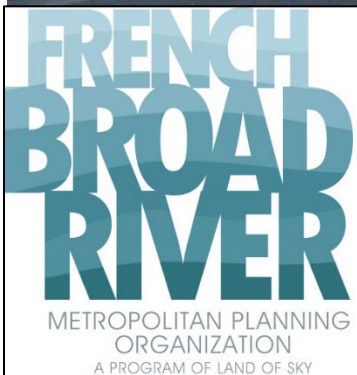




Call for Planning Projects

French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) is a transportation planning agency that covers all of Henderson County, most of Buncombe and Haywood counties and parts of Madison County in Western North Carolina.

The FBRMPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the MPO's budget 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 Surface Transportation Block Grant- Direct Allotment (STBGDA) funds that are "flexed" to planning, as well as a required 20% local match provided by member governments.

This call for projects is for planning and feasibility studies that focus on improving transportation facilities in and throughout the [MPO's Planning Area](#). A 20% local match is required from the project sponsor¹. Studies chosen as part of this call for projects will be implemented as part of the FY 2027 PWP.

The MPO has set-aside \$500,000 for this call for projects. Projects will be selected and included in the FY 2027 UPWP by the MPO's TCC and Board.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Any local government that is a member of the FBRMPO whose project is within the planning area of the FBRMPO is eligible to apply. These local governments include:

Buncombe County	Haywood County	Henderson County
Madison County	City of Asheville	Town of Biltmore Forest
Town of Black Mountain	Town of Canton	Town of Clyde
Village of Flat Rock	Town of Fletcher	City of Hendersonville
Town of Laurel Park	Town of Maggie Valley	Town of Mars Hill
Town of Mills River	Town of Montreat	Town of Waynesville
Town of Weaverville	Town of Woodfin	

ALL PROJECT SPONSORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING A 20% LOCAL MATCH.

ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES

FBRMPO PL funds are only allowed for transportation planning purposes and activities. Typical project categories include:

- 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
- Transportation related health impact assessments
- 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

PAST PROJECTS

In the past few years, the FBRMPO has funded a number of studies around the region.

Sponsor	Project	MPO Funds
Regional Transit Operators	Urban Transit Funding Formula Study	\$71,000
Town of Black Mountain	Ridgecrest Connector Greenway Study	\$28,000
Town of Black Mountain	Downtown Parking & Circulation Study	\$28,000
Buncombe County	Bent Creek Greenway Feasibility Study	\$72,000
Buncombe County	Pedestrian Plan	\$100,000
City of Asheville	Bike Share Feasibility Study	\$25,000
City of Asheville	Transit Master Plan	\$96,000
City of Asheville	Close the GAP Plan	\$140,000
City of Asheville	Biltmore/ /McDowell Complete Streets Corridor Studies	\$160,000
City of Asheville	Patton Avenue Corridor Study	\$177,600
City of Asheville	Bike/Ped Counters	\$48,000
City of Asheville	Reed Creek Greenway	\$40,000
FBRMPO	Hendersonville Road Corridor Study	\$120,000
FBRMPO	Tunnel Road Corridor Study	\$120,000
FBRMPO	Regional Transit Plan	\$80,000
Haywood County	Greenway Master Plan	\$90,000
Henderson County	Oklawaha Greenway Extension Feasibility Study- North	\$56,000
Henderson County	Oklawaha Greenway Extension Feasibility Study- South	\$40,000
Henderson County	Mud Creek Greenway Study	\$40,000

Sponsor	Project	MPO Funds
Village of Flat Rock	Flat Rock Greenway Feasibility Study	\$40,000
Town of Waynesville	Richland Creek Greenway Feasibility Study	\$57,600
Town of Woodfin	Woodfin-Weaverville Greenway Study	\$96,000

NOT ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Surveying
- Property Acquisition
- Site Preparations
- Environmental Planning/NEPA Analysis
- Detailed Design Drawings
- Transit Operations and Management
- Construction Projects
- Any work done prior to a notice to proceed from NCDOT

APPLICATION AND PROJECT SCHEDULE

The following are estimated dates for application and implementation of the planning studies- should they be successfully funded.

October 31, 2025: Call for Projects Opens

December 30, 2025: Applications Due

January & February, 2026: FBRMPO Prioritization Subcommittee Discusses and Recommends Planning Projects

March, 2026: FBRMPO TCC and Board Approve PWP Projects and Program Them in the FRBMPO FY 2027 PWP

Post-Award: Execute Contract with Land of Sky Regional Council, Issue RFP and Select Consultant

July, 2026: Earliest time in which project expenses may be incurred should required steps be completed

OTHER PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

PL funds are reimbursable funds, meaning the project sponsor must have the funds available to pay invoices in full and will later be reimbursed by the MPO at 80%. The 20% local match must be provided and secured by the project sponsor prior to commencing the project and may only be provided funds that are **not** from USDOT grants. Secondly, because federal funds would be used for this project, it is mandatory to adhere to all rules and regulations regarding the use of federal funding. If these rules are not met, the FBRMPO has the right to withhold invoice reimbursement until all regulations and documentation have been satisfied.

Other requirements include:

- Submit the Project Application Form by the due date
- Submit a Local Match Commitment letter
- Include direct expenses in the overall project budget
- Procure consultants in compliance with state and federal regulations (with the oversight of MPO and NCDOT staff)
- If applicable, ensure consultant contract meets all state and federal requirements prior to execution
- Send copy of consultant contract(s) to the FBRMPO upon execution and before requesting funding reimbursements
- Submit quarterly reporting and invoice forms after the close of each fiscal quarter
- Submit consultant invoices with each reimbursement request
- Ensure that all public outreach efforts meet Title VI requirements
- If a technical team is formed to guide the project, FBRMPO and NCDOT TPD staff must be included
- Be prepared to present the project results to the FBRMPO TCC, Board, and any other committees or events, as requested

If a project sponsor is found to be unable to satisfy these requirements or is unable to move forward in a timely fashion, the FBRMPO reserves the right to rescind the project funds, subject to MPO Board approval.

MPO staff can also provide project management assistance, in which case the project sponsor would be responsible for the 20% local match up front.

PROJECT SELECTION

Projects will be evaluated based on responses to questions in the application for the following criteria:

- **Regional Influence-** is the project likely to have an impact on a regional scale or contributing to regional efforts?
- **Project Readiness-** how close is the project to being implemented? Is it funded? Seeking funding? Prioritized in long-range plans?
- **Strategic Alignment-** how does the project align with MPO plans, including the MTP, CTP, CMP, TIP, Safe Streets for WNC, or other MPO planning efforts?
- **Multimodal Access-** does the project improve multimodal access and safety in the region?
- **Growth Management-** how is the project expected to influence growth patterns in alignment with the MPO's Preferred Growth Scenario? The 2050 Socio-Economic Projections Report is available here:
[SEProjections_FinalReport.pdf](#)

Projects will be evaluated by MPO staff, but the final decision on what projects move forward will ultimately be up to the MPO Board.

REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS

Interested applicants need to provide the following by the application deadline.

1. Project Application ([French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization – Fill out form](#))
2. Map of the project area (emailed to mpo@landofsky.org)
3. Local match commitment letter (emailed to mpo@landofsky.org)

Applications provided after December 30, 2025 will not be considered. If there are technical issues, please contact mpo@landofsky.org prior to the deadline.