



French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization

Minutes from the TCC Hybrid Meeting on August 14th, 2025

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

In-person and remote via Zoom:

Steve Williams	NCDOT Division 14
Vicki Eastland	Land of Sky RPO
William High (Chair)	Buncombe County
Chloe Donohoe	Buncombe Co Transit
Daniel Sellers	NCDOT TPD
Lucy Crown	City of Asheville
Noah Taylor	Town of Maggie Valley
Matthew Manley	Hendersonville
Janna Bianculli	Apple Country Public Transit
Stephen Sparks	NCDOT
Jodie Ferguson	Haywood County
John Hunter	NCDOT
Janna Bianculli	Apple Country Transit
Troy Wilson	NCDOT
Jeremy Chapman	NCDOT
Jessica Morriss	ART
Scott Collier	NCDOT
Doug Phillips	NCDOT Div 13
Autumn Radcliff	Henderson County
Erica Anderson	Land of Sky Regional Council
Cody Weddle	NCDOT
Mike Malecek	Town of Mills River

Members Without Representation Present:

Town of Black Mountain
Town of Clyde
Town of Canton
Village of Flat Rock
Town of Laurel Park
Madison County
Town of Mars Hill
Town of Waynesville
Town of Woodfin

Town of Weaverville
Town of Fletcher
Haywood County Transit
Town of Montreat
Town of Biltmore Forest

Additional Attendees:

Sandy Broadwill	Hannah Bagli	Ada McGovern
Daisy O'Connor	Joel Strickland	Asha Rado (Minutes)
Kristy Carter	Rachel Bronson	Lauren Blackburn
Joe Minacozi(public)		

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Chair William High called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 11:07AM. A quorum was established to conduct the business before the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

William High opened the floor for public comment. Joe Minacozi spoke.

Paraphrase of comment

"I'm trying to figure out how to coordinate with some folks here on I 26 and the EIS amendments that are coming. Will there be a comment period and what will the date be? How long will the period be open for 30 days etc? The second question is about the record of decision and FEIS don't have the flyover of the highway in it, so we don't know the noise impacts, economic impacts of the housing and real estate that will be disturbed by noise as we don't have the sound studies. So, without those is the record of decision null and void? Third question is the record of decision null and void and we will need a new one because of this process?"

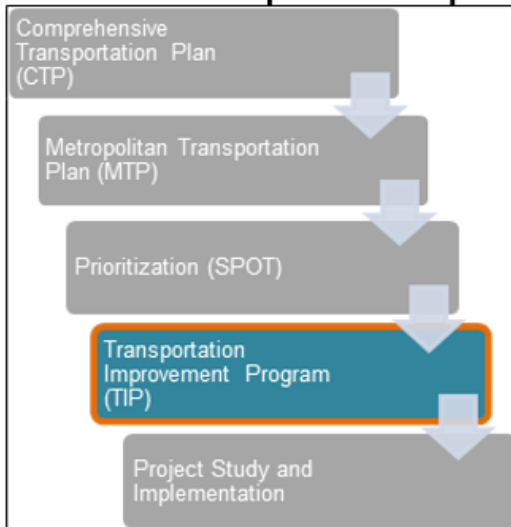
Joe went on to state he had concerns with Nathan Moneyham and he would like to have a legal backing of the comments made, someone with more knowledge. He would like a legal opinion on all of this by NCDOT. He wants a legally binding comment on his questions.

Consent Agenda:

3A: June 2025 Meeting Minutes: https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2025_06_12_DRAFT.MPO_TCC_Minutes.pdf

3B. Amendments to the 2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

What is the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)?



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

Amendment Highlights:

Amendments this month include:

- HE-0001A and HE-0001B: Cost increases on the I-26 (Fredrick Law Olmstead Way) interchange and new road
- BL-0078 (Ecusta Trail): Addition of the RAISE (BUILD) and NSFLTP Grants to the TIP/STIP
- C-5702E (NC Clean Energy Technology

Center): NC Clean Energy Technology Center, sub-awards to CMAQ-Eligible Counties

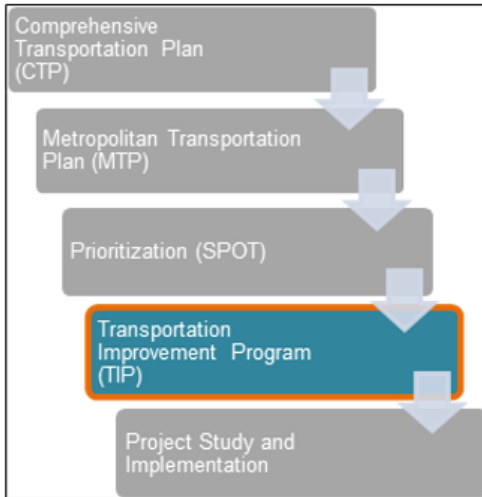
TIP Amendment Summaries can be found here:

https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/FBRMPO_August2025_TIP_Amendments_UPDATED.pdf

Steve Williams moved to accept the consent agenda including the minutes from the June 2025 Meeting and the amendments to the 2024-2033 TIP. Noah Taylor seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

Business:

4A. Adoption of the 2026-2035 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)



What is the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)?

The State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is North Carolina's federally-required document that reflects planned transportation investments over a ten-year period. The STIP describes each project, a schedule for implementation, funding sources, and estimated costs. The STIP includes all of the MPOs' TIPs as well as programs for RPOs.

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is the MPO's subset of the STIP. In order for federal actions to be approved or for federal

funds to be obligated, projects are required to be reflected in both the TIP and STIP.

Development of the 2026-2035 State Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The cycle to update the STIP for 2026-2035 began in fall 2023. Due to rising costs for existing projects funded in the currently adopted 2024-2033 STIP, little to no funding was projected to be available for new projects in the 2026-2035 STIP. While P 7.0 was completed, few projects across the State were funded and none in the French Broad River MPO. Instead, the primary focus was on right-sizing NCDOT's budget and delaying or cutting existing projects due to cost increases.

Projects Being Decommitted

Project	Route	County	Funding Tier	Revised Cost
U-4712	US 23B (South Main Street) Widening	Haywood	Division 14	\$57,400,000
U-6159	US 276 (Russ Avenue) Access Management	Haywood	Division 14	\$39,000,000
U-6158	US 276 @ Crymes Cove Intersection Improvements	Haywood	Division 14	\$6,700,000
U-2801AB	US 25A (Sweeten Creek Road) Widening	Buncombe	Region G	\$215,000,000
U-5832	NC 81 (Swannanoa River Road) Widening	Buncombe	Division 13	\$145,000,000
U-6047	NC 112 (Sand Hill/Sardis Road) Widening	Buncombe	Division 13	\$175,800,000
I-4400BA	I-26 @ US 64 Interchange Improvements	Henderson	Division 14	\$143,600,000

*A-0010AA decommitted (officially) but previously brought before the MPO Board

Project Delays & Construction Schedules

Project	Route	County	Previous CST Year	Updated CST Year
A-0010AE	Future I-26 (near New Stock Road)	Buncombe	2031	2031
I-2513AC	I-26/I-240	Buncombe	2025	2027
I-2513B & I-2513D	I-26/I-240	Buncombe	2024	2024
I-4409	I-40 @ Blue Ridge Road	Buncombe	2025	2026
I-4759	I-40 @ Liberty Road	Buncombe	2027	2029
U-4739	Amboy/Meadow Road	Buncombe	2030	2030
U-5834	Mills Gap Road	Buncombe	2025	2026
U-6163	Mills Gap Road @ Cane Creek Road	Buncombe	2025	2025
R-5921	US 276 (Jonathan Creek Road)	Haywood	2024	2025
U-6048	US 19/23	Haywood	2030	2033
R-2588B	NC 191	Henderson	2026	2029
U-5783	US 64	Henderson	2025	2025
U-5886	White Street	Henderson	2027	2028 2029
U-6049	NC 225 (South Main Street)	Henderson	2027	2028 2029

Next Steps

The NCDOT Board of Transportation approved the 2026-2035 STIP at its July meeting. Every MPO in the State is expected to do adopt their TIPs before September 30, 2025. Following the approval of the STIP and every MPO TIP, FHWA and FTA would review the documents. Once accepted, the 2026-2035 STIP & TIPs would become the official documents reflecting planned transportation investments in North Carolina.

No discussion occurred.

Steve Williams moved to recommend the adoption of the 2026-2035 TIP to the Board. Jessica Morris seconded the motion which passed upon a roll call vote.

4B.P8 Project Submittals

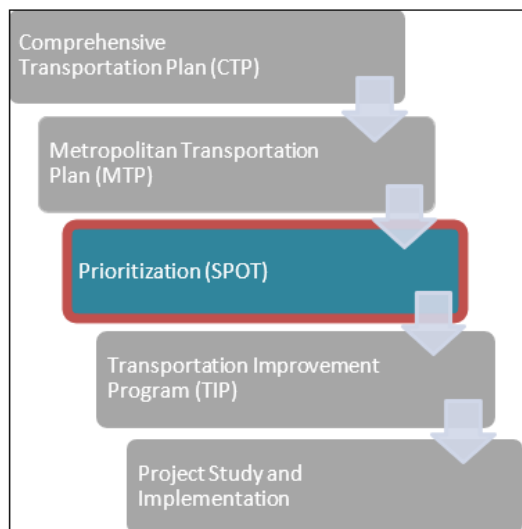
Very Brief Overview

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.

Project submittals are planned transportation projects that are elected to be considered for funding in the process by MPOs, RPOs, or NCDOT Divisions. Projects will be scored based on the mode, facility type, and proposed improvement, to compete for any available funding.

The end result of the process is expected to be the 2028-2037 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), as well as the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) at the MPO.

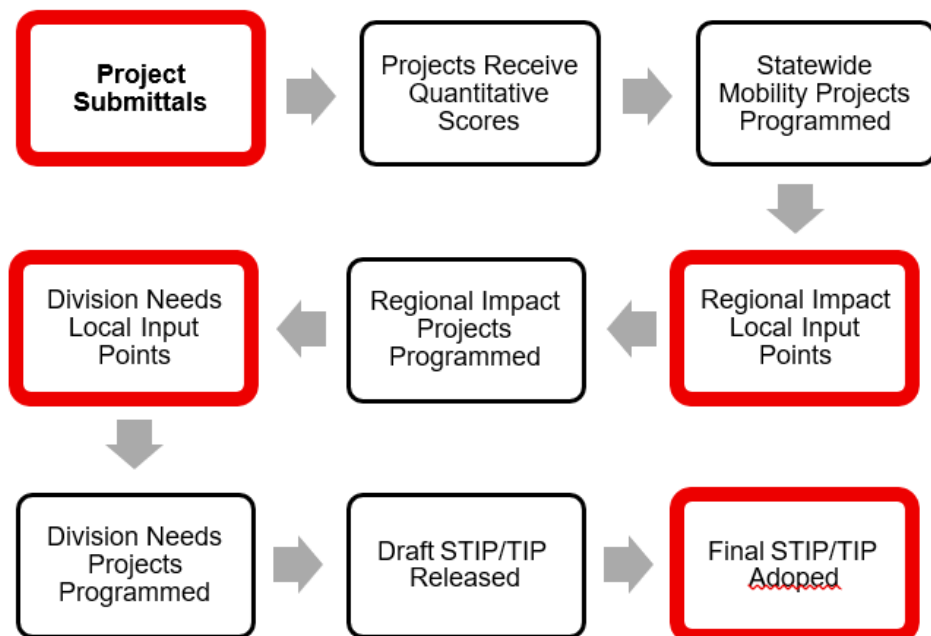


Action Items for Today

- Recommendation of the Draft Submittal List

Prioritization Background

There are several “major” steps in the prioritization process. The steps are laid out below with MF 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
June 19, 2026-August 19, 2026	Public Comment on Draft Local Input Points (Regional Impact)
August, 2026	Final Regional Impact Local Input Points
October, 2026	Draft Division Needs Local Input Points
October 16, 2026-November 18, 2026	Public Comment on Draft Local Input Points (Division Needs)
November, 2026	Final Division Needs Local Input Points
January, 2027	Draft STIP Released

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 submittal

TIP	Project Category	Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improvement Type
A-0010AB	Statewide Mobility	I-26, US 19, US 23	US 25, US 70 (Weaver Boulevard)	SR 2207 (North Buncombe School Road)	NC 251/SR 1728 (BROADWAY STREET) INTERCHANGE. IMPROVE INTERCHANGE.	17 - Upgrade Freeway to Interstate Standards
A-0010AC	Statewide Mobility	I-26, US 19, US 23	SR 2207 (North Buncombe School Road)	South of SR 2148 (Stockton Branch Road)	SR 1684 (ELK MOUNTAIN ROAD) INTERCHANGE. IMPROVE INTERCHANGE.	17 - Upgrade Freeway to Interstate Standards
A-0010AD	Statewide Mobility	I-26 (US 19/US 23)	US 25 (Merrimon Avenue)	N/A	US 25 (MERRIMON AVENUE) INTERCHANGE. IMPROVE INTERCHANGE.	8 - Improve Interchange
A-0010AG	Statewide Mobility	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.	17 - Upgrade Freeway to Interstate Standards
A-0010AJ	Statewide Mobility	I-26, US 19, US 23	US 25, US 70 (Weaver Boulevard)	SR 2207 (North Buncombe School Road)	Upgrade existing 4-lane section to Interstate Standards	17 - Upgrade Freeway to Interstate Standards
A-0010AK	Statewide Mobility	I-26, US 19, US 23	SR 2207 (North Buncombe School Road)	South of SR 2148 (Stockton Branch Road)	Upgrade existing 4-lane section to Interstate Standards	17 - Upgrade Freeway to Interstate Standards
U-2801AA	Statewide Mobility	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
U-2801AB	Statewide Mobility	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

TIP	Project Category	Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improvement Type
I-2513C	Statewide Mobility	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
U-5971B	Statewide Mobility	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
A-0010AF	Regional Impact*	I-26 (US 19/US 23)	US 25/US 70	N/A	US 25/US 70 INTERCHANGE. IMPROVE INTERCHANGE.	8 - Improve Interchange
U-6047	Regional Impact	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
U-5832	Regional Impact	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.	1 - Widen Existing Roadway

Recommended New Highway Submittals: 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

Route	From	To	Project Type	MTP?	Notes
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

**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 <u>Sidelpath</u>	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- <u>rail</u> <u>crossing</u> 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- <u>rail</u> <u>crossing</u> 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 <u>and Side</u> Small Vehicle Maintenance Capabilities
Haywood Public Transit	Expansion Vehicles	Two (2) expansion vehicles.
City of Asheville	Transit Maintenance Facility	Construct a new maintenance facility <u>in order to</u> 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 <u>accommodation</u> vehicles that <u>pick-up</u> and drop transit riders.
City of Asheville	Mobile Fair Collection System	
Apple Country Transit	Expansion Vehicles	25' <u>LTV</u> hybrid vehicle for Route 2 expansion.

Discussion did not occur.

***Janna Bianculli moved to recommend the Draft List of P8 Project Submittals to the board.
Lucy Crown seconded the motion which passed upon a roll call vote.***

4C. Adoption of the Safe Streets for WNC Plan

What is the Safe Streets for WNC Plan?

Safe Streets for WNC (SS4WNC) is a safety action plan developed for Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania Counties. The French Broad River MPO and Land of Sky RPO were awarded funding in 2023 and the plan kicked off in early 2024. This plan provides the region with detailed information about crashes and safety history. This plan aims to provide strategies and countermeasures to help reduce roadway fatalities and make roadways safer for all users.

How was the Safe Streets for WNC Funded?

The SS4WNC Safety Action Plan was funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) competitive grant program. The FBRMPO and LOSRPO applied for action plan funding in 2022 and were awarded funds in 2023. Dogwood Health Trust provided the local match for the plan.

What was the process for developing the Safe Streets for WNC Plan?

The FBRMPO and LOSRPO hired VHB and McAdams to help develop the SS4WNC Safety Action Plan. Staff and the consultant team began with meeting with a diverse group of stakeholders to help establish goals and oversee the plan. Data analysis was then done to identify safety problems and risks based on past crashes and traffic conditions. The data analysis fed into identifying areas and populations most at risk for different crash types and looking at potential preventive measures. This is also where targeted public engagement happened so we could hear from a diverse group of community members. This was achieved through focus groups and public meetings. Strategies were then developed to help target specific crash reduction strategies. The team then developed a countermeasure toolbox that gives communities resources on how to reduce and counter specific crash types. The team also provided recommendations for policies, guidelines, and project planning opportunities to support the integration of safety into both short- and long-term improvements.

Public Engagement Summary

Public engagement for the plan included three steering committee meetings with stakeholders from all five counties. Two leadership summits were held, one at the beginning of the plan and one at the end of the planning period. The leadership summits brought together first responders, planners, school staff, elected officials, and other community stakeholders to talk about the plan and how it would be an effective tool. The team held three focus groups; each focused on a different specialty to get a diverse perspective on safety in the region. Due to Hurricane Helene, the original community outreach events were cancelled but the team was able to combine with community outreach efforts of the Elevate 2050 MTP plan and the team held joint public meetings in April of 2025. A survey was also running at the same time as the public meeting to capture responses from others community members.

Discussion around if the storyboard was available online. Are there any strategies that you find particularly important to this region. One of the strategies that didn't come up in the top 10 is coordination around funding. A way to make it competitive is to pair with NCDOT on funding.

Steve Williams moved to recommend the adoption of the Safe Streets for WNC Plan to the board. Lucy Crown seconded the motion and it passed upon a roll call vote.

5A. Elevate 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan 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)	<u>Merrimon</u> 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 Approved by Board (September)**

Information Only.

Discussion did not occur.

6A. Division Project Updates

Division 13: TBD

Division 14: http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Division14_August2025Updates.pdf

6B. TPD Updates:

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>

6D. Committee & Workgroup Updates

Committee & Workgroup Updates

Prioritization Subcommittee— met on August 6th, next meeting September 3rd.

- P8 Updates
- Elevate 2050 Updates
- Subcommittee Bylaws Discussion

5307 Subrecipient Workgroup- met on May 20th; next meeting August 19th

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 3rd; next meeting TBD (Late summer)

Citizens Advisory Committee- met on July 7th

- Discussed the Committee's current standing, recommended dissolution.

MPO Studies Status

Study	Managing Entity	Year Programmed	Status
2050 Socio-Economic Projections	FBRMPO	2024	Completed
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	Underway
Hellbender Implementation Plan	FBRMPO	2024	Not Started
Regional ITS Plan	FBRMPO	2024	Procurement Underway
Travel Survey/Model Upgrades	FBRMPO	2024	Not Started
Staffing & Compensation Study	LOSRC	2024	Not Started

** See agenda for more Locally Administered Projects.

6E. Legislative Updates

To be updated

PUBLIC COMMENT

William High opened the floor for public comment. No comment was heard.

ADJOURNMENT

William High adjourned the meeting at 12:43 PM as there was no further business.

