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November Transportation Matters



Provide Feedback on Draft Local Input Points for Division Needs

The French Broad River MPO is seeking public comment on its draft assignment of Local Input Points for Division Needs projects as part of NCDOT's Prioritization 8.0 process. Local Input Points allow the MPO to reflect regional priorities alongside NCDOT's project scoring and can help projects compete for future transportation funding.

The draft includes proposed point assignments for highway, bicycle and pedestrian, transit, and other eligible transportation projects throughout the region. Public comments will be accepted through November 18, and the MPO Board is expected to make its final point assignments on November 19.

Review the draft Division Needs point assignments. Comments may be emailed to MPO@landofsky.org.

Transit Funding Available



The French Broad River MPO is now accepting applications for FTA Section 5310 and Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funding. These programs support transportation improvements for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and low-income residents in the Asheville Urbanized Area.

A total of **$469,082** is available through Section 5310, and **$432,261** is available through JARC. Eligible applicants include local governments, nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and private operators of public transportation services.

Applications are due by **5:00 PM on December 17, 2026**. Click here for details.



Construction underway on a new segment of the Estatoe Trail; Tannery North

Construction began on a new trail segment in Brevard in August 2026. Tannery North will cross Silversteen Drive, connecting to the existing segment of Estatoe Trail at the community garden and skate park. It will then cross the former tannery property and connect to Brevard's sidewalk network near the Mary C. Jenkins Community Center. Once complete, Tannery North will add approximately .33 miles to the existing 6.35 miles of the Estatoe Trail that is open to the public.

The Tannery North segment gets Brevard one step closer to connecting neighborhoods to schools, parks, and other points of interest along a safe accessible network for pedestrians and cyclists.

For more information on the Estatoe Trail visit the Estatoe Trail Status map at Estatoe Trail Status Story Map

WNC Travel Survey



The French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization and Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization have launched a survey program called the **Western North Carolina Travel Survey** to better understand the travel needs of residents and visitors in western North Carolina.

This survey program includes both a Visitor Survey that is underway now, as well as a Resident Survey launching in early 2027.

This data, collected approximately every ten years, helps us plan for the transportation infrastructure needed in our region as we continue to develop and grow.



Statewide Active Transportation Plan

The N.C. Department of Transportation's Integrated Mobility Division is updating North Carolina's statewide active transportation plan. The previous plan, called WalkBikeNC, was adopted in 2013.

The updated plan will guide future partnerships, policies, programs and projects to create safer and more connected walking, biking and rolling options.

They're currently asking North Carolina residents to share their active transportation stories and photos. Selected stories and photos may be highlighted in the final plan. The deadline to submit is Dec. 5.

Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day 🚶🏾‍♀️



This past month, the Land of Sky Safe Routes to School program supported schools in Brevard, Asheville, and Clyde which celebrated national Walk & Roll to School Day on October 7th.

Coming up on November 18th is the Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day, a national event to recognize and celebrate Ruby Bridges, the first student to integrate a previously segregated public school. The day educates students about the civil rights movement and encourages them to make positive changes in their communities. If you'd like to see a Ruby Bridges Walk at your school, contact lauren@landofsky.org to get started.

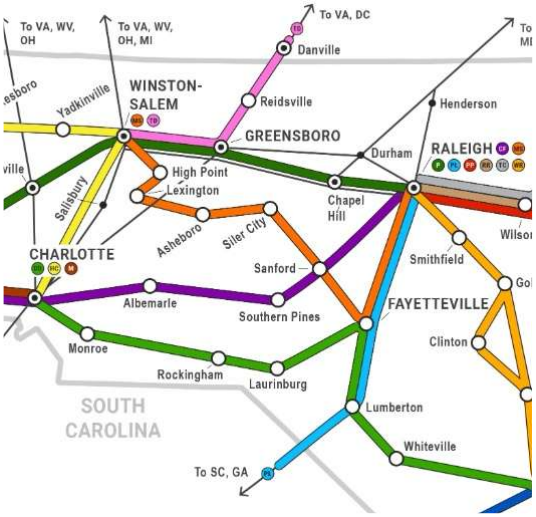


Taylor's Wave Grand Opening 🌊

Pictured: MPO Board Member Mayor Jim McAllister giving remarks at the Grand Opening celebration for Taylor's Wave, a new whitewater feature on the French Broad River. The ceremony took place on Friday, October 23.

Taylor's Wave is part of the Woodfin Greenway and Blueway master plan, which includes sections of the Woodfin to Weaverville greenway that will eventually connect communities in Buncombe County with a multiuse path.

NCDOT Intercity Bus Service updates



NCDOT's Integrated Mobility Division administers the state's subsidized intercity bus program, contracting with Greyhound Lines and Sunway Charters to operate 13 intercity bus routes, which feature 50 stops throughout the state and provide safe, reliable, and comfortable transportation in ADA-accessible coach buses equipped with restroom facilities.

There are now two new routes available connecting to out-of-state destinations. The Rockfish Route goes from Raleigh to Norfolk, VA, and the Pine Line goes from Raleigh to Atlanta, GA. Both intercity routes connecting to Asheville go to Raleigh and allow transfers to other routes on the way.

Two new Commute Friendly Workplaces

MAHEC, the Mountain Area Health Education Center, is now a Bronze certified Commute Friendly Workplace, joining the Go Mountain program in late September in order to support multimodal commuting.

Liberty Bicycles also joined the program in October, becoming the 10th overall Commute Friendly WNC participant and the 4th to rank Gold in our region.

Learn more about what it means to be a Commute Friendly Workplace.

Haywood Public Transit is now at the Airport ✈️

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Haywood Public Transit now has an official stop at the Asheville Airport, along with Apple Country Public Transit (Henderson County) and ART (Asheville). Unlike the other two public transit services which operate on a fixed route and have regularly scheduled stops at the airport, Haywood Public Transit only goes to the airport when pre-scheduled by request of a rider. Perfect for folks in Waynesville, Canton, Clyde, and Maggie Valley who want to save money on rideshares and parking fees! Get to and from the airport with ease by scheduling your pick-up and drop-off around your flight schedule. Go to https://haywoodtransit.com/ for more info.



French Broad River MPO and Land of Sky RPO Meeting Calendar

MPO and RPO meetings are open to the public and take place at Land of Sky Regional Council, in the French Broad Conference Room. 339 New Leicester Hwy, Suite 140, Asheville, NC 28806. (Click here for info about riding the bus to Land of Sky's offices).

If you would like to join a RPO TAC or TCC virtual Zoom meeting, please contact Vicki.Eastland@landofsky.org for the meeting link.

To join an MPO meeting virtually, find the Zoom link at the top of the agenda, which are usually posted online one week prior. For questions, contact mpo@landofsky.org

- MPO Prioritization Subcommittee: Wednesday, November 4, 9:30am

- Joint RPO Technical Coordinating Committee & Transportation Advisory Committee: Thursday, November 19, 11am
- Joint MPO Technical Coordinating Committee & Board Meeting: Thursday, November 19, 1pm



Upcoming November Events

Smart Cycling Class: Saturday, November 7 at The Collider (1 Haywood St, 4th floor, Asheville). 10am-5pm. Want to feel more confident riding your bike around Asheville? Whether you're new to city cycling or looking to sharpen your skills, Smart Cycling –brought to you partnership between Asheville on Bikes and the League of American Bicyclists –will teach you how to ride safely, predictably, and with ease.

Walk with a Doc: The first Saturday of every month at 10am. Walk with a Doc is a walking program for everyone interested in taking steps for a healthier lifestyle. You'll take a few minutes to learn about a current health topic from a healthcare professional, then spend the rest of the hour enjoying a healthy walk and fun conversation. It's a great way to get out, get active, and enjoy all the benefits that come from walking. Walk your own pace and distance. Join MAHEC Family Doctor Boone Marois to learn about a current health topic and enjoy a walk along the the Wilma Dykeman Greenway in the River Arts District. Meet under the Jeff Bowen/I-240 Bridge at 10am on Saturday, November 7.

Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day: Wednesday, November 18. Contact lauren@landofsky.org to get a Ruby Bridges event at your school!

Land of Sky Regional Council offices will be closed on November 11 in observance of Veteran's Day, and on November 26 & 27 for Thanksgiving.

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