



French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization
Minutes from the TCC meeting on November 17, 2016

ATTENDANCE

Meeting Date: 11/17/2016

Representing	Voting TCC		Via Phone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aoole County Transit	Matt	Chamoion	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of	Dan	Baechtold	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of - Transit	Mariate	Echeverrv	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black Mountain	Josh	Harrold	<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	Dave	Hazzard	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maggie Valley, Town of	Andrew	Bowen	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mountain Mobility	Denise	Braine	<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"/>
<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"/> AECOM	John	Burris	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AECOM	Neil	Dean	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AECOM	Joanna	Rocco	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AECOM	Chris	Werner	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of	Julie	Mayfield	<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"/> Buncombe County	Brownie	Newman	<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"/> Flat Rock, Village of	John	Dockendorf	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henderson County	William	Lapsley	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laurel Park, Town of	George	Banta	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LOSRC	Erica	Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>

Meeting Date:**11/17/2016**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LOSRC	Ritchie	Rozzelle	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LOSRO	Vicki	Eastland	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NCBOT, Division 13	David	Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NCBOT, Division 14	Jack	Debnam	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NCDOT, Division 14	Brian	Burch	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NCDOT, Division 14	Steven	Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vaughn and Melton	Joel	Setzer	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Waynesville, Town of	LeRoy	Roberson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Weaverville, Town of	Douglas	Dearth	<input type="checkbox"/>

26 Non-Voters Present**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 October minutes, the proposed meeting calendar for 2017 and the UPWP Amendments. He requested that the Agenda be approved at this time as well.

Denise Braine moved to approve the Consent Agenda and the Agenda as presented. Andrew Bowen seconded and the motion carried as all were in favor.

BUSINESSTIP Amendments

Tristan Winkler shared that the amendments to the FBRMPO 2016-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) include a number of projects in the region as well as statewide projects (which are advisory items for the FBRMPO). He reviewed some of the projects in the region including: addition of the City of Asheville’s STBG-DA projects for Complete Streets accommodations on Lexington Avenue and Coxe Avenue (approved by the MPO in October); the delay of Right-of-Way and Construction for a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) project on NC-191 just south of Mills River to allow more time for planning and design; the addition of funding to address stormwater issues on Upward Road in Henderson County; and a Delay of Right-of-Way and Construction on Howard Gap Road in Henderson County to allow more time for planning and design.

Mariate Echeverry moved to approve the TIP Amendments as presented and to recommend those to the MPO Board for adoption. Dan Baechtold seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Citizens Advisory Committee Roster

Tristan Winkler shared that the FBRMPO Citizen Advisory Council (CAC) is now operating under new bylaws adopted in November 2015 to make its mission and membership requirements more clear. The CAC consists of interested citizens who live or work in the FBRMPO region and its mission largely focuses

on recommending public outreach strategies to improve the public involvement in the transportation planning process. A call for new members was held from August thru October 2016 resulting in seven applications. The roster was presented for approval. Tristan Winkler also communicated that MPO staff plans to have a rolling call for applications. Anyone who may be interested in regional transportation issues is encouraged to apply.

Discussion occurred regarding the geographic coverage of the applicants and it was shared that most are from Buncombe County. Tristan Winkler also communicated that the desire to leave the call for applications open was based on the need for more widespread geographic coverage of applicants from throughout the MPO region.

Josh O'Conner indicated that he would abstain from the vote.

Elizabeth Teague moved to approve the new members of the FBRMPO CAC and to leave the call for applications open indefinitely. Andrew Bowen seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

JARC Allocation of Remaining FY2015 Funds

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that JARC (Jobs Access Reverse Commute) was a former stand-alone grant type of funding for public transportation under SAFETEA-LU that was consolidated into Section 5307 under MAP-21 and the FAST Act. Since MAP-21 went into effect, the MPO has set aside 10% of the region's allocation of Section 5307 funds for JARC calls for projects. New calls for JARC projects have been postponed pending the 5307 formula study results. In the meantime, \$39,000 in JARC funding remains from FY 2015. A request has been discussed and generally supported at the Regional Transit Operators group to allocate the \$39,000 in federal JARC funds (for a combined \$78,000 federal and local operating budget) to Black Mountain Trailblazer. In the absence of this bridge funding, Black Mountain Trailblazer operations are currently funded only through the end of February of 2017 and would be in jeopardy starting in March. Providing bridge operating funding through JARC FY 2015 remaining funds would most likely allow the Black Mountain Trailblazer route to have sufficient operating funds through June of 2017. Starting in FY 2018, Buncombe County is expecting to benefit from the urban transit 5307 funds (pending 5307 Study completion).

Mariate Echeverry moved to recommend for MPO Board approval the allocation of remainder FY 2015 JARC funds to support the Black Mountain Trailblazer operations. Dave Hazzard seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Biltmore Avenue Feasibility Study

Tristan Winkler shared that the Biltmore Avenue project was originally submitted to the FBRMPO for STBG funding in June 2016. The project was initially part of a larger project that included preliminary engineering for complete streets projects on three corridors - Biltmore Avenue, Lexington Avenue and Coxe Avenue. He reviewed the process undertaken to date for Biltmore Avenue which included bringing in more stakeholders including Mission and A-B Tech, and some preliminary traffic analysis by NCDOT. NCDOT's Transportation Mobility and Safety Unit conducted a number of scenario analyses on both Biltmore Avenue and McDowell Avenue for a very preliminary feasibility analysis on different roadway treatments that could accommodate bicycle infrastructure. No results were conclusive, but the members of the meeting agreed that a feasibility study on both McDowell and Biltmore would be the best path forward.

Tristan Winkler communicated that NCDOT Bike/Pedestrian Division had already agreed to fund a feasibility study on providing bicycle infrastructure on Broadway and McDowell Avenues and MPO staff have requested that the scope of that project be altered to include Biltmore Avenue as well; currently waiting on response. He also informed the TCC that since the City of Asheville altered their request for this project from Preliminary Engineering to a Feasibility Study, STBG funds could be used to fund the study (with a local match). Currently, a little more than \$6 million dollars is available in STBG funding through FY 2019 from the MPO. Tristan Winkler shared that a preliminary estimate of \$150000 which includes a 20% match from the City would likely cover the cost of the study. Discussion occurred regarding the scope of the feasibility study. Elizabeth Teague shared that bike/pedestrian accommodations are really important for A-B Tech. Josh O'Conner shared that the study should go all the way up Biltmore Avenue to Hilliard Avenue. Southside Avenue from Biltmore to McDowell was requested to be included. Further discussion occurred regarding extending the scope of the study and the potential need for additional funds. Tristan Winkler communicated that a UPWP Amendment would be necessary for the feasibility study.

Dan Baechtold moved to recommend that the MPO Board approve \$200000 of STBG funding by amending the UPWP for the Biltmore/McDowell feasibility study and to increase the scope of the study to include Southside Avenue and McDowell up to Hilliard Avenues should the NCDOT Bike/Pedestrian Division be unable to accommodate the additional scope. Andrew Bowen seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

I-4400/I-4700 I-26 Widening DEIS Comments Resolution

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that there appears to be a general consensus from the community that the I-26 Widening project needs to move forward in an expedient manner. The Henderson County Board of Commissioners has adopted a resolution of support for this project. She communicated that the resolution in front of the TCC and MPO Board today would state that the FBRMPO is in support of the project and provide a list of recommendations for the I-26 Widening project to consider, primarily focused on the interchanges along the corridor, taking into consideration the regional Complete Streets Policy adopted by the FBRMPO in February of 2013, as well as local and regional bicycle, pedestrian and greenways plans. NCDOT staff have indicated that they can still accept comments for this project a few days past the official deadline (November 14th). The intent of the resolution is to highlight elements along the corridor that could benefit from some improvements. There is also a request to identify a potential Park-and-Ride location at Exit 44 interchange. MPO staff have reached out to local government staff for feedback when putting together the draft resolution.

Andrew Bowen moved to recommend for the MPO Board to approve the resolution with comments for the I-26 Widening DEIS. Mark Biberdorf seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Josh O'Conner recessed the meeting for five minutes in order to allow the MPO Board members to join the meeting.

REGULAR UPDATES AND INFORMATION ITEMS

Regular updates included NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates and TPB and MPO Subcommittee and Staff updates. FHWA/FTA updates were also presented.

Lyuba Zuyeva communicated that beginning in early 2017, the UPWP would be developed for FY2018.

Lyuba Zuyeva provided legislative updates. The federal government continues to operate under a continuing resolution through early December. The general election showed a success of transportation and transit funding referendums around the country. Wake County and the City of Atlanta approved funding measures for public transit. The City of Asheville was successful in moving forward with a bond measure for transportation improvements.

I-26 Connector Traffic Simulation Update

I-26 Connector Traffic Simulation-Base Year Travel Patterns Observations was provided by Jim Dunlop, John Burris and other NCDOT and AECOM staff members who have been working on the I-26 Connector Traffic Simulation. Information was presented on the preliminary findings showing how the traffic simulation represents today's existing traffic behavior. NCDOT staff shared that a video could be compiled from the simulation software which will be shared with the MPO. With regards to moving the traffic forecast along, the first review meeting is planned for the end of January 2017.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES

Lyuba Zuyeva announced that the 5310 Call for Projects will be going on through next Wednesday, November 23rd and after the review process, projects will come back to the MPO Board in January. Lyuba Zuyeva announced that there will be no MPO TCC or MPO Board meetings in December.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were presented.

ADJOURNMENT

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