French Broad River MPO
Prioritization Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
October 7th, 2026

ATTENDANCE in Person or Remote

Voting Members

Jessica Morriss, City of Asheville
Mark Endries, Town of Weaverville
William High, Buncombe County
Autumn Radcliff, Henderson County
Noah Taylor, Town of Maggie Valley

Non-Voting Members

Tristan Winkler, FBRMPO
Daisy O'Conner FBRMPO
Lauren Lehman, FBRMPO SRTS
Hannah Bagli, FBRMPO
Sandy Broadwill, FBRMPO TDM

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Autumn Radcliff started the meeting at 9:30AM with introductions. A quorum was announced, and roll was called.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Autumn Radcliff opened the floor for public comment. No comments were heard.

APPROVAL of August 2026 MEETING MINUTES AND AGENDA

William High moved to approve the August 2026 Meeting Minutes and agenda. Jessica Morriss seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

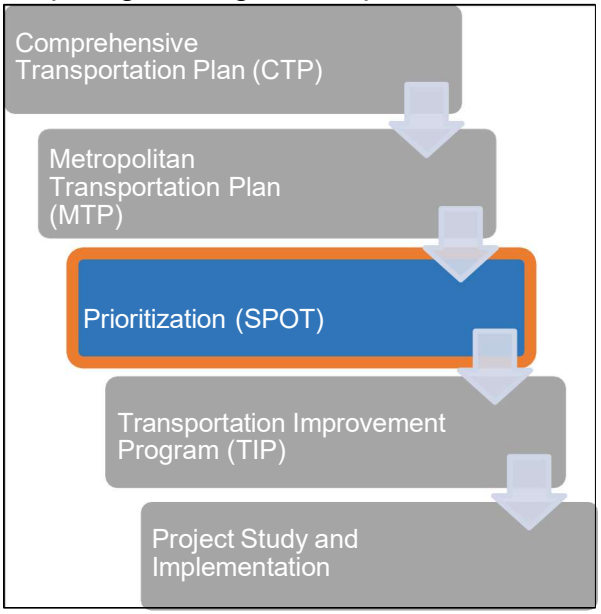
BUSINESS

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 sidwalks 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 accommodation 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

**** See pages 5-14 of the Agenda for further Division Needs Projects lists**

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% Division1 4

Division	Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improvement Type	Cost to NCDOT	Division Needs Quantitave Score (Out of 50)	MPO SCORE
13	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

Division	Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improvement Type	Cost to NCDOT	Division Needs Quantitave Score (Out of 50)	MPO SCORE
14	Church Street and King Street	US 176	North Main Street	Fill gaps between existing sidwalks 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

**** See pages 17-23 of Agenda for additional projects****

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

Division	Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improvement Type	Cost to NCDOT	Division Needs Quantitave Score (Out of 50)	TOTAL MPO SCORE
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14	Church Street and King Street	US 176	North Main Street	Fill gaps between existing sidwalks 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

**** See pages 26-28 of Agenda for further projects****

Action Summary:

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

Discussion occurred around local rankings and scenario 2. Discussion around a local match commitment letter. Members favored scenario two because it follows priorities established through local meetings.

Jessica Morriss moved to approve the Cascading projects in Haywood County and to approve recommendation of Scenario # 2 to the board for further approval. Noah Taylor seconded the motion which passed upon a roll call vote.

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.

Discussion occurred around if there are any training around feasibility studies. Discussion around if there has been an assessment to find commonalities or reasons why projects failed. Discussion around cost increases in funding, adding an inflation calculation to the funding. Discussion around not forcing a project to phase when it probably shouldn't phase, leaving some flexibility or limiting a jurisdictions number of total projects especially feasibility studies.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Autumn Radcliff opened the floor for public comment. No comments were heard.

ADJOURNMENT

Autumn Radcliff adjourned the meeting at 10:52 AM.