

**MPO Technical Coordinating Committee  
January 9, 2014 – 11:00 A.M., Land of Sky  
Minutes**

**Meeting Date:**

**1/9/14**

Representing	VotingTCC		Via Phone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of	Dan	Baechtold	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of - Transit	Yuri	Koslen	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe County	Josh	O'Conner	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flat Rock, Town of	Judv	Boleman	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fletcher, Town of	Mark	Biberdorf	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Haywood County	Kris	Bovd	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henderson County	Autumn	Raddcliff	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henderson County/Apple Country Tra	Matthew	Cable	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hendersonville, City of	Susan	Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Madison County	Forrest	Gilliam	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mars Hill, Town of	Darhyl	Boone	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mills River, Town of	Jaime	Laughter	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mountain Mobility	Denise	Braine	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Rickv	Tipton	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Reuben	Moore	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, PTD	Nick	Scheuer	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, TPB	Linh	Nguyen	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wavnesville, Town of	Paul	Benson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>18 Voting Members Present</b>			

Non Voting At TCC			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of Brevard	Daniel	Cobb	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Lyuba	Zuyeva	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Paul	Black	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal Highway Administration	Loretta	Barren	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LOSRPO	Josh	King	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT Traffic Engineering	Scott	Collier	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Kristina	Solberg	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Bicycle Committee	Claudia	Nix	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town of Marshall	Martha	Ramsey	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transylvania County, non-voting	Artie	Wilson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WNC Regional Air Quality Agency	Vic	Fahrer	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>11 Non-Voters Present</b>			

## **WELCOME**

Mark Biberdorf called the meeting to order and introductions followed. Paul Black requested to switch Agenda items three and four, to move consent agenda items till after the regular updates.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments presented.

## **REGULAR UPDATES (Jointly with LOSRPO TCC)**

### **NCDOT Division 13 Updates**

Rick Tipton provided a brief update regarding NCDOT Division 13 projects. Updates included status of Pond Road, Bridge 655 over French Broad River, McDowell tunnel near completion in November of 2014, I-40 resurfacing from mile post 50-55 starting in Spring. More information at [http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Division13\\_January2014.pdf](http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Division13_January2014.pdf)

### **NCDOT Division 14 Updates**

Reuben Moore provided an update regarding NCDOT Division 14 projects. Additional information at [http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/MPO\\_RPO\\_December2013.pdf](http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/MPO_RPO_December2013.pdf) Reuben Moore indicated that he is now officially the Planning Engineer for Division 14.

#### *Haywood:*

- I-40 drainage work causing lane shift at MP 35 has been completed, traffic pattern restored to normal.
- Howell Mill Road, contract awarded to Mountain Creek Contractors (\$11.7M) Work expected to begin 3/15/2014. Completion date 4/13/2017.
- US 23-74, West of Waynesville, work began 11/23/13, completion Date 9/15/14. Left lane closed at all times in sections. Installing median guardrail. 9% Complete.
- 2.9 miles of Thickety Road to be resurfaced in 2014, \$550,000. East Clyde City Limits eastward to Harris Road.
- 5.0 miles of NC 215 (Poindexter Rd/Sonoma Rd/Old River Rd) from US 276 in Bethel to Forest Hill Drive/Riverbend St in Canton to be resurfaced in 2014, \$840,000.
- Wesley Creek Road, grading project 58% complete. Revised completion date 7/3/2014.
- Eight bridge replacements, 14 bridge preservations under construction in Haywood County.
- Repaving I-40 from Buncombe County Line to top of climbing section, EB & WB, letting in April 2014, to be complete by October 2014.
- New rest area in Balsam, let date delayed one month to March 2014
- NC 209/23Bus. Interchange (Lowe's), to let April 2014
- Under the Federal, Low Impact, and State bridge program, ten more bridges to start in next 5 years.

#### *Henderson:*

- Howard Gap-middle section, 38% complete, Estimated completion December 2015
- Howard Gap-southern section, 30% complete, Estimated completion May 2016
- Upward Road, 95% complete, estimated completion delayed to May 31, 2014.
- NC 280 at Ferncliff Park Dr. (Sierra-Nevada) Traffic Signal operational as of December 4, 2013
- Five bridge replacements, seven bridge preservations under construction in Henderson Co.
- Howard Gap-Fletcher section, let delayed 3 months to October 2014 (Planning Document)
- NC 191 from Mountain Road to N. Rugby Rd, scheduled to let 12/14 but is going to be at least four months later for an archeological review

- Realignment of Erkwod and Shepherd St at NC 225, scheduled to let 02/15 but experiencing development delays. Two alternatives under development, but has historical property and stormwater drainage issues. Can't let before 7/1/2015 so will go into SPOT 3.0

*Transylvania:*

- Bridge on Old 64 over Davidson River, Completed December 31, 2013.
- Bridge on US 64 over Rocky Creek, 27% complete, estimated completion Dec.2014
- US 64 Bus. (Caldwell Street) in Brevard, obtaining ROW, let July 2014. Still has stormwater design and utility issues to resolve, could affect let date.
- US 64 West from Indian Creek west to Toxaway Bridge, began obtaining ROW December 2013, construction schedule moved to 04/15 but hopeful to let 08/14, few ROW parcels.
- US 64 West from Flat Creek Valley Rd to Indian Creek, scheduled let of July 2016; will have to go into SPOT 3.0 for scheduling of funding.
- Bridge over King Creek on Railroad Avenue, 03/16. Part of future Brevard West Loop in CTP.
- 3.0 miles of Kim Miller Road to be resurfaced in 2014, NC 281 at Lake Toxaway to US 64.
- Federal, Low Impact, and State bridge program, 20 more bridges to start in next 5 years.

Some questions followed. Rick Tipton indicated that the Diverging Diamond Interchange at Airport Road will have to be re-bid and Division staff expects it to go to letting later this month. In response to questions about Howard Gap Road, Reuben Moore indicated that the section from Jackson to US 25 is section "C", delayed to October of 2014. The intersection of Howard Gap Road and US 64 is the southern terminus of Section A and will include some intersection improvements but no work further south on Howard Gap Road.

**NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch Updates**

No updates

**Subcommittee/Workgroup Updates and Staff Updates**

Subcommittee and workgroup updates were included with the agenda packet. Staff updates: LOSRC will have an Open House on January 22<sup>nd</sup>; New RPO/MPO member training will be held on February 11<sup>th</sup>; field trip to Greer, SC Inland Port scheduled for February 28<sup>th</sup>. Email Annie to RSVP, look for Save the Date and Registration emails. Special studies are moving along.

There were no legislative updates.

There were no Transportation Planning Branch updates.

(LOSRPO formally closed their meeting)

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Endorsement of Blue Ridge Bicycle Plan: Lyuba Zuyeva gave a quick refresher: In September, Erica Anderson presented an overview of the Blue Ridge Bike Plan. The final plan is ready and available on our ftp site or brbp.org. NC 280 is a high priority route and will be at the Board meeting for endorsement; all our future bike projects will derive from that plan, this plan will be the back plan to cover the region.

Mark Bieberdorf asked for a motion to approve consent agenda items, including November TCC meeting minutes, TIP Amendments, changes to federal classification of the roadway network and endorsement of the Blue Ridge Bike Plan. In September, Erica Anderson presented an overview of the Blue Ridge Bike Plan. The final plan is ready and available at www.brbp.org. NC 280 is one of the high priority routes identified; our future bike projects will derive from this plan.

*Josh O'Connor motioned to approve Consent Agenda, Denise Braine seconded, and as all approved, the motion carried.*

## **BUSINESS**

### **2035 LRTP Amendments to Accommodate TIP Amendments**

Paul Black took the Board's direction to move the A-10AB project to the out years of the LRTP to make room for the larger U-3301 and add the I-4409 projects back in. Paul reviewed what needed to move to add these into the appropriate LRTP tier while keeping overall funding amounts for the respective tiers stable. He looked at which were the lowest scoring in SPOT 2, and scenarios considered with different project combinations moving to accommodate the funding changes. Ultimately, the "non-loop portion funding for I-2513 moved from Tier 1 down to Tier 2; Phases II-V of the WDR moved from Tier 2 to Tier 3, and A-10AB moved to outyears with no major implications.

*Paul Benson motioned to approve LRTP Amendments as submitted, Chris Boyd seconded, and as there was no further discussion and all were in favor, the motion carried.*

### **Finalize TIP Prioritization Potential New SPOT Project Lists**

Paul Black- explained the list of new SPOT highway projects was based on earlier discussion at this body, it was decided the direction of the TCC in November to divide based on county population to proportionally allocate project openings for highway projects. Buncombe and its respective cities have 8 new project openings, four new projects slots for Henderson County, and two new projects went to Waynesville and Haywood County. No new projects were submitted in Madison County. Paul Black also noted that these projects may not end up receiving points—we are just sending them to SPOT to see if they score well in NCDOT's process. The TCC recommended moving forward with approving new highway projects for SPOT.

*Matt Cable motioned to approve the highway portion of the projects, Josh O'Connor seconded, and as all were in favor, the motion carried.*

Paul Black gave a short briefing on the bike and ped list. Discussion followed regarding the bicycle and pedestrian projects. Lyuba Zuyeva indicated that the list is largely unchanged, there was a consideration to remove a Buncombe County bike shoulder project on Warren Wilson road but for now it remains on the list.

*Josh O'Connor motioned to approve the bike/ped SPOT list, Jaime Laughter seconded, and as all were in favor, the motion carried.*

### **CTP/MTP Steering/Executive Committee**

Paul Black discussed the kick-off for the MTP public input process in May of 2014. MPO staff would like to organize a taskforce of no more than 12 members to serve as the Steering Committee for the MTC and CTP update, to facilitate expedited decision-making process. Paul Black asked for volunteers or suggestions. No vote is required until the February meeting, but enough time is needed to contact members. Dan Baechtold asked if the members would be a combination of Board, TCC and Stakeholders and Paul Black replied in the affirmative. Denise Braine asked about providing input to this task force, and if the task force would include NCDOT representatives or just the local jurisdictions. Paul Black replied that we do need a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and they must have a true advisory role to Executive Committee or TCC.

Josh O'Conner clarified that the Executive Committee will be comprised of TCC and Board, and there would be a separate CAC made up of stakeholders. The TCC will need time to consider volunteering. There was some discussion as to the makeup of the committee, such as staff vs. elected officials. Dan Baechtold offered perhaps

a board member from each county, then a staff member from each county. Josh O'Connor summarized the recommendation as seven staff members and three or four elected officials with alternates.

***Dan Baechtold motioned to approve the committee formulation of seven staff members, plus three or four elected officials with alternates, Josh O'Connor seconded, and with no opposition, the motion carried.***

### **CTP/MTP Citizens' Advisory Committee**

Paul Black indicated that a Citizens Advisory Committee is required for the MTP update; the CAC can have members appointed for viewpoint representation but needs to have some volunteers from the community as well. The challenge is underrepresented populations for Title VI requirements, minority, and language. Lyuba Zuyeva suggested that a letter required from a community group as support might filter out candidates who do not speak for a larger community group. Paul Black—we are looking to May as the formation date of the group and volunteers were requested. Josh O'Connor suggested someone from the health group as that impacts our process and mentioned Jill Zimmerman, Region 2, and Sarah Tennyson. Baechtold mentioned there may be an issue with traveling to meetings – perhaps we travel to the citizens, meet in smaller groups. Matt Cable requested a synopsis of what the CAC will be responsible for and meeting dates. Paul Black said this group may require a year and a half of commitment, maybe a meeting a month depending on the product to review. Consensus was to advertise for volunteers in February. Yuri Koslen added that Asheville Transit can help place ads on buses and have access to a list of organizations representing Title VI groups.

### **Finalize New SPOT Prioritization Methodologies**

Paul Black presented a spreadsheet for all to view. New state legislation now requires MPOs and RPOs to adopt a methodology in order to score projects. FBRMPO will need that has both qualitative and quantitative elements. Need to send the selected methodology to SPOT office for review by the middle of February so the methodology can be blessed before we have to assign points in May. The current draft methodology and timeline is posted at [http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/FBRMPOPrioritization\\_SPOT3\\_Methodology.pdf](http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/FBRMPOPrioritization_SPOT3_Methodology.pdf). SPOT timeline is driven by a federal requirement to have TIP/STIP by October 2015; when we work the calendar backward, we end up with this compressed timeline.

There is a need to have it back to NCDOT by middle of next month. Subcommittee did not present a formal recommendation from the Prioritization Subcommittee because they have not met since the final draft was put together. Yellow items indicate where local jurisdiction input will be required to add points.

Josh O'Connor talked about future flexibility asked if we adopt this, what's the potential for changing and moving forward, what license do we have. Will 4.0 open up again so we can submit a completely different process? Paul Black: Yes, we can come back in SPOT 4.0 with a completely different process, but it will still need to be blessed by SPOT office.

Josh King responded that the methodology can be changed for SPOT 4.0. For now, we just need overall categories completed and turned in by February with final points assignments due by May. Paul Black: If we want to have a Modal Mix portfolio will need to review it as well. We want to assign points to the top scorer in each mode or set points aside for non-highway—it will need to be blessed by SPOT. Further discussion followed regarding the scoring.

Matt Cable suggested that we make 100 percent of our score based on local elected officials' choosing projects. He pointed out that there was nothing more qualitative than the will of the elected officials. Paul Black said we can try and get that blessed by SPOT, but chances were not good based on what he heard at the SPOT Workgroup over the past year. Winston-Salem has proposed something like it for part of their score and we can

follow their lead if it is given the ok by SPOT. We still have to have both a quantitative and qualitative criterion each to meet the requirements. Josh O'Connor said that while it makes some sense to use that local officials' input, the quantitative criteria are also useful, and he would be more comfortable with a 50% qualitative/50% quantitative mix. There was general consensus around this at the table.

Yuri Koslen raised a question about the use of transit plans being taken into account instead of existing routes— since we accept bike and ped plans, why not transit? There was discussion about how some of the major spines have high frequency service and should get points for transit. Denise Braine requested to adjust wording in the multi-modal category to include both existing transit service and transit plans to accommodate deviated or fixed route service. Paul Black noted that the criterion was a highway, not a transit criterion, but the subcommittee felt like accommodating transit as part of a highway deserved points. Discussion continued regarding the SPOT methodology. Matt Cable asked for more weight to local input. Paul Black indicated that the Winston-Salem MPO has allocated a portion of the score to the local elected officials input, not sure yet if NCDOT will accept this. Matt Cable would like to make this recommendation for higher local input score, and continue to work on the details later, which plan to submit, project consistent with local growth patterns, or a hybrid solution to bump up points from the old SPOT 1 priority list. The consensus was to include the transit plans, but not to use the high frequency corridors, because then only Asheville would get points.

The group consensus coalesced around the 50/50 qualitative/quantitative, using the quantitative criteria presented by staff, with the addition of transit plans to the multi-modal criterion.

***Josh O'Connor motioned to move forward with highway prioritization methodology draft including 50% of the score going to local input to the MPO Board, Matt Cable seconded, and as all were in favor, the motion carried.***

Denise Braine indicated that Buncombe County has submitted one transit capital project for SPOT prioritization.

Lyuba Zuyeva indicated that the Bicycle and Pedestrian SPOT prioritization methodology draft is unchanged since November discussions. The methodology is available online at [http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/FBRMPOPrioritization\\_SPOT3\\_BikePedMethodology.pdf](http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/FBRMPOPrioritization_SPOT3_BikePedMethodology.pdf)

***Josh O'Connor motioned to approve the Bike/Ped methodology, Matt Cable seconded, and the motion carried.***

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES**

- ✓ After more than 28 years with DOT, Linh Nguyen retires at end of January. Pam Cook will be temporarily taking over his responsibilities. FBRMPO will miss working Linh Nguyen!
- ✓ LOSRC will hold an open house on January 22 after the council meeting.
- ✓ There is a new member training on February 11 at 10 AM.
- ✓ Register for the February 28<sup>th</sup> Greer Inland Port field trip. Meet at LOS at 8:15. A save the date card will be emailed to members.
- ✓ Topics for next meeting: the data forecast for employment and population was almost ready and will to for adoption in February; Leta Huntsinger will present to the Modeling and Data Workgroup on the 31st, and the process and data includes learning the dynamics of RV, seasonal households and other travel/tourist considerations. The CAC discussion will continue in February.

There being no further discussion or public comment, the meeting was adjourned. Next meetings: February 13, 2014; March 13, 2014.