

Prioritization Subcommittee

Meeting Agenda

August 6, 2025

9:30 AM

Meeting to be held at Land of Sky Regional Council or via

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/91373453789>

Voting Members on the Committee: Jessica Morris (City of Asheville, Vice-Chair), William High (Buncombe County), Autumn Radcliff (Henderson County), Anthony Sutton (Town of Waynesville), Elizabeth Teague (Town of Waynesville, Chair), Archie Pertiller (Town of Black Mountain), Catherine Cordell (Town of Weaverville)

1.	Welcome and Introductions	Elizabeth Teague
2.	Public Comment	Elizabeth Teague
3.	Approval of July, 2025 Meeting Minutes	Elizabeth Teague
4.	Business	
A.	Elevate 2050/MTP Updates	McAdams Staff
B.	Prioritization (P8) Submittals	MPO Staff
C.	Prioritization Subcommittee Bylaws	MPO Staff
5.	News, Events, Updates	Elizabeth Teague
6.	Public Comment	Elizabeth Teague
7.	Adjournment	Elizabeth Teague

Item 4A:

Elevate 2050/MTP Update

Elevate 2050 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).

Updates:

- Statewide Mobility Projects – Fiscally Constrained Update (R-CTP06 / A-0010)
- Additional Text
- Public Comment Reminder

Statewide Mobility Projects – Fiscally Constrained Update (R-CTP06 / A-0010)

As proposed previously, the R-CTP06 project stretched from Broadway Avenue to US 25/70 (Weaver Boulevard). In an effort to break the project up and streamline delivery of the I-26 project, the limits of R-CTP06 have been revised to extend from Broadway Avenue to Elk Mountain Road.

Project ID	Improvement Type	Recommendation Name	Limits	Cost
Previous R-CTP06	1 – Widen Existing Roadway	I-26 (US 19/23)	From Broadway Avenue to US 25/70	\$350,169,000
Updated R-CTP06	1 – Widen Existing Roadway	I-26 (US 19/23)	From Broadway Avenue to Elk Mountain Road	\$41,832,369

The revisions/solution

- Note that A-0010AE (*New Stock Road interchange improvements including widening of I-26 to the north of Aiken Road*) is funded in the STIP, which gets us to Aiken Road.
- Include the new R-CTP06 project along with three I-26 interchange projects.
- The cost estimates for the projects that are replacing the original R-CTP06, reflect the most recent STIP cost estimates.
- To account for the shortening of R-CTP06, R-CTP11 will be expanded and segmented to include:
 - R-CTP11A: Elk Mountain Road to New Stock
 - R-CTP11B: Aiken to Weaver
 - R-CTP11C: Weaver to N. Buncombe School Road

Project ID	Improvement Type	Recommendation Name	Limits	Cost
A-0010AB	8 - Interchange Improvements	I-26 (US 19/23)	Broadway Avenue interchange	\$102,000,000
A-0010AC	8 - Interchange Improvements	I-26 (US 19/23)	Elk Mountain Road interchange	\$66,503,000
A-0010AD	8 - Interchange Improvements	I-26 (US 19/23)	Merrimon Avenue interchange	\$122,400,000
R-CTP06	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	I-26 (US 19/23)	From Broadway Avenue to Elk Mountain Road	\$41,832,369
TOTAL				\$332,735,369

In addressing the concerns in this way, we have stayed within the total cost presented to the public and the Board (\$350,000,000).

Additional Text Added

Since the publication of the draft Elevate 2050 plan, a few sections of text were added to the plan, including:

- Subsection on High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes
- Electric Vehicle Infrastructure
- Environmental Mitigation Activities
- Additional information about transit, specifically mentioning ART's ongoing Comprehensive Operational Analysis and FTA grants received by ART.
- Revisions to project descriptions in the fiscally constrained list that provide greater detail on cross-sections

- Inclusion of the Near-Term (i.e. programmed STIP/TIP projects) in the chapter identifying projects

Public Comment Reminder – Phase 4 Engagement

The public comment period for the draft Elevate 2050 plan closes on August 15, 2025. Please encourage your networks to review the draft plan and provide comments as they see fit. After the survey closes, we will incorporate the comments into the final Elevate 2050 plan, which will go before this Steering Committee for recommendation for approval in September.

- The survey can be accessed (along with information about the project) by visiting www.elevate2050.com
- Survey Link: <https://app.maptionnaire.com/q/public-comment-draft-elevate-2050>

We held three public meetings in early July, with a total of 44 attendees between Asheville, Mills River, and Waynesville.

Next Steps

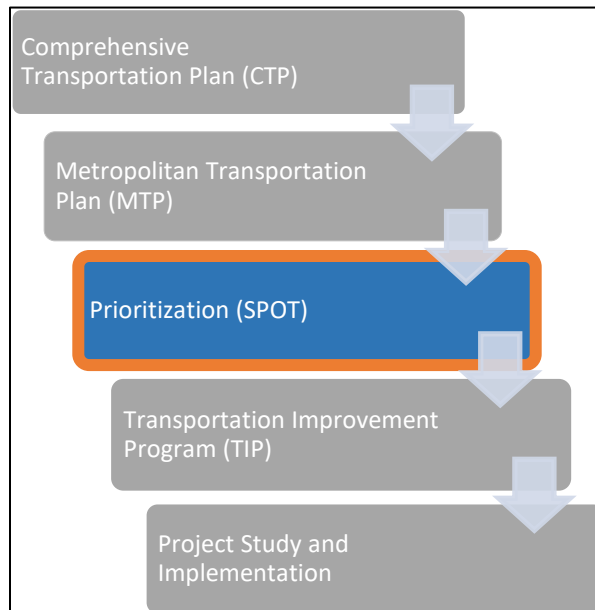
- **Plan Presented to Board (August)**
- **Plan Approved by Board (September)**

Item 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.

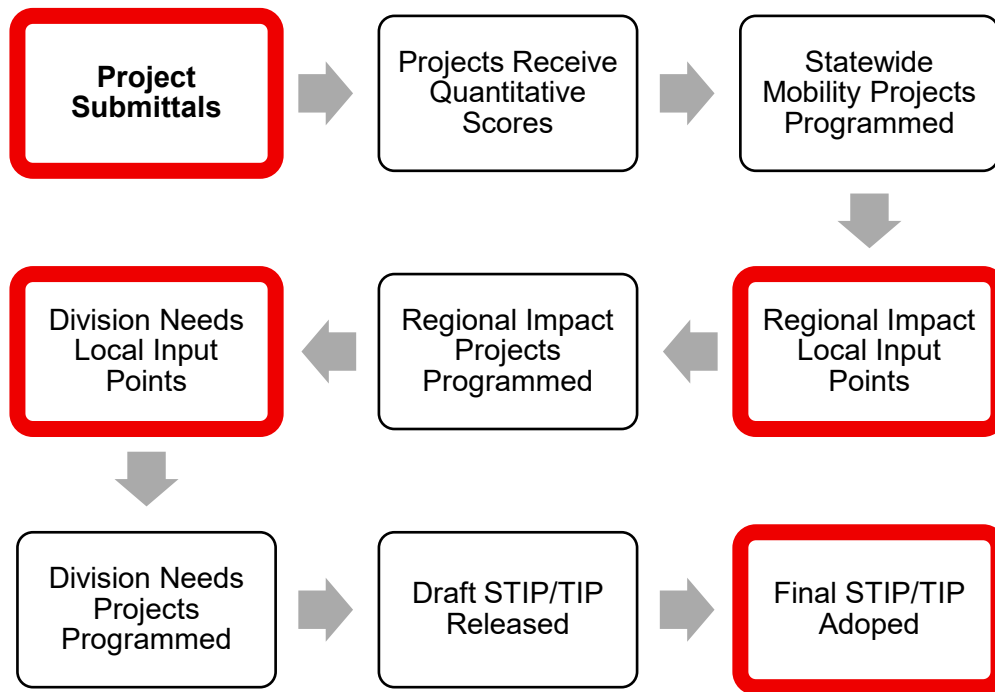


Action Items for Today

- Recommendation of the Draft Submittal 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.

MPO Schedule

August, 2025	Draft Submittals Approved by Board & TCC
August 22-September 17, 2025	Public Comment on MPO Draft Submittals
September, 2025	Final Submittals Approved by Board & TCC
June, 2026	Draft Regional Impact Local Input Points
August, 2026	Final Regional Impact Local Input Points
October, 2026	Draft Division Needs Local Input Points
November, 2026	Final Division Needs Local Input Points
January, 2027	Draft STIP Released

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 Multi-Lanes.	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 TO 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

New Highway Submittals:

As a starting point for new submittals, MPO staff looked at submittals to P7, MTP, and Safe Streets considerations.

Buncombe County (Nine New Submittals)

Route	From	To	Project Type	MTP?	Notes
US 19/23 (Smokey Park Highway)	I-40	NC 151	Access Management (Regional Impact)	Yes	Highest scoring MPO submittal P6, P7
NC 63 (New Leicester Highway)	Newfound Road	Gouges Branch Road	Improve Multiple Intersections (Regional Impact)	No	Lower cost submittal, based on public input from P7, scored well in P7
NC 191 (Brevard Road)	Glenn Bridge Road/Avery Creek Road	-	Improve Intersection (Regional Impact)	No	Lower cost submittal, scored well in P7, frequently brought up by the public
US 70 (Tunnel Road)	Beaucatcher Tunnel	US 74A (South Tunnel Road)	Road Diet (Regional Impact)	No	Lower cost submittal, highest scoring project on US 70 in P7
US 70 (State Street)	Blue Ridge Road	NC 9	Road Diet (Regional Impact)	Yes	Lower cost submittal, overlaps with Safe Streets priority corridor
Sand Hill Road	Sand Hill School Road	-	Intersection Improvement (Division Needs)	Yes	Lower cost submittal, scored well in P7
Reems Creek Road	US 19/23 (Weaverville Highway)	Ox Creek Road	Modernization (Division Needs)	Yes	Scored well in P7, Weaverville priority, partially overlaps with Safe Streets priority
North Louisiana Avenue	US 19/23 (Patton Avenue)	Emma Road	Modernization (Division Needs)	Yes	Previously funded, overlaps with Safe Streets priorities, scored well in P7
Elkwood Avenue	NC 251 (Riverside Drive)	US 25 (Merrimon Avenue)	Modernization (Division Needs)	Yes	Priority sidewalk corridor for Woodfin & Asheville; notable crash history.

Haywood County (Three Submittals)

Route	From	To	Project Type	MTP?	Notes
US 19/23 (Asheville Highway/Park Street)	Chestnut Mountain Road	NC 215	Modernization (Regional Impact)	Yes	Haywood priority greenway connection; roundabout at NC 215
NC 215 (Penland Street)	US 19/23 (Park Street)	-	Intersection Improvement (Regional Impact)	Yes	Safe Streets priority intersection
US 19 (Dellwood Road)	US 23/74 (Great Smoky Mountain Expressway)	US 276 (Jonathan Creek Road)	Access Management (Regional Impact)	No	Safe Streets priority corridor

Henderson County (Five Submittals)

Route	From	To	Project Type	MTP?	Notes
US 176 (Spartanburg Highway)	NC 225 (Greenville Highway)	Upward Road	Access Management (Regional Impact)	Yes	High scoring project from P7
US 25B (Asheville Highway)	North Main Street	NC 191	Multiple Intersection Improvements (Regional Impact)	Yes	Lower-cost submittal, high scoring project in P7
NC 280 (Boylston Highway)	NC 191 (Haywood Road)	NC 191 (Brevard Road)	Access Management (Regional Impact)	No	Previously funded project, scored well in P7
Signal Hill/Berkely/Thompson Street	US 64 (Four Seasons Boulevard)	US 25B (Asheville Highway)	Modernization (Division Needs)	Yes	Henderson County priority project; expected to score better in P8
Fanning Bridge Road	US 25 (Hendersonville Road)	NC 280 (Airport Road)	Modernization (Division Needs)	Yes	Fletcher priority project; modified from Multiple Intersection Improvements

Madison County (One Submittal)

Route	From	To	Project Type	MTP?	Notes
NC 213	Athletic Street	Bone Camp Road	Access Management (Regional Impact)	No	Madison County priority

**Highway Projects Considered But Not on the List:
Buncombe County**

- I-40 Widening (potentially managed lanes) from Monte Vista Road to Exit 37 (Wiggins Road)
- Clingman Avenue: Improve Multiple Intersections from Hilliard Avenue to Patton Avenue (identified in the Patton Avenue Corridor Study)
- US 25 (Merrimon Avenue) @ Beaverdam Creek Road: Improve Intersection (identified as the biggest non-interstate bottleneck in the region, per RITIS)
- US 25 (Merrimon Avenue) Roadway Upgrade from I-240 to Wembley Road (complete Road Diet of Merrimon Avenue, upgrade intersections, and improve sidewalks.)
- NC 63 (New Leicester Highway): Access Management from US 19/23 (Patton Avenue) to Newfound Gap Road (Safe Streets priority, previous TIP project, previous submittal)
- US 25 (Hendersonville Road): Access Management from I-40 to NC 280 (Airport Road) (or a section thereof, identified in the Hendersonville Road Study, previous submittal)
- NC 280 (Airport Road): Access Management from US 25 (Hendersonville Road) to the French Broad River (previous submittal)
- US 70 (Tunnel Road): Access Management from I-240 to the Blue Ridge Parkway (previous submittal)
- Cane Creek Road: Modernization from US 74A (Charlotte Highway) to Mills Gap Road (previous submittal)
- Old Fort Road: Modernization from US 74A (Charlotte Highway) to Whitaker Road (previous submittal)
- Broadway Avenue Road Diet from I-240 to Chestnut Street

Haywood County

- NC 215: Modernization from US 19/23 to US 276 (Safe Streets priority)
- US 19 (Soco Road) Modernization from Fie Top Road to the Blue Ridge Parkway (previous submittal)
- US 19 (New Clyde Highway): Access Management from NC 215 to Midway Crossing Drive
- US 19 (Carolina Boulevard): Access Management from Morgan Street to Pleasant Hill Road

Henderson County

- US 64 (Chimney Rock Road): Modernization from Fruitland Road to Gilliam Mountain Road (previous submittal)
- Duncan Hill Road: Modernization from US 64 (Four Seasons Boulevard) to Signal Hill Road (previous submittal)
- Butler Bridge Road: Modernization from US 25 (Hendersonville Road) to NC 280 (Boylston Highway)
- Hooper Creek Road: Modernization from Mills Gap Road to Terry Gap Road (MTP priority)
- Blythe Street: Modernization from US 64 (Brevard Road) to NC 191 (Haywood Road) (previous submittal)
- White Pine Drive: Modernization from US 64 (Brevard Road) to Hebron Road (previous submittal)

Madison County

- Bruce Road: Modernization from North Main Street to School House Lane (previous submittal)

New Bike/Ped Submittals:
Buncombe County (Nine New Submittals)

Route	From	To	Project Type	MTP?	Notes
Tunnel Road Sidewalks	New Haw Creek Road	Blue Ridge Parkway	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	Yes	
Patton Avenue	Old Haywood Road	Johnston Blvd	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	Yes	
Old Haywood Road Sidewalks	US 19/23/74 (Patton Avenue)	US 19/23/74 (Smokey Park Highway)	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	No	Scored well in P7
Lake Julian Greenway	French Broad River	Lake Julian	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	Yes	
Fairview Road	Swannanoa River Road	Liberty Street	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	Yes	
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)	Yes	PE funding programmed by MPO
US 70 Sidewalks	Franklin Street	Warren Wilson Road	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	Yes	Request of FANS
NC 251 (Riverside Drive)	Future 1-26	Woodfin Ave	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	Yes	NCDOT IMD Study Getting Started
Reems Creek Greenway	Quarry Road	Karpen Soccer Field	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	Yes	PE funding programmed by MPO

Haywood County (Three Submittals)

Route	From	To	Project Type	MTP?	Notes
Richland Creek Greenway-North	Recreation Park	Haywood High Tech Center	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	Yes	
Old Basalm Road	Hyatt Creek Road	400 Feet SW of Piney Mountain Road	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	No	
NC 215 (Champion Drive)	SR 1589 (North Canton Road)	SR 1513 (Thickety Road)	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	Yes	PE and ROW Programmed With MPO Funds

Henderson County (Five Submittals)

Route	From	To	Project Type	MTP?	Notes
Church Street and King Street	US 176	North Main Street	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	Yes	Highest scoring Division 14 project in P7
Above The Mud Greenway Connector	Ecusta Trail	Oklawaha Greenway	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	Yes	2 nd highest scoring Division 14 project in P7
N Main Street/Clear Creek Road Sidewalks	Nix Road	Baldwin Avenue	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	Yes	Connection to Oklawaha and Clear Creek Greenways
Mills River Valley Trail	French Broad River	NC 191	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	Yes	PE previously programmed
Oklawaha Greenway-Jackson Park to Blue Ridge CC	Jackson Park	Blue Ridge Community College	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	Yes	

Madison County (One Submittal)

Route	From	To	Project Type	MTP?	Notes
Park Drive Sidepath	NC 213	Mars Hill Recreation Park	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	Yes	#1 Priority from Mars Hill Bike/Ped Plan

New Rail Submittals:

Route	From	To	Project Type	MTP?	Notes
NS AS Line	NC 251 (Riverside Drive)	N/A	3 - Highway-rail crossing improvement (point)	Yes	
NS AS Line (WNC Passenger Service)	Salisbury	Asheville	5 - Passenger rail service (line)	Yes	
NS AS Line	SR 2500 (Blue Ridge Rd),	N/A	3 - Highway-rail crossing improvement (point)	Yes	

New Public Transportation Submittals:

Transit System	Route / Facility Name (or Project Name)	Project Description
Haywood Public Transit	Haywood County Transfer Station	Transfer Building with Bathrooms and Side Small Vehicle Maintenance Capabilities
Haywood Public Transit	Expansion Vehicles	Two (2) expansion vehicles.
City of Asheville	Transit Maintenance Facility	Construct a new maintenance facility in order to accommodate additional vehicles and address current maintenance facility capacity through a facility assessment.
City of Asheville	Transit Multimodal Facility	Construct a new transit multimodal facility to accommodation vehicles that pick-up and drop transit riders.
City of Asheville	Mobile Fair Collection System	
Apple Country Transit	Expansion Vehicles	25' LTV hybrid vehicle for Route 2 expansion.

Action Needed: Discuss & Approve a List of Recommended Submittals to the MPO Board & TCC for the P8 Process

Item 4C:

Prioritization Subcommittee Bylaws

Following up from a conversation at the last meeting and in coordination with the MPO's Citizens Advisory Committee, MPO staff would like to discuss the possibility of adding three at-large seats to the Prioritization Subcommittee.

The current bylaws allow for the following membership:

- Three MPO Board members
- Four MPO TCC members

Members can serve an unlimited number of two-year terms.

A current proposal would be to add three at-large members to the subcommittee to enable more citizen participation directly with MPO processes.

MPO staff would like feedback on the following considerations:

- generally adding three at-large members to the subcommittee
- appointment process for at-large members
- geographic equity considerations for at-large members

Action Needed: Discuss & Recommend Potential Changes to the Subcommittee Bylaws