

Technical Coordinating Committee

February 11, 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. January, 2026 TCC Meeting Minutes
 - B. Amendments to the 2026-2035 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - C. Letter of Support- Hendersonville BUILD Application
4. **BUSINESS**

 - A. 5310 Project Selection MPO Staff, 15 Min
 - B. JARC Project Selection MPO Staff, 10 Min
 - C. TCC Volunteers for the Regional Travel Survey Selection/Steering Committee MPO Staff, 5 Min
5. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

 - A. Bike/Ped Committee Considerations MPO Staff, 15 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 (March 12th)**

9. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

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Item 3:

Consent Agenda

Item 3A: January, 2026 Meeting Minutes

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

Item 3C: Letter of Support- Hendersonville BUILD Grant Application

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Item 3A:

January, 2026 Meeting Minutes

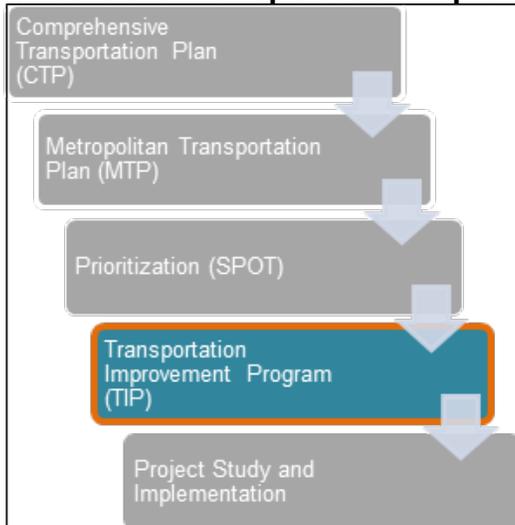
To Be Updated

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 3B:

Amendments to the 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:

- Multiple transit amendments for both Apple Country Transit and ART to update project descriptions and program funding for future fiscal years
- Multiple NCDOT transit amendments to program 5311 and 5310 funds for upcoming years.
- Date shifts for multiple rail projects that bring them into the current 4-year STIP/TIP window.

All TIP Amendment Summaries can be found here:

https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/FBRMPO_February2026_TIP_Amendments_26_35_Updated.pdf

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

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

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Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 3C:

Letter of Support- Hendersonville BUILD Grant Application

a program of Land of Sky



The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY2026 BUILD Grant Application – Hendersonville Downtown Streets Modernization Project: New Streets for New Business

Dear Secretary Duffy:

On behalf of the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO), I am writing to express our strong support for the FY2026 BUILD grant application titled “*Hendersonville Downtown Streets Modernization Project: New Streets for New Business.*” This project is the result of a collaborative effort among the City of Hendersonville, Henderson County, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, and other regional and local partners.

As the federally designated metropolitan planning organization for this region, the FBRMPO is responsible for coordinating transportation planning and investment decisions that improve safety, mobility, and economic vitality across Western North Carolina. The Hendersonville Downtown Streets Modernization Project directly advances these goals by improving safety and accessibility for pedestrians and bicyclists along two historic downtown corridors; enhancing the public realm for residents, families, and visitors; reconnecting neighborhoods to downtown destinations

This project represents a balanced, context-sensitive investment that maintains necessary vehicular capacity while providing safer and more accessible transportation options for all users. In

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doing so, it supports economic development by strengthening Hendersonville's downtown as a hub for local businesses, tourism, and regional recreation.

Support for this project would allow the U.S. Department of Transportation to highlight an investment that aligns closely with the Administration's objectives, including:

- Improving safety and reliability within the local transportation system;
- Enhancing quality of life for residents and visitors;
- Expanding accessible, affordable, and connected transportation options while preserving roadway functionality; and
- Supporting job creation, local businesses, and long-term economic opportunity.

In summary, the Hendersonville Downtown Streets Modernization Project will serve as a catalyst for safer streets, economic vitality, and resilient infrastructure in Western North Carolina. The French Broad River MPO strongly encourages USDOT's favorable consideration of this BUILD grant application.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering this request for BUILD Program funding.

Sincerely,

Tristan Winkler
Director
French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Item 4A:

5310 Project Selection

Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) funds are allocated to the Asheville Urbanized Area, with the City of Asheville serving as the designated recipient for these funds. The application process for Section 5310 ran from October 16, 2025, to January 15, 2026. Additional information about Section 5310 is available at:

<https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/5310-and-jarc/>.

FY2025 Call for Projects Application Timeline	
October 16, 2025	5310 and JARC Call for Projects opens
January 15, 2026	5310 and JARC applications due to FBRMPO
February 4, 2026	FBRMPO Prioritization Subcommittee meets to review 5310 and JARC applications
February, 12 2026	TCC approves 5310 and JARC project selection
February 19, 2026	MPO Board votes on 5310 and JARC project selection
March 19, 2026	MPO Board approves TIP Amendments for 5310 and JARC projects

The 5310 Grant has two categories for funding:

- Traditional/Capital projects: at least 55% of the total funding amount has to go to “traditional” projects.
- Other/Operations projects: no more than 45% of the total funding amount can go to these projects

FY 2024 FTA Section 5310 Funds Available to Asheville UZA	\$486,152	55% of Funds (Traditional)*	\$267,384
Section 5310 Admin at 10%	\$48,615	35% of Funds (Other)*	\$170,153
Remaining Section 5310 after Admin	\$437,537	*note: percentage divisions were calculated before 10% admin.	

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MPO Staff reviewed the 5310 applications, rating them based on a scorecard (out of 100 points). The following pages show recommendations for awarding 5310 funds based on scores. The quantitative scoring methodology was simplified for this round of funding.

	Hendersonville Pedestrian Signals (Traditional)	Buncombe County SEDTAP (Traditional)	Buncombe County RIDE (Other)	Council on Aging Buncombe County (Other)
Project Code	HPS	BC SEDTAP	BC RIDE	COA
Score (out of 100 points)	95	95	90	85
Requested Amount	\$163,518	\$267,384	\$65,849	\$35,353
Proposed Local Match	\$66,355	\$66,846	\$65,849	\$35,353
Propose Local Match %	29%	20%	50%	50%
Proposed Total Project Amount	\$229,873	\$334,230	\$131,698	\$70,706
Scenario 1 (82% Funding)	\$134,457	\$219,864	\$54,146	\$29,070
Scenario 2 Awarded by Points	\$163,518	\$267,384	\$0	\$0
Pro-Rated by Points	\$155,342	\$254,015	\$59,264	\$30,050
Scenario 3 (pro-rated by Points)	\$136,298	\$222,874	\$51,999	\$26,366

Action Required: Make a Scoring Scenario Recommendation to the MPO Board.

Prioritization Recommendation: Recommend Scenario 1 for 5310 project applications.

Staff Recommendation: Recommend Scenario 1 for 5310 project applications.

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Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 4B:

JARC Project Selection

JARC (Jobs Access Reverse Commute) funds are allocated to the Asheville Urbanized Area, with the City of Asheville serving as the designated recipient for these funds. The application process for JARC ran from October 16, 2025, to January 15, 2026. Additional information about JARC is available at: <https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/5310-and-jarc/>.

FY 2025's Section 5307 (JARC) Allocation

Regional JARC - FY 2025 at 10% of FTA 5307 Amount allocated to Asheville Urbanized Area	\$ 420,732
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Applicant	Project Title	Period of Performance	Project Description	Funding Requested	Local Match	Total Cost	Project Score
City of Asheville	ART Routes 170, S3, S6, and Transit Operations Funding Request	7/2026-6/2027	The City of Asheville is seeking support through the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC, Section 5307) grant to sustain the operations of its pivotal public transportation routes, Routes 170, S3, and S6. These services are essential in bridging the mobility gap for low-income individuals, enabling seamless access to employment opportunities, and fostering community and regional connectivity.	\$420,732	\$420,732	\$841,464	100

Scoring was based on a scorecard (out of 105 points). The following pages show recommendations for awarding JARC funds based on scores. The quantitative scoring methodology was simplified for this round of funding.

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Staff Report & Recommendations

Action Required: Consider recommendation of the City of Asheville's JARC Application to the MPO Board.

Prioritization Subcommittee Recommendation: Fund City of Asheville's JARC Application for ART Routes 170, S6, and S3 at 100% of their funding request.

Staff Recommendation: Fund City of Asheville's JARC Application for ART Routes 170, S6, and S3 at 100% of their funding request.

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 4C:

Regional Travel Survey Selection & Steering Committee Volunteers

The MPO is preparing to initiate a Five-County Regional Travel Survey to collect updated information on how people travel within the region, including trip purpose, timing, mode choice, and emerging travel patterns such as telecommuting and off-peak travel. Travel surveys are a foundational input to the region's Travel Demand Model and are used to inform forecasts, project prioritization, safety analysis, and long-range transportation planning decisions.

The survey will collect statistically valid data from households and visitors across the MPO and RPO planning areas and will be used to recalibrate and validate key components of the regional travel demand model. Because this data directly influences how future transportation needs and investments are evaluated, early technical input is important to ensure the survey approach and resulting data are clear, transparent, and useful for decision-making.

To support this effort, staff is seeking **2–3 volunteers from the Technical Coordinating Committee** to serve as technical liaisons during the project. The role would be **advisory and time-limited**, providing periodic technical feedback at key milestones related to survey design, assumptions, and interpretation of results. This would not be a standing subcommittee and would not require regular meetings, but rather occasional check-ins as the project progresses.

Staff is requesting volunteers interested in supporting the technical development of the travel survey and helping ensure the results are well understood and effectively applied in future modeling and planning efforts.

Action Requested: Appoint 2-3 TCC Volunteers to Serve on the Regional Travel Survey Selection & Steering Committee

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 5A:

Bike/Ped Advisory Committee Consideration

Background

This is a follow up item from the October, 2025 discussion in which the Citizens Advisory Committee was dissolved. One former Citizens Advisory Committee noted that a Bike/Ped Committee could generate more interest and noted that there is a little interest in a number of smaller municipalities but not enough for many of them to have their own groups. This was also requested by the MPO Board to come back for discussion and consideration. To note: this was also brought to the Prioritization Subcommittee where a number of concerns were raised.

Overview

The MPO is considering the formation of a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee to replace the current Citizens Advisory Committee and the Hellbender Regional Trail Workgroup. This committee would serve as a focused forum for community input on active transportation, safety, and multimodal planning initiatives across the MPO region.

The proposed committee would be composed primarily of community members, advocates, and other interested stakeholders appointed by the MPO Board, with attention given to geographic representation across participating jurisdictions. The intent is to create a body that reflects diverse perspectives from throughout the region while maintaining a manageable and effective working group.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee would be advisory in nature and would provide recommendations to MPO staff, the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), and the MPO Board on matters such as:

- Complete streets and multimodal corridor concepts
- Identification of bicycle and pedestrian safety issues and needs
- Priorities for walking and bicycling infrastructure
- Community perspectives on active transportation projects and policies
- Support for regional initiatives such as the Safe Streets for WNC Plan and the Hellbender Regional Trail, as well as related bike/ped efforts

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This committee would also help consolidate existing advisory functions into a single, more focused group, improving coordination and efficiency while strengthening public engagement on walking and bicycling topics.

Staff is seeking guidance from the TCC and MPO Board on whether to proceed with the formation of this committee and, if so, on key considerations related to membership structure, geographic representation, and scope of responsibilities.

POTENTIAL BYLAWS

Article I. Purpose

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) is established to advise the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) on matters related to bicycle and pedestrian transportation, safety, and multimodal planning.

The BPAC shall serve as a forum for community input and stakeholder perspectives on active transportation issues and shall provide recommendations to MPO staff, the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC), and the MPO Board.

Article II. Responsibilities

The BPAC shall perform an advisory role and may provide input and recommendations on:

1. Bicycle and pedestrian safety concerns and needs within the MPO planning area
2. Complete Streets and multimodal corridor concepts
3. Priorities for walking and bicycling infrastructure investments
4. Community perspectives on active transportation policies and programs
5. Regional trail and greenway initiatives, including the Hellbender Regional Trail
6. Public engagement related to bicycle and pedestrian planning efforts
7. Other matters related to active transportation as requested by the MPO Board or TCC

The BPAC shall not have decision-making authority and shall function solely in an advisory capacity.

Article III. Membership

Section 1. Composition

The BPAC shall be composed primarily of community members, advocates, and other interested stakeholders appointed by the MPO Board.

Membership should reflect geographic diversity across the MPO planning area and may include representation from:

- Municipal and county jurisdictions
- Urban and rural communities
- Bicycle and pedestrian users
- Advocacy or nonprofit organizations
- Public health, education, or safety interests

Section 2. Number of Members

The BPAC shall consist of **[9–15] voting members**, as determined by the MPO Board.

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Section 3. Appointments and Terms

- Members shall be appointed by the MPO Board.
- Terms shall be for **two (2) years**, with the option for reappointment.
- Initial appointments may be staggered to ensure continuity.
- Vacancies shall be filled by MPO Board appointment for the remainder of the term.
- A minimum of one representative per County shall be required

Section 4. Ex Officio Members

MPO staff shall serve as non-voting ex officio members to provide coordination and technical support.

Additional non-voting members (such as representatives from partner agencies) may be appointed as needed.

Article IV. Officers

Section 1. Officers

The BPAC shall elect the following officers from among its voting members:

- Chair
- Vice Chair

Section 2. Terms of Officers

Officers shall serve one-year terms and may be re-elected.

Section 3. Duties

Chair:

- Presides over meetings
- Works with MPO staff to develop agendas
- Represents the BPAC to the TCC and MPO Board

Vice Chair:

- Assists the Chair
- Presides in the Chair's absence

Article V. Meetings

Section 1. Frequency

The BPAC shall meet at least **quarterly**, or more frequently as needed.

Section 2. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of appointed voting members.

Section 3. Open Meetings

All meetings shall be open to the public and conducted in accordance with applicable open meetings laws and MPO policies.

Section 4. Voting

Actions and recommendations shall be adopted by a majority vote of members present.

Article VI. Relationship to MPO Committees

1. The BPAC shall report to the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and MPO Board through staff.

Staff Report & Recommendations

2. BPAC recommendations shall be forwarded to the TCC and MPO Board for consideration.
3. The BPAC shall not supersede the authority of the MPO Board or TCC.

Article VII. Scope and Limitations

The BPAC:

- Shall not obligate MPO funds
- Shall not direct MPO staff
- Shall not act independently of MPO policies
- Shall serve in an advisory capacity only

Article VIII. Dissolution and Transition

Upon adoption of these bylaws, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee shall replace the Citizens Advisory Committee and the Hellbender Regional Trail Workgroup.

Existing advisory responsibilities related to bicycle, pedestrian, and trail issues shall be consolidated under the BPAC.

Article IX. Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by action of the MPO Board.

Proposed amendments may be submitted by:

- The BPAC
- MPO staff
- The Technical Coordinating Committee

Article X. Effective Date

These bylaws shall take effect upon approval by the MPO Board.

INFORMATION ONLY

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 6A:

Division Project Updates

Division 13: TO BE UPDATED

Division 14: https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Division14_February2026_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>

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Item 6C:

Committee & Workgroup Updates

Prioritization Subcommittee— met on February 4th, next meeting March 4th.

- Local Input Point Methodology
- 5310 Project Selection
- JARC Project Selection

5307 Subrecipient Workgroup- met on November 18th, next meeting February 17th.

Points of Business/Discussion:

- Grant management update by the City of Asheville
- Locally Coordinated Plan update
- Title VI Plan Update
- 5310/JARC Call for Projects
- 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	RFP Drafted
Staffing & Compensation Study	LOSRC	2024	Not Started

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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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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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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