



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
A PROGRAM OF LAND OF SKY

French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization
Minutes from the TCC meeting on January 14, 2016

Meeting Date:

01/14/2016

Representing	VotingTCC		Via Phone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Apple Country Transit	Matt	Champion	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of	Ken	Putnam	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of - Transit	Mariate	Echeverry	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biltmore Forest, Town of	Jonathan	Kanipe	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe County	Josh	O'Conner	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fletcher, Town of	Mark	Biberdorf	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henderson County	Autumn	Radcliff	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hendersonville, City of	Susan	Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mountain Mobility	Denise	Braine	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Rickv	Tioton	<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"/> Wavnesville, Town of	Elizabeth	Teague	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weaverville, Town of	James	Eller	<input type="checkbox"/>

Non Voting At TCC			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chipley Consulting	Sealy	Chipley	<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	Lyuba	Zuyeva	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FHWA	Mitch	Batuzich	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LOSRC	Erica	Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LOSRPO	Vicki	Eastland	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Kristina	Solberg	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Wanda	Austin	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Joel	Setzer	<input type="checkbox"/>

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Josh O'Conner opened the meeting and introductions followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

Josh O’Conner indicated that the Consent Agenda included November minutes. He requested that the Agenda be approved at this time as well.

Mark Biberdorf moved to approve the Consent Agenda items and the Agenda as presented. Ken Putnam seconded and the motion carried.

REGULAR UPDATES

Regular updates included NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates and MPO Subcommittee and Staff updates. FHWA/FTA updates were also presented. No TPB updates were presented. Lyuba Zuyeva shared that she will be out on leave during the March and April meetings.

Lyuba Zuyeva provided state and federal legislative updates including: the state House has a new committee- Strategic Transportation Planning and Long Term Funding Solutions Committee; also at the state level, HB-232 recommended that a committee be formed to take a look at bicycle safety laws; the draft recommendations based on the committee’s discussion and NCDOT recommendations included several changes to bicycle roadway travel rules and regulations; the draft report has garnered many comments during the public comment phase. More information can be found at the following link: <http://www.bikewalknc.org/2016/01/ncdot-releases-final-report-on-h232-study-to-legislature/> On the federal side, the 2016 Omnibus Appropriations Bill was adopted on December 18th and provides a total of \$76 billion for the entire US Department of Transportation during FY2016. A five-year federal transportation bill- the FAST Act was adopted in December, which creates a new formula program for highway freight projects and establishes a new grant program for large-scale freight projects; the STP becomes a block grant program under the Act which increases the STP sub allocation to local governments to 55% and rolls the TAP into the STP. The FAST Act also reinstates a competitive grant program for bus/bus facilities funding with a 10% set aides for rural projects; the bill authorizes appropriations from the general fund of the Treasury in an amount of \$12 billion over five years for mass transit and \$10 billion over five years for Amtrak and other passenger rail programs. Highway spending is expected to grow by 2.1 to 2.4 percent per year after 2016, while mass transit spending would grow at about 2.1 percent per year. These authorizations are subject to the annual appropriations process and may or may not materialize.

Lyuba Zuyeva provided an update on the 5307 Sub-Allocation Formula Study. The contract with the consultant has been signed and work should begin by the end of the month. A Steering Committee is being formed. The study will continue over the course of the next nine months.

BUSINESS

TIP Amendments Including 5310 and LAPP Project Changes

Tristan Winkler communicated that MPO approval has been requested for a number of TIP Amendments and Modifications including: six new projects added to the TIP due to additional revenue from HB-97; three in Division 13 and three in Division 14; 13 projects accelerated in the TIP due to additional revenue from HB-97; two LAPP projects modified at the request of sponsoring governments; three public transit projects generated by the 5310 Call for Projects; and two roadway projects modified at the request of

NCDOT. Section B of the I-26 Connector is one of the projects being accelerated which makes the project committed in the STIP.

Discussion occurred regarding the Broadway Street project and the bicycle projects as those are considered very important by the City of Asheville. Discussion also occurred regarding the Blue Ridge Road project in Black Mountain and it was shared that there is another project in Black Mountain that is being accelerated.

Mariate Echeverry requested that the 5310 projects and the administrative oversight funds have the Transit Partner changed from Asheville Redefines Transit to the City of Asheville.

Ken Putnam moved to approve the list of TIP Amendments and Modifications as modified through discussion at today's meeting and for those to be recommended to the MPO Board for adoption. Jonathan Kanipe seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

SPOT Methodology Update

Tristan Winkler shared that the Prioritization Subcommittee has been working on the draft SPOT 4.0 Methodology and he provided an overview of the current draft methodology and some major changes from SPOT 3.0. The proposed methodology will open for public comment on February 10, 2016 after which it will come back before the TCC for final approval and recommendation to be taken up by the MPO Board in March. The final methodology must be approved by the MPO Board and NCDOT respectively, by April 1, 2016.

Tristan Winkler also shared some of the important dates for the SPOT schedule which included May 26, 2016 as the deadline by which the MPO Board needs to approve the local input points for Regional Impact projects. Joel Setzer clarified that the meetings in May would be for the assignment of local points for final SPOT selections.

No action required.

Request for STP-DA Flex Set-Aside for TDM Program

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that the Regional Transportation Demand Management Program is currently in the process of being initiated, with the final contract between Land of Sky Regional Council and NCDOT signed in November of 2015 and the hiring process currently underway. This Regional TDM Program relies on an NCDOT grant (renewed annually) and previously the match for the Regional TDM Program was allocated by the FRBRMPO Board as a set-aside from STP-DA funds for one year only. NCDOT grant application for annual TDM funding is due every January and for FY 2017 NCDOT has increased available state TDM funding for the FBRMPO region to \$45,000. The Prioritization Subcommittee recommended during its December 18, 2015 meeting that the French Broad River MPO Board strategically set-aside STP-DA Flex funds for continuation of TDM Program for three years, at \$50,000 per year or up to \$150,000 total over the course of three years from FY 2017 through FY 2019 which is the recommendation being made to the TCC.

The Regional TDM Program is expected to benefit the entirety of the French Broad River MPO region and is not targeting any one jurisdiction specifically. The NCDOT TDM grant (expected to be renewed annually), has no additional local match required to utilize STP-DA Flex funds for this program. Setting aside funding for three years will provide more stability for this programs and will mean that the MPO Board does not have to take it up every year.

Discussion occurred regarding the perceived need to match the NCDOT grant. It was determined that the STP-DA funding amount for three years would remain flexible, to match NCDOT grant each year and not to exceed \$75,000 in any one year as the intent is to fill a full-time TDM coordinator position with those funds. The hope is to have the funds earmarked for next three years to get the TDM program well-established

Mariate Echeverry moved to recommend the STP-DA Flex set aside for the TDM Program for three years of funding (to match NCDOT grant funding amount, not to exceed \$75,000 per year). Mark Biberdorf seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Draft UPWP and 5-Year Plan Adoption

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that NCDOT's Public Transportation Division has worked to synchronize their funding approval from the Federal Transit Administration with the beginning of the state fiscal year on July 1st. This creates the need to push back the MPO UPWP development to January to allow transit funding to be in place at the start of the state fiscal year. Lyuba Zuyeva shared that the UPWP for the FBRMPO documents the transportation planning activities and related tasks to be accomplished during the fiscal years of 2016-2017. She noted that this is a draft UPWP and Five-Year Plan before the TCC today and that the final documents will come back for adoption in March. Lyuba Zuyeva highlighted some of the program items: the CTP update should be underway in FY 2017, also will be updating some of the data including major employer data. She continued that outreach will be made to freight stakeholders and that some language has been added to the document regarding walkability analysis and pedestrian needs identification assistance to local jurisdictions with the goal of identifying pedestrian projects for the CTP. Lyuba Zuyeva noted that the majority of items in the PWP are a continuation of ongoing business. Those items include: implement the MTP items the MPO is responsible for, ongoing data collection, SPOT 4 and 5, as needed; TIP maintenance and project development, NEPA merger participation; UPWP development and performance monitoring; public involvement and Civil Rights processes; NCAMPO and statewide stakeholder groups; Board and subcommittee/workgroup support.

During discussion, Denise Braine communicated that some revision to the description of the research into feasibility of creation of a Regional Transit Authority and the housing of the TDM program needed to be added to the document. Lyuba Zuyeva acknowledged the changes and also noted that were some formatting revisions/edits that needed to be made to the draft documents.

In response to a question about potential new planning studies, MPO staff shared that the Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP) training is planned for January 22nd at Land of Sky offices and that there will be another call for projects for STP-DA and TAP funds, which could fund planning studies as well as capital projects. If new planning studies are funded, they will be added to the FY 2017 UPWP at a later date. For this round of STP-DA and TAP funding, there may be upwards of \$12 million available.

Ken Putnam moved to advance the draft UPWP and the draft Five-Year Plan calendar to the MPO Board for consideration. James Eller seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

5310 Transportation for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Projects

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that the French Broad River MPO held a call for 5310 projects (FTA Transportation for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) in the fall of 2015; the final application deadline was extended

through December 23, 2015. Five applications were received and the 5310 Selection Committee met on January 8th to make recommendations for funding. The projects recommended for funding were made available to the TCC. Lyuba Zuyeva noted that the project focused on ADA Improvements to the Downtown Transit Station (City of Asheville project) would be funded at less than requested in order to meet the required percentage of 5310 Traditional projects (at least 55%). Lyuba Zuyeva shared that the proposed allocation of funding allows the MPO to drawdown a full year of 5310 funding.

Mark Biberdorf moved to recommend the 5310 funding allocations for applications reviewed favorably to the Board. Jonathan Kanipe seconded and as all were in favor the motion carried.

I-26 Connector

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that the I-26 Connector Project issue came up before the MPO Board in November and at that time it was decided to wait until January before making a recommendation to NCDOT regarding the project. Lyuba Zuyeva reviewed the City of Asheville's comments to the project including the recommendations for that contained in the resolution that was passed by the City Council. She communicated that more information may be presented on the I-26 Connector Project during the Travel Demand Model updates and Traffic Forecasting presentation after this meeting. There appears to be a regional consensus that this project needs to move forward in some form, and staff is requesting that the TCC indicate how to proceed.

Rick Tipton shared that the appropriate place for the MPO to provide input would be as part of the Merger Team and he recommended holding off until more data about the project has been received.

Discussion occurred regarding when more data would be available and it was shared that NCDOT plans to revisit the project design based on the new forecast results; but that may not be done until March.

Also, during discussion it was clarified that the business before the TCC regards whether the body wants to provide a recommendation that the MPO Board consider submitting comments the project. Josh O'Connor shared his opinion that putting forth comment on this issue should be left to the discretion of the MPO Board and he requested that a motion be made that TCC remain neutral on this issue.

Joel Setzer moved to approve that the TCC defer the decision to make comment on the I-26 Connector Project to the MPO Board. Denise Braine seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES

Lyuba Zuyeva announced the Locally Administrated Projects Program (LAPP) training is scheduled for Friday, January 22, 2016 at Land of Sky offices.

Women in Transportation will host a lunch and learn next Wednesday from 12:00 to 1:00pm in downtown Asheville at the Fire/Police Training Room. The topic will be Transit Technologies.

Women in Transportation/Triangle Chapter and NCDOT will be among the hosts for the Southeast Rail Forum in Raleigh on March 16-18, 2016.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were presented.

ADJOURNMENT

Josh O'Conner adjourned the meeting as there was no further business.