

Prioritization Subcommittee

Meeting Agenda

June 3, 2026

9:30 AM

Meeting to be held In-Person at Land of Sky Regional Council or via

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85619095223>

Voting Members on the Committee: Jessica Morris (City of Asheville, Vice-Chair), William High (Buncombe County), Autumn Radcliff (Henderson County, Chair), Anthony Sutton (Town of Waynesville), Elizabeth Teague (Town of Waynesville), Archie Pertiller (Town of Black Mountain), Mark Endries (Town of Weaverville)

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|---|-----------------|
| 1. Welcome and Introductions | Autumn Radcliff |
| 2. Public Comment | Autumn Radcliff |
| 3. Approval of April, 2026 Meeting Minutes | Autumn Radcliff |
| 4. Business | |
| A. LAPP Projects- Requests for Additional Funds | MPO Staff |
| B. P8 Regional Impact Local Input Points | MPO Staff |
| 5. News, Events, Updates | Autumn Radcliff |
| 6. Public Comment | Autumn Radcliff |
| 7. Adjournment | Autumn Radcliff |

Item 4A:

LAPP Projects- Requests for Additional Funds

Background

The MPO currently receives roughly \$6.5 million/year in a direct allotment of federal funds that it programs to both planning and capital expenditures in the region. These funds come from three different federal programs:

- Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)
- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
- Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)

In past years the MPO has combined these allotments into one Locally Administered Projects Program and programmed funds to different projects, largely sponsored by local governments, but some sponsored by NCDOT.

Two projects that were previously funded are currently requesting additional funding.

Project #1: HL-0013

Description: 9th Avenue Bridge Replacement

Sponsor: Town of Black Mountain

Background: the MPO awarded \$365,000 in federal funds to the Town of Black Mountain in 2020 to replace a local bridge that received a poor structural review. That figure was increased to \$800,000 in 2021 with updated estimates from NCDOT. The project recently went to bid for construction and the bids came back at more than \$1.9 million, including NCDOT oversight fees.

| Previously Awarded Federal Construction Funds | Total Request for Federal Construction Funds | Change in Federal Funds for the Project |
|---|--|---|
| \$800,000 | \$1,566,110 | \$766,110 |

Project #2: U-5019A

Description: Nasty Branch Greenway from the Dr. Wesley Grant Southside Center to Phifer Street

Sponsor: City of Asheville

Background: the Nasty Branch Greenway, formerly known as the Town Branch Greenway, was a part of the RADTIP project, funded through the USDOT TIGER program. When costs for the project increased, this part of the project was removed from the rest of the TIGER project. The MPO supplemented the City's TIGER funded with DA funds, funding the Craven Street Bike/Ped Bridge in 2014, the French Broad River West Greenway in 2015, and the Town Branch/Nasty Branch Greenway in 2018. The project is preparing to go to bid later this year and its cost estimate has increased. The City of Asheville has requested additional funds, with much of the cost going to NCDOT oversight and Construction Inspection expenses.

| Previously Awarded Federal Construction Funds | Total Request for Federal Construction Funds | Change in Federal Funds for the Project |
|---|--|---|
| \$3,412,000 | \$4,253,000 | \$841,000 |

Impact on MPO Funding

MPO staff coordinated with NCDOT staff to look at available funding through FY 2030. The total amount of funds expected to be available are \$17,493,000, after the additional funds that have already been programmed to the Clear Creek Greenway. If both projects are awarded funds, the future balance would go down to \$15,885,890.

TO NOTE: all of this is based on current allotments. This is subject to change if a new federal transportation law is adopted.

Staff Recommendation

Recommend Additional Funds for Project HL-0013 and U-5019A.

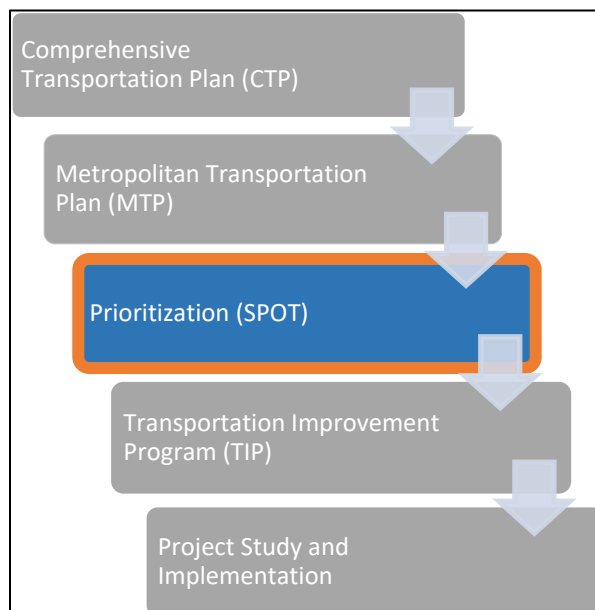
Action Requested: Consider Recommending Additional Funds for Projects HL-0013 and U-5019A

Item 4B:

P8 Regional Impact Local Input Points

Background

The Prioritization Process (AKA SPOT, AKA P 8) is the process in North Carolina that helps determine the majority of transportation improvements across the State. The process is dictated by the [Strategic Transportation Investments Act \(STI\) of 2012](#) and is generally designed to be a data-driven, transparent process to determine what transportation projects are funded or not. MPOs are engaged throughout the process to submit projects for consideration (along with Divisions and RPOs) as well as local input points that are used to boost the scores of projects competing for Regional Impact or Division Needs funding.



Action Items for Today

- Review Outcomes of Statewide Mobility and Regional Impact scores
- Discuss next steps for local input points for Regional Impact projects

Statewide Mobility Projects

Statewide Mobility projects are programmed solely based on the quantitative score. Only one project in the region scored well enough for programming with available funding in P8- the I-40 Managed Lanes project from Exit 44 to Exit 27. The scores for all Statewide Mobility projects in the MPO are available below.

| Route / Facility / Project Name | From / Cross Street / Location | To / Cross Street | Description | Specific Improvement Type | Cost to NCDOT | Statewide Mobility Quantitative Score (Out of 100) |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|----------------|--|
| I-40 | Exit 44 (Smokey Park Highway) | Exit 27 (US 23/74) | Construct managed lanes. [TOLL PROJECT] | 1 - Widen Existing Roadway | \$ 513,200,000 | 88.47 |
| I-26 | US 25 | US 64 (Four Seasons Boulevard) | Add Additional Lanes. | 1 - Widen Existing Roadway | \$ 220,100,000 | 68.70 |
| I-26, I-240 | I-26/I-40/I-240 final interchange improvements | N/A | Construct Final Interchange Improvements | 8 - Improve Interchange | \$ 358,200,000 | 60.36 |
| I-26 | US 64 | N/A | Construct interchange improvements | 8 - Improve Interchange | \$ 121,200,000 | 59.13 |
| US 19 (Patton Avenue) | US 19 (Patton Avenue) / US 23 / US 74 ALT and NC 63 (New Leicester Highway) | N/A | Construct final intersection improvements | 10 - Improve Intersection | \$ 43,800,000 | 58.47 |
| I-26, US 23, US 19 | NC 251/SR 1781 (Broadway Street) | US 25/US 70/SR 1725 (Weaver Boulevard) | Widen roadway to 6 and 8 lanes. | 1 - Widen Existing Roadway | \$ 602,700,000 | 57.33 |
| I-26, US 19, US 23 | US 25 (Merrimon Avenue) | N/A | Improve interchange | 8 - Improve Interchange | \$ 138,300,000 | 55.31 |

| Route / Facility / Project Name | From / Cross Street / Location | To / Cross Street | Description | Specific Improvement Type | Cost to NCDOT | Statewide Mobility Quantitative Score (Out of 100) |
|---------------------------------|--|---|---|---|----------------|--|
| I-26, US 19, US 23 | NC 251/SR 1728 (Broadway Street) | N/A | Improve interchange | 8 - Improve Interchange | \$ 101,900,000 | 45.29 |
| US 19, US 23, I-26 | SR 1684 (Elk Mountain Road) | N/A | Improve interchange | 8 - Improve Interchange | \$ 75,300,000 | 42.39 |
| NS AS Line | NC 251 (Riverside Drive), Asheville, Buncombe County | N/A | | 3 - Highway-rail crossing improvement (point) | \$ 26,219,000 | 39.29 |
| I-26, US 19, US 23 | US 25, US 70 (Weaver Boulevard) | SR 2207 (North Buncombe school Road) | Upgrade freeway to interstate standards | 17 - Upgrade Freeway to Interstate Standards | \$ 171,500,000 | 31.67 |
| I-26, US 19, US 23 | SR 2207 (North Buncombe School Road) | South of SR 2148 (Stockton Branch Road) | Upgrade freeway to interstate standards | 17 - Upgrade Freeway to Interstate Standards | \$ 129,000,000 | 30.16 |

Regional Impact Projects

Regional Impact projects are programmed 70% based on quantitative score, 30% based on local input from planning organizations and NCDOT Divisions. The quantitative scores for eligible Regional Impact projects are below, including Statewide Mobility projects that are eligible to cascade.

| Route / Facility / Project Name | From / Cross Street / Location | To / Cross Street | Description | Specific Improvement Type | Cost to NCDOT | Regional Impact Quantitative Score (Out of 70) |
|---|---|-----------------------|---|--|---------------|--|
| NS AS Line (Asheville to Salisbury Passenger Service) | Asheville-to-Salisbury Passenger Rail along existing Norfolk Southern rail. | N/A | Upgrade rail infrastructure to support new intercity passenger service from Salisbury to Asheville on the AS Line. Project includes necessary infrastructure and stations to begin service with three roundtrips per day. This project is contingent upon the awarding of an 80/20 federal grant and if the grant is not awarded, then the project is void. | 5 - Passenger rail service (line) | \$ 96,400,800 | 59.34 |
| US 25 BUS (Asheville Highway) | North Main Street | NC 191 (Haywood Road) | Improve Multiple Intersections along US 25B to improve safety | 25 - Improve Multiple Intersections along Corridor | \$ 22,800,000 | 49.62 |

| Route / Facility / Project Name | From / Cross Street / Location | To / Cross Street | Description | Specific Improvement Type | Cost to NCDOT | Regional Impact Quantitative Score (Out of 70) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|----------------|--|
| US 70 | Beaucatcher Tunnel | US 74 ALT (South Tunnel Road) | Implement a road diet with intersection improvements on US 70 (Tunnel Road) from Beaucatcher Tunnel to US 74A (South Tunnel Road) | 24 - Implement Road Diet to Improve Safety | \$ 125,600,000 | 49.00 |
| US 74 ALT (Patton Avenue) | NC 63 (New Leicester Hwy) | SR 1332 (North Louisiana Avenue) | Construct an additional westbound through lane to correspond to the U-5971B project, creating four receiving lanes west of the intersection of SR 1332 (N Louisiana Ave) at US 19/23 (Patton Ave). Change the northbound geometry to two left-turn lanes with a shared through-right lane. Split phasing will need to be replaced with standard NEMA phasing. | 25 - Improve Multiple Intersections along Corridor | \$ 50,800,000 | 46.73 |

| Route / Facility / Project Name | From / Cross Street / Location | To / Cross Street | Description | Specific Improvement Type | Cost to NCDOT | Regional Impact Quantitative Score (Out of 70) |
|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------|---|--|---------------|--|
| NC 63 (New Leicester Highway) | SR 1004 (Newfound Road) | SR 1377 (Gouges Branch Road) | Improve the intersections of NC 63 with SR 1004(Newfound Road), SR 1302 (Ramsey Road,) and SR 1377 (Gouges Branch Road) | 25 - Improve Multiple Intersections along Corridor | \$ 29,000,000 | 43.00 |
| NC 191 (Brevard Road) | SR 3486 (Glenn Bridge Rd SE, Avery Creek Road), Southwicke Drive | N/A | Realign Glenn Bridge Rd to Laurel Park Dr. to covert to 4-leg intersections. Add exclusive left turn lanes on NC 191 at both intersections. Cul-de-sac Glenn Bridge Rd SE to maintain access to parcels near existing 5-leg intersection. | 10 - Improve Intersection | \$ 8,600,000 | 42.29 |
| NC 191 (Brevard Road) | SR 3431 (Pond Road) | N/A | Construct an additional left turn lane on Pond Rd in order to provide dual left turns onto NC 191 | 10 - Improve Intersection | \$ 2,300,000 | 41.56 |

| Route / Facility / Project Name | From / Cross Street / Location | To / Cross Street | Description | Specific Improvement Type | Cost to NCDOT | Regional Impact Quantitative Score (Out of 70) |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------|--|
| US 19 (Patton Avenue) | US 19 (Patton Avenue) / US 23 / US 74 ALT and NC 63 (New Leicester Highway) | N/A | Construct final intersection improvements | 10 - Improve Intersection | \$ 43,800,000 | 41.09 |
| US 25 ALT (Sweeten Creek Road) | US 25 (Hendersonville Road) | SR 3116 (Mills Gap Road) | Widen to multi-lanes | 1 - Widen Existing Roadway | \$ 209,500,000 | 40.49 |
| US 19 (Smokey park Highway), US 23 | I-40 | NC 151 (Pisgah Highway) | Implement access management and complete streets improvements | 11 - Access Management | \$ 194,600,000 | 40.30 |
| I-26 | US 25 | US 64 (Four Seasons Boulevard) | Add Additional Lanes. | 1 - Widen Existing Roadway | \$ 220,100,000 | 39.13 |
| US 25 (Sweeten Creek Road) | SR 3116 (Mills Gap Road) | SR 3081 (Rock Hill Road) | Widen to multi-lanes | 1 - Widen Existing Roadway | \$ 182,100,000 | 37.51 |
| I-26 | US 64 | N/A | Construct interchange improvements | 8 - Improve Interchange | \$ 121,200,000 | 35.72 |
| US 176 (Spartanburg Highway) | NC 225 | SR 1783 (Upward Road) | Construct median, sidewalk, and side path along road. Attempt to consolidate driveway cuts. | 11 - Access Management | \$ 109,900,000 | 35.53 |

| Route / Facility / Project Name | From / Cross Street / Location | To / Cross Street | Description | Specific Improvement Type | Cost to NCDOT | Regional Impact Quantitative Score (Out of 70) |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|----------------------------|----------------|--|
| I-26, US 23, US 19 | NC 251/SR 1781 (Broadway Street) | US 25/US 70/SR 1725 (Weaver Boulevard) | Widen roadway to 6 and 8 lanes. | 1 - Widen Existing Roadway | \$ 602,700,000 | 35.34 |
| I-26, US 19, US 23 | US 25 (Merrimon Avenue) | N/A | Improve interchange | 8 - Improve Interchange | \$ 138,300,000 | 35.00 |
| NC 191 | US 25 (Asheville Highway) | SR 1381 (Mountain Road) | Widen to Multi-Lanes. | 1 - Widen Existing Roadway | \$ 160,000,000 | 34.33 |
| NC 280 (Boylston Highway) | NC 191 northern intersection (Old Haywood Road) | NC 191 Southern Intersection (Old Haywood Road) | Construct access management and intersection improvements. | 11 - Access Management | \$ 53,100,000 | 33.69 |
| I-26, I-240 | I-26/I-40/I-240 final interchange improvements | N/A | Construct Final Interchange Improvements | 8 - Improve Interchange | \$ 358,200,000 | 32.88 |
| US 19 (Dellwood Road) | South Lakeshore Dr | SR 1207 (Dayton Drive) | Access management project which will eliminate the TWLTL. | 11 - Access Management | \$ 39,100,000 | 32.46 |
| NC 112 (Sardis Road/Sandhills Road) | NC 191 (Brevard Road) | US 19/23 (Smokey Park Highway) | NC 191 (Brevard Road) to US 19/23 (Smokey Park Highway). Widen roadway to multi-lanes. | 1 - Widen Existing Roadway | \$ 190,200,000 | 32.17 |

| Route / Facility / Project Name | From / Cross Street / Location | To / Cross Street | Description | Specific Improvement Type | Cost to NCDOT | Regional Impact Quantitative Score (Out of 70) |
|---------------------------------|--|------------------------|---|---|----------------|--|
| US 19, US 23, I-26 | US 25/US 70 | N/A | US 25/US 70 Interchange. Improve interchange. | 8 - Improve Interchange | \$ 47,400,000 | 28.80 |
| US 19/23 | NC 151 (Pisgah Highway) | SR 1200 (Wiggins Road) | Perform access management along US 19/23 within the project limits. Include complete streets elements. | 11 - Access Management | \$ 111,100,000 | 28.60 |
| NS AS Line | NC 251 (Riverside Drive), Asheville, Buncombe County | N/A | Installation of grade crossing improvements (Crossing #720 409S) at NC 251 (Riverside Drive) in Asheville in conjunction with pedestrian and bicyclist treatments | 3 - Highway-rail crossing improvement (point) | \$ 26,219,000 | 28.23 |
| US 276 (Russ Avenue) | US 23-74 (Great Smoky Mountain Expressway) | US 19 (Dellwood Road) | US 23-74 (Great Smokey Mountain Expressway) to US 19 (Dellwood Road). Access management. | 11 - Access Management | \$ 42,500,000 | 28.22 |

| Route / Facility / Project Name | From / Cross Street / Location | To / Cross Street | Description | Specific Improvement Type | Cost to NCDOT | Regional Impact Quantitative Score (Out of 70) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|----------------|--|
| US 70 (W State Street) | SR 2500 (Blue Ridge Road) | NC 9 (Broadway Street) | Reduce the number of travel lanes and add complete streets elements. | 24 - Implement Road Diet to Improve Safety | \$ 51,100,000 | 28.00 |
| I-26, US 19, US 23 | NC 251/SR 1728 (Broadway Street) | N/A | Improve interchange | 8 - Improve Interchange | \$ 101,900,000 | 27.71 |
| US 64 (Brevard Road) | SR 1312 (South Rugby Road) | SR 1424 (Brickyard Road) | Improve 5 Intersections along US 64. | 25 - Improve Multiple Intersections along Corridor | \$ 29,000,000 | 25.54 |
| US 19, US 23, I-26 | SR 1684 (Elk Mountain Road) | N/A | Improve interchange | 8 - Improve Interchange | \$ 75,300,000 | 25.37 |
| US 23 BUS (South Main Street) | SR 1164 (Hyatt Creek Road) | US 276 (Pigeon Street) | SR 1164 (Hyatt Creek Road) to US 276 (Pigeon Street). Widen to multi-lanes. | 1 - Widen Existing Roadway | \$ 65,400,000 | 23.87 |
| I-26, US 19, US 23 | US 25, US 70 (Weaver Boulevard) | SR 2207 (North Buncombe school Road) | Upgrade freeway to interstate standards | 17 - Upgrade Freeway to Interstate Standards | \$ 171,500,000 | 22.47 |
| I-26, US 19, US 23 | SR 2207 (North Buncombe School Road) | South of SR 2148 (Stockton Branch Road) | Upgrade freeway to interstate standards | 17 - Upgrade Freeway to Interstate Standards | \$ 129,000,000 | 21.57 |
| NC 215 (Penland Street) | US 19/23 (Park Street) | N/A | Improve the intersection of NC 215 and US 19/23 | 10 - Improve Intersection | \$ 22,000,000 | 21.44 |

| Route / Facility / Project Name | From / Cross Street / Location | To / Cross Street | Description | Specific Improvement Type | Cost to NCDOT | Regional Impact Quantitative Score (Out of 70) |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|----------------|--|
| US 276 | SR 1134 (Crymes Cove Rd), Raccoon Rd | N/A | SR 1134 (Crymes Cove Road) and Raccoon Road. Intersection realignment. | 21 - Realign Multiple Intersections | \$ 6,500,000 | 19.89 |
| NC 213 (Cascade Street) | Athletic Street | Bone Camp Road | Modernize NC 213 from Athletic Street to Bone Camp Road including Complete Streets | 16 - Modernize Roadway | \$ 18,400,000 | 19.12 |
| NC 81 (Swannanoa River Road) | SR 3214 (Biltmore Avenue) | US 74a (South Tunnel Road) | SR 3214 (Biltmore Avenue) to US 74A (South Tunnel Road). Widen existing roadway. | 1 - Widen Existing Roadway | \$ 126,000,000 | 11.55 |
| US 19 (Asheville Highway), US 23 | NC 215 | SR 1836 (Chestnut Mountain Road) | Modernization of roadway including Complete Streets elements and improving intersection operations as appropriate. | 16 - Modernize Roadway | \$ 47,900,000 | 8.32 |

Next Steps

1. Hold Local County-by-County meetings to discuss local priorities and apply those to the MPO's Local Input Methodology
2. Bring Results to the TCC for Recommendations (June 11th)
3. Bring TCC Recommendations to the MPO Board for Approval (June 18th)
4. Public Comment on Draft Local Input Points
5. Final TCC & Board (August 13th & 20th)

One consideration: Cascading Projects.

Per MPO Policy, Statewide Mobility project may cascade to the Regional Impact funding tier with Board approval. MPO staff does not recommend cascading any Statewide Mobility projects this round.