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September Transportation Matters



Approval of Regional Priority Projects

Which major transportation projects should Western North Carolina prioritize for future funding?

At their August meetings, the French Broad River MPO Board and Land of Sky RPO Board selected their Regional Priority Projects - projects the region is choosing to give additional support in North Carolina's transportation prioritization process.

As part of that process, MPOs and RPOs receive a limited number of local input points that they can assign to projects competing for funding. Those points increase a project's overall score and can improve its chances of being funded.

Regional priorities approved in August included WNC Passenger Rail; intersection improvements along US 25B (Asheville Highway) in Hendersonville; a road diet on US 70 (Tunnel Road) in Asheville; access management improvements along US 23/74 (Smokey Park Highway); widening US 23B (South Main Street) in Waynesville; and several other projects throughout the region.

You can see a full list of the projects in the August meeting agendas. [Click here for MPO agenda](#), [click here for RPO agenda](#).

Next up: in October, both boards will be finding out if any of the Regional Priority projects will be funded and will consider approving DRAFT local input points for Division Needs Projects, which covers projects on secondary roads, stand-alone bike/ped projects, transit projects, and others.

Downtown Brevard Circulation Study

Brevard's downtown is where two US highways, US 64 and US 276, meet the heart of a busy, walkable mountain town. The Downtown Brevard Circulation Study is taking a careful look at how people and freight move through downtown and how the street network can better support safe, reliable travel for everyone, whether they are driving through, walking to a shop, biking to the greenway, or making a delivery. The first public meeting was held on August 31st.

[Click here to learn more.](#)



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learn more!**



Johnston Blvd Sidewalk Construction

The Johnston Boulevard sidewalk is one of the local projects awarded funding by the MPO that is currently underway. This project enhances Asheville's sidewalk network by constructing a new sidewalk from Patton Avenue to Johnston Elementary School, a total length of approximately one mile. The purpose of this project is to improve mobility, safety, and continuity for pedestrians on city streets and provide connections for residents to the rest of the city's pedestrian network as well as destinations along the route, including Roger Farmer Park.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

Buncombe County Pedestrian Plan

The first-of-its-kind Buncombe County Pedestrian Plan, funded by the MPO and Buncombe County, covers unincorporated parts of the county. The plan team has been gathering feedback, drafting plans, and now wants to hear from the community about [10 proposed priority projects](#). A public meeting was held at the Enka-Candler Public Library on Wednesday, August 26 (see header image).

[Share your thoughts on the draft priority projects with this survey](#), which is open through September 15. Feedback will help shape the final Pedestrian Plan by the end of 2026.



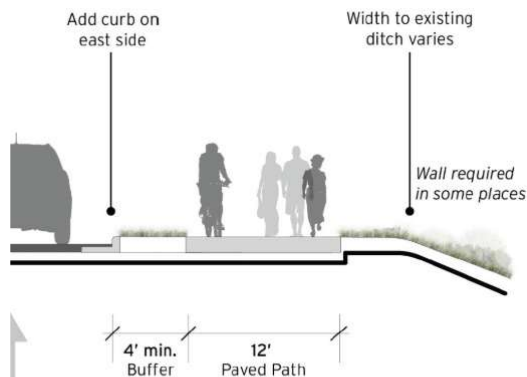
Haywood Road Construction

Improvements are underway along Haywood Road in West Asheville, funded by the MPO and NCDOT. In addition to fresh pavement, the corridor is also getting enhanced pedestrian crossings at locations throughout the corridor, including ADA-compliant curb ramps and flashing pedestrian crossing signs. Bicycle lanes are also being added in the portions of the corridor with enough width, including from Patton Ave to Sulphur Springs Road and from Richmond Avenue to Ridgelawn Road. Work is expected to be completed in November.

MPO Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee Appointments

Members have been appointed to the MPO's new Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee as of the August MPO Board Meeting. The MPO appointed five new members from the more than 20 applications received. Additional members have already been appointed by Buncombe County and Henderson County. Two more members will be added, appointed by county commissioners from Haywood and Madison Counties. The appointed members thus far include: Mike Sule, Hunter Marks, Sherree Lucas, Maddie Barondeau, Dawn Barr, Catherine Cordell, and Laura Rice. The first meeting of the committee will take place after the last two appointments are made.





Woodfin to Weaverville Greenway Feasibility Study

The French Broad River MPO recently completed a feasibility study exploring a future greenway connection between Woodfin and Weaverville. The study evaluated potential routes and opportunities to connect existing and planned bicycle and pedestrian facilities, with coordination among the Towns of Woodfin and Weaverville, Buncombe County, and NCDOT. The study provides a foundation for future planning and funding opportunities to advance this important regional connection. The MPO Board will consider adoption of the Woodfin-to-Weaverville Greenway Feasibility Study at its September meeting.

We're Hiring!

The French Broad River MPO is hiring a **Transportation Planner & Project Manager**. The role supports regional transportation planning activities, with a particular focus on managing transportation planning studies and ensuring compliance with applicable federal, state, grant, and contractual requirements. The position will manage consultant-led planning studies from initiation through completion, including scopes of work, procurement, schedules, budgets, invoices, deliverables, documentation, and coordination with local governments, NCDOT, consultants, and other project partners.

[Read the full job description and apply here.](#)





Upcoming September Events

Buncombe County Bike Rodeo & Safety Day: Saturday, September 12, 9am-12pm at the Buncombe County Sports Park. Kids and families can enjoy a day of entertainment and education. Learn about cycling and safety with demos from emergency services, bike safety courses, therapy animals, and slow bike races with prizes. The all-ages event is great way to engage with the community, learn about safety, and enjoy active fun. The event is free, and no registration is required.

[Employer Solutions for Transportation Barriers Webinar](#): Friday, September 11, noon. Part of the "Cultivating Our Workforce" webinar series hosted by the Asheville Chamber of Commerce and Land of Sky P20 Council. This one will feature our very own Go Mountain staff! Click the link above to register.

Bike Valet (free secure bicycle parking) available at these community events:

- North Carolina Apple Festival: Friday, September 4 and Saturday, September 5, 10am-6pm, Downtown Hendersonville. Provided by Bike Walk HVL
- Mountain Song Festival: Friday, September 11 from 3pm-10:30pm and Saturday, September 12 from noon-10pm. Provided by the Brevard Bike Alliance.

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