

## French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization

Minutes from the Combined Governing Board and TCC Special Meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Board Attendance:**

In-Person and Remote via the Zoom Platform:

Jennifer Hensley	City of Hendersonville
Matt Wechtel	Madison County
George Banta	Town of Laurel Park
Shanon Gonc	Town of Mills River
Chuck McGrady	BOT 14
Archie Pertiller	Town of Black Mountain
Emily Whitmire	Village of Flat Rock
Mark Endries	Town of Weaverville
Jim Player	Town of Fletcher
Jim McAllister	Town of Woodfin
Kevin Ensley	Haywood County
Jay Egolf	Henderson County
Sheila Franklin	Henderson County
David White	Rural Transit
Dann Jesse	Town of Clyde
Brandon Rodgers	Haywood County
Billy Clarke	BOT Div 13

Members without Representation present:

Buncombe County
Town of Canton
Town of Maggie Valley
City of Asheville
Town of Maggie Valley
Town of Mars Hill
Town of Montreat
Town of Biltmore Forest
Urban Transit
Town of Waynesville

**TCC ATTENDANCE:**

In-person and remote via Zoom:

Autumn Radcliff	Henderson County
Jessica Morriss	ART
Harry Buckner	Town of Biltmore Forest
William High	Buncombe County
Jodie Ferguson	Haywood County
Janna Bianculli	Apple County Transit
Noah Taylor	Town of Maggie Valley
Nathan Bennett	Town of Mars Hill
Mike Malecek	Town of Mills River
Vicki Eastland	LOSRPO
Elizabeth Teague	Town of Waynesville
Ricky Hurley	Town of Woodfin
James Eller	Town of Weaverville
Matt Manley	City of Hendersonville
Doug Phillips	NCDOT Div 13
Steve Williams	NCDOT Div 14
Pat Christie	Village of Flat Rock

Members Without Representation Present:

City of Asheville
Town of Black Mountain
Buncombe Transit
TPD
Town of Canton
Town of Clyde
Town of Fletcher
Haywood Transit
Town of Laurel Park
Madison County
Town of Montreat

**Additional Attendees:**

Tristan Winkler (FBRMPO)	Hannah Bagli (FBRMPO)	Daisy O'Connor(FBRMPO)
Ada McGovern(FBRMPO),	Sandy Broadwill (FBRMPO)	Lee Stevens
Stephen Sparks (NCDOT)	Troy Wilson (NCDOT)	Wesley Grindstaff (NCDOT)
Bret Detwiler( NCDOT)	Jeremy Chapman (NCDOT)	Brendan Shanahan (City of Hendersonville)

## **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & ROLL CALL**

Jennifer Hensley and William High called the meeting to order at 11:04 AM and welcomed everyone. Jennifer Hensley read the Ethics Statement and inquired if there were any conflicts of interest to note for today's meeting. No conflicts were noted with the business before the body.

Quorum was announced to conduct the business of the Board.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jennifer Hensley the floor for public comment. No comment heard.

## **Business**

### **3A. BL-0008: TIP Modification**

#### **Background**

Project BL-0008 will construct a multi-use path from Berkeley Mills Park to Lakewood Road in the City of Hendersonville. The project is a locally administered bicycle and pedestrian project funded with MPO Direct Attributable (DA) funds, with a local match provided by the City of Hendersonville. The project is currently programmed with the following construction funding:

- \$2,763,000 – Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) (Federal)
- \$691,000 – Non-Federal Match
- Total Construction: \$3,454,000

The project was originally funded in 2020 from the MPO's Call for Locally Administered Projects for Design and Construction.

The project recently advanced to bid.

#### **About the Funding**

The MPO receives approximately \$6.5 million/year in direct allotments of funds from the USDOT Surface Transportation Block Grant, Transportation Alternative Program, and Carbon Reduction Program. In the last call for projects, held in 2022, the MPO programmed out five years worth of funds. Cost escalations for existing projects were added to that list and funds were programmed that were estimated to exhaust the funds through FY 2028 and into the estimated FY 2029 allocation.

Due to delays to other projects through the same funding source as well as an increase to the MPO's direct allotment in recent years, NCDOT and the MPO anticipate there to be funding available, however that funding will further deplete what would be available for future projects.

### **BL-0008 Cost Issue**

BL-0008 recently wrapped up design and went to bid for construction. Construction bids were received and exceed the programmed construction budget. To proceed with the lowest responsive bid, the project requires:

- \$862,000 in additional federal funds (DA)
- \$216,000 in additional local match

Without this adjustment, the project cannot proceed as bid and may be delayed, rebid, or reduced in scope, and jeopardize another grant from the State to the City of Hendersonville for the project. Due to bid validity timelines and the availability of local matching funds, this request is being brought forward prior to the MPO's next regularly scheduled meetings in June.

### **Proposed TIP Modification**

Category	Current	Proposed	Change	Federal (STBG)	\$2,763,000	\$3,625,000	+\$862,000
Local Match	\$691,000	\$907,000	+\$216,000	Total Construction	\$3,454,000	\$4,532,000	+\$1,078,000

### **Staff Evaluation**

- Current bid results are consistent with recent cost escalation trends for greenway and infrastructure projects.
- Rebidding introduces risk of further cost increases and schedule delays.
- Scope reductions would require redesign and coordination, delaying delivery and potentially reducing project benefits.
- The City of Hendersonville has indicated willingness to provide the additional required local match.

### **Alternatives**

#### *Alternative #1: Approve the Modification*

- Project Outcomes: the project moves forward into construction
- Funding Outcomes: there will be a reduction of funds available for a future call for projects by \$862,000

#### *Alternative #2: Do Not Approve the Modification*

- Project Outcomes: the project would not be able to move forward with current bids.
- Funding Outcomes: \$862,000 is preserved for a future call for projects

#### Staff Recommendation: Alternative #1

- The project was previously noted as a priority of the City of Hendersonville as well as the MPO
- The cost increases are consistent with experiences of other projects
- The funding is available to program

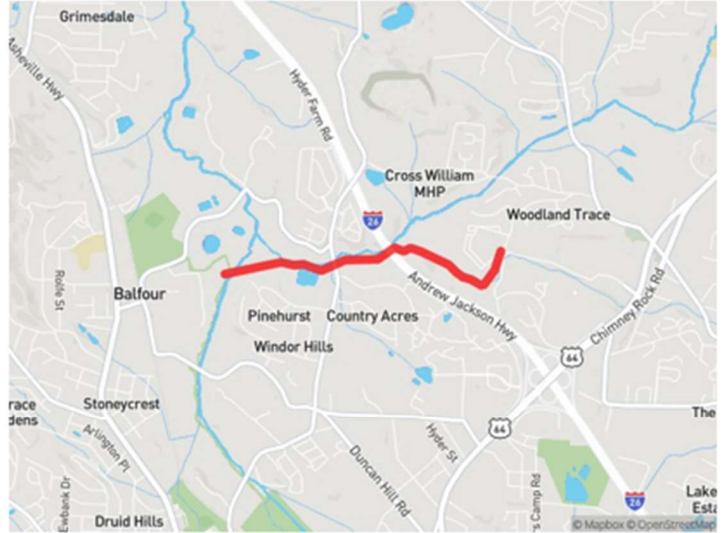
### **Requested Action**

- TCC: Recommend approval
- Board: Approve TIP modification

**BL-0008 - CONSTRUCT MULTI-USE PATH FROM BERKELEY MILLS PARK TO LAKEWOOD ROAD.**

CONSTRUCT MULTI-USE PATH FROM BERKELEY MILLS PARK TO LAKEWOOD ROAD.

LEAD AGENCY:	Hendersonville
PROJECT TYPE:	BIKE/PED
COUNTY:	HENDERSON
DIVISION(S):	14
CONSTRUCTION YEAR:	2025
LOCALLY ADMINISTERED PROJECT:	YES
ROUTE/ROAD NAME:	CLEAR CREEK GREENWAY/ HENDERSONVILLE
TOTAL LENGTH:	0
TOTAL COST:	\$4,634,000



Phase	Fund Source	Prior	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031	FY2032	FY2033	FY2034	FY2035	Future	Total
ENGINEERING	Local	\$21,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$21,000
ENGINEERING	Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (Direct Attributable)	\$82,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$82,000
<b>Total ENGINEERING</b>		<b>\$103,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$103,000</b>
CONSTRUCTION	Local	\$0	\$906,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$906,000
CONSTRUCTION	Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (Any Area)	\$0	\$78,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$78,000
CONSTRUCTION	Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (Direct Attributable)	\$0	\$3,547,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,547,000
<b>Total CONSTRUCTION</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$4,531,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$4,531,000</b>
<b>Total Prior Costs</b>		<b>\$103,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$103,000</b>
<b>Total Programmed</b>		<b>\$103,000</b>	<b>\$4,531,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$4,634,000</b>

Current Change Reason:	Schedule / Funding / Scope- Update Addition to the TIP or changes to <u>locally-funded</u> bicycle or pedestrian projects
Project Changes:	Plan Revision Name changed from "January 2026 Amendments (26-35)" to "May Special Modification"
Funding Changes:	Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (Direct Attributable)
Funding Changes:	+ Increase funds in FY 2026 in CON from \$0 to \$862,000
Funding Changes:	Local
Funding Changes:	+ Increase funds in FY 2026 in CON from \$0 to \$215,000
Federal Project Cost:	Increased from \$2,845,000 to \$3,707,000 (30.30%)
Total Project Cost:	Increased from \$3,557,000 to \$4,634,000 (30.28%)

# FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR PROJECT BL-0008: CLEAR CREEK GREENWAY

**WHEREAS**, the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Asheville Urbanized Area and is responsible for transportation planning and programming in accordance with federal and state requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, the FBRMPO maintains a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) identifying transportation projects and associated funding over a multi-year period; and

**WHEREAS**, Project BL-0008 (Clear Creek Greenway) is a locally administered bicycle and pedestrian project in the City of Hendersonville, currently programmed with Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds and local matching funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the project has advanced to the construction bidding phase and bids received exceed the currently programmed construction funding; and

**WHEREAS**, to proceed with the lowest responsive bid, the project requires an increase of \$862,000 in federal STBG-DA funds and \$216,000 in local matching funds; and

**WHEREAS**, due to time-sensitive constraints associated with bid validity and the availability of matching funds, timely action is necessary to avoid project delay; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed modification is consistent with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and applicable federal requirements;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization Board hereby approves an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to:

- Increase federal funding for Project BL-0008 by \$862,000 in STBG Direct Attributable (DA) funds;
- Increase local matching funds by \$216,000; and
- Revise the total construction cost of the project accordingly to reflect current bid amounts;

**Adopted this 11th day of May, 2026.**

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Anthony Sutton  
Chair, French Broad River MPO Board

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ATTEST, Tristan Winkler  
Director, French Broad River MPO

Discussion occurred around if the NCDOT will be taking 10% of the project funds for admin or are they going to waive that cost. There is a flat 15% fee that will be added as they are doing the construction.

#### **TCC**

***Steve Williams moved to recommend to the Board to approve of the BL-0008 TIP Modification. Matt Manley seconded the motion and it passed upon a roll call vote.***

#### **TAC**

Discussion occurred around scope challenges and funds for some other already funded projects that now won't be moving forward or are delayed. Discussion on if this money is awarded now, what is to say they won't need more in future and how do we navigate that.

***Kevin Ensley Moved to approve the BL-0008 TIP Modification. Shanon Gonce seconded the motion and it passed upon a roll call vote.***

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jennifer Hensley opened floor for Public Comment, none was heard,

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Jennifer Hensley and William High adjourned the meeting at 11:34AM as there was no further business before the Board and TCC.