

Prioritization Subcommittee

Meeting Agenda

October 7, 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), Noah Taylor (Town of Maggie Valley), Archie Pertiller (Town of Black Mountain), Mark Endries (Town of Weaverville)

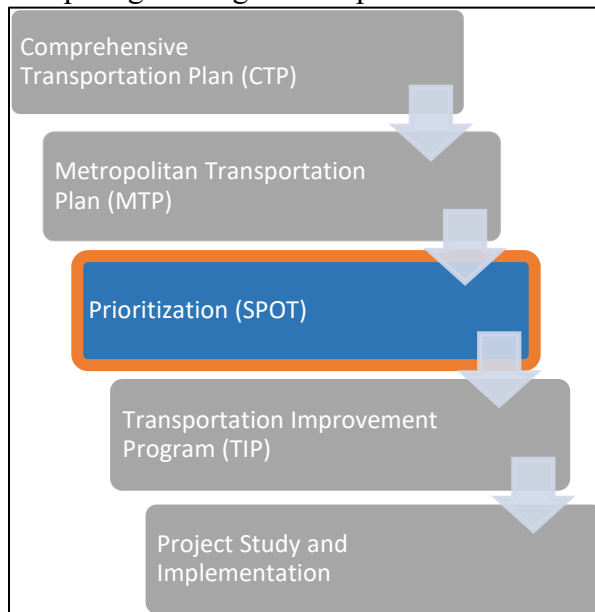
1. Welcome and Introductions	Autumn Radcliff
2. Public Comment	Autumn Radcliff
3. Approval of August, 2026 Meeting Minutes	Autumn Radcliff
4. Business	
A. DRAFT Division Needs Priority Projects	MPO Staff
B. MPO Awarded Projects- Delivery Discussion	MPO Staff
5. News, Events, Updates	Autumn Radcliff
6. Public Comment	Autumn Radcliff
7. Adjournment	Autumn Radcliff

Item 4A:

Draft Division Needs 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.



Funding Tiers

The STI Law breaks up funds for this process into three different funding tiers. Each tier has different eligibilities, as shown below:

Statewide Mobility- Freeway projects and Asheville Airport

Regional Impact- US/NC Highways, Passenger Rail

Division Needs- Secondary Roads, Bike/Ped, Transit

Action Items for Today

- Review Outcomes of the Regional Impact funding tier
- Discuss DRAFT Local Input Points for Division Needs projects

Statewide Mobility Projects

Statewide Mobility projects are programmed solely based on the quantitative score. Only one project in the MPO scored well enough for programming with available funding in P8:

- I-40 Express Lanes from Exit 44 to Exit 27 (Haywood, Buncombe counties)

Regional Impact Projects

Regional Impact projects are programmed 70% based on quantitative score, 30% based on local input from planning organizations and NCDOT Divisions. Five projects in the MPO scored well enough for programming with available funding in P8:

- WNC Passenger Rail (Salisbury to Asheville)
- US 25B (Asheville Highway) from North Main Street to NC 191 (Haywood Road)- Improve Intersections
- NC 63 (New Leicester Highway) from Newfound Road to Gouges Branch Road- Improve Intersections
- US 19/23 (Smokey Park Highway) from I-40 to NC 151 (Pisgah Highway)- Access Management
- NC 191 (Brevard Road), Glenn Bridge Road, Avery Creek Road- Improve Intersection

All of these projects are expected to be programmed in the 2028-2037 STIP/TIP, but it is unclear whether or not those projects will be fully funded or funded just for engineering.

Division Needs Projects

Below is a list of all Division Needs projects in (or partially in) the MPO, sorted by their Quantitative Score.

Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improvement Type	Cost to NCDOT	Division Needs Quantitative Score (Out of 50)	TOTAL MPO SCORE
US 19 (Smokey Park Hwy)	Rutherford Road	NC 151	Construct a sidewalk along US 19 (Smokey Park Hwy) from Rutherford Road to NC 151.	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 3,632,800	31.57	95

Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improvement Type	Cost to NCDOT	Division Needs Quantitative Score (Out of 50)	TOTAL MPO SCORE
Church Street and King Street	US 176	North Main Street	Fill gaps between existing sidewalks on Church and King Streets in Hendersonville. This includes upgrading signals and other pedestrian infrastructure to be ADA compliant.	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 1,569,200	40.79	87
Transit Multimodal Facility	City of Asheville Service Area and routes provided by ART	N/A	Construct a new transit multimodal facility to accommodate vehicles that pick-up and drop transit riders.	5 - Facility - Passenger Station	\$ 50,000,000	35.41	85
Bent Creek Greenway (Hominy Creek/WNC Farmer's Market Segment)	Hominy Creek Greenway	French Broad River Greenway	Construct a new multi-use path from the French Broad River Greenway to the Hominy Creek Greenway.	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 7,555,952	37.78	85

Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improvement Type	Cost to NCDOT	Division Needs Quantitative Score (Out of 50)	TOTAL MPO SCORE
Patton Avenue	Old Haywood Road	Johnston Blvd	Construct sidewalks from the western terminus of Old Haywood Road to Johnston Blvd along Patton Avenue. This project would fill gaps in the existing sidewalk network on this corridor.	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 6,086,400	35.16	82
Lake Julian Greenway	French Broad River	Lake Julian	Construct multi-use path from Lake Julian to the French Broad River.	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 7,880,800	35.31	80
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	24.78	79
SR 1511 (Berkeley Road), SR 1509 (Thompson Street), SR 1508 (Berkeley Road/Signal Hill Road)	US 64 (Four Seasons Boulevard)	US 25 BUS (Asheville Highway)	Modernize the roadway to improve safety for all users.	16 - Modernize Roadway	\$ 31,700,000	23.93	78

Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improveme nt Type	Cost to NCDOT	Division Needs Quantita ve Score (Out of 50)	TOTA L MPO SCO RE
Ecusta Rail Trail	Existing Estatoe Trail Cherry St Brevard	SR 1211 (Battle Creek Rd) Henders on Co.	Construct a rail to trail project on the Banked Ecusta Rail Line from existing Estatoe Trail in Brevard to SR 1211 Battle Creek Rd in Henderson Co. This project will construct remaining sections of EB- 6037B from the southern terminus of BL-0007 to the existing Estatoe Trail in Brevard. (This is for BF- 0002 and BL- 0078)	2 - Off- Road/Separa ted Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 12,000,00 0	29.33	77
SR 1332 (North Louisiana Avenue)	US 19/23 (Patton Avenue)	SR 1338 (Emma Road)	Modernize Roadway	16 - Modernize Roadway	\$ 28,100,00 0	22.92	77

Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improvement Type	Cost to NCDOT	Division Needs Quantitative Score (Out of 50)	TOTAL MPO SCORE
Transit Maintenance Facility	Facility location - 224 Louisiana Ave, Asheville, NC 28806 City of Asheville Service Area.	N/A	Construct a new maintenance facility in order to accommodate additional vehicles and address current maintenance facility capacity through a facility assessment.	9 - Facility - Maintenance	\$ 59,000,000	25.57	75
Tunnel Road Sidewalks	New Haw Creek Road	Blue Ridge Parkway	Construct new sidewalks and fill-in sidewalk gaps from New Haw Creek Road to the Blue Ridge Parkway.	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 6,186,800	33.43	67
Old Haywood Road Sidewalks	US 19/23/74 (Patton Avenue)	US 19/23/74 (Smokey Park Highway)	Construct new sidewalks from Patton Avenue to Smokey Park Highway.	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 3,499,200	30.07	67

Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improvement Type	Cost to NCDOT	Division Needs Quantitative Score (Out of 50)	TOTAL MPO SCORE
SR 1006 (Howard Gap Road)	SR 1734 (Sugarloaf Road)	N/A	Improve intersection at SR 1734, Sugarloaf Road, and SR 1006, Howard Gap Road. Consider a roundabout and include SR 1746, N. Allen Road.	10 - Improve Intersection	\$ 13,000,000	27.01	64
Above The Mud Greenway Connector	Ecusta Trail	Oklawaha Greenway	Construct a greenway to connect the Ecusta Trail to the Oklawaha Greenway and Jackson Park.	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 4,236,000	28.95	61
US 70 Sidewalks	Franklin Street	Warren Wilson Road	Construct sidewalks from Franklin Road to Warren Wilson Road.	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 4,278,400	23.64	
Greenway -Jackson Park to Blue Ridge CC	Jackson Park	Blue Ridge Community College	Construct greenway along existing sewer easement from terminus of existing Oklawaha Greenway in Jackson Park to Blue Ridge Community College.	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 7,243,600	26.49	54

Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improvement Type	Cost to NCDOT	Division Needs Quantitative Score (Out of 50)	TOTAL MPO SCORE
Richland Creek Greenway - North	Recreation Park	Haywood High Tech Center	Construct a new section of multi-use path from the existing recreation park to tie in with an existing path near the Haywood Industrial Park in the Town of Waynesville.	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 5,461,600	23.25	54
SR 1003 (Reems Creek Road)	US 19, US 23 BUS (Weaverville Highway)	SR 2109 (Ox Creek Road)	Modernize SR 1003 to include paved shoulders, wider lanes and improved horizontal/vertical geometry where possible.	16 - Modernize Roadway	\$ 116,000,000	16.13	50
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	15.99	47
SR 1358 (Fanning Bridge Road)	US 25 (Hendersonville Road)	NC 280 (Airport Road)	Modernize Fanning Bridge Road with Complete Streets Improvements	16 - Modernize Roadway	\$ 75,000,000	8.78	46

Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improvement Type	Cost to NCDOT	Division Needs Quantitative Score (Out of 50)	TOTAL MPO SCORE
North Louisiana Avenue Sidewalks	Mallard Drive	Adams Hill Road	Construct sidewalks from Mallard Drive to Adams Hill Road	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 714,000	26.30	41
N Main Street/Clear Creek Road Sidewalks	Nix Road	Baldwin Avenue	Construct sidewalks from Nix Road to Baldwin Ave along Clear Creek Rd/N Main Street in Hendersonville.	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 3,539,600	20.86	39
NC 251 (Riverside Drive)	Future 1-26	Woodfin Ave	Construct sidewalks along NC 251 (Riverside Drive) from future I-26 to Woodfin Ave.	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 3,321,200	18.27	39
SR 3548 (Clingman Avenue)	Patton Avenue	Hilliard Avenue	Improve the intersections of Clingman Avenue at Patton and Hilliard	25 - Improve Multiple Intersections along Corridor	\$ 18,300,000	15.67	38
Reems Creek Greenway	Quarry Road	Karpen Soccer Field	Construct Reems Creek Greenway from Quarry Road to Karpen Soccer Field.	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 9,831,000	18.56	37

Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improvement Type	Cost to NCDOT	Division Needs Quantitative Score (Out of 50)	TOTAL MPO SCORE
Mills River Valley Trail	NC 191 (Old Haywood Rd)	NC 191 (Haywood Rd)	Construct the Mills River Valley Trail multi-use path from NC 191 to NC 191 through Mills River.	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 5,464,000	16.05	37
Haywood County Transfer Station	The site is located on 50 Armory Drive in Clyde NC. This location houses Haywood Public Transit operated by Mountain Projects Inc. This land was deeded from Haywood County Government to Mountain Projects on December 21, 2007	N/A	The Passenger Transfer Station would serve Haywood Public Transit as a location for the public to transfer from one bus to another. The building would have public bathrooms and an out of the weather waiting area.	5 - Facility - Passenger Station	\$ 1,065,000	22.38	35

Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improvement Type	Cost to NCDOT	Division Needs Quantitative Score (Out of 50)	TOTAL MPO SCORE
SR 1674 (Elkwood Avenue/Old Burnsville Hill Road)	NC 251 (Riverside Drive)	US 25 (Merrimon Avenue)	Modernize Elkwood Road to improve safety, improve intersections, and add complete streets improvements.	16 - Modernize Roadway	\$ 49,700,000	6.03	33
SR 2500 (North Blue Ridge Road)	US 70	Cragmont Street	Construct sidewalks along North Blue Ridge Road from US 70 to end of existing sidewalk on Cragmont Street.	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 1,589,600	20.65	32
Fairview Road	Swannanoa River Road	Liberty Street	Construct sidewalks along Fairview Road to from Swannanoa River Road to Liberty Street.	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 3,967,600	20.30	32
Park Drive	NC 213	Mars Hill Recreation Park	Construct a sidepath along Park Drive from NC 213 or Mars Hill Recreation Park.	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 2,262,800	12.99	25
Saluda Grade Rail Trail	SR 1105 (Greenville Street)	Bell Park (Near SR 1852/US 176)	Convert railway to MUP.	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 4,304,200	10.13	20

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Merrimon Ave	Lake Louise Drive	Brown Street	Construct sidewalks along Merrimon Ave from Lake Louise Drive to Brown Street.	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 1,374,000	15.25	15
NC 215 (Champion Drive)	SR 1589 (North Canton Road)	SR 1513 (Thickety Road)	Construct approximately 3,600 feet of ADA compliant sidewalk on the eastern side of NC 215 (Champion Drive).	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 2,843,000	10.72	10
Haywood County Expansion Vehicles	Two expansion vehicles would allow for new fixed-route service that would provide transit service to Maggie Valley and tie-in to the existing fixed-route between Waynesville and Canton.	N/A	Purchase two expansion vehicles (25' LTVs) to expand service in Haywood County	1 - Mobility (route-specific) - New Service	\$ 185,197	7.14	10

Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improvement Type	Cost to NCDOT	Division Needs Quantitative Score (Out of 50)	TOTAL MPO SCORE
Old Balsam Road	Hyatt Creek Rd	Piney Mountain Rd	Construct a sidewalk from Hyatt Creek Rd to approximately 400ft southwest of Piney Mountain Rd in Waynesville to connect to fill a sidewalk gap.	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 1,112,800	13.73	0
SR 1147 (Allens Creek Road)	SR 1149 (Piney Mountain Road)	Knothead Drive (Private Drive)	Extend sidewalk on the East side of Allens Creek Road to allow pedestrian access to shopping areas and services and to Allens Creek Park.	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 1,613,400	7.34	0

Actions Needed

1. Recommend Approval of Requests for Cascading of Regional Impact Projects- this allows these projects to compete at the Division Needs funding tier
 - a. US 19 (Dellwood Road)- Access Management (Haywood County)
 - b. US 276 (Pigeon Road), Crymes Cove Road- Intersection Improvement (Haywood County)
2. Recommend Approval of Assignment of Draft Local Input Points for Division Needs Projects

Point Assignment Scenario #1: Assign Points Based on the MPO Score of Division Needs Projects until funding or points are exhausted. This assumes more local match commitment for non-highway projects than may occur.

Number of Points Used: 2,400 out of 2,400

Notes:

- ASSUMES MORE LOCAL MATCH COMMITMENT FOR NON-HIGHWAY
- Split By 50% Division 13, 50% Division 14

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14	Church Street and King Street	US 176	North Main Street	Fill gaps between existing sidewalks on Church and King Streets in Hendersonville. This includes upgrading signals and other pedestrian infrastructure to be ADA compliant.	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 1,569,200	40.79	87
13	Bent Creek Greenway (Hominy Creek/WNC Farmer's Market Segment)	Hominy Creek Greenway	French Broad River Greenway	Construct a new multi-use path from the French Broad River Greenway to the Hominy Creek Greenway.	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 7,555,952	37.78	85

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13	Lake Julian Greenway	French Broad River	Lake Julian	Construct multi-use path from Lake Julian to the French Broad River.	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 7,880,800	35.31	80
14	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	24.78	79

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14	Ecusta Rail Trail	Existing Estatoe Trail Cherry St Brevard	SR 1211 (Battle Creek Rd) Henderson Co.	Construct a rail to trail project on the Banked Ecusta Rail Line from existing Estatoe Trail in Brevard to SR 1211 Battle Creek Rd in Henderson Co. This project will construct remaining sections of EB-6037B from the southern terminus of BL-0007 to the existing Estatoe Trail in Brevard. (This is for BF-0002 and BL-0078)	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 12,000,000	29.33	77

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13	Transit Maintenance Facility	Facility location - 224 Louisiana Ave, Asheville, NC 28806 City of Asheville Service Area.	N/A	Construct a new maintenance facility in order to accommodate additional vehicles and address current maintenance facility capacity through a facility assessment.	9 - Facility - Maintenance	\$ 59,000,000	25.57	75
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14	SR 1006 (Howard Gap Road)	SR 1734 (Sugarloaf Road)	N/A	Improve intersection at SR 1734, Sugarloaf Road, and SR 1006, Howard Gap Road. Consider a roundabout and include SR 1746, N. Allen Road.	10 - Improve Intersection	\$ 13,000,000	27.01	64
14	Above The Mud Greenway Connector	Ecusta Trail	Oklawaha Greenway	Construct a greenway to connect the Ecusta Trail to the Oklawaha Greenway and Jackson Park.	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 4,236,000	28.95	61
13	US 70 Sidewalks	Franklin Street	Warren Wilson Road	Construct sidewalks from Franklin Road to Warren Wilson Road.	7 - Protected Linear Pedestrian Facility (Pedestrian)	\$ 4,278,400	23.64	56

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14	Richland Creek Greenway- North	Recreation Park	Haywood High Tech Center	Construct a new section of multi-use path from the existing recreation park to tie in with an existing path near the Haywood Industrial Park in the Town of Waynesville.	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 5,461,600	23.25	54

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13	SR 1003 (Reems Creek Road)	US 19, US 23 BUS (Weaverville Highway)	SR 2109 (Ox Creek Road)	Modernize SR 1003 to include paved shoulders, wider lanes and improved horizontal/vertical geometry where possible.	16 - Modernize Roadway	\$ 116,000,000	16.13	50
14	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	15.99	47
14	SR 1358 (Fanning Bridge Road)	US 25 (Hendersonville Road)	NC 280 (Airport Road)	Modernize Fanning Bridge Road with Complete Streets Improvements	16 - Modernize Roadway	\$ 75,000,000	8.78	46
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14	Mills River Valley Trail	NC 191 (Old Haywood Rd)	NC 191 (Haywood Rd)	Construct the Mills River Valley Trail multi-use path from NC 191 to NC 191 through Mills River.	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 5,464,000	16.05	37

Point Assignment Scenario #2: Same as Scenario #1 But Points Withheld for Non-Highway Projects That Were Not Prioritized in Local Meetings

Number of Points Used: 1,500 out of 2,400

Notes:

- LEAVES ROOM FOR ADDITIONAL NON-HIGHWAY REQUESTS
- Nine (9) projects in Division 13, Six (6) projects in Division 14

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14	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	15.99	47
14	SR 1358 (Fanning Bridge Road)	US 25 (Hendersonville Road)	NC 280 (Airport Road)	Modernize Fanning Bridge Road with Complete Streets Improvements	16 - Modernize Roadway	\$ 75,000,000	8.78	46

13	SR 3548 (Clingman Avenue)	Patton Avenue	Hilliard Avenue	Improve the intersections of Clingman Avenue at Patton and Hilliard	25 - Improve Multiple Intersections along Corridor	\$ 18,300,000	15.67	38
13	Park Drive	NC 213	Mars Hill Recreation Park	Construct a sidepath along Park Drive from NC 213 or Mars Hill Recreation Park.	2 - Off-Road/Separated Linear Bicycle Facility (Bicycle)	\$ 2,262,800	12.99	25

Action Summary:

1. Approve Cascading of Projects in Haywood County
2. Select Scenario #1 or Scenario #2 or Alternative

Item 4B:

MPO Awarded Projects

FBRMPO is considering several changes to improve project readiness and reduce delays in the MPO's locally administered project funding program. Recent projects have faced challenges including major scope changes after design begins, projects remaining fully funded for many years without advancing, construction costs increasing while projects wait to start, and administrative requirements that can be especially burdensome for smaller jurisdictions.

Potential changes under consideration include requiring a feasibility study or express design before awarding design funds, requiring projects to complete design before receiving right-of-way funding and acquire right-of-way before receiving construction funding, establishing deadlines for completing funded phases, returning to programming approximately two years of funding at a time rather than five, and identifying ways to reduce the project-management burden. Options for project management could include greater NCDOT involvement, simplifying existing NCDOT processes, or developing regional staff capacity to help local governments advance projects.

No changes have been adopted yet; staff are seeking input on the problems, potential solutions, and other ideas for improving project delivery.