

French Broad River MPO Board

June 26, 2014 Minutes

Meeting Date:

6/26/2014

| 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"/> Fletcher, Town of | Eddie | Henderson | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Haywood County | Michael | Sorrells | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hendersonville, City of | Steve | Caraker | <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"/> Waynesville, Town of | LeRoy | Roberson | <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"/> |
| 12 Voting Members Present | | | |

| Alternates/Agencies and Other Non Voting At TAC | | | |
|--|----------|----------|--------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citizen Times | Mark | Barrett | <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"/> JM Teague | Tristan | Winkler | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LOSRC | Annie | Sarac | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13 | Ricky | Tipton | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13 | Kristina | Solberg | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14 | Joel | Setzer | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14 | Ed | Green | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, TPB | Brendan | Merithew | <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"/> |
| 12 Non-Voters Present | | | |

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Jan called the meeting to order, a quorum was established, and introductions followed. He then asked if there were any conflicts of interest regarding agenda items and there were none.

Eddie Henderson motioned to approve the Agenda, Doug Dearth seconded, and the Agenda was then approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. April Minutes
- B. TIP Amendments and Modifications
- C. New Freedom Amendment Resolution
- D. UPWP Transit Corrections
- E. JARC Resolution

Eddie Henderson requested a brief overview of Consent Items and Paul Black complied with highlights of each item.

Eddie Henderson motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, Steve Caraker seconded, and as none were opposed, the Consent Agenda was approved.

REGULAR UPDATES

- A. NCDOT Division 13 updates are [here](#) and Division 14 updates are available [here](#). Division 14 comment period is still open until July 16th.
- B. Transportation Planning Branch Updates
Pam Cook mentioned inputting data for future model and again introduced Branden Merithew.
- C. Subcommittee/Workgroup Reports
 - a. Prioritization Subcommittee
 - b. Complete Streets Workgroup
 - c. Transit Operators' Workgroup
 - d. Data and Modeling Workgroup
 - e. Staff Updates

These updates are available in the full agenda packet. Paul Black asked for questions and to accept those reports at this time, no formal action needed.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Paul Black outlined several updates including two minor fixes to STI law, federal land access funds and emergency funds. He also noted a proposal to not collect Federal gas tax at pump and put to refineries - proposal to do - lots of press.

BUSINESS

- A. Final Scoring of SPOT Projects and Points Assignment

Paul Black said the TCC met and decided that the cascading issue should go to the Board/elected officials. An overview of the methodology of scoring is in the agenda packet and briefly highlighted by Paul Black. Ricky Tipton asked for clarification of I-25 and 13 showing regional score of 17 but at the last TCC meeting it was 35. Paul Black explained that the 35 is the current score but if cascade chosen, the points would need to be determined.

Jan Davis interjected that because it is not cascaded in here; it only scores a 17, but if full local points it bumps it up to 30.

Mark Hunt asked about the demand on funding if moved up high on the list which of the lower projects would fall off?

Paul Black answered that most all of the projects would fall off per analysis if the full \$230 million was programmed. There is word that some Statewide Tier funding can be applied, but we don't know how much that will be. We have heard it could be as much as 140 million, leaving us with 90 million to fund from regional. We have no formal indication, though, and have to assume 230.

More discussion followed focusing on the 90 million vs. 230 million options.

Eddie Henderson asked if cascading would mean everyone devotes all energy to connector.

Paul Black: NEPA document still going to continue taking smaller projects out of the mix, Sweeten Creek just made it to the draft list. We do need a decision to meet our public comment period.

Marc Hunt: DOT can assign points separate from MPO decision to cascade; how much weight or portion of the over total of scoring that DOT compared to the MPO.

Ricky Tipton answered that the weight is the same, and he explained points and percentages of weight with both titles.

Marc Hunt asked who makes that decision and Ricky Tipton replied that the division engineer makes that decision.

Jan Davis interjected a review:

1. Cascade; 90 million for projects below that
2. NEPA applies
3. political part aspect at play with folks wanting to see this happen

Eddie Henderson: Is design nailed down and complete? If cascaded, what are our chances of pollution?

Ricky Tipton: Work will continue the same regardless for next two years, if cascade, then you'll see a schedule as on section C.

Eddie Henderson repeated his question regarding pollution.

Ricky Tipton: I don't recall there being an issue with air pollution; national environmental policy act says project needed logical termini, so not an air pollution issue.

More questions followed to clarify and to be specific with the cascading process and its ramifications - the 290 million belongs to 17 counties not just our region.

Ricky Tipton summarized: Can I cascade this project thinking from a regional standpoint so what's the most important project, regionally important and be willing to give up a lower down on the list project that would have been funded, is that portion of the connector regionally important enough in peril of another project. There is a project somewhere that isn't going to get funded because of that decision.

More clarification followed regarding cascading implications.

Marc Hunt: Members of our local delegation look at our results as an imperfect STI legislation. I really struggle with an imperfect approach with what deserves statewide level funding, making a decision that forces other projects out ... to cascade will send a message to the state level, if not cascade, please fix the STI and I feel I may vote against this as an imperfect system.

Mike Sorrells said that we are MPO *and* RPO so if we don't cascade, this project still moves, just not as fast as we would like, and still potential to get outside funding.

Jan Davis: ... We've been meeting for over a year trying to push this thing forward because it affects the commerce of this region. I will support this.

Holly Jones: This system was created using data, strategy, I like this concept, but seems like the political decisions are put down with all these question marks, can't imagine changing our mind after

all the work we did and look at this again in two years, since connector already in schedule, some of these in planning process, then in two years we will know, seems like THAT would be the time to do the cascading with full understanding. We should not have to shoulder a state's responsibility. I would want to send a letter that we believe this is a state project and our results are not to negate any efforts, however we vote, this communication needs to be sent, I'm leaning against the cascading and keeping some of these other projects alive.

Doug Dearth: A serious issue but I have two problems: 1. No one in Raleigh who cares what your message is and no parallel universe with enough money to do this anyway.
Mike Sorrells asked if the 90 million was really going to make a difference.

Paul Black referred to prior TCC notes and mentioned other cascaded projects.

Steve Caraker: We understood the problem was in Buncombe County ... I understand the need for regionalism but a shame the state leadership puts us in this position. I will vote against it and in favor of local projects and the state to man up.

Steve Caraker motioned to oppose cascading the connector into the regional pot, Eddie Henderson seconded and additional discussion ensued.

Jerry Vehaun: My concern is if we do not cascade this and projects didn't get funded, and time you've spent on it, do you see if we don't cascade that it's going to impact the project enough to delay it even further than two years, we've come too far to have to have it slowed down.

Jan Davis: Not sure it will have much effect what we do here today, but sends a message.

Holly Jones: Other projects in this predicament, what cards are other committees going to play - are they doing what we are doing?

Ricky Tipton: What do neighboring MPOs have to say? We don't know.

Jan Davis clarified that the motion on the table is to NOT cascade 1-25 13B into the regional prioritization.

All those in favor raised their hands and Paul Black proceeded to obtain a count. Those opposed raised their hands and a count was obtained.

Paul: Do you need to indicate who votes yes or no here?

The motion to oppose cascading the connector passed with all but two in favor.

Jan Davis and Jerry Vehaun opposed the motion to NOT cascade

Marc Hunt requested the MPO to send a strongly worded letter to the delegation expression the views of this committee.

Holly Jones voiced her appreciation for the TCC in determining that this was a conversation that needed to happen here at the Board level.

Paul Black added that since we chose not to cascade the connector, the second list is pretty straight forward.

Mike Sorrells motioned to approve the public comment period list, Eddie Henderson seconded, and as all were in favor, the motion was approved.

B. STP-DA and TA Selection Criteria

Paul Black explained that this was largely a bike ped project, the TCC approved them in May, and he asked to approve these and the call for projects open until July 31st .

Leroy Robinson motioned to approve the criteria, Mike Sorrells seconded, and as all were in favor, the criteria were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES, NEXT TOPICS

Lyuba Zuyeva transitioned to Mountain Mobility, Vicki Eastland is the new RPO Coordinator. Jan Davis expressed his appreciation for all the work Lyuba Zuyeva and Josh King have done and wishes them well in their new positions.

The next MPO Board meeting is August 28th.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.