

Technical Coordinating Committee

October 13, 2016 – 11:00 A.M., Land of Sky Offices

Agenda

1. **WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING (10 min)**

 - A. Welcome and Introductions, Approval of Agenda Josh O’Conner

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

3. **CONSENT AGENDA** Josh O’Conner

 - A. September Minutes

4. **REGULAR UPDATES (15 min)**

 - A. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates Jay Swain/Ed Greene or Designee
 - B. Transportation Planning Branch Updates Pam Cook
 - C. FHWA/FTA Updates Michael Dawson
 - D. Subcommittee/Workgroup Reports, Staff Updates, and Housekeeping MPO Staff
 - E. Biltmore Avenue Project Update MPO Staff
 - F. Legislative Updates MPO Staff

5. **BUSINESS (30-45 min)**

 - A. STBG 5307 Flex Resolution (Asheville Transit) MPO Staff
 - B. Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Applications Resolutions of Support MPO Staff
 - C. SPOT Prioritization 4.0 Division Tier Points Allocation MPO Staff
 - D. STBG Projects- Coxe Avenue and Lexington Avenue MPO Staff
 - E. MTP Amendments Preview MPO Staff
 - F. Active Routes to School Program Jackie Moore and Mary Smith

6. **ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES (15 min)**

7. **TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING? (3 min)**

8. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 3:

Consent Agenda

A. September Minutes

Staff recommends approval of the minutes.

Staff recommends the TCC adopt the minutes.



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
A PROGRAM OF LAND OF SKY

French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization
Minutes from the TCC meeting on September 8, 2016

ATTENDANCE:

Meeting Date:

09/08/2016

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	Elias	Mathes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biltmore Forest, Town of	Jonathan	Kanipe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe County	Denise	Braine	<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"/> Fletcher, Town of	Mark	Biberdorf	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henderson County	Autumn	Radcliff	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Rickv	Tipton	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Brian	Burch	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, TPB	Pam	Cook	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waynesville, Town of	Elizabeth	Teague	<input type="checkbox"/>



Non Voting At TCC			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AVL	Michael	Reisman	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Davenport	Lori	Boyer	<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	Mike	Dawson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Friends of Connect Buncombe	Susan	Malloy	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LOSRPO	Vicki	Eastland	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Cole	Hood	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Kristina	Solberg	<input type="checkbox"/>

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Josh O'Conner opened the meeting and introductions followed.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Josh Harrold moved to approve the Consent Agenda and the Agenda as presented. Ken Putnam seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Josh O'Conner opened the public comment period. No public comments were heard. The public comment period was closed.

REGULAR UPDATES

Regular updates included NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates and TPB and MPO Subcommittee and Staff updates. No legislative updates to report. FHWA/FTA updates were also presented.

BUSINESS

TIP Amendments

Tristan Winkler shared that there are a number of proposed amendments and modifications requesting MPO approval including the addition of a number of STBG and TAP-DA funded projects previously approved by the MPO Board in August 2016. He reviewed the Greenway Projects in Buncombe County which would be added to the TIP pending approval of the amendments and a couple of STBG and TAP-DA projects which were approved by the MPO Board in August 2016. He shared that the City of Asheville's Complete Street Project was not approved by the Board and meetings will be held with stakeholders to further define the project. Tristan Winkler shared that for local governments which applied for STBG funds, once the projects are approved, further information will be provided regarding next steps.

Ken Putnam moved to approve the TIP Amendments as presented and to recommend those to the MPO Board for approval. Elizabeth Teague seconded and the motion carried.

Discussion occurred regarding the STBG funds and it was explained that this term has replaced the STP-DA terminology under the FAST Act. Tristan Winkler slightly more STBG funding will be going to larger MPO regions, including the FBRMPO region, after the FAST Act. TCC members also discussed the proposed call for projects expected to occur in the winter of 2017 for STBG and TAP-DA.

SPOT Prioritization 4.0 Regional Projects Results and Division Tier First Draft

Tristan Winkler provided an update on the STI/SPOT Prioritization process. He reviewed projects which have so far been funded in the Regional Impact Tier or are in the Developmental STIP/TIP as not committed: improvements to the intersection of New Leicester Highway and Patton Avenue- funded; US 19 BUS (Weaverville Highway) at-grade intersection with New Stock Road improvements- funded; Converting I-40 at Blue Ridge Road to an interchange (Statewide Mobility project approved by the Board to be cascaded)- funded; and NC 63 New Leicester Highway from Patton Avenue to Newfound Road for access management and spot intersection improvements- included in the outer years and not committed for funding. Division Needs Tier project points assignment is next, and the MPO has 1,800 local input points to allocate, up to 100 per project. Those 100 points from the MPO make up 25% of a project's total score for Division Needs Tier projects. Tristan Winkler noted that the MPO has an option to cascade Regional projects to be funded in the Division Tier. Because the Division Needs Tier funding is dispersed to each NCDOT Division equally, for the MPO region that equates to considerably more funding for programming in Divisions 13 and 14 than at the Regional Impact Tier level. Tristan Winkler shared that MPO staff is using the prioritization methodology (http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/FBRMPO_SPOTMethodology_Updated.pdf) and that local input meetings are

being held. It is planned that the Prioritization Subcommittee and the MPO Board will receive the draft list of Division Needs Tier projects points assignment on September 22nd, prior to advertising the list for public input in October. The list will come back to the TCC for review and approval on October 13th.

Discussion occurred regarding Transit and Bike/Pedestrian projects as 300 points have been set aside for those as per the methodology. Rick Tipton shared that the funds for Transit and Bike/Pedestrian are separated by the Division and he wondered if that could be addressed through the methodology. Tristan Winkler noted that the results of the scoring process including Bike/Ped projects would be reviewed by the Prioritization Subcommittee. All of the local priority points are not assigned yet.

No action required at this time.

5310 Call for Projects

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that the MPO plans to hold a call for projects for FTA Section 5310 (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) funds made available to the Asheville Urbanized Area. The City of Asheville is the current designated recipient of these funds but the MPO is responsible for holding a call for projects and holding selection committee meetings to help program these funds. She reviewed the draft schedule for the call for projects: as currently planned, the call for projects will open on September 23rd and close on November 23, 2016. Lyuba Zuyeva also shared that the approval process for funds can take about a year before a contract would be in place. Stakeholders have received notice of the call for projects. Funding for additional public transportation for seniors and individuals with disabilities, including innovative strategies not yet utilized in our region is possible.

Discussion occurred regarding the timeline for receiving funds and Denise Braine shared that the process is very difficult to align with the current call for projects cycle. She communicated the need to have the call for projects and approval process moved to start in the spring to allow funds to be available at the beginning of the fiscal year in order to provide more ability to access/use the funds.

Ken Putnam moved to approve the timeline and the 5310 Call for Projects. Denise Braine seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Bent Creek Greenway Feasibility Study

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that Buncombe County staff will discuss the Bent Creek Greenway Feasibility Study and the current status of the project. The study is one of the planning studies which have recently received federal funding through the FBRMPO UPWP.

Josh O'Conner provided an overview of Buncombe County's Greenways Master Plan which was adopted in 2012 by the Board of Commissioners. He informed the TCC that staff are looking for a dedicated funding stream as the greenway system is important to tourism and transportation opportunities. Equity and access for transportation –how greenways are now looked at. Safety and security of greenways is a consideration when developing feasibility studies. He reviewed the key difficulties with developing greenways. The historical funds received by the county were reviewed and Josh O'Conner shared that the county does a good job of leveraging funds for the Greenway System.

Karla Furnari shared more detailed information about the NC 191/Bent Creek Corridor feasibility study; the draft study is due to be released in the near future.

Josh O'Conner commented that as planning progresses, changes in the preferred path for the greenway have occurred. The estimated expense for the Bent Creek Greenway is approximately \$10 million, which does not include any expense for property acquisition. Opportunities may also be created to join the Hominy Creek and Enka-Candler Greenway Systems. ADA compliance is built into the feasibility studies.

Information only- no action required.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES

Lyuba Zuyeva announced that there will be a local officials Information meeting on September 13th from 3:00-4:00pm and a public input meeting from 5:00-7:00pm for the proposed Old Airport Road Widening (U-5840) from US 25 to Cane Creek Road in Fletcher. The meetings will be held at the Fletcher Town Hall. Also, there will be a public hearing and local officials meeting for the proposed widening on I-26 from US 25 in Henderson County to the I-40/I-240 interchange in Buncombe County on Thursday, October 13th beginning with a LOIM at 2:00pm (formal Public Hearing at 7:00pm) at Biltmore Baptist Church, 35 Clayton Road in Arden. On September 28th, Julie White with Metro Mayors will present at a Women in Transportation (WTS) lunch event about the state transportation policy changes. New Board Member Orientation "Lite" is scheduled for September 22nd (after the MPO Board meeting) beginning at 2:30pm. Tristan Winkler announced that a chapter of APBP, bicycle/pedestrian professionals group has formed in North Carolina.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were presented.

ADJOURNMENT

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

DRAFT

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 4A:

Division Project Updates

http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Division13_Updates_October2016.pdf

(Division 13)

http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Division14Updates_October2016.pdf

(Division 14)

Item 4B:

TPB Updates

Item 4C:

FHWA/FTA Updates

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 4D:

Committee & Workgroup Updates

Prioritization Subcommittee—Met on September 22nd to discuss SPOT Prioritization-Division Tier projects MPO points assignment and potential MTP Amendments scoring criteria; meeting again on Tuesday, October 11th; meeting date change-future meetings to take place on Tuesdays the week of the TCC meetings.

Transit Operators' Workgroup—Will be meeting on October 11th

Citizens' Advisory Committee- Call for committee member applications is currently open and extended through October 31st. <http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Citizens-Advisory-Committee-Application.pdf>

Recommended Actions:

Accept the reports.

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 4E:

Legislative Updates

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 5A:

STBG 5307 Flex Resolution (Asheville Transit)

Asheville Transit Replacement Vehicles project, TA-5164 has been previously selected for STBG (STP-DA) funding and programmed in the TIP for FY 2017. The funding source has to be changed to 5307 to allow this project to move forward and be managed under the FTA rules. MPO Board resolution in support of flexing the funds from STBG to 5307 is required to allow this project to move forward.

Recommended action: Recommend to the MPO Board the adoption of the resolution to flex the funds from STBG to 5307.

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 5B:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Applications Resolutions of Support

NCDOT is holding a call for bicycle and pedestrian planning grant applications (due November 10, 2016). As part of the application, a letter of support is required from the respective MPO or RPO organization. MPO staff have been made aware of one application in our region so far: Swannanoa River Greenway Corridor Planning Study.

Recommended action: TCC recommend to the MPO Board to approve a letter of support for the Swannanoa River Greenway Corridor Planning Study, in support of the planning grant application to NCDOT.

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE APPLICATION FOR AN NCDOT BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLANNING GRANT

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has last updated its Greenways Master Plan in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the City of Asheville has actively participated in Buncombe County Greenways Master Plan study; and

WHEREAS, a greenway along the Swannanoa River Road is included as part of the Asheville Greenways Master Plan map (2013); and

WHEREAS, many residents in the City of Asheville are interested in a healthy lifestyle, access to outdoor recreation and bicycle and pedestrian facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of the French Broad River MPO, to support the City of Asheville in the grant application for a Swannanoa River Greenways Planning Study.

ADOPTED: This the 27th day of October, 2016

Doug Dearth, FBRMPO Board Chair

Attest, Lyubov Zuyeva, Director
French Broad River MPO

Item 5C:

SPOT Prioritization 4.0 Division Tier MPO Points Allocation

The State of North Carolina's process for prioritizing transportation projects allocates 1,800 local input points to the French Broad River MPO for Division Tier projects. Up to 100 of these points may be applied to a single project that is located entirely within the FBRMPO's planning boundary. Those 100 points from the MPO make up 25% of a project's total score for Division Tier projects.

French Broad River MPO staff is using the [prioritization methodology](#), approved by the MPO Board at its March meeting, to determine which projects would receive preliminary local input points. Per the MPO methodology, one transit project and two bicycle and pedestrian projects will receive MPO input points, unless no suitable candidates are identified. The tables below illustrate Division Tier preliminary project scores based on the MPO methodology.

MPO staff is currently soliciting public input on the draft list of projects and will leave the window open for input through Wednesday, October 26th. Comments collected by the TCC meeting will be shared at that time for consideration.

Recommended action: TCC recommend for the MPO Board adoption on October 27th the SPOT Prioritization points assignment as indicated in the list below.

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 5D:

STBG Projects- Coxe Avenue and Lexington Avenue

The City of Asheville has requested that the Coxe Avenues and Lexington Avenue portions of its Complete Streets Corridors projects be broken out to become their own projects, separate from Biltmore Avenue corridor project.

Both of these projects have been identified in the City of Asheville's Multimodal Transportation Plan to primarily improve facilities for bicycle and pedestrian modes of travel. The original project was approved by the Prioritization Subcommittee and the TCC, but the MPO Board recommended more coordination to address concerns over Biltmore Avenue before the project could be approved. Breaking out the Coxe Avenue and Lexington Avenue corridors will allow for those projects to move forward while further coordination takes place for Biltmore Avenue. If the funding is approved for those projects, they will come back to the MPO TCC and Board during the next meeting cycle for a TIP Amendment approval.

Project	Phase	Local Share	STBG	Total Cost
Coxe Avenue	PE (FY 2018)	\$105,000	\$420,000	\$525,000
Lexington Avenue	PE (FY 2018)	\$135,000	\$540,000	\$675,000

Recommended action: TCC recommend for the MPO Board adoption on October 27th the funding for Coxe Avenue and Lexington Avenue complete streets corridor projects.

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 5E:

MTP Amendments- Being Considered

The French Broad River MPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is the federally-required twenty-five year transportation plan for our region that was most recently passed by the MPO Board in September, 2015. However, since the MTP was most recently developed and approved, a number of changes have occurred at the federal and state level. In response, MPO staff has begun work to amend the MTP's financial forecast and project list. Staff will give a brief presentation on the work that will be required as well as the potential benefits to amending the MTP.

No Action Required at This Time

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Staff Report & Recommendations

Item 5F:

Active Routes to School

October 5th was International Walk to School Day and thousands of students at more than 100 schools in Western North Carolina were planning to participate. The N.C. Department of Transportation is an active participant through its Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation, which promotes the Safe Routes to School program. Walk to School Day events raise awareness of the need to create and utilize safer routes for walking and cycling while also emphasizing the importance of physical activity, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion and environmental stewardship. The events strengthen connections between families, schools and communities. Participation in the event varies by school, school district and county in Western North Carolina. In three years, North Carolina has risen from No. 27 to No. 3 in the country in terms of the number of schools participating per state. More than 90 schools in the 25 westernmost counties of North Carolina were planning to participate in some version of a Walk to School Program on October 5 or in the following weeks.

Mary Smith and Jackie Moore, Active Routes to School Coordinators, will provide an update regarding Active Routes to School (Safe Routes to School) program and activities ongoing in the French Broad River MPO region.

No Action Required at This Time