



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
A PROGRAM OF LAND OF SKY

French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization
Minutes from the Governing Board meeting on May 26, 2016 (c-2)

Attendance

Representing	VotingTAC		Via Phone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of	Jule	Mavfield	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of	Gwen	Wisler	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black Mountain, Town of	Rvan	Stone	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe County	Brownie	Newman	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Canton, Town of	Ralph	Hamlett	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clyde, Town of	James	Mashburn	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flat Rock, Village of	John	Dockendorf	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Haywood County	Michael	Sorrells	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henderson County	William	Lapslev	<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"/> Rural Transit Providers	Carole	Edwards	<input checked="" 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"/> Black Mountain, Town of	Larry	Harris	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe County	Josh	O'Conner	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Canton, Town of	Jason	Burrell	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ecosystem Services	Chris	Tomsic	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ecosystem Services	Jon	Neumann	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Lvuba	Zuveva	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Tristan	Winkler	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FHWA	Mike	Dawson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FHWA	Mitch	Batuzich	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land of Sky	Ritchie	Rozzelle	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LOSRC	Erica	Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT TPB	Brendan	Merithew	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT TPB	Zack	O'Keefe	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Kristina	Solberg	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Jav	Swain	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Rick	Tipton	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Jonathan	Woodard	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Ed	Green	<input type="checkbox"/>

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS, APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Dearth called the meeting to order, read the Ethics Statement and inquired if there were any conflicts of interest to note for today's meeting. None were heard. He requested that introductions be made. The agenda was presented for approval with no modification requested.

Ryan Stone moved to approve the agenda as presented. Brownie Newman seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Dearth called for any public comment. No public comment was made.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

Chairman Dearth opened the hearing for the TIP Amendments. Hearing no public comment, he closed the hearing. Lyuba Zuyeva shared that the amendments have been advertised and that no comments have been received.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Amendments

Chairman Dearth opened the hearing for the MTP Amendments. Hearing no public comment, he closed the hearing. Lyuba Zuyeva shared that the changes have been advertised and no comments have been received.

CONSENT AGENDA

- March Minutes
- FY 2017 UPWP Amendments

Brownie Newman moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Ryan Stone seconded and as all were in favor, the Consent Agenda was approved.

REGULAR UPDATES

- Rick Tipton provided Division 13 updates and Ed Green provided Division 14 updates.
- Brendan Merithew shared the Planning Branch updates. Mr. Merithew indicated he will be transitioning out of his NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch role.
- Mitch Batuzich provided FHWA updates. Mr. Batuzich is transferring to another FHWA office and Mike Dawson will be the interim FHWA specialist appointed to work with the French Broad River MPO region.
- Lyuba Zuyeva shared that MPO staff attended the NCAMPO Conference earlier in May.
 - Prioritization Subcommittee met under new Bylaws and with the new Board-appointed roster on April 28th. It also met today.
 - Transit Operators Workgroup met on February 2, 2016 and the next scheduled meeting will be June 7th.
 - Citizens Advisory Committee met in March, next meeting planned for June.
- Lyuba Zuyeva provided Legislative Updates. At the federal level, there has been

movement on the FY 17 Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill. The Senate's version keeps the rescission of unobligated highway contract authority in place. Both the House and the Senate versions adhere to the FAST Act spending levels and provide TIGER funds although at differing levels. ARC non-highways funding was contained in the FY17 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill which was recently approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee. The House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee also recently approved its version of the FY17 spending bill. At the state level, the House passed its budget draft last week. The legislation proposes to remove the cap on light rail projects. The Federal Lands Access Funding (FLAP) call for projects is expected to be open in our region from mid-August through October.

NEW BUSINESS

Prioritization Update

Tristan Winkler provided an overview of the SPOT prioritization process and the Regional tier projects local points assignment by MPOs, RPOs and Divisions. He shared the results of the Statewide Mobility Tier scoring. None of the 10 projects submitted for Statewide Mobility category in SPOT scoring were funded in the current round; the FBRMPO region had done very well in the last round.

Tristan Winkler next gave an overview of the FBRMPO's role in overall project scoring for Regional Impact tier projects. Per the MPO's methodology, projects in the Statewide Mobility tier are not automatically cascaded, but if requests are received for projects to cascade, decisions can be made on a case by case basis by the MPO Board. Three requests to cascade Statewide Mobility projects have been received. The MPO Board will need to decide whether to cascade those, in order to finalize preliminary local input point allocation for Regional Impact tier projects. Results will be taken out for public comment beginning next week.

Tristan Winkler next shared that the Prioritization Subcommittee has recommended that should the Board vote to cascade a project, the first project to come off the Regional Impact list should be the NC 146 Long Shoals Road project in Buncombe County; the Dellwood Road Project in Haywood County should be the second and the South Main Street Project in Haywood County should be the third if multiple projects cascade.

Lyuba Zuyeva next shared some of the pros and cons of cascading the three projects submitted for cascading review. The Blue Ridge Road Interchange is different from the other two projects that are considered for cascading because it is not a sibling project to another already-funded interstate widening project. Blue Ridge Road Interchange, if not cascaded at this point, is likely to drop out of the STIP/TIP entirely and will need to be resubmitted in the next round. The I-26 Connector Section A would be a very large portion of overall Regional Impact Tier funding available--\$136 million out of \$146 million available.

Discussion occurred regarding the impact of cascading one project on the three Haywood County projects. Additional discussion occurred regarding local TAC committees and how decisions are made to prioritize projects. Larry Harris emphasized the support that the Blue Ridge Road Interchange project has in the Black Mountain community. The project was close to being funded 15 years ago and there was some disagreement about the project previously. Today, the community and the Town's Leadership are consistently in support of this project.

Julie Mayfield moved to cascade the Blue Ridge Road Interchange Project, to not cascade the other two projects, and to approve resulting Regional Impact Tier points allocation as discussed. The motion received a second and carried upon a vote.

Comments were received from local interests in the Black Mountain area and appreciation was shared for the motion made. Other comments included that the project would provide a safer way for trucks to get on and off the interstate, rather than traveling through downtown Black Mountain. A representative from Montreat College commented that the Board of Trustees is determined to develop its property which includes a border along Blue Ridge Road and further development is expected with increased demand for the Interchange.

SPOT scores for Statewide Mobility and Regional Impact are available at the following link:

http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/SPOT_Scores.pdf

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that there was also a request to transfer points (21) from the Land of Sky RPO (LOSRPO) to the FBRMPO for the US 276 Jonathan Creek Road Modernization Project in Haywood County which is in both the LOSRPO and the FBRMPO regions.

LeRoy Roberson moved to approve accepting the request to move 21 points from the LOSRPO to the FBRMPO for the US 276 Jonathan Creek Road Modernization Project. Brownie Newman seconded and the motion carried upon a vote.

Tristan Winkler shared that public input process would begin next week with an aggressive schedule. Results of those meetings will be distilled and be brought back to the MPO Board at the June meeting.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that there are a number of proposed Amendments and modifications which are requesting FBRMPO approval including: the addition of Broadpointe Drive with ARC funding; the addition of several statewide projects; and cost increases for bridge maintenance on I-40. Julie Mayfield inquired about the I-40 bridge rehabilitation and Rick Tipton shared that it's a bridge deck resurfacing project.

Julie Mayfield moved to approve the Resolution to Adopt Amendments to the 2016-2025 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ryan Stone seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Amendments

Tristan Winkler shared that there are a number of Amendments proposed to the twenty-five year Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) due to projects added to the TIP by an increase in funding from the NC State Budget (HB97) and ARC funds. He shared that those amendments are meant to realign the MTP with the TIP/STIP and he highlighted the proposed amendments including: the addition of R-5771 (Broadpointe Drive) into Horizon 1 (2016-2020); the addition of several projects into Horizon 2 (2021-2025); and the acceleration of I-4409 (Blue Ridge Road Interchange on I-40) into Horizon 2 (2021-2025). No comments were received during the 56-day comment period.

LeRoy Roberson moved to approve the Resolution to Adopt Amendments to the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Julie Mayfield seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Local Spotlight- The Town of Canton and Division 14

Jason Burrell, Assistant Town Manager/Economic Development Director for the Town of Canton presented on a recent project where the Town was able to collaborate with Division 14. The Town has made plans for streetscape improvement to Main Street corridor in downtown Canton.

Division 14 was set to start a road resurfacing along the same corridor and agreed to coordinate schedules so that the Town of Canton could develop and implement its sidewalks and streetscape project in parallel with resurfacing. The Town of Canton is currently doing planned sidewalk work and some needed stormwater and streetscape improvements, while NCDOT is able to upgrade the curb ramps as part of resurfacing.

Jonathan Woodard (NCDOT Division 14) shared that the challenging part was that the resurfacing contract had already been let but the contractor was amenable to being flexible. The road resurfacing project was delayed by about two months in order to allow the Town to get their streetscape project developed.

Discussion occurred regarding whether there was an average cost estimate for the cost of the sidewalk per square foot, and it was shared that those numbers would be provided at a later time. Discussion also occurred regarding which funding sources the Town is using to pay for the project and it was shared that the Town approved using some existing funds from the current fiscal year budget that were diverted to this project. The remainder of the funds will probably be re-allocated from the Powell bill. The Town's expense was around \$120,000. Improvements included pedestrian crossings, ADA upgrades and stormwater improvements. Jonathan Woodard shared that Division 14 enjoys a collaborative relationship with the Town of Canton. This project is a big improvement and will make a real difference for the Town and hopefully aid the economic development efforts as well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Dearth called for any public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Dearth adjourned the meeting with no further business before the body.