Study.pdf>

US19/23 at Waitsel Way Project Location: <https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/US-19-23-at-Waitsel-Way-RCI-Project-Location-Map-and-Details.pdf>

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METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations



Location of the proposed project.

TCC Recommendation: Approve a Resolution of Support for the Proposed Safety Project

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 4C:

2050 Preferred Growth Scenario

Summary: As part of the development of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), the MPO develops what’s referred to as the “Preferred Growth Scenario” that determines how much growth the region should be planning to accommodate in 2050, what kind of growth is expected (in terms of demographics and business type), and where that growth is expected to go. This information feeds into the region’s Travel Demand Model, which is used to develop traffic projections to determine future transportation needs. Outputs from the model are used to build Purpose & Need Statements for future projects as well as a starting point for the development of traffic forecasts that NCDOT uses to determine roadway needs for projects.

Manhan Group, the consultant over the project, has developed four growth scenarios for the MPO to consider.

	Baseline/Business as Usual	Consolidated Growth	Dissipated Growth	Accelerated Growth
Summary	Continued Growth Based on Recent Trends and Policies	Continued Growth but more focused in urban areas	Continued growth but more focused in rural areas (away from current traffic)	More growth than currently expected
PROS	Reflects Current Trends & Policies	Reduces Overall Vehicle Miles Traveled	Allocates Growth to Areas Not Currently Experiencing Much Traffic	Assumes More Growth Than State Projections
CONS	Assumes No Changes to Housing and Land Use Policies in 25 Years/More Vehicles Miles Traveled vs. Consolidated	Assumes (Somewhat Aspirational) Changes to Housing and Land Use Policies in 25 Years	Assumes Changes to Policies; Greater Vehicle Miles Traveled vs. Consolidated or Baseline	Could lead to “overbuilding” if growth projections don’t accelerate significantly

Link to 2050 Preferred Growth Scenario Slides: https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Mar05_2025_prioritization.pptx

TCC & Prioritization Subcommittee Recommendation: Consolidated Growth Scenario

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METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 4D:

5310 Project Selection

Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) funds are allocated to the Asheville Urbanized Area, with the City of Asheville serving as the designated recipient for these funds. The application process for Section 5310 ran from January 16, 2025, to February 20, 2025. Additional information about Section 5310 is available at:

<https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/5310-and-jarc/>.

FY2024 Call for Projects Application Timeline	
January 16, 2025	5310 and JARC Call for Projects opens
February 20, 2025	5310 and JARC applications due to FBRMPO
March 5, 2025	FBRMPO Prioritization Subcommittee meets to review 5310 and JARC applications
March 13, 2025	TCC approves 5310 and JARC project selection
March 20, 2025	MPO Board votes on 5310 and JARC project selection
May 15, 2025	MPO Board approves TIP Amendments for 5310 and JARC projects

The 5310 Grant has two categories for funding:

- Traditional/Capital projects: at least 55% of the total funding amount must go to “traditional” projects.
- Other/Operations projects: no more than 45% of the total funding amount can go to these projects

FY2023 5310 Available Funding	\$477,561	55% of Funds (Traditional)*	\$262,659
Admin	\$47,756	35% of Funds (Other)*	\$167,147
After 10% Admin	\$429,806	*Note: percentage divisions were calculated before 10% Admin	

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METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

**It is important to note that 10% of the original allocation is set aside for Administrative funds for the City of Asheville, so "Other" projects only receive up to 35% of total funding as a result since Traditional projects are required to receive a minimum of 55% of the allocation before administrative costs are considered.*

MPO Staff reviewed the 5310 applications, rating them based on a scorecard (out of 100 points). The following pages show recommendations for awarding 5310 funds based on scores. The quantitative scoring methodology was simplified for this round of funding. [Full scores for each project are available here.](#)

	Better Together Transportation (Traditional)	Buncombe County SEDTAP (Traditional)	Total Funding Required
Project Code	BTT	BC SEDTAP	
Score (out of 100 points)	63.5	100	
Requested Amount	\$15,821	\$262,659	\$278,480
Scenario 1 (94.32% Funding)	\$14,922	\$247,740	\$262,662
Scenario 2 Awarded by Points	\$0	\$262,659	\$262,659
Pro-Rated by Points	\$10,046	\$262,659	\$272,705
Scenario 3 (pro-rated by Points)	\$9,676	\$252,986	\$262,662

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

	Buncombe County RIDE (Other)	Senior Companion Program (Other)	Senior Companion Program Caregiver Project (Other)	Council on Aging Buncombe County (Other)	Total Funding Required
Project Code	BC RIDE	SCP	SCP-CP	COA BC	
Score (out of 100 points)	95	90	90	88	
Requested Amount	\$53,215	\$83,550	\$83,529	\$24,000	\$244,295
Scenario 1 (68.42% Funding)	\$36,410	\$57,165	\$57,151	\$16,421	\$167,147
Scenario 2 Awarded by Points	\$53,215	\$83,550	\$30,381	0	\$167,147
Pro-Rated by Points	\$50,554	\$75,195	\$75,176	21120	\$222,046
Scenario 3 (pro-rated by Points)	\$38,055	\$56,604	\$56,590	\$15,898	\$167,147

TCC& Prioritization Subcommittee Recommendation: Recommend Scenario 2 for Traditional 5310 project applications and Scenario 3 for “Other” 5310 project applications.

Action Required: Consider recommending Scenario 2 for Traditional 5310 project applications and Scenario 3 for “Other” 5310 project applications to the MPO Board.

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 4E:

JARC Project Selection

JARC (Jobs Access Reverse Commute) funds are allocated to the Asheville Urbanized Area, with the City of Asheville serving as the designated recipient for these funds. The application process for JARC ran from January 16, 2025, to February 20, 2025. Additional information about JARC is available at: <https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/5310-and-jarc/>.

FY 2024's Section 5307 (JARC) Allocation

**Regional JARC - FY 2024 at 10% of FTA 5307
Amount allocated to Asheville Urbanized Area**

\$ 412,909

Applicant	Project Title	Period of Performance	Project Description	Funding Requested	Local Match	Total Cost	Project Score
City of Asheville	ART Routes 170 and S3	7/2025-6/2026	The City of Asheville is seeking support through the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC, Section 5307) grant to sustain the operations of its pivotal public transportation routes, Route 170 and Route S3. These services are essential in bridging the mobility gap for low-income individuals, enabling seamless access to employment opportunities, and fostering community and region connectivity.	\$412,909	\$412,909	\$825,818	90

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METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Scoring was based on a scorecard (out of 105 points). The following pages show recommendations for awarding JARC funds based on scores. The quantitative scoring methodology was simplified for this round of funding. [A detailed scorecard can be viewed here.](#)

Prioritization Subcommittee & TCC Recommendation: Fund City of Asheville's JARC Application for ART Routes 170 and S3 at 100% of their funding request.

Action Required: Consider recommendation of the City of Asheville's JARC Application to the MPO Board.

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 5A:

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Jessika Bond with Land of Sky Regional Council will present on the on-going work to develop the updated Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region.

What is a CEDS?

A CEDS is a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development. A CEDS is the result of a regionally-owned planning process designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of an area or region.² It is a key component in establishing and maintaining a robust economic ecosystem by helping to build regional capacities (through hard and soft infrastructure) that contributes to individual, firm, and community success. The CEDS provides a vehicle for individuals, organizations, local governments, institutes of learning, and private industry to engage in a meaningful conversation and debate about what capacity building efforts would best serve economic development in the region. The CEDS should take into account and, where appropriate, integrate or leverage other regional planning efforts, including the use of other available federal funds, private sector resources, and state support which can advance a region's CEDS goals and objectives. Regions must update their CEDS at least every five years to qualify for EDA assistance under its Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs. In addition, a CEDS is a prerequisite for designation by EDA as an [Economic Development District \(EDD\)](#).

SWOT for CEDS

The Land of Sky CEDS team is working on a SWOT analysis of the region's economy. A SWOT analysis looks at:

- S- Strengths
- W- Weaknesses
- O- Opportunities
- T- Threats

Additional materials will be provided to gather input from regional stakeholders as part of the CEDS.

Information Only

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 6A:

Division Project Updates

Division 13: https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Division13_March2025Updates.pdf

Division 14: https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Division14_March2025Updates.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>

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 6D:

Committee & Workgroup Updates

Prioritization Subcommittee— met on March 5th; next meeting April 2nd.

- Additional Funding Request for HL-0003 (passed)
- 5310 and JARC Project Selection
- Elevate 2050 Updates
- 2050 Socio-Economic Growth Scenarios

5307 Subrecipient Workgroup- met on February 18th; next meeting May 20th.

Points of Business/Discussion:

- Helene lessons-learned
- Transit-specific training and learning opportunities for workgroup
- Grant reporting updates and future detailed reporting needs
- Knowledge-sharing opportunities within current group composition

Hellbender Trail Stakeholder Group/Regional Trail Forum Updates- met on April 23rd; next meeting April 3rd.

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
Woodfin-Weaverville Greenway Study	Town of Woodfin	2025	Underway
Buncombe County Pedestrian Plan	Buncombe County	2025	Contracting Underway
Hellbender Implementation Plan	FBRMPO	2024	Not Started
Regional ITS Plan	FBRMPO	2024	RFLOI Drafted
Travel Survey/Model Upgrades	FBRMPO	2024	Not Started
Staffing & Compensation Study	LOSRC	2024	Not Started

Additional Items:

Recommended Actions: Accept the reports.

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METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Locally Administered Projects

TIP ID	Project Title	County	Project Status	When Will Current Phase Be Completed?	Construction Year (Beginning)
BL-0005	Broadway St Ped Improvement	Buncombe	Closing Out	Recently Completed!	
HL-0012	I-240/Charlotte St Interchange & Ped Improvements	Buncombe	Closing Out	Recently Completed!	
BL-0007	Ecusta Trail (Kanuga Rd to US 64)	Henderson	Under Construction	Late Summer 2025 due to the impacts of Hurricane Helene	2023
EB-5948	Onteora Blvd Sidewalks	Buncombe	Under Construction	Recently Completed!	2023
EB-5926	US 19 (Soco Rd) Bike/Ped Improvements	Haywood	Under Construction	2024	2023
U-5190	New Leicester Sidewalks	Buncombe	Under Construction	Recently Completed_ Currently closing out with NCDOT	2023
HL-0014	Biltmore Ave/White Fawn Dr Intersection Improvements	Buncombe	Working on Project Agreement	Construction to Begin This Year	2024
EB-5944	Johnston Rd Sidewalks	Buncombe	Design – 99% R.O.W – 99%	Construction to Begin This Year, finalizing encroachment agreement with the railroad	2024
EB-5947	New Haw Creek Rd Sidewalks	Buncombe	Design – 99% R.O.W. – 99%	Construction Contract Awarded, Construction Beginning in March 2025	2025
U-5019A	Town Branch Greenway	Buncombe	Design – 95% R.O.W. – 100%	Construction to Begin This Year	2024

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

HL-0003	Haywood Rd Resurfacing & Ped Improvements	Buncombe	Design – 90%	Going to bid in September 2024	2024
TIP ID	Project Title	County	Project Status	When Will Current Phase Be Completed?	Construction Year (Beginning)
BL-0008	Clear Creek Greenway	Henderson			2024
BL-0076	Riceville Rd Sidewalks	Buncombe	Design – 0%	October 2024	2025
EB-5547A	Riverwalk Greenway (Black Mountain Ave to Flat Creek Greenway)	Buncombe	Design – 30%	Late 2024	2025
EB-5547B	Riverwalk Greenway (Black Mountain Ave to Into the Oaks Trail)	Buncombe	Design – 30%	Late 2024	2025
EB-5774A	Woodfin Greenway	Buncombe	Design – 85%	R.O.W. – 2024 Construction - 2025	2025
EB-5824	Enka Heritage Trail	Buncombe	Design – 15%	R.O.W. – Late 2024 or Early 2025	2025
EB-5831	Coxe Ave Bike/Ped Improvements	Buncombe	Design – 10%	Spring 2024	2025
BL-0006	Various Ped Improvements within Asheville City Limits	Buncombe			2026
EB-5774B	Beaverdam Creek Greenway	Buncombe	Design – 30%	R.O.W. - Late 2024	2026
EB-5822	North RAD Greenway	Buncombe	Design and PE beginning	30% Design – May 2025	2026

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

HL-0013	9 th Ave Bridge Replacement	Buncombe	Design – 50%	Design – Complete in 2025 R.O.W. – Beginning September 2024	2026
TIP ID	Project Title	County	Project Status	When Will Current Phase Be Completed?	Construction Year (Beginning)
BL-0078	Ecusta Trail (US 64 to Transylvania County Line)	Henderson	Design Underway	Winter 2025	2027
EB-5945	Champion Dr Multi-Use Path	Haywood	ROW Underway		Funded for ROW Only
EB-5946	NC 280 Multi-Use Path	Henderson	PE to Begin in 2026		Funded for PE Only
EB-5823	Bent Creek Greenway	Buncombe	PE to Begin in 2029		Funded for PE Only
EB – 5946	NC 280 Multi-Use Path	Henderson			Funded for PE Only

Item 6E:

Legislative Updates