



## French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization

Minutes from the TCC Hybrid Meeting on October 9th 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
Janna Bianculli	Apple Country Public Transit
Stephen Sparks	NCDOT
Troy Wilson	NCDOT
Doug Phillips	NCDOT Div 13
Pat Christie	Village of Flat Rock
James Eller	Weaverville
Eric Rufa	Fletcher
Cody Weddle	NCDOT
Mike Malecek	Mills River
Autumn Radcliff	Henderson County
Christina Harris	ART
Jodie Ferguson	Haywood County
Chris Medlin	Div 13
Wesley Grindstaff	NCDOT
Harry Buckner	Biltmore Forest
Jana Bianculli	Apple Transit

#### Members Without Representation Present:

Town of Black Mountain
ART
Town of Canton
Town of Clyde
Haywood Transit
City of Hendersonville
Town of Laurel Park

Madison County
Town of Maggie Valley
Town of Mars Hill
Town of Montreat
Town of Woodfin

#### Additional Attendees:

Tristan Winkler	Sandy Broadwill	Hannah Bagli
Daisy O'Connor	Asha Rado (Minutes)	Ada McGovern
Gabriel Johnson	Olin Daelhousen (Public)	Steve Cannon
Kate Trimble	David Roy (NCDOT)	Carly Swanson (NCDOT)

### WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Chair William High called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 11:06AM. A quorum was established to conduct the business before the meeting.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

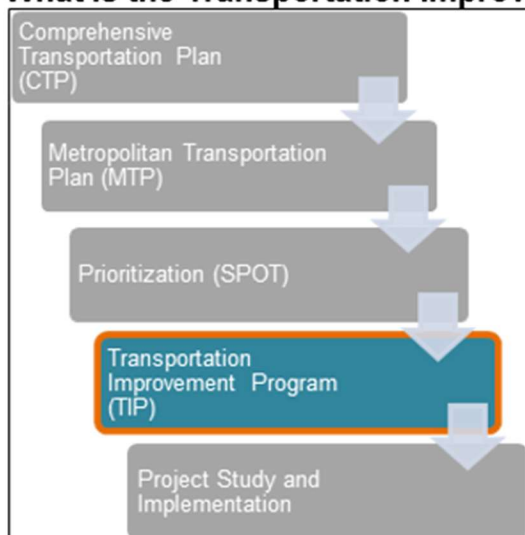
William High opened the floor for public comment. No comment was heard.

#### Consent Agenda:

**3A: September 2025 Meeting Minutes:** [https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2025\\_09\\_11\\_DRAFT.MPO\\_TCC\\_Minutes.pdf](https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/2025_09_11_DRAFT.MPO_TCC_Minutes.pdf)

### 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](https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/FBRMPO_October2025_TIP_Amendments.pdf)

***Steve Williams moved to accept the consent agenda including the minutes from the September 2025 Meeting and the amendments to the 2024-2033 and 2026-2035 TIP. Jodie Ferguson seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.***

**Business:**

**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.

Discussion occurred of the removal of the executive orders for the main motivation for this update, No it is due to be revised every 3 year that was an FHWA recommendation. Clarification on the Executive order 13166 and what it is for.

***Steve Williams moved to approve the updated Title VI Plan. Janna Bianculli seconded the motion which passed upon a roll call vote. (9 Y, 1 N and 2 no vote)***

**4B. 5310 & JARC**

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.

## **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.

\*\* get FY2025 chart

[5310 Call for Projects](#)

[5310 Application](#)

[JARC Call for Projects](#)

[JARC Application](#)

Discussion occurred around that Haywood County is not eligible to participate because they are not in the available area.

***Lucy Crown moved to approve the timeline for 5310 & JARC calls for projects. Steve Williams seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.***

## **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 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)

Discussion occurred around when we hope for these projects to be completed by, in general any projects would be added to the FY27 UPWP, two year contracts to get studies done by.

***Steve William moved to recommend to the Board the open call for planning projects. Michael Malecek seconded the motion and it passed upon a unanimous roll call vote.***

**5A. I-40 Managed Lanes:**

NCDOT Turnpike Authority will provide additional information from the preliminary financial analysis for managed lanes on I-40.

Discussion occurred around the toll vs non toll facility and their scores and if we could get a preliminary toll vs non toll facility before there is a vote on this. Discussion around the operations and maintenance would be included. When the debt is paid the tolls get removed. Discussion around if

the bridge work currently happening in Haywood would accommodate the tolled lanes. Would trucks be restricted in toll lanes? The TNR analysis included trucks, more study might be needed.

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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](mailto:sandy@landofsky.org) if you have any questions.

Discussion around whom was recommended for this, answer was hr leader, coordinator etc. Can we do a regional commute challenge.

### **5C. MPO Committee/Workgroup Update & Discussion:**

MPO staff will provide an update on Committees & Workgroups at the MPO.

*Janna Bianculli motioned to dissolve the citizens advisory committee so we don't keep staffing an empty committee, Steve Williams seconded and it passed unanimously during a roll call vote.*

### **6A. Division Project Updates**

Division 13: To Be Updated

Division 14: To Be Updated

### **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>

### **6C. Committee & Workgroup Updates**

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

- 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.

**\*See [Agenda](#) for the MPO Studies and Locally Administered Projects Updates.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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



## **ADJOURNMENT**

William High adjourned the meeting at 12:51 PM as there was no further business.



