

Transportation Matters



photo from Pisgah Collective

October 8th was national Walk & Roll to School Day. Our region had 10 participating schools with 166 students walking, and 114 students rolling.

Planning Call for Projects

In October the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Board authorized to program \$500,000 or up to two planning projects for the FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program. Member governments are eligible to apply. Eligible activities include feasibility studies, small area plans, conceptual designs, bike/ped plans, transit plans, traffic studies, local transportation asset inventories, economic impact analyses for transportation investments, and more within federal eligibilities. MPO funding can be used to pay for 80% of eligible project expenses for projects that are selected. A 20% local match is required. Applications are due by December 30, 2025. More information, including application requirements, [here](#).

I-40 Express Lanes

The French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and NCDOT are continuing to evaluate a potential widening of I-40 between Exit 27 and Exit 44 in Haywood and Buncombe counties. The project has been discussed for several years but has not yet advanced to funding. As part of ongoing discussions, the MPO is considering whether the project should include express lanes—tolling new lanes that offer drivers a more reliable travel time while leaving existing lanes untolled. Similar facilities exist along I-77 near Charlotte and I-85 in the Atlanta area. Adding express lanes could affect project costs, funding opportunities, and travel options in the corridor. This would also represent a new type of roadway facility for the region. A vote is expected at the November MPO meeting.



All aBoard! UNCA Greenfest

In October, Go Mountain Commuting partnered with the UNCA Student Environmental Center for the campus sustainability week - Greenfest. Go Mountain tabled at a sustainability fair to engage students about how they move around Asheville. The following day, we took students to Well Played Board Game Cafe on ART, to teach participants how to use the bus system! Students ride free with their UNCA ID and gamed for free for participating!



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5310 & JARC Call for Projects

The French Broad River MPO is accepting applications for FTA Section 5310 and Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funding to improve transportation for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and low-income residents in the Asheville Urbanized Area. Available funds include \$437,537 under Section 5310 and \$420,732 under JARC. Eligible applicants include non-profits, public agencies, and private operators. Applications are due by 5:00 PM on January 15, 2026. Details and materials [here](#).



photo from Rey Castillo Photography

Sparking the Movement!

Our Safe Routes to School program is launching a new walk series. [Sparking the Movement!](#) will be a glowing, glam, and sparkly celebration of movement and community. We plan to have seven different school throughout the region over the next seven months. The first two walks are this month at Claxton Elementary on November 5th and Hendersonville Elementary on November 19th. If your school wants to be on the list, reach out to Ada at ada@landofsky.org.

Buncombe Pedestrian Plan Steering Committee

Are you passionate about walkability, connectivity, and community planning for Buncombe County? The county is currently accepting applications for the Pedestrian Plan Steering Committee. Applications close on Nov 8th . More [here](#).

November Events

- 11/3 Commute Friendly WNC program kickoff**
12:30pm-2pm at Land of Sky Regional Council.
- 11/5 Sparking the Movement Walk**
7 am Claxton Elementary
- 11/13 Mountains to Main Street Workshop**
8 am-4 pm. AC Hotel in Biltmore. Registration [here](#).
- 11/19 Sparking the Movement Walk**
7:15 am Hendersonville Elementary

Public Meetings

- Prioritization Subcommittee**
Nov 5th 9:30 am - 11 am
- TCC & Board**
Nov 20th RPO 11 pm
MPO 12:30 pm - 2 pm

E-bikes vs. E-motos

E-bikes have gained popularity fairly quickly and there is confusion in media and perception on what constitutes an e-bike. Factors that set these two apart are speed, e-assistance, regulations, and safety. E-bikes typically move slower, use pedal assist, and have more flexible regulations because they are generally safer than e-motos. If you are looking for an e-bike guide, check [this](#) out.

Get involved & stay connected



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Go Mountain Commuting: sandy@landofsky.org



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