

Technical Coordinating Committee

January 15, 2025 – 11:00 A.M., Hybrid Meeting via Zoom or at Land of Sky Regional Council

Login: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81728600079>

Meeting ID: 81728600079

Call-In: 13126266799

Agenda

1. **WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING (5 min)**
A. Welcome and Introductions William High
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONSENT AGENDA** William High
A. November, 2025 TCC/Board Meeting Minutes
B. Amendments to the 2024-2033 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
4. **BUSINESS**
A. Black Bear Drive (Canton) Safety Project NCDOT Division 14, 10 Min
B. Draft FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) MPO Staff, 10 Min
C. 2026 Safety Targets NCDOT/MPO Staff, 10 Min
D. Non-Discrimination Statement MPO Staff, 10 Min
5. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
A. Locally Coordinated Plan Update MPO Staff, 10 Min
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 (February 12th)**
9. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
10. **ADJOURNMENT**

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 3:

Consent Agenda

Item 3A: November, 2025 Meeting Minutes

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



Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 3A:

November, 2025 Meeting Minutes

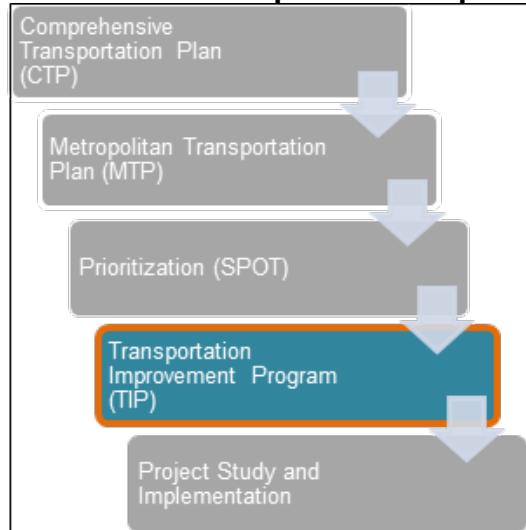
https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2025_11_20_MPO_TCC-TAC-Combined-Meeting-Minutes.pdf

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 3B:

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

What is the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)?



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:

- RX-2413E: Accelerating construction of the Blue Ridge Southern Railroad crossing improvements on Louisiana Ave from FY31 to FY26
- RX-2413D: Accelerating construction of the Norfolk Southern railroad crossing improvements on Black Mountain Ave from FY31 to FY26
- EB-5965: Modify scope from a sidewalk to a multiuse path along Deaverview Rd
- BL-0008: Move construction funds for the Clear Creek Greenway from FY25 to FY26

All TIP Amendment Summaries can be found here: https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/FBRMPO_January2026_TIP_Amendments_26_35_Updated.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.

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 4A:

Black Bear Drive (Canton) Safety Project

NCDOT has requested a letter of support from the French Broad River MPO for a proposed safety project in Canton to provide sidewalks on Black Bear Drive from Substation Drive through a short section of Pisgah School Drive to provide a safer pedestrian connection between Pisgah High School and the surrounding neighborhood.

Information from NCDOT:

Pisgah High School Safety Concern

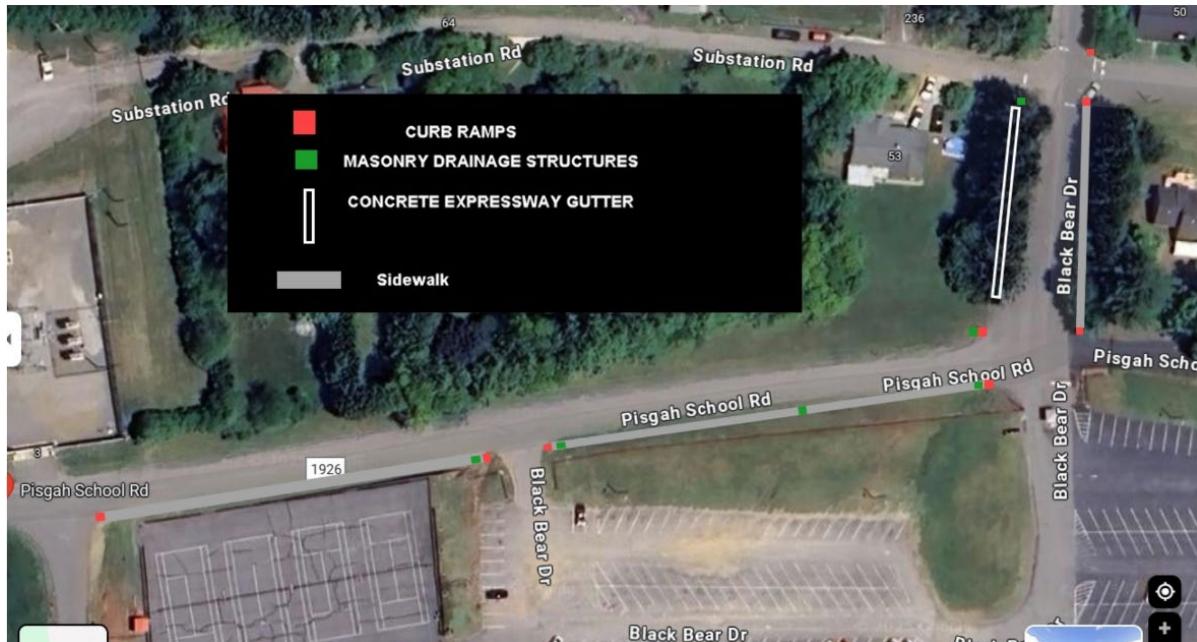
- School staff, students, and parents are walking on Black Bear Drive and Pisgah School Road regularly to and from the school and athletic facilities across Substation Road with traffic present.

Improvement

- Build a sidewalk to designate a pedestrian route inside existing ROW.

Preliminary Estimate

- +/\$400k



FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

January 22, 2026

North Carolina Department of Transportation

Division 14

RE: Letter of Support – Proposed Safety Improvements on Black Bear Drive, Town of Canton

Dear Wesley Grindstaff,

On behalf of the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO), I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed NCDOT safety project on Black Bear Drive in the Town of Canton to construct a sidewalk connection between Pisgah High School and the surrounding residential neighborhood.

This project addresses a clear and longstanding safety and connectivity need. Black Bear Drive serves as a key access route to Pisgah High School, yet currently lacks continuous pedestrian infrastructure. As a result, students, families, and nearby residents are required to walk along or cross roadways without adequate separation from vehicular traffic. The proposed sidewalk connection would significantly improve pedestrian safety, particularly for school-aged users, while strengthening connections between the school campus and adjacent neighborhoods.

Improving safe walking access to schools is a priority for the FBRMPO and is consistent with our adopted Metropolitan Transportation Plan, regional safety goals, and the principles of our Safe Streets planning efforts. Investments such as this help reduce crash risk, encourage walking, support healthier travel choices, and enhance overall quality of life in our communities. The proposed improvements—including sidewalk construction, curb ramps, and associated drainage elements—represent a practical, targeted approach to addressing these concerns.

The FBRMPO Board has reviewed the proposed project and appreciates NCDOT's continued partnership in advancing safety-focused transportation investments, particularly in smaller communities where relatively modest infrastructure improvements can yield substantial public benefit. We believe the Black Bear Drive sidewalk project is well-justified and would provide meaningful safety, mobility, and community connectivity benefits.

Thank you for your consideration of this project. Please do not hesitate to contact me if additional information or coordination with the FBRMPO would be helpful.



Staff Report & Recommendations

Sincerely,

Anthony Sutton

Chair, French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization Board

ACTION ITEM: Consider Recommendation of a Letter of Support for the Proposed Safety Project to the MPO Board

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 4B:

FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

What is the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)?

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization's annual planning work plan and budget. It describes what transportation planning activities the MPO and its partners will undertake during the fiscal year, how those activities support federal and regional goals, and how federal, state, and local planning funds will be used.

The UPWP is required under federal law to ensure that metropolitan transportation planning activities are:

- Continuing
- Comprehensive
- Cooperative

In practice, the UPWP functions as both:

- a scope of work for MPO staff and planning studies, and
- a financial plan that documents the use of federal planning funds.

No MPO planning activity using federal funds may occur unless it is included in an adopted UPWP.

Why is the UPWP Important for Federal Funding?

Approval of the UPWP is required in order for the MPO and its partners to access key federal planning funds, including:

- FHWA Metropolitan Planning (PL) funds
- FHWA Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) used for planning
- FTA Section 5303 Metropolitan Planning funds
- FTA Section 5307 Urban Formula Funds used for planning

Of particular importance for FY 2027:

- FTA Section 5303 funds must be programmed in an approved UPWP in order for the City of Asheville (the region's 5303 Direct Recipient) to program planning funds- due in January.
- Without an approved or draft UPWP in place, transit planning activities supported by 5303 funds could be delayed.

As a result, the UPWP must be reviewed and acted on early in the calendar year to maintain uninterrupted funding.

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METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

What Does the FY 2027 UPWP Emphasize?

FY 2027 follows several recent years of major plan development, including the completion of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), safety planning efforts, and multiple special studies. As a result, the FY 2027 UPWP is intentionally structured as a lower-intensity year focused on preparing for future work.

Key themes of the FY 2027 UPWP include:

- Maintaining federally required MPO functions, including the TIP, performance measures, public involvement, and coordination with NCDOT and FHWA
- Strategic and organizational planning, including development of an MPO Strategic Plan
- Staffing and compensation analysis, coordinated with the Land of Sky Regional Council
- Prioritization 8.0
- Background and preparatory work for the next MTP, including data review and development
- Continued coordination on transit, freight, safety, and multimodal priorities
- Updating the Locally Coordinated Plan

This approach allows the MPO to:

- Develop a Strategic Plan for the MPO
- Providing support for new special studies, including the Buncombe County Transit Plan and US 64 (Four Seasons Boulevard) Corridor Study

Call for Planning Projects:

- MPO staff received five applications from the Call for Planning Projects:
 - [Buncombe County: Public Transportation Plan](#)
 - [City of Hendersonville: Corridor Study/Circulation Plan for Four Seasons Blvd \(US 64\)](#)
 - [Town of Weaverville: Update to the Reems Creek Greenway Feasibility Study](#)
 - [City of Asheville: Hilliard Avenue Corridor Feasibility Study](#)
 - [Town of Waynesville: Frog Level Small Area Plan](#)
- MPO staff is recommending the Buncombe County Public Transportation Plan & Four Seasons Boulevard Corridor Study for the FY 2027 UPWP

UPWP Approval Process and Schedule

The UPWP is approved in two steps to meet federal funding timelines while allowing additional refinement.

January 2026 – Draft UPWP Approval

- The TCC and MPO Board are asked to recommend/approve a Draft FY 2027 UPWP
- Draft approval allows:
 - programming of FTA Section 5303 funds beginning in January
- Minor revisions may still occur following draft approval

March 2026 – Final UPWP Adoption

- The MPO Board considers and adopts the Final FY 2027 UPWP
- The final document incorporates:
 - any comments from NCDOT, FHWA, or FTA
 - any refinements identified during the draft period



Staff Report & Recommendations

- Final adoption formally authorizes all FY 2027 planning activities

This two-step process is standard practice and ensures compliance with federal funding requirements while allowing sufficient time for review and coordination.

The Draft FY 2027 UPWP is available here: https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/DraftUPWP_FY2027.pdf

ACTION ITEM: Consider Recommending the Draft FY 2027 UPWP for Approval

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 4C:

2026 Safety Targets

Safety Targets Background

Effective April 14, 2016, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) established five highway safety performance measures in accord with regulations set forth in the Federal MAP-21 and FAST Act transportation funding bills. These performance measures are:

1. *Number of fatalities;*
2. *Rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled;*
3. *Number of serious injuries;*
4. *Rate of serious injuries per 100 million vehicle miles traveled; and*
5. *Number of combined non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries.*

These targets are established annually, are based on five-year rolling averages, and are for calendar years. North Carolina state targets are set in agreement with our Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) goals. The SHSP goals are developed through collaborative efforts of a diverse group of stakeholders including state, regional, and local partners (including MPOs). The goal of the most recent (2019) SHSP is to reduce fatalities and serious injuries by half by 2035, moving towards zero by 2050.

State safety performance targets for 2026 were submitted to FHWA on August 31st, as required, with the submission of the annual Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) report. These targets reflect the 2019 SHSP goal to reduce fatalities and serious injuries by half by 2035, moving towards zero by 2050. The calculated targets are shown in the document available here:

https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/SafetyPerformanceMeasures_2026Targets_Memo_FrenchBroadRiverMPO.pdf

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METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Table 2: French Broad River MPO Safety Performance Target Achievement Determination Summary for CY 2023.

| Performance Measures | 5-Year Rolling Averages | | | Target Achieved? | (Actual) Better than Baseline? | Met or Made Significant Progress? |
|--|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Target | Actual | Baseline | | | |
| | 2019 - 2023 | 2019 - 2023 | 2017 - 2021 | | | |
| Fatalities (5 Year Average) | 43.7 | 52.8 | 51.0 | No | No | No |
| Fatality Rate (5 Year Average) | 0.876 | 1.099 | 1.047 | No | No | |
| Serious Injuries (5 Year Average) | 105.6 | 133.0 | 133.0 | No | No | |
| Serious Injury Rate (5 Year Average) | 2.096 | 2.773 | 2.731 | No | No | |
| Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries (5 Year Average) | 15.1 | 21.4 | 20.0 | No | No | |

In 2025, the French Broad River MPO voted to become the first MPO in North Carolina to not go along with the State's targets. Instead, the MPO adopted its own safety goal of "achieving a 10% reduction of fatalities and serious injury crashes by 2035, an additional 45% reduction by 2045, and moving towards zero serious injuries and fatalities by 2050."

In general, the MPO Board can either adopt 2026 safety targets in-line with the State or different targets. Last year the MPO Board became the first MPO in North Carolina to adopt targets not in-line with the State. Below are targets in-line with the goals of the Safe Streets for WNC Plan.

| Performance Measure | NCDOT 2026 Target | MPO 2026 Target | 2024 Data |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Fatalities | 39.1 | 67.3 | 78 |
| Fatality Rate | 0.792 | 1.363 | 1.524 |
| Serious Injuries | 97.0 | 149.6 | 145 |
| Serious Injury Rate | 1.95 | 3.01 | 2.834 |
| Non-Motorized Fatalities & Serious Injuries | 13.9 | 22.3 | 27 |

Action Required: Recommend Setting 2026 Safety Targets In-Line with NCDOT Targets or Safe Streets for WNC Targets

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 4D:

Non-Discrimination Statement

FBRMPO passed an update to its Title VI Plan on October 16, 2025. During discussion of the Title VI Plan the MPO Board inquired about adding “sexual orientation” to the nondiscrimination policy in the Title VI plan. MPO staff was asked to review regulations and return with solutions relative to the addition of “sexual orientation” to the nondiscrimination policy in the Title VI plan.

MPO staff has reviewed the pertinent regulations regarding what a Title VI Plan can and should contain with respect to nondiscrimination statements. NCDOT informed MPO staff that the Title VI plan was not the appropriate venue for nondiscrimination policy involving sexual orientation as it does not fit within the legislative purview of Title VI.

MPO staff examined nondiscrimination statements from other MPOs and Council of Governments and found several to use stand-alone statements which are contained outside of their Title VI plans. MPO staff has gathered sample nondiscrimination statements to present to the MPO Board and presents the following statement as a recommendation for approval.

Staff Recommended Statement:

It is the policy of French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization, to ensure that no person shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, Limited English Proficiency, sex, sexual orientation, age, income status, or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any of our programs and activities.

Action Required: Consider adoption of a Nondiscrimination Statement

Staff Recommendation: Approve a stand-alone Nondiscrimination Statement to be published on the MPO website and integrated into key documents.

Item 5A:

Locally Coordinated Plan Update

A Locally Coordinated Plan (LCP), also known as a Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan, is a strategy developed primarily for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and low-income residents. LCPs are federally required under FTA Section 5310 and focus on improving transportation for older adults, individuals with disabilities, and people with limited incomes. They are developed collaboratively among transit providers, human service agencies, and the public.

FBRMPO last adopted an updated LCP in 2018. FTA recommends updates every 4–5 years. Previously scheduled efforts to update the LCP through NCDOT created delays to this update cycle. The LCP is in need of an update as regional demographics and service needs have evolved and shifted since the 2018 update. An update LCP will also align with upcoming Section 5310 grant cycles and the Elevate 2050 Plan (MTP).

An update to the LCP is currently underway. The Steering Committee for the LCP update held its kickoff meeting on January 5, 2026. MPO staff has begun data collection and outreach and will continue to provide regular updates to the Board as the plan progresses. The target adoption for the LCP update is early 2027.



Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 6A:

Division Project Updates

Division 13: https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Division13_January2026_Updates.pdf

Division 14: https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Division14_January2026_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 January 14th, next meeting February 4th.

- Local Input Point Subcommittee

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

MPO Studies Status

| Study | Managing Entity | Year Programmed | Status |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 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 | RFLOI 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 |

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

| 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 |

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

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