



French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization
Minutes from the Governing Board meeting on October 27, 2016

ATTENDANCE

Meeting Date:

10/27/2016

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"/> Biltmore Forest, Town of	Fran	Cogburn	<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"/> Haywood County	Michael	Sorrells	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henderson County	William	Lapsley	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hendersonville, City of	Steve	Caraker	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural Transit Providers	Carole	Edwards	<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"/> NCDOT Transp. Mobility & Safety	Mike	Reese	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active Routes to School	Jackie	Moore	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active Routes to School	Mary	Smith	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black Mountain, Town of	Rvan	Stone	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe County	Karla	Furnari	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe County	Josh	O'Conner	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Lyuba	Zuyeva	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Tristan	Winkler	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Zia	Rifkin	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FHWA	Mike	Dawson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LOSRC	Ritchie	Rozzelle	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT TPB	Pam	Cook	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT Transp. Mobility & Safety	Kevin	Lacv	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT Transp. Mobility & Safety	Joe	Hummer	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Kristina	Solberg	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Jay	Swain	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Cole	Hood	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Rick	Tipton	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Ed	Green	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Wanda	Austin	<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 modifications.

Gwen Wisler moved to approve the agenda as presented. Steve Caraker seconded and the motion carried upon a vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Dearth called for any public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

- September Minutes

Ryan Stone moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Fran Cogburn seconded and as all were in favor the minutes were 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 October 11, 2016. Next meeting scheduled for November 15th.
 - Transit Operators Workgroup met on October 11, 2016.
 - Citizens Advisory Committee the call is open for committee members- applications due October 31, 2016.

- Biltmore Avenue Project Update- Lyuba Zuyeva shared that the project was submitted as part of a complete streets corridors project for funding but was split from the other two projects in order to provide more time to develop plans for the corridor. She communicated that based on the previous recommendation from the MPO Board, a follow-up discussion was held between the City of Asheville, NCDOT and the MPO staff regarding Biltmore Avenue project. Based on some preliminary findings from NCDOT Transportation Mobility and Safety unit, the corridor is recommended for a feasibility study. Kevin Lacey (NCDOT Transportation Mobility and Safety Division) shared that the City desires to provide bicycle/pedestrian mobility on the corridor while maintaining the traffic flow in a safe manner. Several options were examined by NCDOT and the City. Some sections along the corridor will require the acquisition of additional right-of-way. A full feasibility study would look at all options along the corridor. A path forward would meet all of the necessary criteria to make the corridor safe and workable.

Julie Mayfield requested confirmation that if the City is willing to acquire additional right of way along the corridor then a feasibility study could proceed? Kevin Lacey confirmed and indicated that looking forward, starting with the groundwork would give everyone a common point of departure for this project. One of the factors to consider is what level of service is desired along the corridor.

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that the MPO staff are in further communication with NCDOT's bicycle/pedestrian division in order to see how much it will cost to expand the scope of the previously-funded study for McDowell to include Biltmore Avenue. She communicated that there might be an action coming back to this body in November. Discussion occurred regarding the stakeholders that should be at the table for a feasibility study.

- Lyuba Zuyeva provided legislative updates including at the federal level operating under a continuing resolution until December for the FY17 budget.

NEW BUSINESS

STBG 5307 Flex Resolution (Asheville Transit)

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that the Asheville Transit Replacement Vehicles project (TA-5164) has been previously selected for STBG (STP-DA) funding and programmed in the TIP for FY 2017. In order for this project to move forward and be managed under the FTA rules, the funding source has to be changed to 5307 and a resolution is required from the MPO.

Ryan Stone moved to approve the resolution to flex the funds from STBG to 5307 for the City of Asheville Transit project. Gwen Wisler seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant Applications Resolutions of Support

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that NCDOT is holding a call for bicycle and pedestrian planning grant applications. Applications are required to have a letter of support from the MPO. The City of Asheville plans to submit an application for funding for the Swannanoa River Greenway Corridor Planning Study.

Julie Mayfield moved to approve a letter of support for the Swannanoa River Greenway Corridor Planning Study application to NCDOT. John Dockendorf seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Tristan Winkler shared that the RPO has passed a resolution of support for the Transylvania County bicycle/pedestrian planning grant application since only a small percentage of the county is located within the MPO region.

SPOT Prioritization 4.0 Division Tier Points Allocation

Tristan Winkler shared that under the NCDOT process for prioritizing transportation projects, 1800 local points are allocated to the FBRMPO for Division Tier projects and MPO Staff applied the approved methodology to scoring projects in the Division tier. MPO Staff have solicited public input on the draft list of projects through an online survey and by distributing coasters and postcards with the survey link at numerous locations throughout the MPO region. Social Media was also used to gather public input. Tristan Winkler reviewed the types of projects that are eligible in the Division Tier. He also reviewed some of the projects that have scored well under the MPO methodology in the Division tier. He further communicated that the RPO has approved donating 100 points for the Dellwood Road project in Haywood County.

Carole Edwards moved to accept the RPO's donation of 100 points for the Dellwood Road Project. Steve Caraker seconded the motion which carried upon a vote.

Steve Caraker moved to adopt the FBRMPO SPOT Prioritization Division Tier points assignment as presented. Gwen Wisler seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

STBG Projects- Coxe Avenue and Lexington Avenue

Tristan Winkler shared that the City of Asheville has requested that the Coxe Avenue and Lexington Avenue portions of its Complete Streets Corridors projects be broken out to become their own projects, separate from the Biltmore Avenue Corridor project. Both of these projects

have been identified in the City's Multimodal Transportation Plan to primarily improve facilities for bicycle and pedestrian modes of travel. If approved, these projects will come back to the MPO TCC and Board during the next meeting cycle for a TIP Amendment approval.

Julie Mayfield moved to approve the funding for Coxe Avenue and Lexington Avenue Complete Streets Corridor projects. Gwen Wisler seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

MTP Amendments Preview

Tristan Winkler shared that the FBRMPO's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is a federally required twenty-five-year transportation plan for the 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 funding changes have occurred at the federal and state level. As a result, MPO staff has begun work to amend the MTP's financial forecast and project list. Tristan Winkler shared a brief presentation on the work that will be required to address the issues with the plan as well as the potential benefits to amending the MTP.

No action required at this time.

Active Routes to School Program

Mary Smith and Jackie Moore with Safe Routes to School shared that the Active Routes to School initiative is a partnership between NCDOT and the NC Division of Public Health and is administered through the public health departments. The benefits of walking and biking to school affect children, schools, the community and the environment. The initiative uses a five-pronged approach to reach communities including awareness raising events, ongoing programs, training /workshops, built environment changes and policy changes.

Pam Cook shared that the staff for Active Routes to Schools are available to represent stakeholders on transportation committees (including the CTP). Curriculum for Let's Go NC is housed on the NCDOT website (<https://www.ncdot.gov/bikeped/safetyeducation/letsgonc/>).

Information only- no action required.

Bent Creek Greenway Feasibility Study

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that Buncombe County staff will present a brief overview of 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 started with a brief an overview of Buncombe County's Greenways Master Plan which was adopted in 2012 by the Board of Commissioners and includes 102 miles of connected corridors. He informed the Board that staff are looking for a dedicated funding stream as the greenway system is important to tourism and transportation opportunities. Josh O'Conner shared that increased equity and access for transportation are some of the potential benefits of greenways. Safety and security of greenways is also 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 grant funds for the Greenway System.

Karla Furnari provided further information specific to the NC 191/Bent Creek Corridor, for which the draft final report will be out soon. Multiple potential alignment options exist, with their pros and cons. Josh O'Conner shared that as things move forward in time, changes in preferred

alignment for the greenway might also occur. The estimated expense for the Bent Creek Greenway is \$10million 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 and the greenways will be paved, when built.

No action required at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The November cycle of MPO meetings will be a joint meeting on Thursday, November 17th beginning with the TCC business portion at 12noon, regular updates taking place jointly at 12:30, and then moving into the Board business meeting. The joint meeting will be held in the meeting room on the second floor of the Asheville Chamber (36 Montford Avenue, Asheville, 28801). Lyuba Zuyeva expressed appreciation to all the assistance that NCDOT Division 13 and Division 14 have sent to the areas affected by Hurricane Matthew.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Dearth called for any public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

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