

# Transportation Matters



The Ecusta Trail ribbon cutting was on Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. Despite a hot outside temperature, our pedestrian counters clocked nearly 7,000 users that first week. Ecusta is now the longest continuous greenway in the region.

## Intercity Bus Returns

The NCDOT intercity bus has returned operation since closer from Hurricane Helene. The Greyhound bus picks up and drops off passengers on Ashland Avenue outside of the downtown Asheville Rides Transit (ART) Transit Station. Travelers have access to daily direct service between Asheville & Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Chapel Hill, and Raleigh. You can also connect easily to out-of-state destinations on the national intercity bus network, including Richmond and Norfolk, Virginia; Washington, D.C.; NYC, New York; Atlanta; and Greenville, South Carolina. Book [here](#).

## TIP Public Comment

The Draft Transportation Improvement Program is still open for public review and comment. This plan outlines transportation projects and funding priorities for the region over the next ten years. Public comment period is open until August 20<sup>th</sup> with in-person comments welcome at the French Broad River MPO board meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup> at 1 pm. Written comments can be emailed to [mpo@landofsky.org](mailto:mpo@landofsky.org) or mailed to our office. Draft TIP is linked [here](#).



### Safe Streets for WNC Public Comment

The Draft Regional Safety Action Plan is available for public comment through Aug 20<sup>th</sup>. SSWNC is funded through the IIJA Safe Streets for All Grant program and our planning process began in early 2024. The plan will go before the French Broad River MPO Board and the Land of Sky RPO Board for adoption on August 21st. View the website and plan [here](#).



### Summer Stroll Series

Our Safe Routes to School program hosted three summer stroll community walks in July. We have two more weeks remaining, August 6<sup>th</sup> at Dripolator Black Mountain, and August 13<sup>th</sup> at Panacea Waynesville. All are welcome!

### New Safety Reporting Tool

Our Safe Routes to School program along with our GIS coordinator launched the [School Safety Reporting tool](#). This new resource gives community members a place to document concerns around school campuses. This will help communicate needs to local leaders, organizations, and planners.



### Elevate 2050 Public Comment

The French Broad River MPO is accepting public comment on the draft Elevate 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan through August 15. Elevate 2050 is a long-range plan that outlines regional transportation priorities for the next 25 years, including road, transit, bike, rail, and pedestrian infrastructure. Review the plan and share your feedback [here](#).

## July Events

- 8/6 [Summer Stroll Black Mountain](#)  
8:30 am @ Dripolator
- 8/7 [Love Your Watershed Happy Hour](#)  
5:30 pm @ Oklawaha Brewing
- 8/13 [Summer Stroll Waynesville](#)  
8:30 am @ Panacea CoffeeHouse
- 8/20 [Land of Sky Annual BBQ](#)  
12 pm @ Bill Moore Community Park

## Public Meetings

- Prioritization Subcommittee**  
Aug 6th 9:30am - 11:30am
- MPO TCC**  
Aug 14<sup>th</sup> 11am - 1pm
- MPO Board**  
Aug 21<sup>st</sup> 1pm - 3:30pm

### Land of Sky BBQ

We appreciate all our partners in the Land of Sky region. You are invited to join us at Bill Moore Community Park on August 20<sup>th</sup> at noon. Make sure to register [here](#) so we can have enough food.

**Get involved & stay connected**



MPO: [mpo@landofsky.org](mailto:mpo@landofsky.org)  
RPO: [rpo@landofsky.org](mailto:rpo@landofsky.org)  
SRTS: [ada@landofsky.org](mailto:ada@landofsky.org)  
TDM: [sandy@landofsky.org](mailto:sandy@landofsky.org)



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