

MPO Governing Board

October 16, 2025 – 1:00 P.M., Hybrid Meeting, In-Person at Land of Sky Regional Council
or Via Zoom

Login: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89218712714>

Meeting ID: 892 1871 2714

Call-In: (312)626-6799

Agenda

1. **WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING (10 min)**

A. Welcome and Introductions	Anthony Sutton
B. Ethics Statement for MPO Board Members	Anthony Sutton
 2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
 3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONSENT AGENDA** Anthony Sutton

A. September, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes	
B. Amendments to the 2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	
 4. **BUSINESS (30-40 min)**

A. Title VI Plan Adoptions	MPO Staff
B. 5310 & JARC Calls for Projects	MPO Staff
C. Call for Planning Projects	MPO Staff
D. MPO Committee/Workgroup Follow-Up	MPO Staff
 5. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (40-60 min)**

A. I-40 Managed Lanes Information and Discussion	David Roy, NC Turnpike Authority
B. Commute Friendly Workplace Program	Sandy Broadwill, Go Mountain Commuting
 6. **REGULAR UPDATES (10-15 min)**

A. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates	Tim Anderson/Wesley Grindstaff or Designee
B. Transportation Planning Branch	Daniel Sellers
C. Subcommittee/Workgroup Reports, Staff Updates, and Housekeeping	MPO Staff
D. Legislative Updates	MPO Staff
 7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES (5 min)**
 8. **TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING (November 20th)**
 9. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
 10. **ADJOURNMENT**
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FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 3:

Consent Agenda

Item 3A: September, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Item 3B: Amendments to the 2024-2033 and 2026-2035 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 3A:

September, 2025 Meeting Minutes

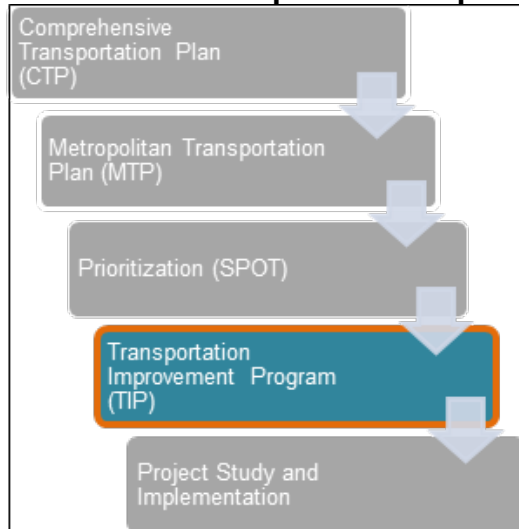
To be updated.

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 3B:

Amendments to the 2024-2033 and 2026-2035 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

What is the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)?



improvements

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:

- Segmenting EB-5774A (Woodfin Greenway) into EB-5774AA and EB-5774-AB
- Segmenting I-4409 (1-40/Blue Ridge Road) into I-4409A, which replaces the bridge, and I-4409B, which upgrades I-40/Blue Ridge Road
- Delay construction for U-5019A (Nasty Branch Greenway)
- Various safety statewide and division wide safety

All TIP Amendment Summaries can be found here:

https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/FBRMPO_October2025_TIP_Amendments.pdf

Action Required: Consider Adoption of the Amendments to the 2024-2033 and 2026-2035 TIP.

Staff Recommendation: Approve the Amendments to the 2024-2033 and 2026-2035 TIP.

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 4A:

Title VI Plan

The purpose of the Title VI Plan is to comply with federal regulations under 49 CFR Part 21 and 23 CFR 200. These regulations require all recipients of federal funds to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its subsequent federal acts, as shown under the Authorities section of this document.

FBRMPO is a recipient of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds and will likely use other federal funds. The FBRMPO last updated its Title VI Plan in June 2019, the Title VI Plan is reviewed annually and updated periodically in order to ensure accuracy and responsiveness to changes in local demographics.

MPO staff has revised the previously adopted June 2019, Title VI Plan through adapting the template plan produced by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. The proposed update tailors the plan specifically to the French Broad River MPO region and updates the included demographic information to the latest available.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation Office of Civil Rights has reviewed the draft update and provided comments which are reflected in the changes presented here.

[Draft - Updated Title VI Plan](#)

ACTION ITEM:

MPO Staff seeks Board adoption of the updated Title VI Plan

TCC Recommendation: Approve

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 4B:

5310 & JARC Call for Projects

The French Broad River MPO holds Calls for Projects for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 and Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funds, the two transit and human services transportation funding categories allocated to the Asheville Urbanized Area. While the City of Asheville is the Designated Recipient of these funds and is required to provide contracting, administration, and oversight, the FBRMPO is required to determine how these funds are to be used and distributed across the region.

5310

FTA's Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & People with Disabilities (Section 5310) makes federal funding available to the Asheville Urbanized Area with the City of Asheville serving as the designated recipient. The program aims to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation service and expanding transportation mobility options.

The 5310 Grant has two categories for funding:

- Traditional/Capital Projects: at least 55% of the total funding amount must go to "traditional" projects
- Other/Operations type projects: no more than 45% of the total funding amount can go to those projects

The table below shows the available funding for Section 5310 FY2024 that must be distributed:

FY 2025's Section 5310 Allocation	
FY 2025 FTA Section 5310 Funds Available to Asheville UZA	\$486,152
Section 5310 Admin at 10%	\$48,615
Remaining Section 5310 after Admin	\$437,537

*It is important to note that 10% of the original allocation is set aside for Administrative funds for the City of Asheville, so "Other" projects will only receive up to 35% of total funding as a result since Traditional projects are required to receive a minimum of 55% of the allocation before administrative costs are considered.

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JARC

Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) is a type of public transportation funding that was consolidated into FTA Section 5307 urban transit funding in 2012. JARC is geared towards transportation for low-income individuals to jobs and job training. Transit capital and operating expenses are eligible, with an appropriate local match required (20% for capital/ 50% for operating).

JARC funding in the MPO region is calculated based on a 10% set aside from the 5307 FTA urban transit formula allocated to the Asheville Urbanized Area.

FY 2024's Section 5307 (JARC) Allocation	
Regional JARC - FY 2024 at 10% of FTA 5307 Amount allocated to Asheville Urbanized Area	\$ 420,732

Timeline for 5310 and JARC:

FY2024 Call for Projects Application Timeline	
January 16, 2025	5310 and JARC Call for Projects opens
February 20, 2025	5310 and JARC applications due to FBRMPO
March 5, 2025	FBRMPO Prioritization Subcommittee meets to review 5310 and JARC applications
March 13, 2025	TCC approves 5310 and JARC project selection
March 20, 2025	MPO Board votes on 5310 and JARC project selection
May 15, 2025	MPO Board approves TIP Amendments for 5310 and JARC projects

[5310 Call for Projects](#)

[5310 Application](#)

[JARC Call for Projects](#)

[JARC Application](#)

ACTION ITEM:

MPO Staff seeks Board approval for the timeline for 5310 & JARC calls for projects.

TCC Recommendation: Approve

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 4C:

Call for Planning Projects

The FBRMPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the MPO's budget document for planning activities throughout the fiscal year that includes in-house planning activities as well as special studies undertaken in the region utilizing MPO planning funds. These activities are paid for by federal planning (PL) funds (or STBGDA funds "flexed" to planning) as well as a required 20% local match provided by member governments.

Typically, the MPO has held a call for planning projects for the following year's UPWP (FY 2027, in this case.) The Draft UPWP is due in January. The Final UPWP is due in March.

Eligible Applicants: Any Member Government of the French Broad River MPO

Eligible Activities:

- Transportation Master Plan
- Corridor Studies
- Access/Mobility Studies
- Inventories of Existing Routes and Right of Way Investigations
- Future population, Employment, and Economic Growth Studies
- Traffic studies such as circulation plans, traffic count programs, intersection analysis, and small area studies
- Bicycle and Pedestrian planning such as bicycle parking, sidewalk/bicycle lane master plans and trail and greenway plans
- Economic Impact Studies for Transportation Investments
- GIS data development/mapping applications

Staff Report & Recommendations

- Transportation related health impact assessments
- Transit Master Plan
- Conceptual/Scoping Studies and Limited Engineering Design (specifically up to 15 percent “line and grade” design per NCDOT guidance), also known as “Planning Preliminary Plans” or “Functional Roadway” plans

Required Non-Federal Match: 20% (no in-kind contributions)

Call for Projects Proposed Schedule:

- October 30th- Issue Call for Projects
- December 30th- Applications Due
- January/February- Projects Selected
- March- Projects Programmed in the FY 2027 UPWP
- July- Agreements between Land of Sky & Approved Applications

Proposed Funding Available: \$500,000 (but staff recommends programming no more than two projects)

Action Required: Consider Opening the Call for Planning Projects

TCC Recommendation: Approve

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 4D:

MPO Committee/Workgroup Update & Discussion

Background

- The Citizens Advisory Committee has been standing committee at the MPO since roughly 2012 with members from the general public, with a charge to provide recommendations related to public engagement and the MPO's Public Involvement Plan, among other related tasks
- The Citizens Advisory Committee has struggled with attendance since 2021
- MPO staff has undergone two iterations of soliciting new applicants, but the attendance has remained a struggle
- In 2025, the Citizens Advisory Committee voted to dissolve itself
- In May, 2025 the MPO Board voted to keep the Citizens Advisory Committee in-place, citing a lack of other ways for the public to be directly involved
- In July, 2025 the Citizens Advisory Committee revisited the discussion and once again voted to dissolve itself; recommending a bike/ped committee in its place
- In August and September, the Prioritization Subcommittee discussed adding at-large seats to the subcommittee or adding a bike/ped committee and did not recommend either
- In October, 2025 the TCC voted to accept the Citizen Advisory Committee's recommendation to dissolve it and to further explore committee and workgroup opportunities for public engagement

Action Required: Consider dissolving the Citizen Advisory Committee

TCC Recommendation: Dissolve the Citizens Advisory Committee

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 5A:

I-40 Managed Lanes

Background

What is the Project Under Consideration?

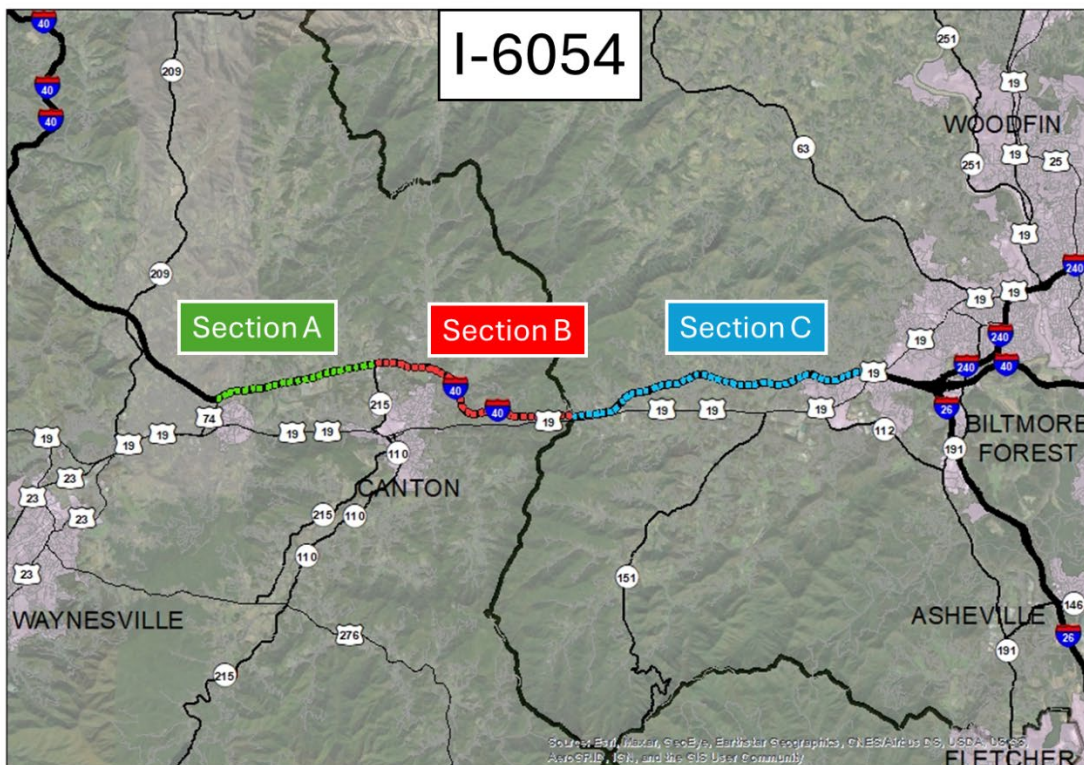
I-40 from roughly Exit 44 near Monte Vista Road in Buncombe County to Exit 27 (US 23/74) in Haywood County. The project has been submitted as a widening since P 5 and was an uncommitted project in the STIP (I-6054.)

In the past, I-6054 has been submitted in three sections:

Section A: US 23/74 (Smokey Mountain Expressway) to NC 215 (Champion Drive)

Section B: NC 215 (Champion Drive) to Exit 37 (Wiggins Road)

Section C: Exit 37 (Wiggins Road) to Monte Vista Road



FRENCH BROAD RIVER

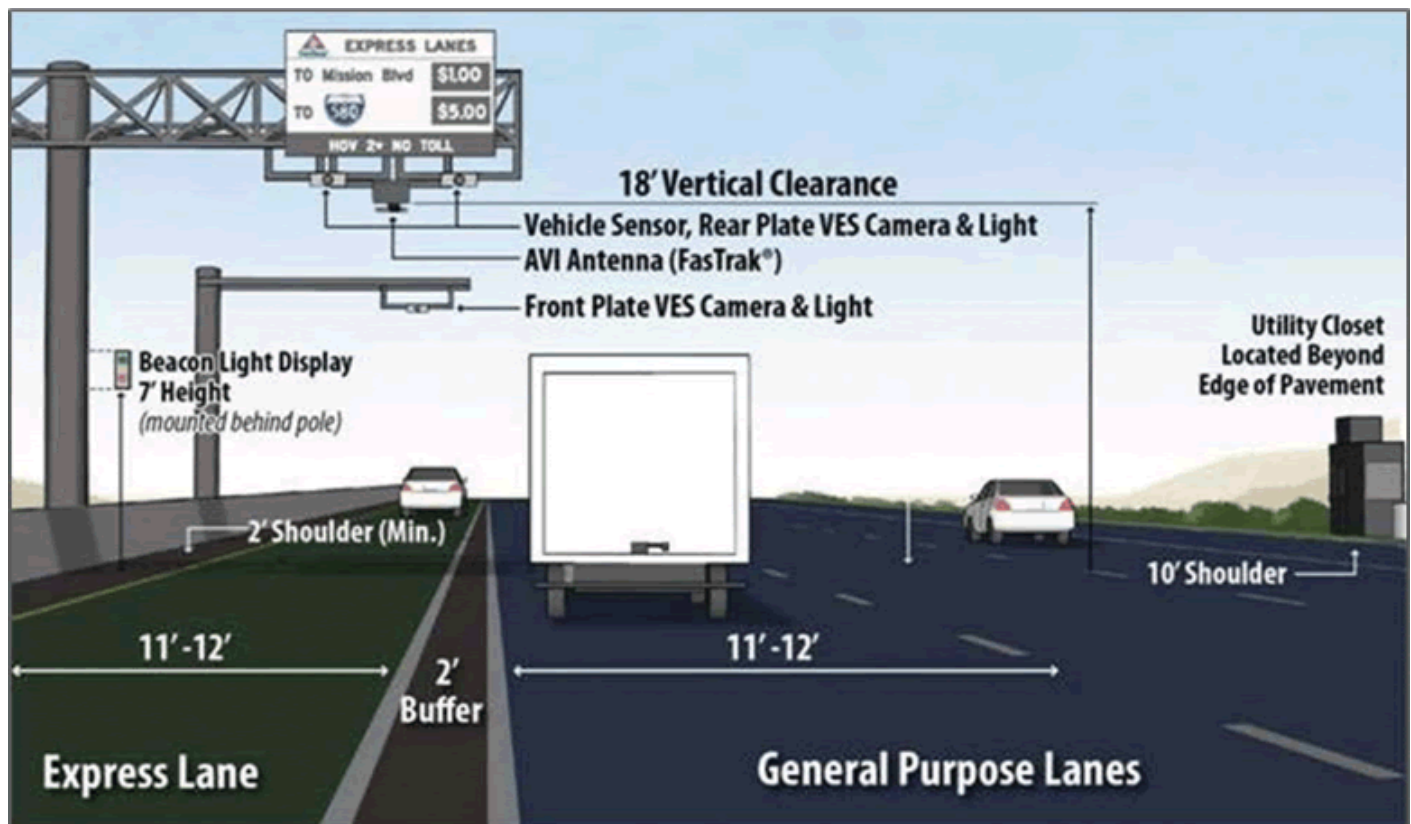
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What are Managed Lanes?

Managed lanes are special highway lanes where traffic flow is actively controlled, often using tolls, to keep vehicles moving reliably. They give drivers the option to pay for a faster trip, while carpoolers and buses may use them for free, helping reduce congestion in the regular lanes.

The potential application in I-6054's case would most likely be with High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes. This would leave the existing lanes on I-40 as free-flow lanes, while additional lanes would be managed and tolled.



1- Example Cross-Section of Express Lanes from the "Priced Managed Lane Guide" by FHWA

Past Discussion

In 2018, the MPO adopted the [Congestion Management Process](#), a federally-required plan that sets congestion targets and recommends strategies for addressing congestion. In the plan, "Managed Lanes" are identified as a potential application to address congestion on I-40 in West Buncombe and Haywood counties.

Staff Report & Recommendations

In January, 2024 the MPO Board voted to support a study led by NCDOT to look at the feasibility of managed lanes on the I-6054 project. The study's findings were presented to staff on September 6, 2025.

In September, 2025, the MPO Board and TCC voted to submit I-40 as a widening from Exit 44 to Exit 27, with the intent to consider changing the project from a "conventional" widening to a managed lanes widening in P8 by no later than the January meeting.

Discussion at the Meeting

David Roy, Director of Innovative Finance at the NCDOT Turnpike Authority will provide additional information from the preliminary financial analysis for managed lanes on I-40 as well as a general background on the turnpike authority and toll facilities. A one-pager provided by the Turnpike Authority is available below.



I-40 Express Lanes

October 2025

PROJECT UNDER CONSIDERATION

- The Project would add ~16.4 miles of express lanes on I-40 from Exit 27 to Exit 44 (Divisions 13/14).
- General widening project previously broken into three sections for prioritization:
 - I-6054A – widening from Exit 27 to 31
 - I-6054B – widening from Exit 31 to 37
 - I-6054C – widening from Exit 37 to 44

BACKGROUND

- In January 2024, the Land of Sky RPO (LOSRPO) and the French Broad River MPO (FBRMPO) requested NCDOT and NCTA to study express lanes on the planned I-6054 widening project.
- Stantec provided sketch-level Traffic and Revenue (T&R) forecasts for the Project with the following scenarios:
 - One express lanes in each direction
 - Two express lanes in each direction, allowing large commercial vehicles in the lanes
- NCTA prepared a high-level financial feasibility analysis.
- Per state law, tolling must be approved by the impacted local planning organization(s).
- Initial tolling analysis results show maximum \$100 million in Bonus Allocation being made available to LOSRPO and FBRMPO.
- NCDOT and NCTA are not advocating for a particular path forward.
- NCDOT and NCTA will continue to provide support for LOSRPO and FBRMPO to determine the best path forward for the region.

ANALYSIS RESULTS

- T&R analysis shows revenue forecasts for both scenarios are sufficient to cover all operations & maintenance and major maintenance costs, and a portion of the upfront capital costs.
- Both scenarios would require gap funding outside of toll revenue backed debt to complete construction – consistent with all NC toll projects.
- Gap funding would come from the STIP and/or federal discretionary grants.
- The scenarios with two express lanes in each direction generated additional revenue due to commercial traffic.
- Changes to the project's cost estimate or interest rates could affect the results of the analysis.

Analysis Results (2025\$)	One Express Lane	Two Express Lanes
Project Financing Cost	~\$700 million	~\$850 million
Bond(R) Financing Capacity	~\$225 million	~\$350 million
Funding Gap	~\$475 million	~\$500 million

ILLUSTRATIVE SCHEDULE

- 2028-2037 STIP approved by BOT & FHWA: mid to late 2027
- Project Development / NEPA: 2-3 years
- Construction: 5-6 years
- Open to traffic: mid-2030s

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 5B:

(TDM) Commute Friendly WNC Program

Commute Friendly WNC is a *free* workplace and campus certification program that encourages employers and colleges to take an active role in supporting multimodal employees, students, and visitors. It is a program that recognizes and celebrates those organizations that go the extra mile to promote ways of getting around our community that reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. (That means carpooling, vanpooling, public transit, biking, walking, and even remote work!)

The Commute Friendly certification is both a recruitment tool and a bragging right. But it's also a community of like-minded businesses, campuses, and organizations who care about making Western North Carolina a place where transportation is not a barrier to employment or education, and where every mode of transportation is an opportunity to connect and build the future we want.

Most importantly, becoming certified unlocks all of Go Mountain Commuting's free programming.

Benefits include:

- An on-site assessment and multimodal consultation, with an in depth explanation of resources and options available to your community.
- Creation of workplace or campus-specific outreach materials and resources.
- Creation of workplace or campus-specific commuter challenges.
- Promotion as a Commute Friendly Workplace or Campus
- Inclusion in Commute Friendly WNC quarterly networking and learning sessions.
- Bicycle Commuting 101 lunch & learns (and) Bus Ride-Alongs to teach your community how to tackle multimodal commutes
- Grant-writing assistance for multimodal amenities or plans (when available).
- Personalized commute planning assistance for your employees or students.
- Go Mountain Commuting will table at your events, or speaking at your functions, by request

The first info session is scheduled for **Monday, November 3rd, from 12:30pm-2pm** at the Land of Sky Regional Council. **Lunch will be provided.** Please register by [clicking this link](#) or scanning the QR code:



Email sandy@landofsky.org if you have any questions.

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 6A:

Division Project Updates

Division 13: https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Division13_October2025Updates.pdf

Division 14: https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Division14_October2025_Updates.pdf

Item 6B:

TPD Updates

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>

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 6C:

Committee & Workgroup Updates

Prioritization Subcommittee— met on September 3rd, next meeting November 5th.

- P8 Submittals
- Elevate 2050 Updates
- Subcommittee Bylaws Discussion

5307 Subrecipient Workgroup- met on August 19th;

Points of Business/Discussion:

- 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

Citizens Advisory Committee- met on July 7th

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

MPO Studies Status

Study	Managing Entity	Year Programmed	Status
CTP/MTP Update	FBRMPO	2024	Completed
Safe Streets for All Regional Action Plan	FBRMPO	2024	Completed
Patton Avenue Corridor Study	City of Asheville	2023	Completed
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	Contracting Underway
Travel Survey/Model Upgrades	FBRMPO	2024	RFOI Drafted
Staffing & Compensation Study	LOSRC	2024	Not Started

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Locally Administered Projects

TIP ID	Project Title	County	Project Status	When Will Current Phase Be Completed?	Construction Year (Beginning)
BL-0005	Broadway St Ped Improvement	Buncombe	Closing Out	Recently Completed!	
HL-0012	I-240/Charlotte St Interchange & Ped Improvements	Buncombe	Closing Out	Recently Completed!	
BL-0007	Ecusta Trail (Kanuga Rd to US 64)	Henderson	Under Construction	Late Summer 2025 due to the impacts of Hurricane Helene	2023
EB-5948	Onteora Blvd Sidewalks	Buncombe	Under Construction	Recently Completed!	2023
EB-5926	US 19 (Soco Rd) Bike/Ped Improvements	Haywood	Under Construction	2024	2022
U-5190	New Leicester Sidewalks	Buncombe	Closing Out	Recently Completed!	2023
HL-0014	Biltmore Ave/White Fawn Dr Intersection Improvements	Buncombe	Working on Project Agreement	Construction to Begin This Year	2024
EB-5944	Johnston Rd Sidewalks	Buncombe	Design – 99% R.O.W – 99%	Construction to Begin This Year, submitted final plans to NCDOT, awaiting action.	2024
EB-5947	New Haw Creek Rd Sidewalks	Buncombe	Under Construction	Estimated to be complete in April 2026	2025
U-5019A	Town Branch Greenway	Buncombe	Design – 95% R.O.W. – 100%	Construction to Begin This Year	2024
HL-0003	Haywood Rd Resurfacing & Ped Improvements	Buncombe	Design – 90%	Going to bid in September 2024	2024

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METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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TIP ID	Project Title	County	Project Status	When Will Current Phase Be Completed?	Construction Year (Beginning)
BL-0008	Clear Creek Greenway	Henderson	ROW – To be completed in May 2025 Construction- To be transferred to NCDOT	ROW complete in 2025, Construction to begin in FY25 and will extend into FY26	2024
BL-0076	Riceville Rd Sidewalks	Buncombe	Design – 30%	Late 2025	2025
EB-5547A	Riverwalk Greenway (Black Mountain Ave to Flat Creek Greenway)	Buncombe	Design – % ROW - 0%	Summer 2025	2025
EB-5547B	Riverwalk Greenway (Black Mountain Ave to Into the Oaks Trail)	Buncombe	Design – 30%	2025	2025
EB-5774A	Woodfin Greenway	Buncombe	Design – 65%	R.O.W. – 2025 Construction – 2026/2027	2027
EB-5824	Enka Heritage Trail	Buncombe	Design – 15%	R.O.W. – 2025 - 2026	2025
EB-5831	Coxe Ave Bike/Ped Improvements	Buncombe	Design – 10%	ROW/Construction – June 2026	2025
BL-0006	Various Ped Improvements within Asheville City Limits	Buncombe			2026

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METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

TIP ID	Project Title	County	Project Status	When Will Current Phase Be Completed?	Construction Year (Beginning)
EB-5774B	Beaverdam Creek Greenway	Buncombe	Design – 25%	R.O.W. – 2026 Final landowner coordination required post Helene	2026
EB-5822	North RAD Greenway	Buncombe	Design – 25%	30% Design will determine the path forward/interaction with I-2513B/D	2026
HL-0013	9 th Ave Bridge Replacement	Buncombe	Design – 50%	Design – Complete in September 2025 R.O.W. – Began September 2024	2026
BL-0078	Ecusta Trail (US 64 to Transylvania County Line)	Henderson	Design – 30%	Winter 2025	2027
EB-5945	Champion Dr Multi-Use Path	Haywood	ROW Underway		Funded for ROW Only
EB-5946	NC 280 Multi-Use Path	Henderson	PE to Begin in 2026		Funded for PE Only
EB-5823	Bent Creek Greenway	Buncombe	PE to Begin in 2029		Funded for PE Only
EB – 5946	NC 280 Multi-Use Path	Henderson			Funded for PE Only

Item 6E:

Legislative Updates