



**French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
Minutes from the TCC meeting on August 10, 2017

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Meeting Date:**

**08/10/2017**

Representing	Voting TCC		Via Phone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of	Ken	Putnam	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of- Transit	Vaidila	Satvika	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black Mountain, Town of	Matt	Settlemever	<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"/> Havwood County	Jodie	Ferguson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henderson County	Autumn	Radcliff	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hendersonville, City of	Matt	Champion	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maggie Vallev, Town of	Ron	Hancock	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Montreat, Town of	Michael	Carmichael	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mountain Mobility	Denise	Braine	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Steve	Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, TPB	Brendan	Merithew	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, TPB	Daniel	Sellers	<input type="checkbox"/>

Non Voting At TCC			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville Regional Airport	Michael	Reisman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Vicki	Eastland	<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"/> Henderson County	Brian	Burgess	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JM Teague	Reuben	Moore	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LOSRC	Erica	Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LOSRC	Ritchie	Rozzelle	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Steve	Cannon	<input type="checkbox"/>

## **WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING**

Chairman O'Conner opened the meeting and introductions followed.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman O'Conner indicated that the Consent Agenda included May minutes, the UPWP FY 2018-Amendment for Special Studies and the FY2014 Remaining JARC Funding Reallocation. He requested approval for the Agenda at this time as well.

**Mark Biberdorf moved to approve the Consent Agenda and the Agenda as presented. Jason Burrell seconded and the motion carried as all were in favor.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments at this time.

## **REGULAR UPDATES AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

Staff updates included that the Regional Transit Operators Workgroup schedule will be adjusted to meeting once or twice a year after the meeting scheduled for October 3; another working group for urban transit funding subrecipient agencies to be convened on a quarterly basis (first meeting was held August 1). MPO staff held a Bike/Ped/Complete Streets issues event in Hendersonville on July 13. A similar event was held in Waynesville in May. Upcoming events include the Southeast Greenways and Trails Summit in Durham on October 1 – 3 and the National Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) Conference scheduled for October 17-20<sup>th</sup> in Savannah, Georgia.

Lyuba Zuyeva provided legislative updates. At the federal level both the Senate and House appropriations committees have passed their version of transportation funding bill for FY 2018- known as THUD (Transportation, Housing, Urban Development, and Related Agencies). The Senate version keeps the TIGER grant program funded, and preserves funding for new transit capital projects and passenger rail. The full House and Senate must now consider the THUD appropriations measures respectively. INFRA grant call for projects is now open –previously known as the FASTLANE grant program. At the state level, a two-year budget (\$22.9 billion) was adopted over the Governor's veto on June 28. The Bike Plan language was changed in the final FY18/19 state budget from mandating that bike/ped planning grant recipients implement the first project within six years; instead, an annual progress report requirement was added. The budget act established a new small set-aside fund to pay for construction projects needed immediately including those related to economic development. Funds will be allocated to the Divisions to fund smaller projects without going through the STI process- individual projects could cost no more than \$2 million. The selection process for those projects remains to be developed. The Mega Projects bill has been defeated and large projects over 200 million will continue to go through the STI/SPOT prioritization.

## **BUSINESS**

### Prioritization Subcommittee Vacancy

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that the FBRMPO Prioritization Subcommittee has a roster made up of seven members: four members from the TCC and three members from the Board. Due to Josh Harrold's recent move out of the region, there is currently one vacancy that needs to be filled with a member from the TCC. The group meets monthly on a Tuesday prior to the TCC meetings. Subcommittee responsibilities include a strong focus on the prioritization process (SPOT), programming STBG-DA funds, and being the default steering committee for any major regional transportation plan updates.

**Ken Putnam moved to nominate Vaidila Satvika and to recommend to the MPO Board that he serve on the Prioritization Subcommittee. Denise Braine seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.**

### 2018-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Adoption

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that the 2018-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was developed between 2015-2017 through NCDOT STI/SPOT 4.0 prioritization process. The MPO's TIP is a document that lists transportation projects in the MPO planning area that are scheduled to have federal or state funding for engineering, right-of-way, and/or construction in the next five-to-ten year period. The draft 2018-2027 TIP is posted at [http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Draft\\_TIP\\_FRENCH-BROAD-RIVER-METROPOLITAN-PLANNING-ORGANIZATION\\_2018\\_2027.pdf](http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Draft_TIP_FRENCH-BROAD-RIVER-METROPOLITAN-PLANNING-ORGANIZATION_2018_2027.pdf). She noted that the public comment period has been extended through Wednesday, August 23. One comment received was specifically about bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure along Amboy Road. Four comments have been received in total.

Lyuba Zuyeva reviewed some of the projects added for funding in the 2018-2027 TIP including the Blue Ridge Road Interchange, NC 191 Widening (Long Shoals Road to North of the Blue Ridge Parkway), Amboy/Meadow Road Widening, Riverside Drive Widening, South Main Street (Waynesville) Widening, Kanuga Road Modernization, US 19/23 Modernization (Canton to Buncombe County), NC 63 New Leicester Highway Access Management, New Leicester Highway/Patton Avenue Intersection, New Stock Road/Weaverville Road Intersection, Balfour Parkway (Section between I-26 and US 25B), South Main Street (Hendersonville) Bridge Widening, Swannanoa River Road (between South Tunnel Road and Tunnel Road) Modernization (not committed), Blythe Street Sidewalks, Hazelwood Avenue Sidewalks, and McDowell/Southside Avenue Pedestrian improvements. The NCBOT has approved the 2018-2027 STIP earlier in August, and the document is available at

<https://www.ncdot.gov/strategictransportationinvestments/2018-2027.html>

The 2018-2027 TIP continues to show a number of major projects from the previous TIP (funded sections of the I-26 Connector, I-26 Widening, Liberty Road Interchange, Sweeten Creek Road, Russ Avenue, and many others) as well as additional projects funded in SPOT 4.0.

**Matt Settlemyer moved to approve the 2018-2027 FBRMPO TIP for review and adoption by the MPO Board. Vaidila Satvika seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.**

### SPOT 5.0 Project Submissions

Tristan Winkler shared that SPOT 5.0 (also known as STI, p.5.0 or prioritization) is a process to develop the 2020-2029 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the regional FBRMPO TIP. SPOT uses a data-driven approach to select projects for funding. STI/SPOT process allocates the vast majority of state

and federal transportation funding for expansion projects in North Carolina. There are four primary action items the MPO is required to take as part of the prioritization process: submit projects for scoring; apply local input points to Regional Impact projects; apply local input points to Division Needs projects; and adopt the TIP. The FBRMPO is in the first stage of SPOT 5.0 and MPO staff have held local meetings with jurisdictions and municipalities to determine the list of new projects to be entered for scoring. He noted also that a number of projects in SPOT 5.0 are carryover projects from the previous round of prioritization, not yet funded. For new projects, the MPO is allowed to submit 25 projects per mode. For roadway and bike/ped, the max number of submittals was achieved from the local meetings. The project list was reviewed by the Prioritization Subcommittee. Once the draft project list is approved, staff can begin the process of inputting the projects into SPOT 5.0. Tristan Winkler shared that NCDOT Divisions will also be submitting projects to SPOT 5.0.

**Mark Biberdorf moved to approve the SPOT 5.0 new project list for review and adoption by the MPO Board. Jason Burrell seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.**

#### SPOT 5.0 Alternative Criteria

Tristan Winkler shared that as part of NCDOT's prioritization process, participating planning organizations and NCDOT Divisions are encouraged to recommend alternative criteria (through consensus) to reflect the unique needs of projects at the Regional Impact and Division Needs levels. This criteria would only impact the quantitative score used which accounts for 70% of a project's score at the Regional Impact level and 50% of a project's score at the Division Needs level. Local input criteria that helps determine the allocation of local input points would not be impacted by this change. MPO staff met with staff from other planning organizations in the western region of the state and NCDOT Divisions 13 and 14 to discuss potential alternative criteria. The group came to an agreement regarding the following recommendations:

- Regional Impact: No changes to default criteria
- Division Needs-Division 13: Increase Safety from 10% to 15% and Decrease Accessibility/Connectivity from 5% to 0%
- Division Needs -Division 14: Increase Pavement Condition from 0% to 10% and Decrease Accessibility/Connectivity and Freight from 5% to 0%.

Tristan Winkler communicated that if all planning organizations and NCDOT Divisions that would be affected by these proposed changes agree to the changes, those will be used for SPOT 5.0 as the quantitative criteria.

**Matt Champion moved to approve the proposed Alternative Criteria for Division Needs projects in NCDOT Divisions 13 and 14. Ken Putnam seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.**

#### 2016-2025 TIP Amendments

Tristan Winkler provided an overview of the proposed amendments to the 2016-2025 Transportation Improvement Program. Changes and additions included the following: Buncombe County STBG-DA projects (NC 251 Greenway & Beaverdam Creek Greenway) --adding funding; adding Maggie Valley's STBG-DA project (bike/ped improvements on US 19); adding construction funding for Waynesville's STBG-DA project (Brown Avenue Road Diet); adding JARC-funded projects for Mountain Projects/Haywood County, Buncombe County, and City of Asheville; and, modifying and adding funding for some transit projects based on input from Transit Operators and the City of Asheville. He noted that the amendments were put out for public comment in May and no comments were received.

**Ken Putnam moved to recommend to the MPO Board the approval of the TIP Amendments. Vaidila Satvika seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.**

#### STBG-DA Project Selection

Tristan Winkler shared that funding from the Surface Transportation Block Grant-Direct Allocation (STBG-DA) comes directly to large MPOs (over 200,000 in population) for programming. These funds can be utilized for a number of different types of projects, including but not limited to highway projects on roadways classified as a collector and above, transit capital projects, bicycle and pedestrian projects and TDM projects. Tristan Winkler shared that the MPO held a second, shorter STBG-DA call for projects in the summer of 2017 and received three applications from local governments for funding in FY2018 and FY 2019. These projects include the following: City of Asheville-purchase of two buses; Town of Waynesville- PE Study for a Greenway (Hazelwood Park to Boyd Avenue); and, Town of Waynesville- Feasibility Study for a Greenway (Recreation Park to Haywood High Tech Center). The total amount of funding requested (\$840,000) is still under what is available (\$1,530,000). The Prioritization Subcommittee met and recommended the approval of these three projects.

**Vaidila Satvika moved to forward the list of STBG-DA projects to the MPO Board with a recommendation for funding. Mark Biberdorf seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES**

Denise Braine shared that NCDOT Public Transportation Division would hold another round of public meetings in October at A-B Tech Community College for the Statewide Public Transportation Strategic Plan. Matt Settlemeyer announced that Jessica Trotman would be joining the Town of Black Mountain as its Planning and Development Director and would be involved with the MPO in the future.

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that a speaker from the City of Asheville would speak to the MPO Board about Bond Referendum projects in September.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one made any public comments.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

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