



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
A PROGRAM OF LAND OF SKY

**French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
Minutes from the Governing Board meeting on May 28, 2015

**Meeting Date:**

**05/28/2015**

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"/> Biltmore Forest, Town of	Fran	Cogburn	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black Mountain	Margaret	Tuttle	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe County	Ellen	Frost	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe County	Brownie	Newman	<input checked="" 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"/> Henderson County	William	Lapsley	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hendersonville, City of	Steve	Caraker	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laurel Park, Town of	George	Banta	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maggie Vallev, Town of	Ron	DeSimone	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCBOT, Division 14	Jack	Debnam	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural Transit Providers	Carol	Edwards	<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"/>

Alternates/Agencies and Other Non Voting At TAC			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JM Teague	Reuben	Moore	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Rickv	Tipton	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Kristina	Solberg	<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"/>

**WELCOME**

Doug Dearth called the meeting to order and thanked the host, Henderson County, for the use of meeting space. Doug Dearth read the conflict of interest statement. Following introductions, the Agenda was presented for approval, Doug Dearth noted that there was a new item 3-public hearing for the TIP Program.

***Eddie Henderson made the motion, Don Farr second, motion carried.***

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were presented.

## **PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Doug Dearth opened the public hearing for the TIP Adoption. No public comments were presented. Public hearing closed.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- April minutes
- TIP Amendments and Modifications

***Jan Davis motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, Fran Cogburn seconded, and as all were in favor, the Consent Agenda was approved.***

## **REGULAR UPDATES**

- Ricky Tipton provided Division 13 updates and Ed Green provided Division 14 updates.
- No NCDOT planning branch updates or federal updates at this time
- Tristan Winkler provided subcommittee updates:
  - Complete Streets and Greenways Workgroup—item to be discussed further in the agenda
  - Prioritization Subcommittee met earlier this morning to discuss SPOT, STP-DA and TAP
  - Transit Operators planning to meet in June
- Paul Black summarized Legislative updates: two-month continuing resolution has extended federal transportation funding through the end of July 2015; timing on a new federal transportation bill is still uncertain; at the state legislature level changes to the gas tax have been adopted; a federally-funded highway project in Wisconsin has been brought to a halt due to a lawsuit filed against the travel demand model.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **UPWP Update**

Tristan Winkler summarized changes proposed for the UPWP. Four new special studies, funded with STP-DA funds flexed over to PL funds will need to be added to the UPWP: Bent Creek Greenway Study; Regional TDM Coordinator position; Asheville Transit Master Plan and 5307 Urban Transit Funding studies; all those projects have been approved previously for STP-DA funding. The UPWP amendment is to indicate that the funding is to be flexed from STP-DA to Planning funds.

***Marc Hunt made the motion to approve the UPWP updates, Don Farr seconded. All in favor, motion carried.***

### **Complete Streets**

In April the Complete Streets and Greenways group got together. There were several projects added through SPOT or recently funded. The Workgroup made recommendations. One

additional project not reviewed by the workgroup but coordinated with the Airport is for the Wright Brothers Way extension.

Marc Hunt spoke about the Wilma Dykeman Riverway project cross-section. Marc Hunt indicated that based on the current recommended best practices for bicycle facilities next to a 35 mph roadway, the bicycle lanes are best designed as a protected two-way bicycle way (cycletrack) next to the sidewalk. Studies indicate that only a small percentage of the population are willing to ride next to a vehicle traveling at 30 mph. The same width of pavement could be moved over closer to pedestrian area, which would increase the number of potential users. For this project, lots of tourists and families expected to use this project.

Marc Hunt proposed that the Complete Streets Workgroup take a look at more modern design guidelines. Paul Black-the cross-sections we are working with came from NCDOT. Some of them are less than ideal but they can serve as a guide for the first NEPA scoping meeting, to give the design team a general idea. Design team then has to go back to local governments for the local cost share. Doug Dearth-more innovative design could be using the same ROW width but reallocating it differently.

Paul Black-would advise to have some recommendation in place prior to additional review, because those projects are moving forward. Rick Tipton-suggestion to adopt language to accommodate bicycles and pedestrians, without a specific design in mind. Tristan Winkler-the recommendations from the Workgroup are usually fairly vague, referencing the cross-sections, with an occasional addition of more specific details such as a multi-use path. The Workgroup does not look at the ROW needed for a particular design. Marc Hunt-no one cross-section is going to fit all protected bicycle lanes. Design standards are evolving, about 10 states have now adopted the design standards by NACTO. This work has evolved from research by large cities, but DOTs are now starting to adopt those. The trend is to add more protected bicycle facilities. The idea is to make facilities attractive for people to use.

Marc Hunt-suggestion to move forward with approving those cross-sections, but also add a directive that protected bicycle facilities be considered when possible. Paul Black-we could adopt the current projects as is, then direct the Workgroup to go back and consider all the projects against the NACTO standards in addition to NCDOT cross-sections.

Doug Dearth asked for motion and second. The motion is to adopt the resolution for the five projects as it stands, and to also direct the Complete Streets Working Group to start considering modern NACTO-like standards in review of projects.

***Marc Hunt made the motion, Jan Davis seconded, all in favor, motion carried.***

### **Adoption of the Draft TIP**

Tristan Winkler gave an overview of the Draft TIP. State Board of Transportation is set to adopt the Draft STIP next week; in keeping with a similar timeline, the Draft TIP is in front of the MPO Board today for adoption. This Draft TIP has been previously presented to the Board a couple times. The

Draft TIP also includes several TIP Amendments. Those include flexing of STP-DA funds for planning projects.

***Don Farr made a motion to approve the TIP, Fran Cogburn-seconded, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried.***

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Paul Black-will be finishing up the MTP over the summer and leaving Land of Sky Regional Council in August. Leaving for personal reasons and partially due to long commute. This has been a great experience.

New Statewide Safety Plan has come out in March.

Statewide Freight Plan is kicking off. They will be looking for stakeholders to serve on the review committee.

Doug Dearth and Jan Davis thanked Paul for his service.

Erica Anderson-the position will be posted soon, and Land of Sky Regional Council will be accepting applications.

Tristan Winkler-Public Input meeting for Buncombe County Locally-Coordinated Plan scheduled for June 24<sup>th</sup> to take place at Pack Memorial Library in downtown Asheville; there will be some MTP materials at this meeting as well. Another similar meeting scheduled for Madison County

Next meeting topics:

Draft MTP

Transit Items

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment at this time.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion or items, the meeting adjourned.