

## Technical Coordinating Committee

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April 9, 2026 – 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)**

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    - A. Welcome and Introductions William High
  
  2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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  3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONSENT AGENDA** William High

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    - A. March, 2026 TCC Meeting Minutes
    - B. FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment
    - C. P8 Express Design Assignments
    - D. Resolution of Support- Waynesville Bike/Ped Planning Grant Application
    - E. Amendments to the 2026-2035 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
  
  4. **BUSINESS**

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    - A. Congestion Management Process (CMP) Biennial Data Report MPO Staff, 10 Min
  
  5. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

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    - A. Potential Improvements Near Exit 44 NCDOT Division 13 Staff, 15 Min
    - B. WNC Passenger Rail Project Updates NCDOT Rail Division Staff, 15 Min
    - C. FY 2026 5307 Suballocation MPO Staff, 10 Min
  
  6. **REGULAR UPDATES (10-15 min)**

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    - 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)**

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  8. **TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING (June 11<sup>th</sup>)**

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  9. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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  10. **ADJOURNMENT**

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# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 3:

## Consent Agenda

**Item 3A:** March, 2026 Meeting Minutes

**Item 3B:** Amendments to the FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

**Item 3C:** P8 Express Design Assignments

**Item 3D:** Resolution of Support- Waynesville Bike/Ped Planning Grant

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

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 3A:

## March, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Available here: [https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/2026\\_03\\_12\\_DRAFT.MPO\\_TCC\\_Minutes.pdf](https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/2026_03_12_DRAFT.MPO_TCC_Minutes.pdf)

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 3B:

## Amendment to the FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program

### 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 planning activity using federal funds may occur unless it is included in an adopted UPWP.

### Proposed Amendments

Following the adoption of the FY 2027 UPWP in March, 2026, the City of Asheville was notified that it did not program the full amount of FTA 5303 Metropolitan Planning Funds that were made available to the region.

The amendment would fully program the allotment of 5303 funds from \$127,241 to \$151,871 to the City of Asheville.

**Action Required:** Consider Recommending Adoption of the Amendment to the FY 2027 UPWP

## TABLES OF FY 26 UPWP FTA SECTION 5303 WORK TASKS TO BE PERFORMED

| II-A Data and Planning Support |                                     |   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| II-A-1                         | <b>Networks and Support Systems</b> | <p>The City of Asheville Transit Planning Division collects and analyzes various data related to the operation and maintenance of the transit system. This includes ridership data compiled from the Automatic Passenger Counters, fare data collected from the fareboxes, performance data collected from the real-time GPS and AVL system, etc. The data is used in reporting current system functions, as well as analyze the impact of system service changes, and to plan for future service improvements to increase system-wide ridership.</p> <p><b>Work Product:</b> Monthly ridership reports, on-time-performance reports, fare revenue reports, etc.</p>  |
| II-A-2                         | <b>Travelers and Behavior</b>       | <p>The City of Asheville Transit Planning Division utilizes land use and demographic data in partnership with the MPO and the City's Planning and Urban Design department to coordinate land use and transportation decision-making on proposed new developments. In addition, the information is used in planning improvements to the transit system to ensure connectivity among ART's fixed-route service and to other regional modes of transportation.</p>   |
| II-A-3                         | <b>Transportation Modeling</b>      |   |
| II-B Planning Process          |                                     |   |
| II-B-1                         | <b>Targeted Planning</b>            | <p>The City will be beginning a planning process for the development of a new/expanded downtown transit center, affordable housing, and potential other compatible uses - The ART Place Project funded by FTA Section 5305-2 AoPP. Preliminary planning activities will be performed in FY 26 and FY 27 and will include an analysis of the operational needs for ingress/egress of the site, a space needs analysis, environmental and historic preservation compliance, community engagement, a financial plan, and creation of conceptual designs.</p> <p><b>Work Product:</b> Deliverables will consist of conceptual designs and visioning for the future project, development of a financial plan, and a report summarizing technical analyses.</p> |
| II-B-2                         | <b>Regional Planning</b>            | <p>The City of Asheville Transit Planning Division continues to implement recommended service improvements in the transit master plan, as well as Implement the vision/long range plan outlined in the Multimodal Transportation Plan. Participate in the Regional Transit Operators meetings to discuss</p>  |

|   |                                  |   |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
|   |                                  | <p>prioritization of regional transit projects. Attend TCC (Technical Coordinating Committee), and other transit advisory board meetings. In FY 25 and FY 26 the City of Asheville plans to conduct a Comprehensive Operational Analysis and Financial plan that will analyze base level service after 2020 service improvements and recommend operational service efficiencies and existing and future financial investments needed to implement the phases of the transit master plan.</p> <p><b>Work Product:</b> Deliverables associated with Comprehensive Operational Analysis and Financial Implementation plan will be developed by the City of Asheville.</p>  |
| II-B-3A   | Special Studies Operations       |   |
| II-B-3B   | Corridor Studies Operations      |   |
| II-B-3C   | Special Studies Pass-Through     |   |
| <b>III-A Planning Work Program</b>  |                                  |   |
| III-A-1   | Planning Work Program            | <p>Program Administration entails working on multiple reporting and managerial functions. Program administration includes monitoring subrecipients planning and grant activities, and reporting requirements for (drug/alcohol, NTD, FTA, etc.), work with the MPO to develop the UPWP per federal and state requirements, manage and administer the City's FTA and State grants, manage FTA compliance program, monitor and oversee the operations and maintenance contracts for the fixed-route and paratransit services. In FY26, the City of Asheville, as the designated recipient will be conducting routine oversight and monitoring meetings of the City of Asheville subrecipients.</p> <p><b>Work Products:</b> Routine monitoring reviews of the subrecipients. Quarterly and Annual FTA Reports, Complete annual NTD reporting; work on Subrecipient Agreements and reports; Drug and Alcohol Reports, etc.</p> |
| III-A-2   | Metrics and Performance Measures |   |
| <b>III-B Transportation Improvement Program</b>                                   |                                  |   |
| III-B-1   | Prioritization                   |   |
| III-B-2   | Metropolitan TIP                 |   |
| III-B-3   | Merger/Project Development       |   |
| <b>III-C Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI) and Other Regulatory Requirements</b> |                                  |   |
| III-C-1   | Title VI Compliance              | <p>The City will continue conducting Title VI analysis for any future route and/or fare changes and will monitor Title VI programs and plans of the region's subrecipients.</p>   |

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  |   | <b>Work Product:</b> FY 23-25 City of Asheville Title VI Plan Update.   |
| III-C-2  | <b>Environmental Justice</b>                                  |   |
| III-C-3  | <b>Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Planning</b>             | <p>The U.S. The Department of Transportation suspended the goal setting requirements for the DBE program under the October 3, 2025 Interim Final Rule under 49 CFR § 26.81. The City still continues to work with and support individuals and subrecipients who deem themselves socially and economically disadvantaged. The City will continue their DBE Program without goal setting and continue to work to evaluate individual transit projects and procurements to ensure compliance with 49 CFR § 26.81 federal DBE requirements.</p> <p><b>Work Product:</b> Evaluate individual transit projects and procurement standards.</p> |
| III-C-4  | <b>Planning for Elderly</b>                                   |   |
| III-C-5  | <b>Safety/Drug Control Planning</b>                           | <p>The City and subrecipients have approved Public Transportation Safety Plans. Required meetings and monitoring of performance measures will take place. Monitoring of Drug and alcohol reporting will also take place.</p> <p><b>Work Product:</b> PTSP Committee meetings notes, performance measures, reports and submissions for FTA.</p>  |
| III-C-6  | <b>Public Involvement</b>                                     | <p>The City will be conducting public engagement as part of the Art Place Project funded by FTA Section 5305-2 AoPP for the purpose of planning and conceptual design. Public engagement will also take place for the City’s Comprehensive Operational Analysis, which will be prepared by the City with Buncombe County in FY 25 and FY 26.</p> <p><b>Work Product:</b> Engagement with the community will influence the priorities and outcomes of the ART Place Project and Comprehensive Operational Analysis.</p>  |
| III-C-7  | <b>Private Sector Participation</b>                           |   |
| <b>III-D Statewide and Extra-Regional Planning</b> |   |   |
| III-D  | <b>Statewide and Extra-Regional Planning</b>                  |   |
| <b>III-E Management and Operations</b>             |   |   |
| III-E  | <b>Management, Operations, Program Support Administration</b> | <p>Conduct meetings as part of the City’s oversight responsibilities as part of grants management and administration. Meet quarterly with all subrecipients and work with subrecipients to address issues and/or concerns related to federal grants.</p> <p><b>5307:</b> Henderson County staff will provide program support and planning for Henderson County urban transit services.</p> <p><b>Work Product:</b> Complete quarterly meetings and submit reports to subrecipients on items to follow-up during meetings.</p>   |

| FTA<br>CODE | TASK<br>CODE | TASK<br>DESCRIPTION                            | Transit Planning - 5303 |              |                |           | Transit Program Support- 5307 |                |           | Transit Program Support- 5305 -2 (AoPP) |                |           | Total |       |         |       |   |
|-------------|--------------|--|-------------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------|---|----------------|-----------|-------|-------|---------|-------|---|
|             |              |  | Local<br>10%            | State<br>10% | Federal<br>80% | Total     | Local<br>20%                  | Federal<br>80% | Total     | Local<br>10%                            | Federal<br>90% | Total     | Local | State | Federal | Total |   |
|             | <b>II-A</b>  | <b>Data and Planning Support</b>               |                         |              |                |           |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
| 44.24.00    | II-A-1       | Networks and Support Systems                   | \$1,898                 | \$1,898      | \$15,187       | \$18,984  |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
| 44.23.01    | II-A-2       | Travelers and Behavior                         | \$475                   | \$475        | \$3,797        | \$4,746   |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
| 44.23.02    | II-A-3       | Transportation Modeling                        | \$0                     | \$0          | \$0            | \$0       |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
|             | <b>II-B</b>  | <b>Planning Process</b>                        |                         |              |                |           |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
| 44.23.02    | II-B-1       | Targeted Planning                              | \$2,848                 | \$2,848      | \$22,781       | \$28,476  |                               |                |           | \$32,814                                | \$328,140      | \$360,954 |       |       |         |       |   |
| 44.23.01    | II-B-2       | Regional Planning                              | \$1,898                 | \$1,898      | \$15,187       | \$18,984  |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
| 44.27.00    | II-B-3       | Special Studies                                |                         |              |                |           |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
|             | <b>III-A</b> | <b>Planning Work Program</b>                   |                         |              |                |           |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
| 44.21.00    | III-A-1      | Planning Work Program                          | \$7,594                 | \$7,594      | \$60,748       | \$75,936  |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
| 44.24.00    | III-A-2      | Metrics and Performance Measures               |                         |              |                |           |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
|             | <b>III-B</b> | <b>Transp. Improvement Plan</b>                |                         |              |                |           |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
| 44.25.00    | III-B-1      | Prioritization                                 |                         |              |                |           |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
| 44.25.00    | III-B-2      | Metropolitan TIP                               | \$949                   | \$949        | \$7,594        | \$9,492   |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
| 44.25.00    | III-B-3      | Merger/Project Development                     |                         |              |                |           |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
|             | <b>III-C</b> | <b>Cvl Rgts. Cmp./Otr .Reg. Reqs.</b>          |                         |              |                |           |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
| 44.27.00    | III-C-1      | Title VI Compliance                            | \$949                   | \$949        | \$7,594        | \$9,492   |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
| 44.27.00    | III-C-2      | Environmental Justice                          |                         |              |                |           |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
| 44.27.00    | III-C-3      | Minority Business Enterprise Planning          | \$949                   | \$949        | \$7,594        | \$9,492   |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
| 44.27.00    | III-C-4      | Planning for the Elderly                       |                         |              |                |           |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
| 44.27.00    | III-C-5      | Safety/Drug Control Planning                   | \$475                   | \$475        | \$3,797        | \$4,746   |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
| 44.27.00    | III-C-6      | Public Involvement                             | \$949                   | \$949        | \$7,594        | \$9,492   |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
| 44.27.00    | III-C-7      | Private Sector Participation                   |                         |              |                |           |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
|             | <b>III-D</b> | <b>Statewide &amp; Extra-Regional Planning</b> |                         |              |                |           |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
| 44.27.00    | III-D-1      | Statewide & Extra-Regional Planning            |                         |              |                |           |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
|             | <b>III-E</b> | <b>Management Ops, Program Suppt Admin</b>     |                         |              |                |           |                               |                |           |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
| 44.27.00    |              | Management Operations                          |                         |              |                |           | \$81,232                      | \$324,929      | \$406,161 |   |                |           |       |       |         |       |   |
|             |              | <b>TOTALS</b>                                  | \$18,984                | \$18,984     | \$151,871      | \$189,839 | \$81,232                      | \$324,929      | \$406,161 | \$32,814                                | \$328,140      | \$360,954 | -     | -     | -       | -     | - |

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 3C:

## P8 Express Design Assignments

### What are Express Designs?

Express designs are meant to be “quick” designs of a potential transportation project, developed in collaboration between NCDOT, the MPO, and local government staff. These designs serve primarily as a tool to get a better idea of the potential cost of a project and can also serve to look at high-level issues that a project may encounter.

### Express Design Requirement for P9

The Prioritization Workgroup recommended that express designs be required for projects in the Prioritization process by P9 (next round- expected to begin in 2027). To begin work towards that requirement, express designs are starting in early 2026 to get as many express designs done as possible.

There are exceptions to the requirement. As of right now, lower-cost projects (projects expected to cost <\$10,000,000) are exempt and POs are allowed to have one project per round that is not required to have an express design.

### Express Design Allotments

NCDOT has said that their capacity for express designs is roughly 200/year or 400/prioritization cycle. Split between the different MPOs, RPOs, and Divisions, the French Broad River MPO is being allotted 10 express designs over the P8 cycle.

Due Dates for Express Design Selection:

November 30<sup>th</sup> – 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of Express Design Assignments Due

May 31<sup>st</sup>- 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of Express Design Assignments Due

September 30<sup>th</sup>- 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of Express Design Assignments Due

### Previously Assigned Express Designs (Approved 11/30/25)

- US 19 (Smokey Park Highway) Access Management from I-40 to Wiggins Road
- Clingman Avenue Multiple Intersection Improvements from Patton Avenue to Hilliard Avenue
- NC 63 (New Leicester Highway) Multiple Intersection Improvements from Newfound Road to Gouges Branch Road

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

- US 25B (Asheville Highway) Multiple Intersection Improvements/Access Management from North Main Street to Berkley Road

### **New Recommendations for 5/31/26**

- Fanning Bridge Road Modernization from US 25 (Hendersonville Road) to NC 280 (Airport Road)
- US 70 (Tunnel Road) Road Diet from Beaucatcher Tunnel to US 74A (South Tunnel Road)
- US 70 (State Street) Road Diet from Blue Ridge Road to NC 9

**Action Required:** Consider Approval of P8 Express Design Assignments

**Prioritization Subcommittee Recommendation:** Approve New Recommendations for P8 Express Design Assignments

## **Staff Report & Recommendations**

# Item 3D:

## **Resolution of Support- Waynesville Bike/Ped Planning Grant**

### **What is the Multimodal Planning Grant Program?**

The Multimodal Planning Grant Program is a program through NCDOT that makes resources available to local governments to do pedestrian and/or bicycle planning efforts for their communities, including Bicycle and/or Pedestrian Network Plans, Multimodal Plan, Plan Updates, or Project Acceleration Plans. A local match is required, based on the population of the local government.

### **What is The Town of Waynesville Planning to Apply For?**

The Town of Waynesville is planning to apply for update to their Pedestrian Plan, which was initially adopted in 2010.

### **What is Needed from the MPO?**

Applications for the Multimodal Planning Grant Program are required to have resolutions of support from the applicable MPO or RPO.

**Action Required:** Consider Approval of a Resolution to Support the Town of Waynesville's Multimodal Planning Grant Application.

**Staff Recommendation:** Recommend the MPO Board Approve the Resolution of Support

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

### A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE'S APPLICATION TO THE NCDOT MULTIMODAL PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM TO UPDATE ITS PEDESTRIAN PLAN

**WHEREAS**, the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) serves as the regional transportation planning body for Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, and Madison Counties, and provides a forum for cooperative, comprehensive, and continuing transportation planning; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Waynesville last adopted a pedestrian plan in 2010, and an update is needed to reflect current conditions, community priorities, safety needs, and development patterns; and

**WHEREAS**, improving pedestrian infrastructure and connectivity is critical to enhancing safety, accessibility, public health, and quality of life for residents and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, the update of Waynesville's pedestrian plan would support regional goals related to safety, multimodal connectivity, and implementation of locally adopted and regional plans, including the FBRMPO Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Safe Streets initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Multimodal Planning Grant Program provides funding to assist communities in developing comprehensive transportation plans that address pedestrian, bicycle, and multimodal needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Waynesville intends to apply for funding through this program to update its pedestrian plan and identify priority projects, policies, and implementation strategies; and

**WHEREAS**, the French Broad River MPO supports efforts by member jurisdictions to improve multimodal transportation systems and advance projects that enhance safety and connectivity across the region.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization Board hereby expresses its support for the Town of Waynesville's application to the NCDOT Multimodal Planning Grant Program to update its pedestrian plan; and

**ADOPTED** this 16th day of April, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Sutton, Chair, FBRMPO Board

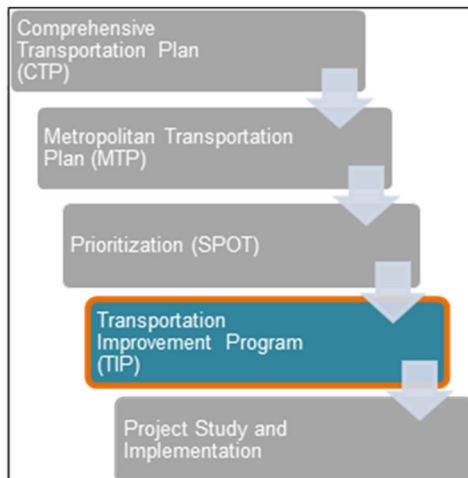
**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Tristan Winkler, MPO Director

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 3E:

## Amendments to the 2026-2035 Transportation Improvement Program

### 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:

- Editing the programming 5310 and JARC Projects from the most recent call for projects to include the rescinded FY21 and FY22 Madison County funds.
- Moving engineering funds for EB-5946 (Mills River Valley Trail) from FY26 to FY28
- U-5616: Amending FY27 funding for the French Broad River MPO Planning Supplement

- Minor corrections to multiple City of Asheville Transit projects

All TIP Amendment Summaries can be found here: [https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/FBRMPO\\_April2026\\_TIPAmendments\\_UPDATED.pdf](https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/FBRMPO_April2026_TIPAmendments_UPDATED.pdf)

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

**Staff Recommendation:** Recommend Approval of the Amendments to the 2026-2035 TIP.

## **Staff Report & Recommendations**

# Item 4A:

## **Congestion Management Process – Biennial Data Update**

As a Transportation Management Area (TMA), the French Broad River MPO is required to maintain a Congestion Management Process (CMP) for the region which includes congestion monitoring on a biennial basis. A draft biennial report is included below. A presentation will be provided.

### **What is a CMP?**

“A congestion management process (CMP) is a systematic and regionally-accepted approach for managing congestion that provides accurate, up-to-date information on transportation system performance and assesses alternative strategies for congestion management that meet State and local needs.”

### **When was the CMP last updated?**

The full CMP was updated in 2018 and is available on the MPO website here:

[https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/DraftCMP\\_2018-1-1.pdf](https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/DraftCMP_2018-1-1.pdf)

The previous biennial report was completed in 2023 with data focusing on 2021.

MPO Staff will present on the latest data report.

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 5A:

## Potential Improvements Near Exit 44 on I-40

NCDOT Division 13 will provide an update on potential improvements near Exit 44 on I-40 and the surrounding area.

**Information Only**

## **Staff Report & Recommendations**

# Item 5B:

### **WNC Passenger Rail Project Update**

NCDOT Rail Division will provide an update on the WNC Passenger Rail project, which is planned to expand passenger rail service from Salisbury to Asheville.

The previously completed Feasibility Study is available here:

<https://www.ncdot.gov/divisions/rail/Documents/western-nc-feasibility-study-final.pdf>

The recently completed Economic Impact Study is available here:

[https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/Rail-Division-Resources/Documents/EconImpact-Asheville-Salisbury\\_FR.pdf](https://connect.ncdot.gov/resources/Rail-Division-Resources/Documents/EconImpact-Asheville-Salisbury_FR.pdf)

### **Information Only**

## **Staff Report & Recommendations**

# Item 5C:

## **FY 2026 5307 Suballocation**

The Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program is a federal funding program administered by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in the United States. It provides grants to public transit systems in urbanized areas (UZAs) with populations of 50,000 or more.

Section 5307 funds are distributed based on formulas set in federal law (currently under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law – also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), 2021–2026).

Under the FY 2026 Section 5307 allocation, the UZA received \$4,322,617.

Historically, FBRMPO has designated 10% of the allotment toward Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) programs which are funded through a call for projects each year. This year's JARC allotment would be \$432,261.70.

FBRMPO uses a suballocation formula approved by the MPO Board in 2023 to allot the 5307 funding received among transit operators within the UZA. Under this formula, Asheville (who serves as the designated recipient) receives 46.9% of the total FTA 5307 allocation, Buncombe County receives 31.9%, and Henderson County receives 21.2%. Both Haywood and Madison County are outside of the UZA and are therefore ineligible for 5307 funding.

Under the FY 2026 Section 5307 allocation, the UZA received \$3,890,355.30 after the JARC set aside. According to the formula:

- Asheville would receive \$1,824,576.64
- Buncombe County would receive \$1,241,023.34
- Henderson County would receive \$824,755.32

## **Information Only**

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 6A:

## Division Project Updates

Division 13:

Division 14: [https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Division14\\_April2026\\_Updates.pdf](https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Division14_April2026_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>

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## Staff Report & Recommendations

# Item 6C:

### Committee & Workgroup Updates

**Prioritization Subcommittee**— met on April 1<sup>st</sup>, next meeting June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- P8 Express Design Assignments

**5307 Subrecipient Workgroup**- met on February 17<sup>th</sup>, next meeting May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Points of Business/Discussion:

- Grant management update by the City of Asheville
- Shared document repository discussion
- Locally Coordinated Plan update
- Service connection update
- 5310/JARC Call for Projects update
- Knowledge-sharing opportunities within current group composition

### 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            | Underway     |
| Travel Survey/Model Upgrades       | FBRMPO          | 2024            | RFP Released |
| 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) |
|----------------|--|-----------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>BL-0005</b> | Broadway St Ped Improvement                          | Buncombe  | Closing Out                   | Recently Completed!   |                               |
| <b>HL-0012</b> | I-240/Charlotte St Interchange & Ped Improvements    | Buncombe  | Closing Out                   | Recently Completed!   |                               |
| <b>BL-0007</b> | Ecusta Trail (Kanuga Rd to US 64)                    | Henderson | 95% Complete                  | Spring 2026   | 2023                          |
| <b>EB-5948</b> | Onteora Blvd Sidewalks                               | Buncombe  | Under Construction            | Recently Completed!   | 2023                          |
| <b>U-5190</b>  | New Leicester Sidewalks                              | Buncombe  | Closing Out                   | Complete.   | 2023                          |
| <b>HL-0014</b> | Biltmore Ave/White Fawn Dr Intersection Improvements | Buncombe  | 15% Design                    | Moving to next phase in June 2026   | 2026                          |
| <b>EB-5944</b> | Johnston Rd Sidewalks                                | Buncombe  | Design – 99%<br>R.O.W – 99%   | Construction to Begin This Year, submitted final plans to NCDOT, awaiting action. | 2024                          |
| <b>EB-5947</b> | New Haw Creek Rd Sidewalks                           | Buncombe  | Under Construction            | Estimated to be complete in April 2026  | 2025                          |
| <b>U-5019A</b> | Town Branch Greenway                                 | Buncombe  | Design – 95%<br>R.O.W. – 100% | Construction to Begin This Year   | 2026                          |
| <b>HL-0003</b> | Haywood Rd Resurfacing & Ped Improvements            | Buncombe  | Design – 90%                  | Going to bid in September 2024  | 2024                          |
| TIP ID         | Project Title  | County    | Project Status                | When Will Current Phase Be Completed?   | Construction Year (Beginning) |

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## Staff Report & Recommendations

|                 |  |               |   |   |                                      |
|-----------------|--|---------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <b>BL-0008</b>  | Clear Creek Greenway   | Henderson     | ROW – To be completed in May 2025<br>Construction- To be transferred to NCDOT | ROW complete in 2025, Construction to begin in FY26 | 2026                                 |
| <b>BL-0076</b>  | Riceville Rd Sidewalks   | Buncombe      | Design – 30%  | Late 2025   | 2025                                 |
| <b>EB-5547A</b> | Riverwalk Greenway (Black Mountain Ave to Flat Creek Greenway) | Buncombe      | Design – 90%<br><br>ROW - 0%  | Summer 2026   | 2026                                 |
| <b>EB-5547B</b> | Riverwalk Greenway (Black Mountain Ave to Into the Oaks Trail) | Buncombe      | Design – 90%  | Release of ROW funds has been requested             | 2027                                 |
| <b>EB-5774A</b> | Woodfin Greenway   | Buncombe      | Design – 65%  | Redoing plans in progress                           | 2027                                 |
| <b>EB-5824</b>  | Enka Heritage Trail  | Buncombe      | Design – 15%  | R.O.W. – 2028                                       | Post-2028                            |
| <b>EB-5831</b>  | Coxe Ave Bike/Ped Improvements                                 | Buncombe      | Design – 75%  | ROW/Construction – June 2026                        | 2026                                 |
| <b>BL-0006</b>  | Various Ped Improvements within Asheville City Limits          | Buncombe      |   |   | 2026                                 |
| <b>TIP ID</b>   | <b>Project Title</b>   | <b>County</b> | <b>Project Status</b>   | <b>When Will Current Phase Be Completed?</b>        | <b>Construction Year (Beginning)</b> |
| <b>EB-5774B</b> | Beaverdam Creek Greenway                                       | Buncombe      | Design – 25%  | R.O.W. – 2026                                       | 2026                                 |

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|                |  |           |                     |   |                     |
|----------------|--|-----------|---------------------|---|---------------------|
|                |  |           |                     | Final landowner coordination required post Helene                     |                     |
| <b>EB-5822</b> | Wilma Dykeman Greenway Extension                 | Buncombe  | Design – 25%        | 30% Design will determine the path forward/interaction with I-2513B/D | 2027                |
| <b>HL-0013</b> | 9 <sup>th</sup> Ave Bridge Replacement           | Buncombe  | Design – 90%        | LET date was in March, 2026.  | 2026                |
| <b>BL-0078</b> | Ecusta Trail (US 64 to Transylvania County Line) | Henderson | Design – 30%        | Out to Bid as Design/Build  | 2027                |
| <b>EB-5945</b> | Champion Dr Multi-Use Path                       | Haywood   | ROW Underway        |   | Funded for ROW Only |
| <b>EB-5946</b> | NC 280 Multi-Use Path                            | Henderson | PE to Begin in 2028 |   | Funded for PE Only  |
| <b>EB-5823</b> | Bent Creek Greenway                              | Buncombe  | PE to Begin in 2029 |   | Funded for PE Only  |

# Item 6E:

## Legislative Updates