



French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization
 Minutes from the TCC meeting on September 14, 2017

Attendance

Meeting Date:

09/14/2017

Representing	Voting TCC		Via Phone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of	Dan	Baechtold	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of- Transit	Elias	Mathes	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black Mountain, Town of	Jessica	Trogdon	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fletcher, Town of	Mark	Biberdorf	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Haywood 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 Valley, Town of	Ron	Hancock	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mills River, Town of	Jesse	James	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Brendan	Merithew	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Steve	Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, TPB	Daniel	Sellers	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Waynesville, Town of	Elizabeth	Teague	<input type="checkbox"/>

Non Voting At TCC			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of	Jade	Dundas	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of	Kamille	Miller	<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"/> Henderson County	Brian	Burgess	<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"/> LOSRPO	Vicki	Eastland	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mattern and Craig	Dana	Bolden	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Cole	Hood	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Troy	Wilson	<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 August minutes. He requested approval for the Agenda at this time as well.

Dan Baechtold moved to approve the Consent Agenda and the Agenda as presented. Elias Mathes seconded and the motion carried as all were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

REGULAR UPDATES AND INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Lyuba Zuyeva and the MPO TCC recognized Ritchie Rozzelle for his efforts with Strive Not to Drive this past May as he expanded the initiative to include Haywood and Henderson counties in the MPO planning region. Lyuba Zuyeva announced the Land of Sky's Annual Celebration planned for October 25 at Blue Ridge Community College. Lyuba Zuyeva announced that NCDOT will hold a public meeting for the Statewide Strategic Public Transportation Plan Update on October 19 at AB Tech.

BUSINESS

Moving Special Study Call for Projects to the Fall Timeline

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that MPO staff propose moving the planning/feasibility study call for projects out of the STBG-DA call for projects timeline (spring) into a fall call for projects to better align with local government budget development timelines and the MPO's Unified Planning Work Program development. She communicated that \$90,000 is currently estimated to be available in FY 2019 UPWP call for special studies based on the \$200,000 per year in STBG-DA funds flexed to MPO PL Funds, after accounting for planning studies previously selected for funding. She reviewed the timeline for the proposed planning/feasibility fall 2017 call for projects. MPO Board approval of special study selection and draft FY 2019 UPWP would occur at the January 25, 2018 MPO Board meeting. Discussion occurred regarding a local match required (20%) and a contract required between LOSRC and local jurisdiction for the study. Chairman O'Conner communicated that he wanted to make sure that local jurisdictions were aware that the local match of 20% would come outside of budget planning. Lyuba Zuyeva clarified that FY19 is for the MPO's planning year which starts in July. Contracts would be signed in the summer of 2019, pending local match confirmation.

Elizabeth Teague moved to approve the fall timeline for FY 2019 and a more general shift to the fall call for projects for planning and feasibility special studies for consideration by the MPO Board. Mark Biberdorf seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Priority Corridor Studies Set-Aside Proposal

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that there currently appears to be a gap in planning for the regions' most challenging corridors where a variety of land use and transportation issues are present and a variety of policy recommendations and operations, capacity and other transportation infrastructure improvements are needed. She shared that those are typically arterial corridors such as Patton Avenue, Hendersonville Road, Airport Road, US 64-Four Seasons Boulevard, and Dellwood Road and US 70. The identified corridors face difficulties resulting in traffic congestion and safety concerns, which cannot be addressed through simple widening. She also reviewed CMP Corridors with no funded improvements. Many of those major arterials carry cross-county commuter traffic and are of regional importance. Lyuba Zuyeva that a corridor study for the MPO region's challenging corridors can look at changing land-use issues and identify recommended land use policy changes as well as multi-modal transportation improvements. Typically corridor studies provide both short-term and long-term improvement recommendations. Lyuba Zuyeva noted that the MPO currently has an unobligated PL fund balance that could potentially be used for corridor study set asides.

Lyuba Zuyeva reviewed the possible scenarios including two scenarios that would increase the local jurisdiction dues to the MPO, a "Pay to Play"/Opt in Scenario where only interested jurisdictions would pay extra dues into the corridor study fund and continuing "business as usual" - not having any corridor study set aside but allowing interested jurisdictions to apply during the regular planning studies call for projects. These scenarios will go back to the Prioritization Subcommittee for further discussion. (The presentation slides were posted at <http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/CorridorStudyScenarios.pdf>).

Discussion occurred about having a set aside for corridor studies and additional MPO dues. Autumn Radcliff communicated a request for corridor studies to be ranked by priority. Chairman O'Conner shared that the selling point that is missing for the local elected officials is how having a study can be more cost-effective, provide land use policy recommendations and alleviate negative perceptions from the public. Public input for the corridor studies could provide buy-in on future transportation projects. It was noted that many of the challenging corridors have some of the same issues. Having those studies could be helpful; even with the potential for having to expend additional funds.

The consensus of the group was to bring this discussion to the MPO Board and to provide additional emphasis during the conversation on how studies could increase public input opportunities before a transportation project is funded. Another suggestion was provide examples of previously-completed studies in the region. NCDOT staff shared that the agency is also seeing more emphasis on the importance of corridor studies. Steve Williams commented that with previous studies, it would have been nice to have more buy-in through local stakeholder/public outreach.

No action required at this time.

MPO Board Nominations for Chair and Meeting Times

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that the FBRMPO Board will open nominations for a new Chair during the September 28 meeting since the current Chair, Doug Dearth, is not seeking re-election and his term with the Town of

Weaverville will end in early December. Additionally, MPO staff would like to propose moving the MPO Board meeting time to 1pm in order to better accommodate the City of Asheville's ART transit route W4 schedule, which brings riders to New Leicester Highway and Eliada Home Road stop at 40-45 minutes after the hour. Requests have been received from the public to have the MPO Board meeting time more closely align with the City's bus schedule. A later start time would also provide more time for the RPO TAC meeting on those dates when their meeting falls prior to the MPO Board.

Informational item only so that TCC members may inform their respective MPO Board members about those items that will be up for discussion at the MPO Board meeting on September 28.

City of Asheville Bond Referendum Projects

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that in November 2016, the City of Asheville voters approved a \$74 million bond referendum package to fund improvements under three categories: Housing Affordability- \$25 million; Parks and Recreation- \$17 million; and, Transportation- \$32 million. She introduced Jade Dundas, Manager of the new Capital Projects Department that will be managing the bond-funded projects.

Jade Dundas shared a brief timeline of the bond referendum including that the City has as strong focus on information sharing for outside public/stakeholder involvement as well as for the City internal departments. Transportation projects would include bike/ped projects as well as resurfacing. Multiple areas of focus around the City have been identified, such as the South Slope, for example. The City is looking at additional development districts, as well. The City is also aware of the timeline for projects and has chosen to utilize the existing tools on the City's website to generate stakeholder support and provide information: dashboards.ashevillenc.gov/capital_projects The City is also putting up signs that point to where bond projects will be. Jade Dundas shared that this is a work in progress, which is updated as public involvement dictates. The site also includes project maps for non-bond funded Capital Improvement projects. Jade Dundas noted that the City wants to be as transparent as possible with this process.

Discussion occurred about whether the website would be used to report public input, in addition to reporting-out on projects. The transportation projects under the bond at this time are all projects that are local in nature.

Informational only.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES

The next TCC meeting is scheduled for October 12 and there may be some TIP Amendments presented at that meeting. Ritchie Rozzelle announced that the Open Streets Festival is happening in downtown Asheville on Sunday, September 16.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

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