



# French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization

Minutes from the TCC meeting, June 14, 2018

## ATTENDANCE:

**Meeting Date:**

**06/14/2018**

Representing	Voting TCC		Via Phone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of	Dan	Baechtold	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biltmore Forest, Town of	Adrienne	Isenhower	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black Mountain, Town of	Jessica	Trotman	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe County	Josh	O'Conner	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fletcher, Town of	Eric	Rufa	<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"/> Land of Sky RPO	Vicki	Eastland	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Madison County	Forrest	Gilliam	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mills River, Town of	Brian	Burgess	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mountain Mobility	Matt	Cable	<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"/>

**15 Voting Members Present**

Non Voting At TCC			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bell Engineering	Dana	Bolden	<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"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Nick	Kroncke	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FHWA	Mike	Dawson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gannett Fleming	Rick	Tipton	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J.M. Teague Engineering	Kenny	Armstrong	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J.M. Teague Engineering	Anna	Sexton	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LOSRC	Ritchie	Rozzelle	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Steve	Cannon	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Stephen	Sparks	<input type="checkbox"/>

**12 Non-Voters Present**

## **WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING**

Chairman O’Conner opened the meeting and introductions followed.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman O’Conner requested approval for the Consent Agenda consisting of the May 2018 TCC minutes; Approval of an additional member for the Citizens Advisory Committee Roster; and, the STBG and STBG-DA Flexing Memo. He also requested approval of the Agenda, as well.

**Dan Baechtold moved to approve the Consent Agenda and the Agenda as presented. Vicki Eastland seconded and the motion carried as all were in favor.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

## **REGULAR UPDATES AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

Lyuba Zuyeva announced that there would be no meeting cycle in July for the FBRMPO. She also announced that the annual Land of Sky Open House and BBQ would happen on Wednesday, July 25 beginning at noon. Lyuba Zuyeva shared legislative updates including that a bill is moving through the NC General Assembly for the BuildNC Bonds, which would allow existing transportation funding to be drawn down more quickly. Implementation could impact how much funding is available in the 2020-2029 STIP for Regional Impact and Division Needs projects. She also shared that the state budget has been signed before July 1.

## **BUSINESS**

### TIP Amendments

Nick Kroncke reviewed the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendments and modifications for projects in the FBRMPO region. The list of amendments includes removal of the Balfour Parkway project; the addition of projects approved for STBG-DA and TAP-DA funding (approved during the May meeting cycle); the addition of preliminary engineering studies for Statewide Mobility projects preliminarily programmed through SPOT 5; the acceleration of sidewalks on Hazelwood Avenue in Waynesville; and, additional transit projects approved for JARC and 5310 funding (approved during the May meeting cycle), as well as several other amendments. Lyuba Zuyeva noted positive public comments received regarding the removal of the Balfour Parkway project from the TIP and she shared that additional public comments regarding the project are expected to be presented during the Board meeting on June 28.

**Brian Burgess moved to recommend the TIP Amendments for FBRMPO Board approval as presented. Matt Cable seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.**

Tristan Winkler shared that the TIP amendments include over \$25 million in STBG-DA and TAP-DA funding; going forward, that level of funding is not likely to be available in a typical STBG-DA call for projects.

### SPOT 5 Prioritization- Final Regional Tier Point Assignments

Tristan Winkler shared that in May, the MPO Board voted to cascade more projects than the TCC recommended. He reminded the TCC that when the MPO puts points on a project, that project's score is boosted substantially. Tristan Winkler reviewed where there is a mismatch between Division and MPO Regional Impact Tier points draft assignment, including for access management projects in Divisions 13 and 14. MPO is not currently planning to put points on US 19 Dellwood Road project in Haywood County, whereas NCDOT plans to put points on it. In addition, a memo was received from the Land of Sky RPO requesting that the MPO consider putting points on the US 25/70 Superstreet project in Madison County. Tristan Winkler noted that the list of projects for Division 14 has been updated and points would be assigned to I-26.

A discussion followed about NC 280 project in Mills River. Steve Williams shared that for projects in Henderson County, the county or the municipality would need to submit a resolution of support as NCDOT tries to align its points with the local community preferences. Discussion occurred about the US 25/70 superstreet project in Madison County, which is in both the RPO and MPO planning regions. Tristan Winkler noted that in terms of the survey, that project was not very well received. If the TCC wanted to recommend that an exception be made to the methodology, points could be put on that project.

Rick Tipton noted safety issues along US 25/70 corridor. Forrest Gilliam noted that the commissioners in Madison County have seen the same issues and while the road works very well, there are safety concerns. With that in mind, the County would advocate that points be applied to the project.

Jodie Ferguson asked if the Dellwood Road project would impact businesses along the corridor negatively. Tristan Winkler shared that while businesses may be against the project, there does seem to be some support along the corridor for safety improvements. Jodie Ferguson communicated that the County is not in support of advancing the project at this time due to its perceived negative impact on businesses along the corridor. Tristan Winkler communicated that the Prioritization Subcommittee recommended the draft project list as is. He noted that for all 17 counties in NCDOT Region G, there is expected to be \$300 million available and the MPO plans to put points on projects until the projected funding runs out. Due to several exceptions that were requested, FBRMPO Regional Impact Tier points are being assigned to over \$300 million worth of projects. Through exercising fiscal constraint, the MPO's points have a little more weight.

Further discussion about US 25/70 project followed. The project has been revised in the SPOT database and scores 30 on the quantitative score. Brendan Merithew asked if the MPO list is final and raised a concern that more funding might become available. Tristan Winkler noted that from prior discussion, the transportation bonds would accelerate projects, not necessarily provide more funding for projects currently under consideration. He also noted that points are being applied for projects that are competing for funding among 17 counties.

**Forrest Gilliam moved to approve the MPO allocating 65 points to the US 25/70 Superstreet project and to recommend for FBRMPO Board approval the MPO's local input points assignment for Regional Impact tier projects. Dan Baechtold seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.**

#### Regional Transit Feasibility Study

Lyuba Zuyeva reviewed regional commuter pattern data, which indicates that there is an increase in cross-county commuting trends. Lyuba Zuyeva shared that one of the solutions for people trying to get to jobs across county lines is to develop an express bus service model. She noted that express buses are meant to attract "choice riders". The region currently lacks the appropriate agency structure and funding streams to set up and operate express bus routes which could serve people commuting into Asheville from surrounding counties. A feasibility study could include analysis of specific regional express bus routes and a new Regional Transit Authority structure, which would not replace existing transit agencies but would utilize a new funding source to provide new services. Feasibility study parameters and likely cost was reviewed. Potential next steps include doing some more work before moving forward with a regional transit feasibility study. As part of the study and in follow-up, generating additional public buy-in for express bus routes would be necessary. She noted that there was a previous regional transit feasibility study done by NCDOT in 2010, which recognized the potential benefits and efficiencies of regionalization of transit or increased coordination of services. That study was perceived as Raleigh-driven and not fully sensitive to the local context. The cost for a feasibility study would require an additional local match from local government members. She encouraged TCC members to recommend potential stakeholders. The study would not start till FY 2020.

Discussion occurred regarding pulling in the City of Brevard as part of the feasibility study. Forrest Gilliam noted that regional connections are very important to Madison County, which has a high commuter rate. Lyuba Zuyeva responded to a question about a regional transit authority possibly centralizing some of the services and noted that initially, the regional transit authority would be limited to providing new express bus and vanpool routes; however, over time it could also provide additional local transit services under a contract if requested to do so by local agencies. She also communicated that 5307 urban transit funding was not anticipated to be used for a regional transit authority; rather, new revenue streams would be explored.

**Brian Burgess moved to recommend to the FBRMPO Board approval of the Regional Transit Feasibility Study to start in FY 2020. Forest Gilliam seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.**

#### Asheville to Hendersonville Recreational Railroad

Larry Morton with Apple Valley Model Railroad Club discussed the potential for a recreational railroad route between Asheville and Hendersonville. Planned to be tourism and recreation-oriented, the route would utilize existing railroad track between Asheville and Hendersonville, which currently serves a limited number of customers in Henderson County. Recreational train rides on the weekends could operate under a model like the Craggy Mountain Line or the Great Smoky Mountain Railroad.

After the presentation, discussion occurred about the proposed schedule for the route and Larry Morton shared that it would begin conservatively and maybe run four days a week with the train leaving Hendersonville in the morning. He noted that the train tracks are currently sitting idle as freight moves mainly at night. Larry Morton noted that next steps include putting together the costs for the train and service.

**No action needed, informational item.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES**

The Congestion Management Workshop is July 24.

Land of Sky's annual BBQ and Open House happens Wednesday, July 25 beginning at noon.

The next TCC meeting is Thursday, August 9, 2018 at 11:00am.

Tristan Winkler suggested a topic for a future meeting- to look at cross-sections and preliminary designs that the MPO has approved. In terms of regional projects, it may be time to make the MPO's voice heard with regards to safety, which is very important.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No none made any public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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