

Transportation Matters

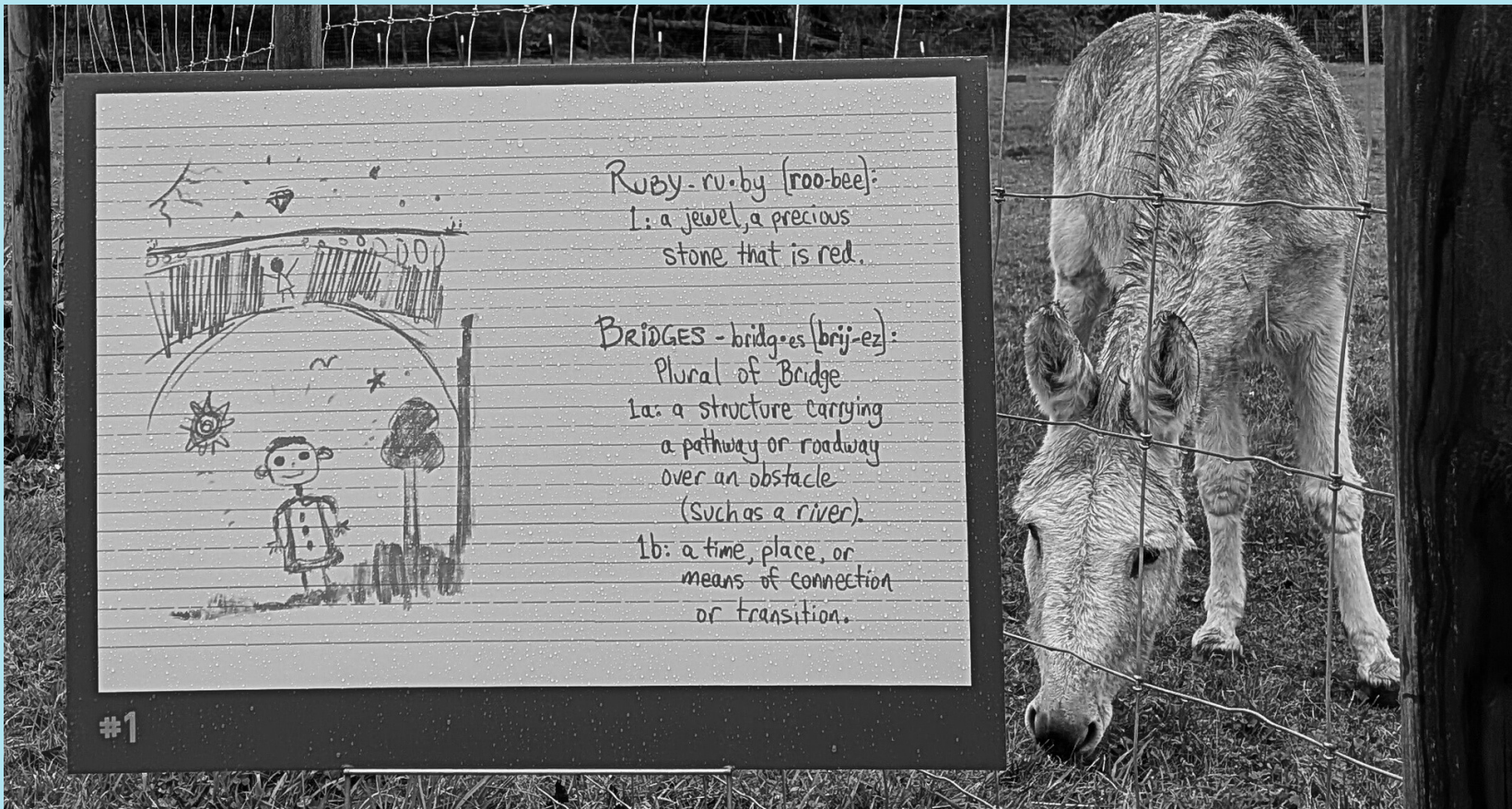


photo from Land of Sky Safe Routes to School

The Historic Johnson Farm in Henderson County hosted the first temporary installment of our Safe Routes to School Ruby Bridges Storybook trail for three weeks this month.

MPO Updates Project Prioritization to Emphasize Safety & Connectivity

The French Broad River MPO Board recently approved updates to how Local Input Points are assigned to transportation projects in the prioritization process. For highway projects, scoring now incorporates data from the Safe Streets for WNC Action Plan to better reflect safety needs. For bicycle and pedestrian projects, the methodology now includes the Safe Streets for WNC Action Plan data as well as the Hellbender Regional Trail Plan, supporting both safety and regional connectivity. These updates help ensure that the MPO's project prioritization aligns with the region's adopted plans and focuses on connecting communities safely.

I-26 Connector Update

NCDOT has received approval from the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) to proceed with the latest plans for the I-26 Connector Project. Construction on the I-2513 Sections B & D (Haywood Road to just south of Broadway Street) remains on schedule, with traffic shifts and minor work beginning March 28th. This section is the larger portion of the I-26 Connector project and aims to improve safety, reduce congestion, and modernize infrastructure along the corridor. Section improvements include widening I-26/I-240 from four to six lanes between Haywood Road and Patton Avenue, interchange upgrades at Haywood Road and Broadway Street, multimodal improvements along Riverside Drive, and construction of a new interstate location for I-26 and the I-26/I-240 interchange.

Buncombe Pedestrian Plan Meeting Recap

On March 9th, Buncombe County and the MPO hosted the first Buncombe County Pedestrian Plan public engagement event. The meeting allowed residents to select their priority sidewalk corridors around the county. The project team took those responses as well as the over 1,000 survey responses and will bring preliminary recommendations to the steering committee in late April.

Woodfin to Weaverville Greenway Study

The MPO and local partners are studying how a future greenway connection could be established between Woodfin and Weaverville that would link key corridors like Beaverdam Creek and Reems Creek. Recent community input from a public meeting and ongoing survey ([here](#)) is helping guide the feasibility study and shape future route options.

School Zone Safety Art Competition



Our Safe Routes to School program is searching for our flag designer for the 2026-2027 school year. Students in K-5th grade are invited to submit their original artwork for a chance to have their piece displayed across the region at our events. Submissions are due by April 17th. Learn more [here](#).

Accessibility Update

You may note that our newsletter looks a little different this month. We are committed to ensuring digital accessibility for people with disabilities. We are continually improving the user experience and applying relevant accessibility standards.

If you encounter accessibility barriers, please email mpo@landofsky.org

Save The Dates

National Bike to School Day, May 6

Reach out if your school would like to join the fun!

NCAMPO Conference, May 6-8

The North Carolina Association of MPO's Annual Conference will be hosted May 6-8 at the Crown Plaza in Asheville. [Register Here](#)

Strive Not to Drive Week, May 15-22

A series of events across WNC to promote biking, walking, & riding public transit! More information [here](#).

April Events

4/4 [Repair & Maintain Your Bicycle Workshop](#)

6pm-9pm at the Asheville Tool Library (16 Smith Mill Rd)

4/16 [Hops for Hominy Creek Greenway](#)

4pm-9pm at Cellarest (395 Haywood Rd, Asheville)

4/18 [Brewing for Greenways](#)

Hosted at New Belgium Brewing (21 Craven St, AVL)

Public Meetings



Prioritization

April 1st 9:30 am



TCC

April 9th 11 am- 1 pm



Board

March 16th

RPO: 11 am

MPO: 1 pm

Get involved & stay connected



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