



French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization
Minutes from the Governing Board meeting on August 25, 2016

Attendance

Meeting Date:

08/25/2016

| Representing | VotingTAC | | Via Phone |
|---|-----------|------------|--------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of | Julie | Mavfield | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of | Gwen | Wisler | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black Mountain, Town of | Larry | Harris | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flat Rock, Village of | John | Dockendorf | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henderson Countv | 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 13 | David | Brown | <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"/> 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"/> FHWA | Mike | Dawson | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land of Sky | Ritchie | Rozzelle | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT TPB | Pam | Cook | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13 | Jay | Swain | <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

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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Public Hearing for TIP Amendments

Chairman Dearth opened the Public Hearing for the TIP Amendments. One comment was received by email in support of expanding transit services in Buncombe County. The hearing was closed as no other comments were provided.

Discussion occurred regarding the TAP-DA projects for the region. It was shared that some of the projects are for ADA improvements at intersections.

CONSENT AGENDA

Larry Harris moved to approve the Consent Agenda which consisted of June minutes. Jerry Vehaun 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.
- Pam Cook shared the Planning Branch updates.
- Mike Dawson provided FHWA updates.
- FBRMPO Committee & Workgroup Updates
 - Prioritization Subcommittee met on August 25, 2016.
 - Transit Operators Workgroup met on June 7, 2016 and the next scheduled meeting is planned for October 11, 2016.
 - Citizens Advisory Committee met in July with the current roster. Next meeting to be held after the new committee roster is approved. The application for CAC is posted at www.fbrmpo.org- those will be accepted through September 30, 2016.
- Lyuba Zuyeva provided Legislative Updates. A new state budget has been signed by the Governor in July. Included in the budgets was the removal of a funding cap on light rail projects (a 10% cap on state funding remains); light rail projects will have to be re-submitted for STI Prioritization. Also included in the budget were provisions for ferry tolling – existing tolled ferry routes will continue to collect a toll. Prohibition on future tolling on currently un-tolled routes. Additional state funding was allocated for urban and rural transit operating assistance. NCDOT restructuring is ongoing and was upheld in the state budget; going forward, more projects will be developed at the Division level. There was a small change in local consultation rules on small transportation projects which will have more of an impact on RPO member communities. The state has made some changes to bicycle traffic safety rules which will become effective October 1, 2016. Changes have been occurring with regards to the MAP Act of 1987 and Right of way acquisition could become more expensive across the state going forward. Public transportation vehicles are now allowed to have permanent transportation license plates.

NEW BUSINESS

TIP Amendments

Tristan Winkler shared that there were a number of TIP Amendments requesting approval today. Many of the projects are Statewide projects. He highlighted some of the proposed amendments: Crossroads Parkway in Madison County- new project funded with ARC funds; a number of Statewide Projects to add funding for NC Clean Energy Technology Center and to fund Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Safety Improvements. He also pointed out the addition of North Mills River Road project funded through FLAP (Federal Funds Access Program). Additionally, the realignment of Brown Avenue in Waynesville- construction delayed until FY17, and for NC 251 Multi-Use Path from Elk Mountain Road to Exit 25 on US 19/23/70, STPBG funding has been replaced with TAP

funding. One new transit project has been added for Apple County Transit to purchase a replacement paratransit vehicle.

Leroy Roberson moved to adopt the TIP Amendments as presented. Ellen Frost seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

STBG Results for Review Approval

Tristan Winkler shared that STP-DA funds are now known as STBG funding. He shared that the amount of STBG funding coming to the FBRMPO region will be increasing over the next few years, based on the FAST Act. Some projects applications have been updated by applicants, and he shared the changes to those. The preliminary list of projects was brought before the TCC and Board in June. Buncombe County has submitted four applications for preliminary engineering (PE) studies for greenway projects on priority corridors (Reems Creek Greenway, North RAD Greenway, Bent Creek Greenway and Hominy Creek Greenway). Tristan Winkler also noted the Brown Avenue Road Diet in the Town of Waynesville and the Town of Black Mountain's Riverwalk Greenway Phase II which is requesting funds for construction. Division 14 submitted a project in the Town of Canton for the NC 110 Roundabout at Locust Street. The Town of Canton is in full support of the proposed project. The City of Asheville has submitted the Complete Streets Corridors (three separate corridors) project- the change to application adds a right-of-way phase. These project recommendations came out of the City's Asheville in Motion Plan and look at ways to improve bicycle/pedestrian access. The City of Asheville also submitted one TAP-DA project regarding on-street connections for greenways.

Rick Tipton expressed several NCDOT's concern regarding the Complete Streets project submitted by the City of Asheville. Concerns include the cost of \$5million, potential impact to congestion and how it may impact the overall transportation network. Tristan Winkler shared that the MPO's Congestion Mitigation Process (meant to address congestion on certain corridors) includes Biltmore Avenue and calls for addressing congestion through multi-modal transportation options. Discussion occurred regarding traffic interruptions to Biltmore Avenue.

Julie Mayfield addressed some of the concerns raised by NCDOT and she noted that these are priority corridors which have been identified in the Asheville Multi-Modal Transportation Plan; the City of Asheville is looking for a solution for Biltmore Avenue corridor and a PE study is needed to arrive at the final design; currently there is a desired vision identified for the corridor but no final solution. The proposed project is the starting point of the conversation- the funding for the Preliminary Engineering study is planned to be used to provide more in-depth conversation. Discussion occurred regarding reducing capacity on Biltmore Avenue and possible impacts to the movement of emergency vehicles. City of Asheville representatives shared that the Asheville in Motion Plan took 18 months to develop and included a lot of public input. Julie Mayfield communicated that the proposed project has gone through the process and the City has been transparent the entire time. The final outcome for this corridor is not yet known, but this application for Preliminary Engineering is the City's way of saying "We want to move forward with addressing complete streets needs on this corridor." The purpose of the grant application is to ask for dollars to start the more detailed conversation.

Chairman Dearth shared his understanding of the both sides of the discussion; he asked, whether a planning stage was missed with regards to Biltmore Avenue? NCDOT and MPO staff discussed the Division's concerns that the proposed project would reduce capacity on a major

thoroughfare. Without providing the funds for the PE project, how else can the City determine the best way to proceed?

Discussion occurred regarding the perceived need to come up with something that can more realistically handle the traffic volume and provide what the City is looking for. Discussion occurred regarding if there was an alternative way to study the issue without using the grant funding and if there was another process that NCDOT could use to analyze the congestion issue on Biltmore Avenue.

Lyuba Zuyeva added that even if those projects were approved for funding today, there would still remain a rather long process to get the projects moving forward—TIP amendments would be planned for next month, and after inclusion in the TIP, there are project management agreements to be signed with NCDOT. MPO staff would be happy to facilitate additional meetings between the City of Asheville and Division as needed. Board members expressed a preference to postpone a vote on the Complete Streets Corridors project pending further coordination between the City of Asheville and Division 13. Additional stakeholders are requested to be included in the conversation, such as Mission Hospital. MPO staff will put together an agenda for a meeting to be scheduled in September.

Larry Harris moved to table the City of Asheville's Complete Streets Corridor project to allow the City and NCDOT to clarify the purpose of the funding going forward and to move forward with approving the remaining projects. Jerry Vehaun seconded and the motion was approved upon a vote.

The next two items were deferred until a later date. Neither agenda item required action at this time:

- CMP Process Overview
- Regional TDM Program Update

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NCDOT is holding a call for Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP), with applications due in November. The Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) is accepting applications until September 30, 2016. The application is available online. Bicycle/Pedestrian planning grant applications are still open through November—MPO Board Resolution of support is required with an application. The MPO Board Member orientation "Lite" will be held on September 22nd at 2:00pm after the Board meeting. Preliminary results from SPOT Prioritization will be available at the next MPO Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Dearth called for any public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

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