



French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization
Minutes from the MPO Board Meeting on May 25, 2017

ATTENDANCE

Meeting Date:

05/25/2017

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"/> Buncombe County	Brownie	Newman	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flat Rock, Village of	John	Dockendorf	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Havwood 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	Larry	Harris	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Transit Providers	Adam	Charnack	<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"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodfin, Town of	Jerrv	VeHaun	<input type="checkbox"/>

Alternates/Agencies and Other Non Voting At TAC			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AECOM	Chris	Werner	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AECOM	Joanna	Rocco	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AECOM	Celia	Foushee	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville Design Center	Bruce	Emory	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citizen	LaVonne	Poteet	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citizen	Linda	Giltz	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citizen, FBRMPO Citizens Adv. Committee	Stagg	Newman	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Citizen, FBRMPO Citizens Adv. Committee	Ted	Figura	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Lvuba	Zuveva	<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"/> Hendersonville, City of	Matt	Champton	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JM Teague	Reuben	Moore	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LOSRC	Ritchie	Rozzelle	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maggie Valley, Town of	Andrew	Bowen	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT TPB	Daniel	Sellers	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Rick	Tipton	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Cole	Hood	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Brendan	Merithew	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Ed	Green	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Steve	Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SELC	Thomas	Lodwick	<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 was heard. He requested that introductions be made. The agenda was presented for approval with no modifications requested.

Larry Harris moved to approve the agenda and the Consent Agenda as presented. LeRoy Roberson seconded and the motion carried as all were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Dearth called for any public comment.

Ted Figura, a representative of the East West Asheville Neighborhood Association (EWANA) and a member of the FBRMPO Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) commented against the proposed widening of Amboy and Meadow Roads. He shared that EWANA conducted a member survey (50% response rate) which showed that nearly 80% of respondents were against the proposed widening. Polled EWANA members were in favor of a new bridge and bicycle/pedestrian improvements on Amboy Road. Mr. Figura further cited reasons for the opposition to widening increasing pedestrian and bicycle traffic and new developments along Amboy Road. Comments were also provided about the proposed widening of Swannanoa River Road—a suggestion was made to make sure that any change to that road are consistent with the Wilma Dykeman Riverway Plan. Positive comments were received about the projects proposed for the RADTIP.

CONSENT AGENDA

- March 2017 Minutes
- UPWP FY 2018- Administrative Change

Approved with the motion to approve the agenda.

REGULAR UPDATES

- Rick Tipton provided Division 13 updates and Ed Green provided Division 14 updates.
- Daniel Cooper Sellers shared the Planning Branch updates.
- Mike Dawson provided FHWA updates.
- Lyuba Zuyeva provided FBRMPO Committee & Workgroup Updates and staff updates. Lyuba Zuyeva shared that MPO staff have been presenting at meetings throughout the region regarding the MPO Draft 2018-2027 TIP. Lyuba Zuyeva indicated that Larry Harris has been appointed by the Buncombe County Commission as the rural transit representative on the MPO Board. The Commission also appointed Commissioner Jasmine Beach-Ferrara as the jurisdiction's second member on the MPO Board.
- Lyuba Zuyeva provided legislative updates. The FY 2017 federal budget bill has been adopted which will fund the government through the end of September. The Metro Planning Area rule has been repealed. At the state level, SB 257 would affect future recipients of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grants that NCDOT provides to local governments. A provision in the bill would mandate that bike/ped grant recipients implement a project within six years of the planning study, or refund NCDOT for the full cost of the plan. HB 219 would create a megaproject fund to fund transportation projects of statewide or regional significance that exceed \$200 million in total project cost outside of the STI/SPOT Prioritization process. Discussion followed about whether the MPO Board ever weighs in with regards to proposed transportation-related bills. The MPO Board has sent a letter in the past if a particular legislative item raised a concern.

NEW BUSINESS

SPOT 5.0 Updated Timeline and Other Updates

Tristan Winkler shared that MPO staff is working on SPOT 5.0- the statewide prioritization process that determines most of the programming for major transportation projects across the state. He reviewed the four main tasks for the MPO in the SPOT process: submit projects (September 2017); apply Local Input Points to Regional Impact Projects (June 2018); apply Local Input Points to Division Needs Projects (October 2018); and approve the Draft TIP (June 2019). He noted that the SPOT schedule is likely to change. He continued that MPO staff has been talking to local government staffs about the types of projects they would like to submit.

Tristan Winkler informed the Board that at the April Prioritization Subcommittee meeting, the subcommittee also recommended that the number of SPOT 5.0 projects submittals per county be set based on each county's percentage of population in the MPO (some adjustments made for geographic equity) and that the number of new submittals is the same for each mode. Several preliminary meetings have been held with local government staff and a few more meetings are coming up and all should conclude by the end of May. The STI/SPOT prioritization process has not changed significantly from previous years. At the Division Level normalization for bicycle and pedestrian projects will be applied differently—half of the 4% minimum set-aside for modes other than highway will be funded based on the competition at the Division level; the other half through a statewide competition. Another change is that the quantitative criteria may be changed for the Regional and Division Tiers, if agreed to by the appropriate NCDOT Divisions and MPOs and RPOs. He reminded the Board that Buncombe, Haywood and Henderson counties have projects considered “carryover” projects in SPOT, which are projects that are automatically resubmitted into SPOT 5.0 from SPOT 4.0 unless the MPO and Division request that those be removed. Potential changes to the FBRMPO methodology determining local input points allocation will be up for a future discussion.

No action required at this time.

Amendments to the 2016-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Tristan Winkler shared that the TIP is our region's document that reflects transportation investments programmed with state and federal funding, over a ten-year period, and this document is required to be in conformity with the STIP. Proposed amendments to the TIP include increasing the amount of funding “flexed” from STBGP-DA to Planning “PL” funding for feasibility studies; increasing the amount of STBGP-DA for PE on U-6055 (Canton Roundabout at NC 110 and Locust); accelerating construction of I-5885 (I-40/Hendersonville Road Interchange) to FY 2017; and programming JARC funds for the Black Mountain Trailblazer previously approved by the MPO Board. He mentioned that the STBG Call for Projects has resulted in additional requests for feasibility studies.

Discussion occurred regarding the improvements planned for the I-40/Hendersonville Road Interchange and Rick Tipton explained that the improvements are planned to increase capacity at that interchange.

Julie Mayfield moved to approve the recommended TIP Amendments as presented. LeRoy Roberson seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

STBG-DA Project Selection

Tristan Winkler provided an overview of Surface Transportation Block Grant-Direct Allocation (STBG-DA) funding; those funds come directly to large MPOs (MPOs with more than 200,000 in population). FBRMPO has an approved methodology to score STBG-DA project. In the last call for projects, more applications were received than can be funded. Tristan Winkler noted that the City of Asheville's application for the Beaucatcher Greenway was determined to be ineligible after discussion with FHWA largely due to concerns that the project does not serve a sufficient transportation purpose. MPO staff provided the Prioritization Subcommittee with three funding scenarios for the STBG funding allocation. The subcommittee recommended Scenario A, which would fund as many projects as possible at 100% based on the scores of applications received. The TCC also recommends that Scenario A move forward. The projects included for funding in that scenario include Buncombe County's 251 Greenway, Buncombe County's Beaverdam Creek Greenway, the Town of Maggie Valley's US 19 Complete Streets Improvements, Town of Waynesville's Brown Avenue Road Diet; Village of Flat Rock's Flat Rock Greenway Feasibility Study; Henderson County's Oklawaha Greenway-Northern Extension Feasibility Study, and also Oklawaha Greenway-Southern Extension Feasibility Study. Tristan Winkler noted that the recommended scenario would leave roughly \$1 million that would rollover into the next call for projects. MPO staff will bring the TIP Amendments for these projects back to the Board for adoption. Discussion occurred regarding the \$1 Million that would remain uncommitted and MPO staff shared that those funds would typically rollover into the MPO's next call for projects (January 2018).

John Dockendorf made a motion to approve the list of projects for STBG funding as presented. William Lapsley seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and FTA Section 5310 Transit Funding Project Selection

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that JARC and FTA Section 5310 are both transit funding categories and she reviewed the results of the Spring 2017 call for projects, which was competitive under both categories. The funding recommendations from the Selection Committee were presented. Under the Section 5310 funding, projects are broken up by “traditional” and “other” funding. At least 55% of projects approved for funding must be traditional.

the projects that were recommended to be fully funded as traditional projects include the City of Asheville's ADA Paratransit acquisition of services and Jewish Family Services Elder Club Transportation. The Selection Committee recommended that all the "other" projects be funded at 55% of requested funding and she reviewed those projects that included Jewish Family Services Elder Club (Hendersonville) -Internal Operations; City of Asheville's ADA Upgrades for Dedicated Signals Near Bus Stops; Land of Sky Regional Council Senior Companions Program (SCP) expansion of SCP in Buncombe and Henderson Counties; and Buncombe County's RIDE Vouchers Program-Support for Taxi Services for Individuals with Disabilities. Those 5310 projects would add up to \$324,092 in Section 5310 funding, including the City of Asheville's 10% administrative fee. Lyuba Zuyeva shared that on the JARC side, as part of the urban transit formula study that concluded in March, the first year of Haywood County's portion was rolled into JARC with the right of first refusal for those funds going to Haywood County applicants. Mountain Projects was the sole Haywood County applicant and recommended projects included funding for Capital and Operations of a new deviated fixed route in Haywood County. Also recommended for funding at 50% of the requested level of funding is Buncombe County's Black Mountain Trailblazer Operating Assistance for one year of funding, the City of Asheville's Limited Sunday Services-Nine Routes for one year of operations funding; and City of Asheville Black Mountain Transit Route 170- Continued Support for Operations, one year of funding. MPO staff request one small change to the Selection Committee recommendations to add some of the leftover funding to the Buncombe County's Black Mountain Trailblazer operations to more closely align the funding cycles for the Trailblazer project and Asheville Transit Route 170, which would have both projects end in December of 2018. The total JARC funding allocated would be \$521,192, which includes the City of Asheville's 10% administrative fee. MPO staff will come back with TIP amendments for approved projects in June.

Gwen Wisler moved to approve the JARC and 5310 projects as presented. Julie Mayfield seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

I-26 Connector (I-253) Base Year Calibrated Microsimulation Model Update

Chris Werner with AECOM and Peter Trencansky with Patriot Transportation Engineering presented the latest update on the base year calibrated microsimulation model results for the I-26 Connector project. The process of developing a microsimulation model starts with a base year model, which represents the existing traffic conditions; once the base year model is fine-tuned, it can be used to develop various future-year scenarios. Modeling the existing conditions allows a check on whether the model is working properly, by comparing the base year model with the real-world traffic. The existing conditions model must be successfully calibrated before work begins on any design year scenarios. The microsimulation model update presentation is available on the MPO website (http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/170525_FBRMPO_Board_I-2513_Microsimulation_Pres.pdf).

Information only. No action required at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

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