



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
A PROGRAM OF LAND OF SKY

**French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
Minutes from the Governing Board meeting on October 29, 2015 c-2

**Meeting Date:**

**10/29/2015**

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, Town of	Ryan	Stone	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe Countv	Ellen	Frost	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe County	Brownie	Newman	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clvde, Town of	James	Mashburn	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fletcher, Town of	Eddie	Henderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henderson County	William	Lapslev	<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"/> NCBOT, Division 14	Jack	Debnam	<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"/> Asheville, City of	Gwen	Wisler	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe County Board of Commissioners	Joe	Belcher	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Zia	Rifkin	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Tristan	Winkler	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Lvuba	Zuveva	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LOSRC	Erica	Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mountain True	Julie	Mayfield	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT TPB	Brendan	Merithew	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Rick	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"/>

**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. The agenda was presented for approval with no modifications requested.

***Jerry Vehaun moved to approve the Agenda. George Banta seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.***

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chairman Dearth called for any public comment. Michelle Pacewood, a member of the Enka-Candler Business Association and local resident commented on the Liberty Road Interchange which is scheduled to begin in 2021. She also requested that the FBRMPO and NCDOT examine the traffic back-up at Exit 44. She shared that most of the groups in the Enka-Candler area are interested in this matter and these groups have provided most of the comments on the transportation projects planned for that area. She also expressed concern regarding the intersection on Sand Hill Road as that area has a new school, new housing development and a lot of tourists and bicyclists- she communicated the need to have safe transportation options for those travelers. She also commented that the proposed I-40 Liberty Road Interchange—Ms. Pacewood indicated that this interchange is needed in order to begin promoting tourism in that area.

## **PUBLIC HEARING TIP AMENDMENTS**

Chairman Dearth opened the Public Hearing for the TIP Amendments. No public comments were heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- September Minutes
- STP-DA Flex to FTA 5307 Funding for US 70 Bus Stops Project

***Jerry Vehaun made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. George Banta provided a second 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 the Planning Branch updates.
- FHWA updates –no updates at this time

Lyuba Zuyeva provided legislative updates. No FHWA shutdown tomorrow! The current transportation bill was set to expire on October 29<sup>th</sup>—The House and Senate have passed a 22-day extension till November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Congress has been working on the long-term transportation bill. The Senate's version of a six-year highway bill identifies three years of funding. The House bill that was recently marked up by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee might be on the House floor as early as next week. The Ways and Means Committee will have to discuss where the funding will be coming from.

At the state level, the annual \$216 million transfer from the Highway Fund to the General Fund is ended. This makes more money available for transportation needs. Because of additional funding available, there will be changes made to the 2016-2025 STIP. Projects submitted and scored but not funded in SPOT 3.0 will be the ones most likely to receive additional funding out of this new pot of funding. The Board of Transportation will see the first draft in December, with expected adoption in January. FBRMPO will need to look at parallel amendments in January or February.

The State Court of Appeals on Tuesday 10/6 upheld a 2013 law mandating transfer of the Asheville water system to the Metropolitan Sewerage District. The City of Asheville will likely appeal the decision to the state Supreme Court. Other transportation legislation of interest included minimum standards and annual state registration adopted for “transportation network companies” like Uber, Lyft and Sidecar. HB44 was passed with road diet provisions removed from the bill. Huerta is heading to the Senate Appropriations transportation subcommittee this morning (Thursday 10/29) to explain more about plans to integrate drones into the national airspace.

Tristan Winkler provided subcommittee updates:

- Complete Streets and Greenways Workgroup met on October 7<sup>th</sup> to revisit the inclusion of NACTO elements.
- Modeling/Data Workgroup - no meetings are scheduled
- Prioritization Subcommittee met today to work on MPO SPOT Methodology; planning to meet prior to the MPO Board on November 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Transit Operators Workgroup did not meet but a call was issued for 5310 projects.
- Citizens Advisory Committee and MTP Executive Committee have no meetings scheduled.

Lyuba Zuyeva indicated that there have been some proposed staff changes in NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch. A letter was sent on behalf of FBRMPO Board by the Chair, reaching out to NCDOT regarding Mr. Merithew’s position. She also announced there would be a Public Hearing on November 16<sup>th</sup> for the I-26 Connector Project at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Asheville. More information can be found at the following link:

<http://www.ncdot.gov/projects/i26connector/>

Regarding the 5307 Sub-Allocation Formula Study Updates, Ms. Zuyeva shared that MPO staff are still waiting on final okay from the State to sign the funding letter for this study. Preliminary results will likely be available before June 2016.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **TIP Amendments**

Tristan Winkler presented the TIP Amendments that have been advertised for public comment. Those can be found at the following link: <http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/TIP-Amendments.pdf>.

Ed Green shared that some of the project descriptions were not accurate. Discussion occurred regarding whether those amendments would have to be pulled until the administrative changes could be made.

***Marc Hunt moved to approve the Resolution to adopt modifications to the 2016-2025 TIP (TIP Amendments) with the exception of the projects noted by Ed Green and Steve Caraker seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.***

Discussion occurred regarding the best approach to handle the administrative changes to the projects noted and it was determined that the Board could authorize MPO staff to make those changes.

***Brownie Newman moved to approve the MPO staff to make the needed administrative changes to the projects that had inaccurate descriptions and to include those amendments in the TIP modifications. Jerry Vehaun seconded and the motion carried without further discussion***

### **SPOT Prioritization and Adoption of New Project List**

Lyuba Zuyeva presented on the SPOT 4.0- SPOT, including important upcoming dates for SPOT 4.0. She communicated that the MPO has been given an extension for submitting new projects to SPOT until November 20<sup>th</sup>. The MPO has until April 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 to determine SPOT methodology for assigning points after which projects will be assigned points during April and May of 2016. Ms. Zuyeva provided an example of some of the projects that will need to be re-prioritized.

Discussion occurred regarding the I-26 Connector project to determine which parts of the project have funding committed.

It was also communicated by Lyuba Zuyeva that the Amboy Road project on the SPOT list did not have its language modified to match the MTP adopted description, because the project description discussion took place after September 1<sup>st</sup> when SPOT project modifications were due. MPO staff did not submit those modifications for Amboy Road to SPOT office; however, those modifications were made in the MTP project descriptions.

***LeRoy Roberson moved to approve the adoption of the new project list for SPOT 4.0 Prioritization. Brownie seconded and as all were in favor the motion carried.***

### **5310 Transportation for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities**

Tristan Winkler provided an overview of FTA Section 5310 funding and what types of projects might be eligible for funding during the current regional call for projects open through November 25, 2015. This item was provided for information only.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Lyuba Zuyeva indicated that the I-26 Connector Public Hearing will be held on November 16<sup>th</sup> at the Renaissance Hotel downtown.

November 19<sup>th</sup> will be a joint MPO Board/TCC meeting, with the start time tentatively planned for 11:30am- an announcement confirming the time will be sent out. MPO Board meeting will start at 12:30pm.

The Doodle poll will be re-sent and open until a week from Friday. New poll will only include three meeting times. If a clear favorite is not identified- we will stay with the current meeting time.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment at this time.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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