

# French Broad River MPO Board

March 27, 2014 – 12:30pm  
Minutes

**Meeting Date:**

**March 27, 2014**

Representing	VotingTAC		Via Phone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of	Jan	Davis	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of	Marc	Hunt	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black Mountain	Margaret	Tuttle	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe County	Holly	Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe County	Brownie	Newman	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Canton, Town of	Zeb	Smathers	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flat Rock, Village of	Don	Farr	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fletcher, Town of	Eddie	Henderson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Haywood County	Michael	Sorrells	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maggie Valley	Ron	DeSimone	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Montreat, Town of	Jack	McCaskill	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCBOT, Division 13	David	Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weaverville, Town of	Douglas	Dearth	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodfin, Town of	Jerry	VeHaun	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>14 Voting Members Present</b>			

Alternates/Agencies and Other Non Voting At TAC			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of	Gwen	Wistler	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black Mountain, Town of	Ryan	Stone	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brevard, City of	Charles	Landreth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe County	Joe	Belcher	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citizen Times	Mark	Barrett	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Lyuba	Zuveva	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Paul	Black	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Vicki	Eastland	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal Highway Administration	Loretta	Barren	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LOSRC	Annie	Sarac	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LOSRPO	Josh	King	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Kristina	Solberg	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Jay	Swain	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Ricky	Tipton	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Ed	Green	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Reuben	Moore	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, TPB	Pam	Cook	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WNC Alliance	Julie	Mayfield	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>18 Non-Voters Present</b>			

## **WELCOME**

Jan Davis called the meeting to order and quorum was established. Introductions followed. Conflict of Interest statement was read and no conflicts arose.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lyuba Zuyeva received numerous emails, mostly in support of bike ped funding.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. January Minutes
- B. TIP Modifications & Amendments
- C. Public Involvement Plan Modifications

Approval of the Public Involvement Policy update to include language requested by FTA on p. 13: "The public participation process for the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program is also used to satisfy the public participation process for the FTA Transit Program of Projects for the following grantees: City of Asheville and Henderson County." Draft PIP posted at [http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/FBRMPO\\_PIP\\_Update\\_2014\\_Draft.pdf](http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/FBRMPO_PIP_Update_2014_Draft.pdf) and has been advertised for public comment starting on February 9th and through March 26th.

***Eddie Henderson motioned to approve TIP modifications and amendments, and Public Involvement Plan Modification, Jerry VeHaun seconded, all were in favor, and the motion carried.***

***Jan Davis held approving the January Minutes to allow time for members to review. Following Item G, Holly Jones at that time motioned to adopt the January minutes, Jerry VeHaun seconded, and the motion was so approved.***

## **REGULAR UPDATES**

- A. NCDOT Division 13: Ricky Tipton provided an overview of division projects, [available here](#). There was some discussion about the convenience of the May 6<sup>th</sup> I26 open meeting at the Renaissance. Jan Davis mentioned that local officials are meeting that day at 2pm.  
NCDOT Division 14: Rueben Moore reviewed division projects which can be accessed [here](#).
- B. Transportation Planning Branch Updates: Pam Cook reported that the TDM model is moving along on schedule and that hopefully in one month there will be a new person in Linh Nguyen's vacated position.
- C. Subcommittee/Workgroup Reports and Staff Updates are available in the Agenda Packets-Item 4c. Prioritization Subcommittee met this morning and favorably adopted preliminary approval for SPOT Prioritization methodology. Reuben Moore is retiring from NCDOT Division 14 but will continue to work in the area in the private sector. Reuben Moore spoke on heart health post his cardiac event and reminded everyone to stay heart healthy and be aware of symptoms.
- D. Legislative Updates: Paul Black attended the joint oversight committee on February 7 and reported that nothing major will affect the West and has a packet available for anyone who wishes to review it. Holly Jones asked if there was any indication of revenue generating options. Paul Black replied that there was not but a call was out to give examples of what would happen if funds were emptied in November and which projects would get stalled if the trust fund closes. The board of transportation has a study committee and MPOs to take a position and work with Metro Mayors. Holly Jones asked what are they proposing and Paul Black replied that there was no new money and EPA moving Tier III rules for efficient cards and that public/private partnerships are an option.
- E. Results of Travel Behavior Survey: Paul Black assured the group that this survey was money well spent and offered a choice of viewing the survey results on this day or at next month's meeting. Paul Black added that our travel behavior does not mimic rest of state. Seasonal and RV households are unique to our region and our local population does not travel the same as the rest of state.

The RPO TAC adjourned at this time.

## **BUSINESS**

A. Population and Employment Forecasts for Travel Model: The MPO staff and LandDesign have jointly been working on an effort to provide the transportation modeling team with the socio-economic data needed as an input to the model. While the model team has been working on getting data on our infrastructure, the MPO has been refining data on land use, population, and employment. The Staff worked with LandDesign to derive control totals for counties and townships, then used the allocation model to figure out which Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZ) would absorb any changes, and what those changes are likely to be. We were able to leverage additional work done by LandDesign for the GroWNC project, and ended up using their "Business As Usual" scenario. The final numbers will go into the long-range plan which kicks off on May 9, 2014. The full report is online at [http://landofskygis.org/MPO/BoardSupport/2014/SE\\_DataDevelopmentReport\\_2014\\_01\\_05\\_Reduced.pdf](http://landofskygis.org/MPO/BoardSupport/2014/SE_DataDevelopmentReport_2014_01_05_Reduced.pdf)

***Eddie Henderson motioned to adopt the forecast, Don Farr seconded, and as all were in favor, the motion carried.***

B. Draft Planning Work Program (PWP) for Fiscal 2014-2015: The FBRMPO has been working with the NC Association of MPO's, FHWA, NCDOT-Transportation Planning Branch, NCDOT-Public Transportation Division, and FTA to update the Prospectus. This is the document that guides each annual work program, and represents the agreement between the agencies on items that are eligible for funding as planning tasks. The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the action plan used by the MPO to carry out planning functions. The upcoming fiscal year will include the bulk of the public and stakeholder outreach part of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (formerly Long-Range Transportation Plan) update. The analysis and drafting of the plan including vision, goals, fiscal forecast, and implementation measures (our project lists) will also be in fiscal 2015. The plan is due to FHWA in the fall of 2015.

***Holly Jones motioned to recommend the Prospectus and UPWP as submitted; Brownie Newman seconded, and as all were in favor, the motion carried.***

C. SPOT Prioritization Methodologies: The NCDOT Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) is required by the new Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) law to review and approve local prioritization methodologies. These are due by the end of the month to the SPOT staff in order for the approval process to be complete before prioritization begins in the spring. The recommendation on cascading projects is that the MPO will by default not assign points to any cascading project, but reserves the right to address cascading projects on a case-by-case basis, and will provide written explanation and justification for any cascading project that justifies an exception. The same philosophy will guide assignment of points to any non-highway mode: They will not be given points as a default, but exceptions can be awarded points if written explanation and justification is provided for each exception. Final project list due in July and will know state funded projects by mid-April. There are no rail projects, one aviation, and one bus project.

Lyuba Zuyeva provided a brief update on the SPOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Prioritization Methodology. Ms. Zuyeva indicated that this methodology has remained unchanged since the draft was adopted at an earlier Board meeting.

Additional clarification followed and Paul Black indicated he would forward the categorized list to the committee.

***Marc Hunt motioned to adopt the scoring methodology, Eddie Henderson seconded, and the motion carried.***

D. Election of CTP/MTP Task Force Delegates: The MPO staff asked the TCC for direction on how to proceed at their meeting in January. Based on that input, the staff created a framework that includes one TCC representative from each county, plus an additional 3 city/town/village seats. It has also come to the attention of the staff that there is no NCDOT representation; the staff would like to entertain adding TCC representatives from Divisions 13 and 14. The TCC agreed, and added the Division 13 and 14 Engineers (or their designee, most likely the Division Planning Engineer) to serve on the task force. The staff needs to add a representative from Madison County or Mars Hill for the last slot.

The members from the TCC thus far:

Joshua O'Connor (Buncombe County)  
Matthew Cable (Henderson County/Apple  
Country Transit)  
Mariate Echeverry (Asheville/ART)  
Paul Benson (Waynesville)  
Mark Biberdorf (Fletcher)

Jason Burrell (Canton)  
Kristina Solberg (NCDOT Division 13 Planning  
Engineer)  
Joel Setzer (NCDOT Division 14 Planning  
Engineer)

Jan Davis nominated Gwen Wisler, and a Haywood County representative is still needed. Zeb Smathers volunteered. Josh King suggested leaving the Henderson County nomination to its TAC, as well as leaving the Madison County nomination to its TAC.

Paul Black added that the first meeting will likely go over goals and objectives and may meet over the summer. Then, consider once a quarter with a final document to Loretta Barren in September of 2015.

E. Citizens' Advisory Committee Applicants & Makeup: The MPO staff asked the TCC for direction on how to proceed at their meeting in January. Based on that input, the staff created a process for interested stakeholders to apply for a seat on the Committee. A list of applicants who have submitted an application by March 19, 2014 were included in the agenda packet. There are no individuals currently directly representing Environmental Justice communities. Also the current applicants include only one individual from Haywood County. Sixteen applications have been received. Staff would like direction on whether to solicit additional applications or close the process. Mike Sorrells suggested keeping the application time open for additional names.

***Maggie Tuttle motioned to approve those currently on the list, Doug Dearth seconded, and as all were in favor, the motion carried.***

F. I-26 Connector Resolution for SPOT Evaluation: A working group that includes MPO Board members from Buncombe County and Asheville has been meeting since last spring to achieve consensus around the I-26 Connector project (I-2513). The working group has been working with NCDOT to find a compromise solution with the least impact to businesses and homes, supporting urban development and improved connection for the community. This is currently in draft and is being called the "3C" Alternative. It is similar to the previous "3B" alignment, but is shifted in places to lessen impacts on affected neighborhoods. The City of Asheville and Buncombe County governing boards have asked the MPO to endorse the 3C alternative for the purposes of scoring the project in this round of SPOT prioritization.

Jan Davis acknowledged individuals involved in this process and that the "3c" seemed the best option, taking the bike ped community in consideration in the decision, as well as the smallest amount of dislocation of business and homes. He emphasized the positive outcomes of the improved traffic flow on the bridge. County Commissioners on 18<sup>th</sup> approved, and city council passed with 6-1 vote. Mike Sorrells expressed his gratitude that this is moving forward. Jan Davis added that this was a good partnership over the years.

Brownie Newman spoke up in favor of at least one of the alternatives scoring and this result gives us the chance of keeping this in the running to be funded at state level. Great connections in the community and not just traffic.

***Jerry VeHaun motioned to accept resolution as written, Eddie Henderson seconded, and as all were in favor, the motion carried.***

G. I-26 Connector Resolution for SPOT Evaluation/I-26 A-10A Merger Issue: The Merger process is where the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and section 404 of the Clean Water Act are merged into a single permitting process. The Merger team for A-10 met on March 20th, and there are some issues with the termini of the project our federal partners are working through unrelated to this issue. The A-10A project is made up of the improvements to US 19 north of the I-26 Connector Project (I-2513B) to Mars Hill that are required to allow for designation as an interstate. Part of the "Purpose and Need" required for the merger document includes a future level of service "D", which could require 8 lanes in the southern portion of the project where it joins the Connector project. FHWA indicated that the level of service E exception granted for the I-2513 project cannot be used for this project because the I-2513 project is already designated interstate. This project will be a new interstate designation and not eligible for the exception.

Paul Black asked if the Board agreed to him signing this document.

Discussion followed as to the value of "Level D" which included asking for an exception, why spend the money to meet a level of service for only a few minutes a day, and accepting the level designation so that the project can be completed.

Loretta Barren said that for new interstate highways we would design for level of service D but that LOS does not in and of itself determine the number of lanes. Holly Jones expressed concerns over the level of service and number of lanes.

Jan Davis suggested preparing a letter thanking DOT, FHWA, and Secretary Tata for his work on this and to add the letter to the file for reference.

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

Paul Black asked the group if there was interest in returning to lunches being served during the meetings. A \$2,000 local match would be required, or is it acceptable to continue having the meetings without lunch served. There was consensus for not adding catered lunches back to the meetings.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment at this time.

There being no further discussion or issues, the meeting was adjourned.