

French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization

Minutes from the TCC Hybrid Meeting on August 13th , 2026

Minutes

ATTENDANCE:

In-person and remote via Zoom:

Anna Sexton	City of Asheville
Harry Buckner	Town of Biltmore Forest
William High (Chair)	Buncombe County
Daniel Sellers	TPO
Chloe Donohoe	Buncombe Transit
Pat Christie	Village of Flat Rock
Tyler Morrow	Town of Fletcher
Jodie Ferguson	Haywood County
Autumn Radcliff	Henderson County
Janna Bianculli	Apple Transit Country Public Transit
Matthew Manley	City of Hendersonville
Noah Taylor	Town of Maggie Valley
Nathan Bennett	Town of Mars Hill
Michael Malecek	Town of Mills River
Savanah Parrish	Town of Montreat
Vicki Eastland	LOSRPO
James Eller	Town of Weaverville
Ricky Hurley	Town of Woodfin
Doug Phillips	NCDOT Div 13
Steve Williams	NCDOT Div 14
Stephen Sparks	NCDOT Div 13
John Hunter	TPO
Chris Medlin	NCDOT Div 13

Members Without Representation Present:

ART
Town of Black Mountain
Town of Canton
Town of Clyde
Haywood Transit
Laurel Park
Madison County

Additional Attendees:

Tristan Winkler Sandy Broadwill Hannah Bagli
Daisy O'Connor Olin Daelhousen (Public) Natasha Schwade (Public)

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Chair William High called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 11:00AM. A quorum was established to conduct the business before the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

William High opened the floor for public comment.

There have been several emails and questions pertaining to the passenger rail project and clarification on the future route of the project sent via email and social media.

Consent Agenda:

3A: June 2026 TCC Meeting Minutes:

https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/2026_06_11_DRAFT.MPO_TCC_Minutes.pdf

3B. Letter of Support-WNC Source 5310 Application:

Mr. Tim Camp, Transportation, Facilities and Safety Director WNCSource
526 7th Ave. E.
Hendersonville, NC 28792

August 3, 2026 Dear Mr. Camp,

On behalf of the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO), I am pleased to provide this letter of support for Henderson County's application for North Carolina Department of Transportation Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310) funding for FY 2027 to support Apple Country Transit, operated by WNCSource.

FBRMPO has reviewed the application and fully supports the request for funding to continue providing essential transportation services for seniors and individuals with disabilities in Henderson County.

Reliable transportation is critical to ensuring residents can access medical appointments, shopping, community services, and recreational opportunities that contribute to their health, independence, and quality of life. These services play an important role in meeting the mobility needs of some of the community's most vulnerable residents.

We appreciate WNCSource's continued commitment to providing these essential transportation services and look forward to the positive impact they will continue to have throughout Henderson County.

Sincerely,

Anthony Sutton
Chair, French Broad River MPO Board

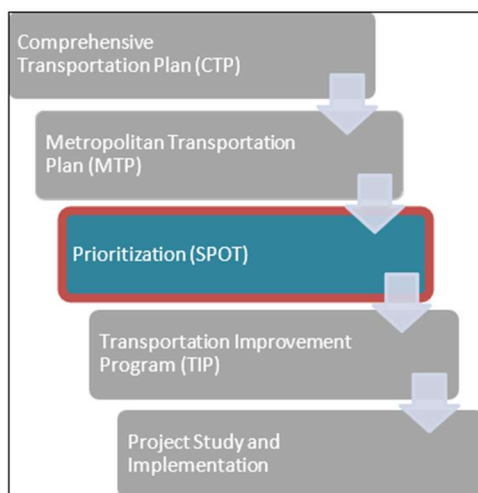
Vicki Eastland moved to accept the consent agenda including the minutes from the June 2026 meeting and the Letter of Support-WNC Source 5310 Application. Noah Taylor seconded and it passed upon a roll call vote.

Business:

4A. Approval of Regional Priority Projects:

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 P8 Survey Results
- [Approve](#) Final Local Input Point Assignment for the P8 Regional Impact tier

Summary of Recommendations

- The MPO has 1,900 Local Input Points for the Regional Impact tier
- **Regional Impact Projects Recommended to Receive Points (1,015)**
 - WNC Passenger Rail (15)
 - US 25B (Asheville Highway) Multiple Intersection Improvements (100)
 - US 70 (Tunnel Road) Road Diet (100)
 - US 23/74 (Smokey Park Highway) Access Management (100)
 - NC 63 (New Leicester Highway) Multiple Intersection Improvements (100)
 - US 25A (Sweeten Creek Road) Widening (100)
 - US 176 (Spartanburg Highway) Access Management (100)
 - US 64 (Brevard Road) Multiple Intersection Improvements (100)
 - US 19 (Dellwood Road) Access Management (100)
 - US 23B (South Main Street) Widening (100)
 - NC 213 (Cascade Street) Access Management (100)
- **Donate Points to Other Planning Organizations for WNC Passenger Rail**
 - Charlotte Regional Transportation Planning Organization (14)
 - Cabarrus-Rowan MPO (12)
- **Transfer Points to Division Needs Funding Tier (500)**
- **Accept Donated Points from Land of Sky RPO (200)**
 - NC 191 (Brevard Road) @ Glenn Bridge Road Intersection Improvement (100)
 - US 276 (Pigeon Street) @ Crymes Cove Road Intersection Improvement (100)

P8 Public Survey

The French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (FBRMPO), in coordination with the Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization (LOSRPO), conducted the Prioritization 8.0 (P8.0) Project Prioritization Survey to gather public input on transportation projects submitted for consideration through North Carolina's Strategic Prioritization of Transportation Investments (SPOT) process. The survey was conducted online from **June 11 through July 22, 2026**, providing residents and stakeholders an opportunity to express their level of support for proposed highway, bicycle and pedestrian, transit, rail, and other multimodal transportation projects throughout the region.

The survey received **852 responses** from residents across Western North Carolina, representing **more than 120 ZIP codes**. Respondents were able to evaluate projects in multiple counties and across multiple transportation modes, resulting in broad regional participation. In addition to project ratings, the survey generated **304 written comments** that provided valuable insight into community transportation priorities and concerns.

Several consistent themes emerged from the survey results. Across every county, respondents expressed greater interest in **non-highway projects** than highway projects. Projects that improve **walking, bicycling, greenway connectivity, passenger rail, transit, and pedestrian safety** consistently received some of the highest ratings, while highway projects focused on addressing major regional bottlenecks, improving intersections, and enhancing safety generally received stronger support than projects centered primarily on roadway widening.

Although project priorities varied somewhat by county, several regional trends were evident:

- **Safety emerged as the region's highest transportation priority**, with respondents frequently identifying dangerous intersections, speeding, and the need for safer facilities for

pedestrians and bicyclists.

- **Multimodal investments received broad respondent support**, particularly greenways, sidewalks, shared-use paths, passenger rail, and transit improvements that expand transportation options and improve connectivity.
- **Targeted highway improvements remained important**, especially projects that address congestion, operational efficiency, and safety along major interstate corridors and key intersections.
- **Written comments closely reinforced the quantitative survey results**, emphasizing transportation choice, accessibility, regional connectivity, and investments that improve quality of life while maintaining an efficient transportation network.

[THE FULL SURVEY REPORT IS AVAILABLE ON THE MPO WEBSITE](#)

****SEE [AGENDA](#) FOR FULL PROJECT LISTS**

Donation of Points to Other Planning Organizations for WNC Passenger Rail

- Greater Hickory MPO & Foothills RPO plan to apply their points to the project
- CRTPO and Cabarrus-Rowan MPO do not plan to apply their points but will consider if points are donated to them

Planning Organization	Percent of the WNC Passenger Rail Project	Local Input Points Needed from Each PO
Greater Hickory MPO	36.5%	37
Foothills RPO	22.5%	23
French Broad MPO	14.8%	15
CRTPO	14.1%	14
Cabarrus-Rowan MPO	11.8%	12

Local Input Point Transfer to Division Needs

Each MPO and RPO can transfer up to 500 points to the Division Needs tier. While these points are unlikely to be needed at the Division Needs tier, it may enable some other options with more funding available at the Division Needs tier (currently) and a number of lower cost projects at that tier.

Prioritization Subcommittee Recommendation: Recommend the Presented Priorities

Action Required: Recommend Approval of Regional Priority Project List, Including:

- Regional Priority Projects
- Donation of Local Input Points to Other Planning Organizations
- Receive 200 Donated Points from Land of Sky RPO for Priority Projects
- Transfer of 500 Regional Impact Points to the Division Needs funding tier

Discussion did occur around project slides, going into some more detail. Discussion around the Draft Local Points projects. Discussion on the survey results that might eliminate the non-eligible projects, so we can look at the scoring for the Draft Local Input Points.

Discussion around Regional Priority Projects, specifically around if there is a cap around number of points that can be assigned. A maximum of 100 points can be assigned to a project. The passenger rail project is different because 15% is in the MPO so the max the MPO can assign is 50. Discussion around donated points coming with an IOU from other MPOs.

Matthew Manley moved to recommend the approval of the Regional Priority Project List including the Regional Priority Projects, Donation of Local Input Points to Other Planning Organizations, Receive 200 Donation Points from LOSRPO for Priority Projects and the Transfer of 500 Regional Impact Points to the Division Needs funding tier to the Board. Noah Taylor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

4B. Resolution Supporting Lennie's Law

Background

Lennie's Law is a proposed state legislative initiative that would authorize the designation of Bicycle Safety Zones on qualifying roadways and allow enhanced penalties for certain traffic violations within those zones. The proposal is intended to provide an additional safety tool for corridors with substantial bicycle activity or documented safety concerns.

The MPO Board received an informational presentation on Lennie's Law in June 2026. Although formal action was not scheduled on the agenda, a motion was made during the meeting to support the proposal. The motion did not pass. Following the discussion, Board members agreed that the item should return in August for additional consideration and a formally scheduled vote.

Since the June meeting, multiple local governments in the region have adopted resolutions supporting Lennie's Law. The attached resolution would allow the MPO Board to take a formal position on the proposal.

Additional information from advocates is attached.

Action Required: Consider Recommending Adoption of the Below Resolution supporting Lennie's Law.

Leonard Antonelli and Jacob Hill Bicycle Safety Zone Act of 2025 Aka: Lennie's Law

To honor the lives of Leonard Antonelli (Lennie, 27) and Jacob Hill (Jake, 32) - who tragically lost their lives on July 1st, 2025 when a commercial vehicle

crossed the center line on a weekly group cycling ride near Asheville, NC on a popular cycling route - this bill proposes a simple solution to encourage and enforce stricter adherence to posted speed limits on popular cycling routes in North Carolina.

Similar to school zones with reduced speed limits and higher penalties for speeding, **Lennie's Law** proposes to designate certain popular cycling routes as **Bicycle Safety Zones** with higher penalties for speeding.

Local and State officials shall make road designations based on data of cycling related accidents and feedback from cycling groups in communities. Once a stretch of road is designated as a Bicycle Safety Zone, new signage should be put up along the route utilizing the existing "share the road" sign with this additional signage:

Bicycle Safety Zone **Fines Higher for Speeding** **Next 15 Miles**



This simple, cost effective measure will raise awareness of cyclists on the road and impose a greater penalty for disobeying posted speed limits - a leading cause of cyclist/vehicle related accidents.

It's time we had safer places to ride in Western North Carolina, and Lennie's Law is one easy piece of legislation that will move us further down the road in honor of two young cyclists who should still be riding today.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE LEONARD ANTONELLI AND JACOB HILL BICYCLE SAFETY ZONE ACT OF 2025, ALSO KNOWN

339 New Leicester Highway, Suite 140 • Asheville, NC 28806 • www.fbrmpo.org
Long-Range Transportation Plan • Transportation Improvement Program
Highway Planning • Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning • Transit Planning • Air Quality
Public Involvement

AS “LENNIE’S LAW”

WHEREAS, the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization is committed to advancing a safe, accessible, and multimodal transportation system for all residents and visitors to the region; and

WHEREAS, Western North Carolina is home to a significant bicycling community, and many roadways throughout the region serve as important recreational and transportation routes for bicyclists; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2025, Leonard Antonelli and Jacob Hill were tragically killed, and Griffin Tichenor was injured, when a commercial vehicle crossed the center line and struck them during a group bicycle ride near Marshall, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, this tragic crash underscores the continuing need for coordinated efforts to reduce serious injuries and fatalities involving bicyclists and other vulnerable roadway users; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Leonard Antonelli and Jacob Hill Bicycle Safety Zone Act of 2025, also known as “Lennie’s Law,” would authorize the designation of Bicycle Safety Zones on qualifying roadways and provide for increased awareness, signage, enforcement, and penalties for certain traffic violations within those zones; and

WHEREAS, multiple local governments within the French Broad River MPO planning area have adopted resolutions supporting the proposed legislation; and

WHEREAS, Bicycle Safety Zones could provide an additional safety tool for roadways with substantial bicycle activity, documented safety concerns, or other conditions warranting increased driver awareness and enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the designation of Bicycle Safety Zones should be based on objective safety and usage data, local and regional input, roadway conditions, and the practical ability to provide meaningful and consistent enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Bicycle Safety Zones and enhanced enforcement should complement, rather than replace, roadway-design changes, infrastructure improvements, education, and other proven measures for improving the safety of bicyclists and all roadway users; and

WHEREAS, improving roadway safety requires continued coordination among the North Carolina General Assembly, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, local governments, metropolitan and rural planning organizations, law-enforcement agencies, and roadway users;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization Board:

Expresses its support for the establishment of state legislation authorizing Bicycle Safety Zones on roadways meeting appropriate safety and usage criteria;

Encourages the North Carolina General Assembly to introduce and enact legislation generally consistent with the Leonard Antonelli and Jacob Hill Bicycle Safety Zone Act of 2025, including provisions for clear signage and enhanced penalties for speeding and other applicable traffic violations within designated zones;

Encourages the State to establish clear and objective criteria for designation, provide opportunities for local and regional input, and consider the feasibility of consistent enforcement when establishing Bicycle Safety Zones;

Supports coordination among NCDOT, local governments, planning organizations, law-enforcement agencies, and community stakeholders to identify appropriate candidate corridors and evaluate the effectiveness of designated Bicycle Safety Zones;

Affirms that Bicycle Safety Zones should serve as one component of a broader safety strategy that also includes roadway-design improvements, infrastructure investment, education, and other context-appropriate countermeasures;

Honors the memory of Leonard Antonelli and Jacob Hill and recognizes the proposed legislation as an effort to prevent similar tragedies and improve safety for bicyclists throughout North Carolina;

ADOPTED this 20th day of August 2026.

Anthony Sutton
Chair, French Broad River MPO Board

Attest, Tristan Winkler
French Broad River MPO Director

Discussion did not occur.

Matthew Manley moved to approve recommending the adoption of support for Lennie's Law to the board. Steve Williams seconded the motion and it passed upon a roll call vote.

4C. Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee Appointments:

Background

The MPO established a Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee at its April, 2026 meeting. The committee was setup to include:

- Five (5) members appointed by the MPO Board
- One (1) member appointed by Buncombe County
- One (1) member appointed by Haywood County
- One (1) member appointed by Henderson County
- One (1) member appointed by Madison County

The MPO held a call for applications from June 5th – July 6th and received 20 applications. Two of the applicants went on to be appointed by counties:

- Mike Sule- Buncombe County
- Hunter Marks- Henderson County

This left the MPO with 18 applications to consider. Staff recommendations for appointment are based on affiliation with community groups in the region and familiarity with the MPO. These include:

- Maddie Barondeau, Asheville
- Dawn Barr, Hendersonville
- Catherine Cordell, Weaverville
- Sherree Lucas, Asheville
- Laura Rice, Hendersonville

[The Full List of Applications](#)

Action Requested: Recommend the Appointment of Five (5) members to the MPO Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee

Discussion did not occur.

Noah Taylor moved to approve the recommendation of appointing the five members to the MPO Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee to the Board. Daniel Sellers seconded the motion and it passed upon a roll call vote.

4D. Prioritization Subcommittee Appointment:

Item Overview

The MPO Prioritization Subcommittee plays an important role in advising the MPO TCC and Board and is made up of four members of the TCC and three members of the MPO Board. One representative from the TCC, Elizabeth Teague (Waynesville), plans to retire and will no longer be a representative of the TCC. Her position needs to be replaced.

Purpose of the Subcommittee

The MPO Prioritization Subcommittee was initially setup to advise the MPO TCC and Board on items related to the prioritization process but its role was expanded over the years to include the evaluation of the Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP), being the steering committee for major MPO planning efforts including the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), and other items as needed.

Current Roster

All TCC, Board, and NCDOT members are welcome to join subcommittee meetings, but there are only seven voting members: four TCC representatives and three Board representatives. The current voting members include:

Anthony Sutton, Town of Waynesville (Board) Archie Pertiller, Town of Black Mountain (Board) Mark Endries, Weaverville (Board)

Autumn Radcliff (Chair), Henderson County (TCC) William High, Buncombe County (TCC)

Jessica Morris (Vice-Chair), City of Asheville (TCC)

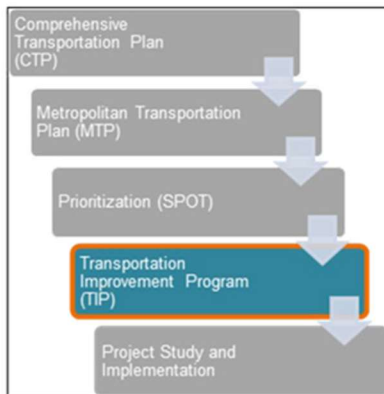
ACTION REQUIRED: Recommend Appointment of One TCC Member to the Prioritization Subcommittee

Noah Taylor was nominated and no discussion occurred.

Vicki Eastland moved to recommend the appointment of Noah Taylor (Maggie Valley) to the Prioritization Committee to the board. Jodie Ferguson seconded the motion and it passed upon a roll call vote.

4E. Approval of Funding & Schedule Changes to Regionally Significant Projects

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:

- Updating the TIP ID for TG-0011 to TG-0022 (ART Routine Capital)
- Adding Utilities that were not previously programmed for BL-0076 (Riceville Rd Sidewalks), HS-2013O (Onteora Blvd Bridge Sidewalks), and HS-2414U (Carolina Blvd & Waitzel Way Safety Improvements)
- Delaying construction of I-4409A (Blue Ridge Rd Bridge Replacement) from FY 26 to FY 27

All TIP Amendment Summaries can be found here: https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/FBRMPO_August2026_TIPAmendments.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.

Discussion did not occur.

Noah Taylor moved to recommend the approval of the Amendments to the 2026-2035 TIP to the board. Vicki Eastland seconded and it passed upon a roll call vote.

6A. Division Project Updates

Division 13:

Division 14:

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>

6C. Committee & Workgroup Updates

Prioritization Subcommittee— met on April 1st, next meeting June 3rd.

- **P8 Express Design Assignments**

5307 Subrecipient Workgroup- met on May 19th, next meeting August 18th. Points of Business/Discussion:

- **Grant management update by the City of Asheville including discussion of funds at risk of lapsing**
- **Shared document repository discussion**
- **Locally Coordinated Plan update**
- **ConCPT Grant application requirements**
- **Driver/Workforce Issues**
- **Knowledge-sharing opportunities within current group composition**

***See below for the MPO Studies and Locally Administered Projects Updates:**

https://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/2026_08_13_TCC-Agenda-Packet.pdf

PUBLIC COMMENT

William High opened the floor for public comment. No comment was heard.

ADJOURNMENT

William High adjourned the meeting at 12:27 PM as there was no further business.

