

Transportation Matters



photo from Sandy Broadwill

Four of our crew attended the NC Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations annual conference in Wilmington in April. Tristan Winkler presented on the MPO’s Wildlife Crossings Plan during the “Safer Journeys” session. We will be hosting this conference in Asheville on May 6-8, 2026.

Strive Not to Drive: May 16-24

Strive Not to Drive week is back! The purpose of the week is to foster long-term behavior change in how people move around our region, to celebrate sustainable transportation, and to create a culture in which driving alone is not the default option. Residents and visitors can take part in over fifteen events aimed at promoting bicycling, walking, riding the bus, or carpooling. Strive Not to Drive events are taking place in Buncombe, Haywood, and Henderson Counties this year. The events are hosted by a variety of partners, including AARP, Asheville Bike Polo, Asheville on Bikes, Apple Country Public Transit, Bike Walk HVL, the Blue Ridge Bicycle Club, the City of Asheville, Haywood Public Transit, and Mountain Mobility, coordinated by the FBRMPO Transportation Demand Management Program. The full list of events can be found [here](#). Activities range from social bike rides to free transit days, hikes, bike polo, learn-to-ride-the-bus events, and events that examine strategies to improve pedestrian safety (called walk audits). Anyone is welcome to participate in these events, regardless of which county you live in or whether you’re just visiting the region. People who attend any Strive Not to Drive event can sign up to win prizes [here](#), and take part in a Commuter Challenge for additional chances to win. Prizes include tickets to the Asheville Tourists, free monthly bus passes, Downtown Dollars, and more!



photo from Daisy O’Conner

Elevate 2050 Meetings

The FBRMPO recently held public meetings for two major efforts: the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (Elevate 2050) and the Safe Streets for WNC (SS4WNC) study. Events in Canton, Hendersonville, and East Asheville gathered community feedback on transportation safety priorities and reviewed the draft list of proposed projects for the next 25 years. Attendees spoke with MPO staff and consultants to ask questions and learn more. Elevate 2050 will have another public engagement round this summer with adoption planned in September. SS4WNC will be up for adoption in August.



photo from Ada McGovern

Bike & Roll to School Day: May 7th

The following schools will be participating this year.

Brevard Elementary, Brevard Middle, Mountain Sun, Brevard High, Pisgah Forest Elementary, Black Mountain Primary, Black Mountain Elementary. and Lucy S. Herring Elementary



photo from Sandy Broadwill

TDM for Transit Agencies

Sandy Broadwill presented on a panel at the NCPTA Conference in Cherokee, NC on April 29 to share how TDM programs can help transit providers boost ridership and meet their rider needs.



photo from RTOR TR News article

Grant Spotlight

- [Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant](#)**
Due: June 26th
- Competitive grant to support planning, infrastructural, behavioral, & operational initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads & streets
- [NC Recreational Trail Program Grant](#)**
Due: Sept 5th
- \$10,000 to \$100,000 to fund trail development projects.

Article for thought

Right Turns on Red was initially implemented to reduce fuel consumption. After 50 years, where are we now? Read more [here](#).

May Events




- 5/7** Bike & Roll to School Day
5/16-5/24 STRIVE Not to Drive Week

May is National Bike Month. In honor of that we want to share some awesome organizations that are holding events for you to celebrate all that is biking.
[Asheville on Bikes](#) | [Brevard Bike Alliance](#) | [Blue Ridge Bicycle Club](#) | [Bike Walk HVL](#) | [Asheville Mountain Bike Club](#) | [Asheville Bike Polo](#) | [Blue Ridge Dirt Skrrts](#) | [Asheville Mountain Haulers](#) | [Pisgah Area SORBA](#) | [Catalyst Sports](#)

A Reason to Celebrate

Swannanoa River Road, in Asheville, is officially fully reopened. This state HWY has been deeply missed since the storm, and this opens up a path to many vital businesses. South Tunnel Road is also fully opened back up.

Public Meetings

-  **Prioritization Subcommittee**
May 7th 9:30am - 11:30am
-  **MPO TCC**
May 8th 11am - 1pm
-  **MPO Board**
May 15th 1pm - 3:30pm

Get involved & stay connected



MPO: mpo@landofsky.org
RPO: rpo@landofsky.org
SRTS: ada@landofsky.org
TDM: sandy@landofsky.org



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