



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
A PROGRAM OF LAND OF SKY

French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization
Minutes from the Governing Board meeting on September 24, 2015

Meeting Date:

09/24/2015

| 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 | Brownie | Newman | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Haywood County | Michael | Sorrells | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laurel Park, Town of | George | Banta | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCBOT, Division 13 | David | Brown | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCBOT, Division 14 | Jack | Debnam | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural Transit Providers | Carol | Edwards | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waynesville, Town of | LeRov | 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"/> |

| Alternates/Agencies and Other Non Voting At TAC | | | |
|--|----------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Apple Country Transit | Matt | Champion | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce | Jeff | Joyce | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe County | Josh | O'Conner | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe County | Karla | Furnari | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CAMPO | Paul | Black | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC | Tristan | Winkler | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC | Lyuba | Zuveva | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC | Zia | Rifkin | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FHWA | Mitch | Batuzich | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FHWA | Joe | Geigle | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FHWA | John | Sullivan | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mountain True | Julie | Mayfield | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13 | Kristina | Solberg | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13 | Rickv | Tipton | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13 | Jay | Swain | <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"/> Weaverville, Town of | Selena | Coffey | <input type="checkbox"/> |

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS, APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Doug Dearth called the meeting to order and requested that introductions be made. He read the conflict of interest statement and inquired if there were any conflicts of interest to note for today's meeting. None were heard. Chairman Dearth introduced Selena Coffey, Town Manager for the Town of Weaverville. The agenda was presented for approval with no modifications requested.

Eddie Henderson moved to approve the Agenda. Jan Davis seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were presented.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2040 MTP

Doug Dearth opened the public hearing for the 2040 MTP. No public comments were presented. The public hearing was closed.

CONSENT AGENDA

- August minutes

Jerry Vehaun moved 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.
- Brendan Merithew shared that there were no Planning Branch updates at this time.
- No FHWA updates were provided.

Doug Dearth took a moment to recognize Jan Davis who is completing his 12 years of service on the Asheville City Council and will not be seeking reelection. The MPO Board expressed its appreciation to Jan Davis for his loyal and faithful service to the citizens of the region and commemorated the occasion by presenting him with a certificate of appreciation.

Tristan Winkler provided subcommittee updates:

- Complete Streets and Greenways Workgroup will be meeting October 7th- the main item that will be discussed is the incorporation of NACTO into some of the cross-section recommendations.
- Prioritization Subcommittee did not meet today- the meeting will be rescheduled for October, at which time the group will examine the possible revision of the MPO SPOT methodology.
- Transit Operators Workgroup will be rescheduling the October meeting due to a conflicting conference.
- Citizens Advisory Committee and MTP Executive Committee met September 9th- more information will be presented during the MTP update.

Lyuba Zuyeva talked about the Doodle poll set up to identify a better MPO Board meeting time. For now the responses show the 9:00 am meeting start time as the best meeting time for the Board

members who have responded. The poll will be kept open for a bit longer in order to gather additional responses.

Lyuba Zuyeva summarized Legislative updates. Still no Federal Transportation bill- there may be another extension through December. With regards to North Carolina, the General Assembly passed a budget- this budget now allows city and town governments to charge a \$30-per-year local vehicle tax, replacing an existing \$5-per-year tax. Of the \$30, \$5 can be used for any purpose, and \$5 can be used to back public transportation. Any additional tax levied, up to \$20, must be used for street improvements. Some cities, such as Raleigh, already have the ability to charge fees higher than \$5. The budget also increases DMV and license fees. The budget also caps all STI funding for light rail projects at \$500,000 per project. This limitation applies to federal as well as state funding. There would still be other pots of funding through which light rail could be funded (local sales tax, federal grants, TIFIA etc.) but this would limit efforts to build a light rail line in the Triangle (Durham-Orange line). Because Wake County is not looking at light rail, but rather at other transportation modes, it will not be impacted by the \$500,000 cap. Legislators have agreed to privatize North Carolina's \$15 billion Medicaid program. The annual \$216 million transfer from the Highway Fund to the General Fund is ended. This makes more state funding available for transportation needs. The budget also restores Historic Preservation Tax Credits while State tax credits for solar and other renewable energy projects got cut. The budget introduces additional sales taxes on services that were not previously taxed.

NEW BUSINESS

SPOT 4.0 Project Deletions

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that at this time only the SPOT 4.0 Project Deletions would be presented. The MPO has until November 20th to enter new projects for SPOT 4.0. She reviewed the projects that were discussed as candidates for deletion during the August MPO Board meeting. Chairman Dearth asked for a motion to approve only the deletions at this time.

Marc Hunt moved to approve the SPOT 4.0 Projects scheduled for deletion and Jan Davis seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Discussion occurred regarding project #141972- the I-40 widening essentially from the NC Farmer's Market to Porter's Cove Road in Swannanoa- Marc Hunt was curious about the methodology used regarding that project which is planned to be funded at \$128 million as that takes up a lot of the funding available for that portion of the TIP. Rick Tipton shared his understanding regarding the cost of the project that is in its earliest stage, which if it scored high enough would probably be funded out of the Statewide Tier which is usually reserved for bigger Interstate projects and would not affect the funding for the local projects in the Tier. Lyuba Zuyeva commented the Travel Demand Model can be used to look up the traffic flow for the corridor but the model impacts are not available yet.

MTP Adoption

Tristan Winkler reminded the Board that the draft MTP was presented at the August Board meeting and has been available on the MPO website since August 27th. Several public outreach events have been held throughout the region. The 2040 MTP public comment period closed on September 18th. The plan employs fiscal constraint and early on the MPO staff met with the Citizens Advisory Committee and the MTP Executive Committee in order to develop the mission and vision for the plan. He shared that the MTP contains eight goals and two of those have been slightly modified at the request of the MPO Board to include specific language for highways. The MTP can be found at the following link: <http://www.fbrmpo.org/metropolitan-transportation-plan-mtp/>.

Tristan Winkler shared that a lot of support was heard for bike/pedestrian projects in the MTP to provide a safer environment for everyone. Another item noted was that the East/West Asheville Neighborhood Association distributed a survey that received over 200 responses- including some support for and some opposition to the I-26 Connector Project that would run through the Burton Street Neighborhood.

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that the project list presented today shows some small changes related to project descriptions (primarily for Wilma Dykeman Riverway Projects) and that after discussions with FHWA staff, MPO staff recommend some of the TCC-recommended modifications with additional modification to be possible as a future MTP and TIP amendment. Lyuba Zuyeva discussed the various project description modifications which were recommended from committee members and also based on public comment.

Discussion occurred regarding the inclusion of Complete Streets elements which is a state policy and an expectation moving forward. There was also discussion regarding the projects included in the first five years of the MTP and the need for Board members to understand the level of flexibility with regards to making changes to those projects that are in the MTP. It was shared that there is time for the project as it is not in the design phase yet. The preference is to coordinate with the Division.

Jan Davis moved to approve the adoption of the 2040 MTP. Don Farr seconded and as all were in favor the motion carried.

I-26 Connector Project Informational Update

John Sullivan with NCDOT introduced the consultant team who would provide the I-26 Connector Project update (STIP Project No. I-2513). This information was being presented to respond to earlier concerns about the project. The presentation can be found at the following link:

[http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/150923_I-2513-150924-](http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/150923_I-2513-150924-FBRMPO_Presentation.pdf)

[FBRMPO Presentation.pdf](http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/150923_I-2513-150924-FBRMPO_Presentation.pdf). The consultant team also discussed the growth forecast for the area based on the different models provided.

Discussion occurred regarding the Whorley historic property and whether there had been communication with the State's Historic Resource Department and whether there would be any adverse effects due to the route of the project.

Doug Dearth thanked the consultants for the presentation and commented that this puts an entirely different feel on the project than where we were a few years ago.

Extension of JARC Projects

Lyuba Zuyeva shared some of the history for the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funding, which was a former type of funding for public transportation under SAFTEA-LU that was consolidated into Section 5307 under the current transportation law, MAP-21. Since that time, 10% of the region's FTA Section 5307 funds have been set aside by the MPO for JARC call for projects. The Transit Operators Workgroup recommends that the call for projects be postponed this year while waiting on regional 5307 funding allocation study, and projects set to expire be extended for one year. The two projects asking for an extension of JARC funding are the ART Route 170 which serves Black Mountain and Warren Wilson College and the ART Limited Sunday Service (nine routes). The projects are looking for funding extensions through FY16/17.

Brownie Newman moved to approve the postponement of the full JARC call for projects and to extend the projects set to expire for one year. Leroy Roberson seconded the motion which was approved upon a vote and without further discussion.

5310 Call for Projects

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that the MPO plans to hold a call for projects for FTA Section 5310 funds (geared towards transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities) made available to the Asheville Urbanized Area. While the City is the current designated recipient of the 5310 funding, the MPO is responsible for holding a call for projects, and holding selection committee meetings to assist in programming of these funds. She presented the draft schedule for the 5310 Call for Projects which proposes opening the call for projects on Friday, September 25, 2015. The deadline to submit project applications will be November 25, 2015. After project applications are received, the Selection Committee (Agency list provided and subject to no Direct Conflict of Interest) will meet to approve the projects and the Transit Operators Group will meet to review selection results. She stated that approval for the timeline and Selection Committee membership list is being requested at this time.

Consensus was provided that timeline and Selection Committee composition approval be granted.

Bike/Pedestrian Planning Grants

Tristan Winkler shared that this is the grant that is available from the Bike/Pedestrian Division of NCDOT. Applications will be due by November 20th. For this year, Flat Rock, Laurel Park and Weaverville intend to apply for the grant funds. Part of the application includes a letter of support from the MPO.

Don Farr moved to approve the MPO to provide suggested Resolutions supporting the Bike/Pedestrian grant applications to NCDOT, George Banta seconded and the motion carried upon a vote.

5307 Sub-Allocation Formula Study

Tristan Winkler shared that the sub-allocation study on the region's urban transit funds will be starting soon with negotiations currently underway with a consultant. A suggestion has been put forth by the Transit Operators Workgroup to establish a Steering Committee composed of one staff member and one TCC member from each of the Transit Operators that will be involved in the

Study. Tristan Winkler shared that two counties (Madison and Transylvania) will not take part in the study.

Leroy Roberson moved to support the Sub-Allocation Formula Study and the proposed composition of a Steering Committee. Brownie Newman seconded and the motion carried upon a vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The LOSRC Annual Celebration and Friends of the River Awards Banquet is coming up on October 14th at the Asheville Ballroom and Dance Centre.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

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