

**French Broad River MPO
Prioritization Subcommittee**

**Meeting Minutes
July 2nd, 2025**

**ATTENDANCE in Person or Remote
Voting Members**

Elizabeth Teague, Town of Waynesville
Anthony Sutton, Town of Waynesville
Janna Bianculli, Henderson County
Lucy Crown, City of Asheville
William High, Buncombe County
Catherine Cordell, Town of Weaverville

Non-Voting Members

Tristan Winkler, FBRMPO
Sandy Broadwill, LOSRC
Daisy O’Conner, FBRMPO
Joel Strickland, McAdams
Mike Malecheck, Mills River
Alex Mumby, Waynesville
John Hunter, NCDOT

Hannah Bagli, FBRMPO
Steve Williams, NCDOT
Hannah Smith, NCDOT
Daniel Sellers, NCDOT
Stephen Sparks, NCDOT
Troy Wilson. NCDOT

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Elizabeth Teague started the meeting at 9:30AM with introductions. A quorum was announced, and roll was called.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Elizabeth Teague opened the floor for public comment. No comments were heard.

APPROVAL of June 2025 MEETING MINUTES AND AGENDA

***William High moved to approve the June 2025 Meeting Minutes and agenda.
Janna Bianculli seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.***

BUSINESS

4A: Elevate 2050/MTP Update

Elevate 2050, or the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update, is a federally required planning document that MPOs are required to update and maintain to reflect planned transportation investments in the region over the next twenty-five years. The MTP is required to be fiscally constrained, meaning that projects in the MTP have to be reasonably expected to work within projected revenues. The French Broad River MPO is required to update its MTP every five years with the last update completed in September 2020 (not including amendments).

Items for Today:

- Draft Elevate 2050 Plan
- Phase 4 Public Meetings

Draft Elevate 2050 Plan

The Draft Elevate 2050 Plan will be under public review from the dates of July 7 – August 15. This period offers the public the opportunity to provide any feedback they may have on the plan including the recently adopted fiscally constrained project list. After the public review period is complete, McAdams will incorporate the public input received and finalize the plan for a final review before it comes back to the Prioritization Subcommittee, TCC, and Board for adoption in September.

The Plan is broken into the following components:

1. Introduction
 2. Goals & Objectives
 3. Regional Trends & Area Snapshot
 4. Existing Conditions
 5. Public Involvement
 6. Modal and Policy/Program Recommendations
 7. Financial Plan
 8. Project Selection & Evaluation
 9. Evaluating Performance
 10. Post 2050 Vision – CTP Projects
- Appendices:
 - Plan Review
 - Public Involvement
 - Land Use Study
 - Project Scoring
 - Communities of Concern Scoring
 - Unfunded Projects (CTP)
 - Plan Revisions

The Draft Plan is fully available for your review and distribution via the link below.

- [Read the Draft Plan](#)

- Comment on the Draft Plan:

-Visit Elevate2050.com

-[Survey Link](#)

Phase 4 Public Engagement:

The fourth phase of Public Engagement kicks off July 7 with three public meetings being held. This phase will provide the opportunity for comment on the draft Elevate 2050 plan including the fiscally constrained project list. The following dates/times are set for the public meetings:

- Monday, July 7th from 4-8PM at the Dr. Wesley Grant Sr. Southside Center (285 Livingston St., Asheville, NC 28801)
- Tuesday, July 8th from 4-8PM at the Mills River Town Hall (124 Town Center Drive, Mills River, NC 28759)
- Wednesday, July 9th from 4-8PM at Waynesville Town Hall (16 S Main St, Waynesville, NC 28786)

Next Steps

- Draft Plan Review (July)
- Public Meetings
- Final Plan Review (August)
- Plan Approved by Board (September)

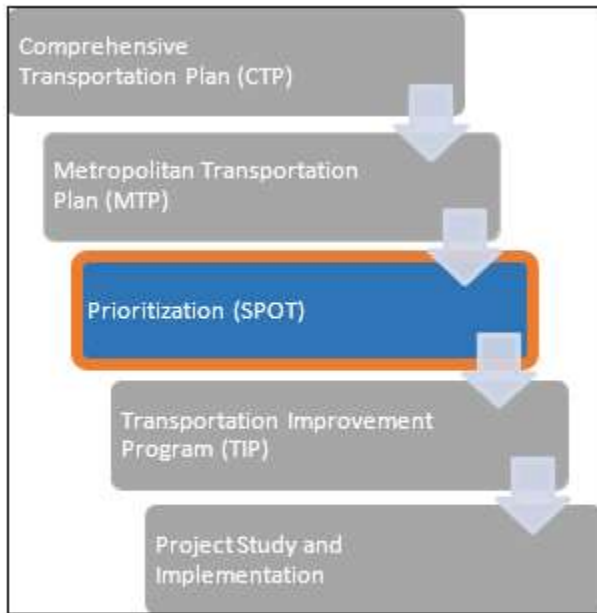
Discussion around an executive summary. Discussion around local boards needing input or not.

Information Only.

4B. P 8 Update:

Very Brief Overview

The Prioritization Process (AKA SPOT, AKA P 8) is the process in North Carolina that helps determine the majority of transportation improvements across the State. The process is dictated by the [Strategic Transportation 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.

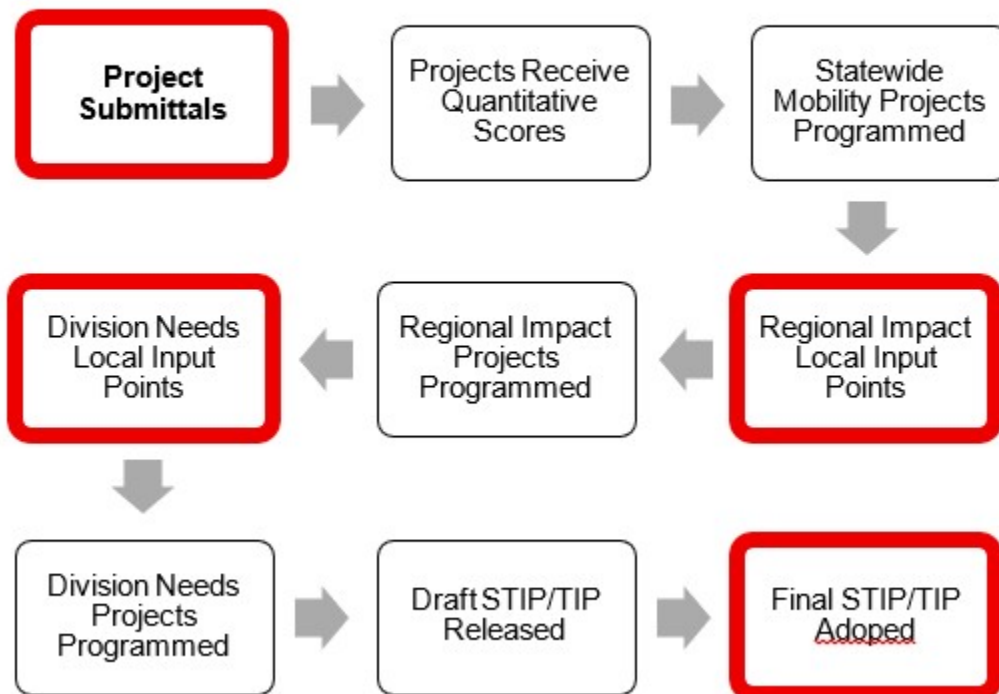


Action Items for Today

- Provide Staff With Directions on Developing the Draft Submittal List
- MPO staff will share:
 - Carryover Project List

Prioritization Background

There are several “major” steps in the prioritization process. The steps are laid out below with MPO tasks circled in red.



Initial/Current Step

We are currently at Step #1 in the process- Project Submittals.

Project Submittals generally come from three different places:

1. **New Projects Submitted by the MPO-** the MPO can submit **18** projects of each mode for consideration in the prioritization process (18 highway, 18 transit, 18 rail, 18 bike/ped, 18 aviation.)

2. **New Projects Submitted by the Divisions-** NCDOT Divisions are allotted **10** submittals per mode for consideration in the prioritization process.

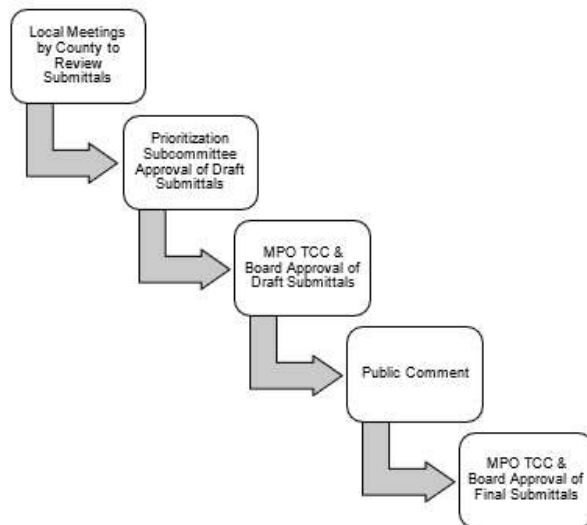
3. **Carryover Projects-** projects that are “automatically” added to the prioritization process, either because they are “siblings” of existing projects or were projects decommitted in the last round.

Other sources of projects for our region:

1. **New Projects Submitted by Other Planning Organizations-** Land of Sky RPO, Foothills RPO, and Southwestern RPO are all adjacent to the FBRMPO and sometimes projects submitted go into the MPO.

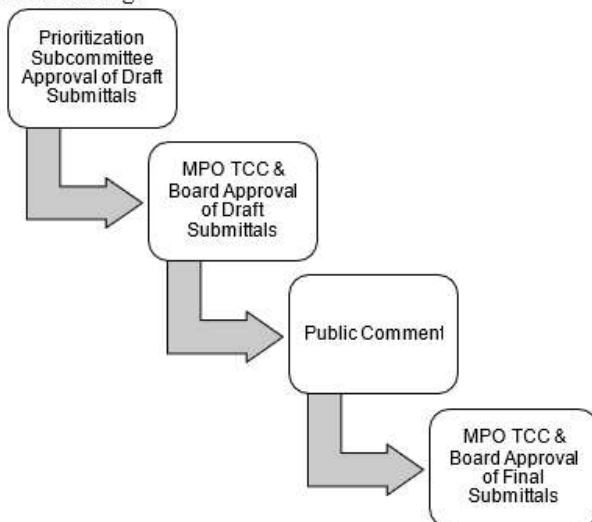
Submittal Process

Status Quo



Alternative Process

Streamline to MPO Meetings



PROS: more streamlined, fewer meetings

CONS: potentially less buy-in and awareness

CONSIDERATIONS: MTP project list recently passed, limited-to-no funding expected for P8

Submittal Project Type

MPO staff would like to consider highway projects in a small set of categories to ensure there is a good mix of transportation interests:



Capacity Projects

- Congestion-Focused
- Roadway Widening



Corridor Retrofit

- Congestion/Safety/Multimodal-Focused
- Limited Lane Additions- Access Management, Roadway Upgrades, etc.



Rural Safety

- Safety-Focused
- Primarily Modernization of Two-Lane Roads



Low Cost

- Intersection Improvements or Road Diets
- May Have a Better Chance with Limited Funding

Carryover Projects

These projects will be automatically submitted into P8 unless the MPO takes action to remove, modify, or swap them. Carryover projects do not count towards the MPO's 18 new submittals.

Capacity Projects:

Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improvement Type
I-26 (US 19/US 23)	US 25 (Merrimon Avenue)	N/A	US 25 (MERRIMON AVENUE) INTERCHANGE. IMPROVE INTERCHANGE.	8 - Improve Interchange
I-26 (US 19/US 23)	US 25/US 70	N/A	US 25/US 70 INTERCHANGE. IMPROVE INTERCHANGE.	8 - Improve Interchange
I-26 (US 19/US 23)	NC 251/SR 1728 (BROADWAY STREET)	US 25/US 70	NC 251/SR 1728 (BROADWAY STREET) TO US 25/US 70. WIDEN ROADWAY TO EIGHT AND SIX LANES.	1 - Widen Existing Roadway
I-26	US 25	US 64 (Four Seasons Boulevard)	Add Additional Lanes.	1 - Widen Existing Roadway
I-26	US 64		US 64 INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS	8 - Improve Interchange
NC 191	US 25 (Asheville Highway)	SR 1381 (Mountain Road)	Widen to <u>Multi-Lanes</u> .	1 - Widen Existing Roadway
US 25A (SWEETEN CREEK ROAD)	US 25 (Hendersonville Road)	SR 3116 (Mills Gap Road)	US 25 (HENDERSONVILLE ROAD) TO SR 3116 (MILLS GAP ROAD)	1 - Widen Existing Roadway
US 25A (SWEETEN CREEK ROAD)	SR 3116 (Mills Gap Road)	SR 3081 (Rock Hill Road)	SR 3116 (MILLS GAP ROAD) TO SR 3081 (ROCK HILL ROAD)	1 - Widen Existing Roadway
I-26/I-240	I-26/I-40/I-240 Final Interchange Improvements	N/A	I-26/I-40/I-240 FINAL INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS	8 - Improve Interchange
NC 112 (SARDIS ROAD/ SANDHILL ROAD)	NC 191 (Brevard Road)	US 19/23 (Smokey Park Highway)	NC 191 (BREVARD ROAD) TO US 19/23 (SMOKEY PARK HIGHWAY). WIDEN ROADWAY TO MULTI-LANES.	1 - Widen Existing Roadway

Corridor Retrofits:

Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improvement Type
US 23 BUSINESS (SOUTH MAIN STREET)	SR 1164 (Hyatt Creek Road)	US 276 (Pigeon Street)	SR 1164 (HYATT CREEK ROAD) TO US 276 (PIGEON STREET). WIDEN <u>TO</u> MULTI-LANES.	16 - Modernize Roadway
NC 81 (SWANNANOA RIVER ROAD)	SR 3214 (Biltmore Avenue)	US 74A (South Tunnel Road)	SR 3214 (BILTMORE AVENUE) TO US 74A (SOUTH TUNNEL ROAD). WIDEN EXISTING ROADWAY.	16 - Modernize Roadway
US 276 (RUSS AVENUE)	US 23-74 (Great Smoky Mountain Expressway)	US 19 (Dellwood Rd)	US 23-74 (GREAT SMOKEY MOUNTAIN EXPRESSWAY) TO US 19 (DELLWOOD ROAD). ACCESS MANAGEMENT.	11 - Access Management

Rural Safety:

No Projects

Low Cost:

Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improvement Type
US 19 (Patton Avenue)	US 19 (Patton Avenue) / US 23 / US 74 Alternate and NC 63 (New Leicester Highway)	N/A	Construct final intersection improvements.	10 - Improve Intersection
US 276	SR 1134 (Crymes Cove Rd), Raccoon Rd		SR 1134 (CRYMES COVE ROAD) AND RACCOON ROAD. INTERSECTION REALIGNMENT.	10 - Improve Intersection

Number of Carryover Projects by Type:

Project Type	# of Carryover Projects
Capacity Projects	10
Corridor Retrofits	3
Rural Safety	0
Low Cost	2

Discussion occurred around carry over projects and needing some clarity. Projects that got decommitted were automatically resubmitted. They will get scored again. Hendersonville is not in support of the 191 project. Hannah Smith mentioned that the deadline to update or change a carry over project would be in July. Further discussion was had in regards to the 191 project specifically

that there isn't much space and it would be expensive. Discussion around new submittal process. Discussion around I40 shut downs creating significant traffic back ups in Weaverville. Discussion also occurred around changing the bylaws for Prioritization committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Elizabeth Teague opened the floor for public comment. No comments were heard.

ADJOURNMENT

Elizabeth Teague adjourned the meeting at 10:54 AM.