



**Executive Committee  
March 24, 2021  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
Land of Sky Regional Council  
339 New Leicester Highway, Suite 140, Asheville, North Carolina 28806**

**AGENDA**

**1. Call to Order (11:00am)**

**2. Consent Agenda**

*Consent Agenda items are considered routine and noncontroversial in nature, and are considered and approved by a single motion and vote. If any member of the Executive Committee requests an item be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration and action that item will be placed under the Business, Updates and Discussion section of the agenda.*

- A. February 24, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
- B. FY 2020/2021 Budget Amendment #7
- C. Year to Date (YTD) Financial Report

**3. Business**

- A. Request from NC Senator Julie Mayfield
- B. Nominating Committee Report

**4. Other Items**

- A. Executive Director Report
- B. Land of Sky Regional Council Office Status
- C. COVID-19 Regional Response Effort

**5. Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6)**

**6. Adjournment**

**Land of Sky Regional Council  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom  
Executive Committee  
February 24, 2021**

**Minutes**

Land of Sky Regional Council's Executive Committee held a virtual meeting via the Zoom platform on Wednesday, February 24, 2021. Executive Committee members participating in the meeting remotely included Chair Barbara Volk, Bob Tomasulo, Preston Blakely, John Mitchell, Albert Gooch, and Patrick Fitzsimmons, constituting a quorum.

Land of Sky staff participating onsite included Nathan Ramsey, Charlotte Sullivan, Danna Stansbury, Glenda Brown, Christina Giles (Zoom Host), and Zia Rifkin (Minutes). Land of Sky Regional Council staff attending the meeting remotely included LeeAnne Tucker and Erica Anderson. Land of Sky's legal counsel; Susan Russo-Klein was also present through remote participation

**Call to Order** –Chair Volk called the meeting to order at approximately 11:00am.

**Approval of Consent Agenda** – The consent agenda composed of items A. January 27, 2021 Executive Committee minutes; and B. FY 2020/21 Budget Amendment #6.was presented for approval with no modification requested.

The purpose of Budget Amendment #6 is to incorporate additional funding for the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) in the amount of \$41,097 and Economic, and Community Development (ECD) for \$36,252. The budget amendment provides \$77,349 more in estimated revenues for FY21.

***Albert Gooch moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Preston Blakely seconded and the motion carried unanimously upon a roll call vote, and without further discussion.***

**Business**

Land of Sky Regional Council Audit Contract with Anderson Smith & Wike, PLLC

Land of Sky entered into a three-year audit contract with Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC; however, approval is required by the Local Government Commission on an annual basis. Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC served as the Council's external auditor for FY19-20. The proposed contract is for FY20-21. As per the contract, the audit fee will be \$25,500 and the cost for writing the Council's financial statements will be \$3,000.

***Patrick Fitzsimmons moved to approve the audit contract with Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC as presented and to authorize staff to enter into the audit contract with the audit firm. Bob Tomasulo seconded and the motion carried upon a roll call vote and without further discussion.***

Land of Sky Regional Council Service Awards

The Council provides a Years of Service bonus of \$50.00 for employees who reach their years of service at increments of 5, 10, 15, and 20 Years. The Council pays both the employer's and the employee's share of FICA taxes so that the net amount of the check is equal to the amount listed above.

Based on the above system, bonuses for 2020-21 would cost the Council approximately \$291.40 (\$250.00 plus employee FICA of \$20.70 and employer FICA of \$20.70).

***Preston Blakely moved to approve the FY20-21 Land of Sky Regional Council Years of Service bonus for qualifying employees. John Mitchell seconded and the motion carried upon a roll call vote and without further discussion.***

#### Monthly Financial Report

The Council will begin presenting a monthly financial statement for review by the Executive Committee. The report is by line item. Charlotte Sullivan noted that there is a timing issue with regards to reporting expenditures since many of the Council's contracts are on a reimbursement basis.

Nathan Ramsey shared that this report would be provided at each Executive Committee meeting going forward.

***No action requested. Informational item.***

#### Workforce and Finance Staff Reclassifications

Nathan Ramsey shared that he plans to continue serving as the Workforce Director. Also, the Finance Manager (Arlene Wilson) is planning on retiring at the end of May 2021. To respond in the most cost effective and beneficial means to the Council, there will be several internal staff reclassifications in the Workforce and Finance Departments. Funds for the salary increases will come from the Workforce budget and result in additional indirect to the Council. The Executive Director continuing to serve as Workforce Director will save the Council in excess of \$40,000 annually.

Changes to staff positions in the Finance Department include the creation of the position of Workforce and Accounting Specialist, which would be filled by Zia Rifkin. This new position is proposed at a Grade 24, with a salary increase of \$7,317, bringing the salary for the new position to \$55,000. This would move Ms. Rifkin from the Workforce Department to the Finance Department, while maintaining her current role with Land of Sky Administration as the administrative support to the Regional Board, along with other defined duties.

Additionally, the current position of Payroll and Finance Specialist is proposed to have a salary increase of \$2,945 for a total salary of \$55,000, which is also a Grade 24, as current staff transition into an expanded role in the Finance Department.

The proposed changes include creating two new positions for current Workforce staff. Barbara Darby, currently the Regional Business Services Coordinator would become the Assistant Director of Workforce Development, with a salary increase of \$5,000, bringing her proposed salary to \$62,337 (Grade 27). The second new position would be the Workforce Operations Specialist. Melissa Wright, Accountability Specialist/EO Office for Workforce Development would move into this position and her salary classification would be a Grade 24, with a \$7,000 salary increase, bringing her salary to \$55,000.

***Albert Gooch moved to approve the Workforce and Finance Position Reclassifications as proposed to be effective the next pay period, beginning on February 27, 2021. Patrick Fitzsimmons seconded and the motion carried upon a roll call vote and without further discussion.***

#### Selection of IT Managed Services Provider

Nathan Ramsey shared that VC3 has been LOSRC's Managed IT Services provider since 2012. VC3 was selected as the vendor through a sole source contract. VC3's contract with LOSRC ended in December 2020. Prior to 2012 LOSRC provided IT services internally with a 1.0 FTE IT Director. The transition to VC3 was made to allow for remote working flexibility among other reasons.

In August 2020, LOSRC released an RFP for Managed IT Services. The procurement process took longer than anticipated. LOSRC entered into a six-month extension with VC3 through May 2021 to allow for more time to evaluate the proposals submitted pursuant to the RFP.

LOSRC received six (6) proposals and the proposals are listed following:

1. VC3 – Columbia, SC - \$10,069.90/month (currently paying \$12,000/month) - Began service with VC3 in 2012 and paid approximately \$13,000 in implementation fees, there would not be an additional implementation fee if the contract with VC3 was extended.
2. Advanced Business Equipment – Asheville, NC - \$12,803.00/month – proposal did not mention upfront costs.
3. Call S2 Tech – Winston-Salem, NC - \$10,618.34/month – Project Work excluded from bid.
4. Electronic Office – Asheville, NC – Option 1: \$9,991.00/month with \$20,000 upfront cost – Option 2: \$8,491.00/month with \$60,812.38 upfront cost.
5. Ims Solutions Group – Greenville, SC - \$9,945/month with \$22,964 setup.
6. Epsilon – Asheville, NC - \$6,624.40/month with \$20,700 implementation.

Staff recommends that LOSRC select Epsilon to be the IT Managed Services provider for the Council based on the relative cost compared to the other proposals, customer service offered by Epsilon, ability to support the needs of LOSRC staff and programs and experience of other local governments utilizing Epsilon as their IT Managed Services provider. The selection of Epsilon will save LOSRC \$50,000+ annually compared to the current contract. These savings will significantly reduce our administrative overhead as IT is our largest expense outside of the building lease/purchase and personnel.

***Patrick Fitzsimmons moved to authorize staff to enter into a three-year contract with Epsilon for Managed IT services. Bob Tomasulo seconded and the motion carried upon a roll call vote and without further discussion.***

#### Other Items

##### Executive Director Report

Nathan Ramsey shared that his current report was in the agenda packet and he encouraged Executive Committee members to reach out with any questions or comments regarding the report.

Nathan Ramsey shared that at today's Council meeting the passing of the Mayor of Marshall (Jack Wallin) and the former Mayor of Weaverville (Betty Stroud) would be recognized. Additionally, the Years of Service recognition is proposed to be moved to the beginning of the meeting due to staff time constraints. LeeAnne Tucker will be presented with a resolution on behalf of Council, recognizing her for 20 years of service to LOSRC.

Nathan Ramsey shared that Buncombe County Commissioner Terri Wells, Buncombe County Economic Development Representative George Morosani and Henderson County Commissioner William Lapsley have agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee, whose report is planned for presentation at the Annual Meeting in March (March 24, 2021). He noted that currently serving members of the Executive Committee would be asked if they would be willing to serve again.

Several staff trainings have been held recently including Collective Impact training. Leadership is also conducting LOSRC Employee Handbook/Manual training this month and another is planned for March, as all staff are required to attend this training.

Many positive things have happened in the past month, including that the ARC INSPRIE (Investments Supporting Partnerships in Recovery Ecosystems) grant, submitted by Workforce, has been approved. The ARC grant totals \$500,000, and Dogwood Health Trust (DHT) has agreed to match the grant 1:1, providing for \$1 Million in total impact for the western region (LOSRC and Southwestern Regions). The ARC INSPRIE grant is planned to support recovery to work. Some additional funding will be provided by MAHEC. LOSRC will be the grant administrator. Additional grants have been approved including a grant from DHT (\$22,500) for broadband survey marketing support for LOSRC and Southwestern Commission.



In addition, a presentation on Local Dues is planned soon and Nathan Ramsey noted also, that local matches for EDA and ARC grants are going up and at some point, local dues would need to increase, too. The Statewide COG group is also compiling information on dues. The goal is to provide the disposition of local dues for all Member Governments.

#### Land of Sky Regional Council Office Status

Nathan Ramsey shared that the office remains closed to the public and staff are encouraged to telework as much as possible, but they may come to the office as necessary with permission from their supervisor. The goal is to keep everyone safe and healthy. It is beginning to look like the office might open to the public around May/June, but that is subject to change depending on the environment. Staff recognizes that going forward, a remote meeting option will be available for all meetings. He reminded the Executive Committee that the Dogwood Room (large conference room) recently had an audio/visual upgrade.

Nathan Ramsey continued by sharing about the potential of losing the ability to contract with Buncombe County for the Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation (NEMT) Call Center and staff is making every effort to streamline the functions of Council. The State's Medicaid Transformation may reduce the NEMT services to about 1500 individuals. Buncombe County is preparing the upcoming fiscal year's contract to remain as is or at reduced capacity. The County wants to assure that none of the Medicaid recipients fall through the cracks.

Susan Russo-Klein shared that Nathan Ramsey has been the Executive Director for an entire year. Originally, the agreement was to review the position at the six-month point, which was conducted informally. She noted that the evaluation is a really important process for the Executive Committee. The process begins with an evaluation and Susan Russo-Klein requested that Nathan Ramsey send her any relevant information, that he wants the Executive Committee to consider, by March 5, 2021. A closed session is proposed for the March meeting, pursuant to State Statute. At the end of that meeting, the Executive Committee could determine if they want to meet with Nathan at that point or defer that to the following meeting. This is meant to be a process of providing constructive criticism and incentivizing the employee through recognition of accomplishments.

#### Adjournment

***Chair Volk adjourned the meeting, as there was no further business.***

Respectfully submitted by Zia Rifkin

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**BUDGET AMENDMENT RESOLUTION #7**

BE IT ORDAINED by the governing board of the Land of Sky Regional Council that the following amendment be made to the annual budget ordinance for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.

**SECTION I.** To amend the appropriations as follows:

Area Agency on Aging	\$ 244
Workforce Development	
Economic & Community Development	\$ 148,677
General Operations	
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>\$ 148,921</b>

**SECTION II.** It is estimated that the following revenues will be available for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.

Federal	\$ 915
State	
Local	\$ 3,974
Local Dues	\$ 8,782
Private Grants, Contracts & Sponsorships	\$ 35,250
Fees	
In-Kind	\$100,000
Other	
<b>Total Estimated Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 148,921</b>

**SECTION III.** The finance officer is authorized to allocate the amounts of projects, programs and functions to appropriate objects of expenditures in accordance with the requirements of the contract concerning each project, program or function. The Finance Officer is authorized to reallocate departmental appropriations among various line item objects of expenditures and revenues as necessary during the budget year. However, any changes to salary or compensation of any employee for any reason shall be approved by the Executive Director and the Executive Committee before such changes takes effect.

**SECTION IV.** The Chairman and/or appropriate officers are authorized to execute all contracts or grants necessary to implement this budget, including federal and state grants, contracts for assistance to local governments and agencies, and subcontracts to local entities necessary to implement Council programs and activities.

**SECTION V.** Copies of this resolution shall be furnished to the finance/budget officer as directions in carrying out her official duties.

*Approved at the March 24, 2021 Executive Committee meeting of the Land of Sky Regional Council.*

**Land of Sky Region Council  
Revenue and Expenditures**



Fiscal Year → **FY21**  
Amendment → **Seven**

Amendment Date → **3/24/2021**

**Revenue and Expenditures**

Program Area	Proposed Budget as of Current Amendment -- 'Seven'	Budget as of Previous Amendment -- 'Six'	Increase or (Decrease) between Current and Previous Amendment	Percent Change between Current and Previous Amendment	Percent Change between Current Amendment Proposed Budget and FY Start
AAA - Area Agency on Aging	\$7,023,833	\$7,023,589	\$244	0.0%	0.0%
ECD - Economic and Community Development	\$4,746,237	\$4,597,560	\$148,677	3.2%	4.1%
MAWD - Workforce Development	\$2,762,445	\$2,762,445	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
MNG - General Operations	\$198,866	\$198,866	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Land of Sky Regional Council</b>	<b>\$14,731,381</b>	<b>\$14,582,460</b>	<b>\$148,921</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>24.2%</b>

**Revenue by Source**

Funding Source	Proposed Budget as of Current Amendment -- 'Seven'	Budget as of Previous Amendment -- 'Six'	Increase or (Decrease) between Current and Previous Amendment	Percent Change between Current and Previous Amendment	Percent Change between Current Amendment Proposed Budget and FY Start
Federal	\$9,541,106	\$9,540,191	\$915	0.0%	0.0%
State	\$1,741,751	\$1,741,751	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
Local	\$1,909,794	\$1,905,820	\$3,974	0.2%	0.2%
Local-Dues	\$460,911	\$452,129	\$8,782	1.9%	3.7%
Private	\$526,270	\$491,020	\$35,250	7.2%	15.5%
Other	\$149,546	\$149,546	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
In-Kind	\$241,864	\$141,864	\$100,000	70.5%	95.0%
Fees	\$160,139	\$160,139	\$0	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Land of Sky Regional Council</b>	<b>\$14,731,381</b>	<b>\$14,582,460</b>	<b>\$148,921</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>24.2%</b>



Land of Sky Region Council  
Revenue and Expenditures

FY21 Fiscal Year

Amendment Number  
Amendment Date

Seven  
3/24/21

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY21 Budget at Start; Total for AAA	FY21 Budget at Amendment Three; Total for AAA	FY21 Budget at Amendment Four; Total for AAA	FY21 Budget at Amendment Five; Total for AAA	FY21 Budget at Amendment Six; Total for AAA	FY21 Budget at Amendment Seven; Total for AAA	FY21 Budget this Amendment as Percent of FY21 Budget Start
AAA		Area Agency on Aging	\$6,229,613	\$6,794,448	\$6,794,448	\$6,982,492	\$7,023,589	\$7,023,833	109.1%
AAA	539	Admin for Community Living Fall Prevention	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$244	-



Land of Sky Region Council  
Revenue and Expenditures



FY21 Fiscal Year

Amendment Number  
Amendment Date

Seven  
3/24/21

FY21 Budget at Start; Total for ECD	FY21 Budget at Amendment Three; Total for ECD	FY21 Budget at Amendment Four; Total for ECD	FY21 Budget at Amendment Five; Total for ECD	FY21 Budget at Amendment Six; Total for ECD	Amendment Seven; Total for ECD	FY21 Budget at Amendment Seven; Total for ECD	FY21 Budget this Amendment as Percent of FY21 Budget Start
\$3,583,488	\$4,382,268	\$4,419,377	\$4,561,308	\$4,597,560	\$148,677	\$4,746,237	122.3%

ECD Economic and Community Development

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY21 Budget at Start	FY21 Budget at Amendment Three	FY21 Budget at Amendment Four	FY21 Budget at Amendment Five	FY21 Budget at Amendment Six	Amendment Seven	FY21 Budget at Amendment Seven	FY21 Budget this Amendment as Percent of FY21 Budget Start
ECD	407	Town of Woodfin - GIS TA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,800	\$2,800	--
ECD	422	DHT-Marketing	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$22,250	\$22,250	\$250	\$22,500	--
ECD	429	WGN	\$0	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000	--
ECD	460	Montreat Storm water	\$0	\$30,422	\$30,422	\$30,422	\$30,422	(\$488)	\$29,934	--
ECD	485	DHT- HUD Consolidated Plan	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$35,000	\$35,000	--
ECD	491	ARC ends 12/31/21 (PY Grant #481)	\$79,038	\$79,038	\$79,038	\$79,038	\$79,038	\$8,782	\$87,820	111%
ECD	649	Mars Hill Wastewater Treatment Plant - EDA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,174	\$1,174	--
ECD	823	DOE/NETL Clean Cities Coalition Support - 2/1/16-1/31/19	\$110,000	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$105,000	\$1,159	\$106,159	97%



FY21 Fiscal Year

Seven Amendment Number  
3/24/21 Amendment Date

FY21 Budget at Start; Total for MAWD	FY21 Budget at Amendment Three; Total for MAWD	FY21 Budget at Amendment Four; Total for MAWD	FY21 Budget at Amendment Five; Total for MAWD	FY21 Budget at Amendment Six; Total for MAWD	Amendment Seven; Total for MAWD	FY21 Budget at Amendment Seven; Total for MAWD	FY21 Budget this Amendment as Percent of FY21 Budget Start
-\$1,851,271	\$2,561,959	\$2,612,445	\$2,762,445	\$2,762,445	\$0	\$2,762,445	138.4%

Workforce Development

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY21 Budget at Start	FY21 Budget at Amendment Three	FY21 Budget at Amendment Four	FY21 Budget at Amendment Five	FY21 Budget at Amendment Six	Amendment Seven	FY21 Budget at Amendment Seven	FY21 Budget this Amendment as Percent of FY21 Budget Start

Land of Sky Region Council  
Revenue and Expenditures



FY21 Fiscal Year

Seven  
3/24/21

Amendment Number  
Amendment Date

FY21 Budget at Start; Total for MING	FY21 Budget at Amendment Three; Total for MING	FY21 Budget at Amendment Four; Total for MING	FY21 Budget at Amendment Five; Total for MING	FY21 Budget at Amendment Six; Total for MING	FY21 Budget at Amendment Seven; Total for MING	FY21 Budget this Amendment as Percent of FY21 Budget Start
\$-198,866	\$198,866	\$198,866	\$198,866	\$198,866	\$198,866	100.0%

General Operations

MING

Unit	Grant Number	Grant Name	FY21 Budget at Start	FY21 Budget at Amendment Three	FY21 Budget at Amendment Four	FY21 Budget at Amendment Five	FY21 Budget at Amendment Six	FY21 Budget at Amendment Seven	FY21 Budget at Amendment Seven; Total for MING	FY21 Budget this Amendment as Percent of FY21 Budget Start

**Land-of-Sky Regional Council**

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures by Period  
From 7/1/2020 Through 2/28/2021

	7/1/2020 - 7/31/2020	8/1/2020 - 8/31/2020	9/1/2020 - 9/30/2020	10/1/2020 - 10/31/2020	11/1/2020 - 11/30/2020	12/1/2020 - 12/31/2020
<b>Revenues</b>						
Federal	72,162.33	344,705.63	222,621.05	432,707.17	354,983.77	1,165,841.90
State	0.00	0.00	6,190.00	8,094.00	0.00	14,319.00
Local	156,181.95	86,102.84	245,329.55	(33,385.87)	319,740.25	245,148.96
Private	247,081.68	190.00	460.00	(1,544.00)	49,410.00	141,635.00
InKind	0.00	0.00	48,901.33	999.42	799.54	11,198.15
Fees	13,169.55	550.00	6,197.85	18,387.23	1,113.15	198,329.15
RLF Loan payments received	18,981.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rents Received	832.70	416.35	0.00	832.70	416.35	416.35
Interest	45.79	24.86	12.25	7.33	5.70	6.44
RLF Interest earned	247.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>508,703.47</b>	<b>431,989.68</b>	<b>529,712.03</b>	<b>426,097.98</b>	<b>726,468.76</b>	<b>1,776,894.95</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>						
<b>Salary &amp; Vacation</b>						
Direct Salaries	84,635.69	131,927.83	141,693.20	210,037.83	144,001.53	143,899.06
Bonus	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Direct, Offsite Salaries/Wages	1,564.06	2,891.21	2,484.40	3,673.02	2,979.31	3,311.61
Indirect Salaries	24,412.44	32,502.49	30,089.80	43,425.52	30,067.14	30,841.13
Holiday Bonus	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,358.27
Accrued Vacation	11,697.50	11,846.19	11,866.57	12,087.62	11,985.22	11,971.64
<b>Total Salary &amp; Vacation</b>	<b>122,309.69</b>	<b>179,167.72</b>	<b>189,133.97</b>	<b>269,223.99</b>	<b>189,033.20</b>	<b>194,381.71</b>
<b>All Fringe Expense</b>						
Fringe Benefits	47,273.01	58,973.14	62,042.63	70,612.96	54,898.83	57,249.58
Fringe - acc. vac.	4,386.27	4,437.71	4,453.43	4,195.46	4,155.37	4,151.17
<b>Total All Fringe Expense</b>	<b>51,659.28</b>	<b>63,410.85</b>	<b>66,496.06</b>	<b>74,808.42</b>	<b>59,054.20</b>	<b>61,400.75</b>
<b>All Other Expenses</b>						
Telephone & Postage	2,187.11	4,136.56	4,601.49	3,893.39	6,594.40	5,764.45
Leased Postage System	55.66	0.00	542.79	0.00	0.00	542.79
Technology	687.50	450.00	1,075.00	450.00	687.50	925.00
Virtual Network	11,729.02	0.00	24,169.12	12,061.02	0.00	25,344.28
Travel - Staff	24.51	343.30	468.65	637.55	532.34	1,333.48
Maintenance & Repairs	629.50	74.00	83.17	1,569.36	262.16	1,954.90
Cleaning Services	1,913.75	1,913.75	3,133.75	1,913.75	1,913.75	1,913.75
Cleaning Supplies	53.92	131.76	93.56	50.29	164.47	0.00
Leased Equipment	4,246.84	2,123.42	2,363.10	2,232.11	1,684.54	5,680.96

**Land-of-Sky Regional Council**  
 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures by Period  
 From 7/1/2020 Through 2/28/2021

1/1/2021 - 1/31/2021	2/1/2021 - 2/28/2021	Total
711,432.32	739,086.99	4,043,541.16
3,705.00	13,333.84	45,641.84
161,849.76	257,353.78	1,438,321.22
45,895.00	10,205.00	493,332.68
1,099.37	14,477.27	77,475.08
(125,267.49)	43,085.42	155,564.86
0.00	0.00	18,981.70
416.35	416.35	3,747.15
6.44	5.83	114.64
0.00	0.00	247.77
<u>799,136.75</u>	<u>1,077,964.48</u>	<u>6,276,968.10</u>
126,793.11	148,646.44	1,131,634.69
0.00	0.00	3,000.00
12,068.88	13,584.04	42,556.53
28,727.69	24,738.04	244,804.25
0.00	1,570.06	5,928.33
14,095.07	12,427.70	97,977.51
<u>181,684.75</u>	<u>200,966.28</u>	<u>1,525,901.31</u>
53,808.25	59,584.64	464,443.04
4,893.18	4,294.26	34,966.85
<u>58,701.43</u>	<u>63,878.90</u>	<u>499,409.89</u>
3,346.14	5,817.47	36,341.01
0.00	0.00	1,141.24
450.00	925.00	5,650.00
12,685.38	0.00	85,988.82
381.87	34.50	3,756.20
362.09	6,830.32	11,765.50
1,838.75	1,913.75	16,455.00
140.64	33.32	667.96
3,552.96	1,514.46	23,398.39

Date: 3/17/21 10:34:04 AM



**Land-of-Sky Regional Council**

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures by Period  
From 7/1/2020 Through 2/28/2021

	7/1/2020 - 7/31/2020	8/1/2020 - 8/31/2020	9/1/2020 - 9/30/2020	10/1/2020 - 10/31/2020	11/1/2020 - 11/30/2020	12/1/2020 - 12/31/2020
Utilities - Electric	0.00	817.95	705.00	702.03	732.78	660.81
Utilities - HVAC	701.19	374.33	405.27	414.46	521.25	1,250.67
Copier Costs/Paper	607.41	467.26	410.54	480.99	113.68	199.34
Training	(1,005.00)	250.00	607.00	1,398.95	654.00	970.50
General Office Supplies	462.07	201.00	2,392.96	483.52	(282.85)	83.47
Grant Supplies	0.00	701.42	9,900.27	6,651.77	3,172.97	6,536.06
Contractual	0.00	53,414.77	9,750.00	25,802.50	2,657.50	20,755.00
Dues & Subscriptions	2,602.88	2,519.27	7,582.39	3,367.13	6,258.32	6,577.47
Insurance	11,406.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	1,107.48	11,599.07	2,160.29	23,826.76	1,695.14	6,527.64
Printing	0.00	0.00	0.00	557.02	0.00	5,000.00
Advertising	2.00	308.00	0.00	671.32	451.00	2,568.60
Legal Fees	0.00	3,177.35	0.00	2,700.00	2,643.75	0.00
Indirect Costs	53,253.71	78,493.78	84,302.39	120,496.86	81,935.89	69,374.02
Subcontract/Passthrough	15,892.20	280,664.47	390,088.28	370,687.52	514,094.52	643,527.99
Pass-Thru Participant Training	1,590.00	5,402.53	13,178.67	29,635.30	23,317.43	5,650.90
Indirect	(53,253.68)	(78,493.78)	(84,302.39)	(120,496.86)	(81,935.89)	(69,374.02)
InKind	0.00	0.00	14,300.08	999.42	799.54	11,198.15
Total All Other Expenses	54,894.87	369,070.21	488,011.38	491,186.16	568,668.19	754,966.21
Total Expenditures	228,863.84	611,648.78	743,641.41	835,218.57	816,755.59	1,010,748.67
Cash Balance	279,839.63	(179,659.10)	(213,929.38)	(409,120.59)	(90,286.83)	766,146.28

**Land-of-Sky Regional Council**  
**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures by Period**  
**From 7/1/2020 Through 2/28/2021**

1/1/2021 - 1/31/2021	2/1/2021 - 2/28/2021	Total
670.15	620.72	4,909.44
410.65	1,125.29	5,203.11
1,006.08	421.85	3,707.15
3,942.33	1,580.00	8,397.78
834.20	287.93	4,462.30
3,967.39	3,258.16	34,188.04
42,761.37	9,254.31	164,395.45
538.82	1,854.61	31,300.89
0.00	0.00	11,406.80
1,658.61	3,413.08	51,988.07
0.00	0.00	5,557.02
431.50	9,188.00	13,620.42
2,475.00	1,406.25	12,402.35
78,164.42	89,606.88	655,627.95
454,769.75	435,068.01	3,104,792.74
7,783.17	21,435.72	107,993.72
(78,164.42)	(89,606.88)	(655,627.92)
1,099.37	1,377.82	29,774.38
545,106.22	507,360.57	3,779,263.81
785,492.40	772,205.75	5,804,575.01
13,644.35	305,758.73	472,393.09



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM**

- Item Number:** 3A – Request from NC Senator Julie Mayfield
- Nature of Item:** Report
- Attachment(s):** Request from NC Senator Julie Mayfield and NC Senate Bill 179
- Background:** NC Senator Julie Mayfield has requested a resolution from the Council in support of Senate Bill 179. This legislation would grant the City of Asheville the authority to enact a sales tax for public transit subject to voter approval. Buncombe County currently has this authority but the City of Asheville does not.
- Responsible Staff:** Nathan Ramsey, Executive Director, LOSRC
- Suggested Motion:** N/A

## Nathan Ramsey

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**From:** Nathan Ramsey  
**Sent:** Monday, March 01, 2021 9:14 PM  
**To:** Albert Gooch; Billy Clarke; Bob Tomasulo; Commissioner Norris Gentry ; Councilman Preston Blakely (p.blakely@fletchernc.org); John Mitchell; Larry Harris; Mayor Barbara Volk; Patrick Fitzsimmons; Susan Russo Klein  
**Cc:** Nathan Ramsey; Danna Stansbury; Erica Anderson; Tristan Winkler  
**Subject:** Request from Senator Mayfield

Chairperson Volk & Executive Committee Members –

Senator Mayfield is requesting a resolution from the Council in support of her bill to establish a transit tax for the City of Asheville subject to voter approval. Current law allows a countywide vote but not a vote based on the corporate limits of the City of Asheville. Pursuant to current law the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners would have to vote to place the sales tax for transportation on the ballot.

I am requesting your guidance on how to respond to her request. Please see the following email exchange between Senator Mayfield and myself.

Best wishes,  
Nathan.

**From:** Nathan Ramsey  
**Sent:** Friday, February 26, 2021 7:10 PM  
**To:** Sen. Julie Mayfield <Julie.Mayfield@ncleg.gov>  
**Cc:** Nathan Ramsey <nathan@landofsky.org>  
**Subject:** RE: LOSRC Legislative Priorities

Senator Mayfield –

We appreciate your support of our legislative priorities list.

I can reach out to our legislative goals committee and then board to see if there is an interest in supporting a specific bill.

Part of the challenge in developing our legislative priorities list was the effort to have all of our 20 jurisdictions on board with the goals. If you notice with broadband and transportation, the board did not endorse a specific bill.

I would be happy to discuss with you. You can call me anytime at 828-768-3216.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Best wishes,  
Nathan

**From:** Sen. Julie Mayfield <[Julie.Mayfield@ncleg.gov](mailto:Julie.Mayfield@ncleg.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 26, 2021 6:54 PM  
**To:** Nathan Ramsey <[nathan@landofsky.org](mailto:nathan@landofsky.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: LOSRC Legislative Priorities

Thank you Nathan. I agree with all of these. I'm sure you know that I plan to introduce a bill to authorize a sales tax to support transit in Asheville. would the LORSC board adopt a resolution in support of that at the appropriate time? It addresses two of your priorities since giving any municipality the ability to adopt a sales tax increases local government flexibility and since it increases funding for transportation locally.

Thanks  
Julie

Senator Julie Mayfield  
NC Senate District 49

North Carolina General Assembly  
16 W Jones St., Room 1025  
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096  
919-715-3001

[julie.mayfield@ncleg.gov](mailto:julie.mayfield@ncleg.gov)

*If you would like to receive my newsletter, please [click here](#).*

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**From:** Nathan Ramsey <[nathan@landofsky.org](mailto:nathan@landofsky.org)>

**Sent:** Friday, February 26, 2021 12:11 PM

**To:** Sen. Ralph Hise <[Ralph.Hise@ncleg.gov](mailto:Ralph.Hise@ncleg.gov)>; Sen. Chuck Edwards <[Chuck.Edwards@ncleg.gov](mailto:Chuck.Edwards@ncleg.gov)>; Sen. Julie Mayfield <[Julie.Mayfield@ncleg.gov](mailto:Julie.Mayfield@ncleg.gov)>; Rep. John Ager <[John.Ager@ncleg.gov](mailto:John.Ager@ncleg.gov)>; Rep. Brian Turner <[Brian.Turner@ncleg.gov](mailto:Brian.Turner@ncleg.gov)>; Rep. Susan Fisher <[Susan.Fisher@ncleg.gov](mailto:Susan.Fisher@ncleg.gov)>; Rep. Jake H. Johnson <[Jake.Johnson@ncleg.gov](mailto:Jake.Johnson@ncleg.gov)>; Rep. Tim Moffitt <[Tim.Moffitt@ncleg.gov](mailto:Tim.Moffitt@ncleg.gov)>; Rep. Mark Pless <[Mark.Pless@ncleg.gov](mailto:Mark.Pless@ncleg.gov)>

**Cc:** Nathan Ramsey <[nathan@landofsky.org](mailto:nathan@landofsky.org)>

**Subject:** LOSRC Legislative Priorities

Senators Edwards, Hise & Mayfield; and Representatives Ager, Fisher, Johnson, Moffitt, Pless & Turner -

At the Land of Sky Regional Council Board of Delegates meeting this week, the Delegates unanimously passed the following legislative priorities for the Council. The Council represents all 20 local governments (cities, towns and counties) in Buncombe, Henderson, Madison and Transylvania Counties. We respectfully submit these priorities to you and request your support.

1. **Broadband Expansion:** Broadband expansion is the top priority of the Council. The Council supports legislation that will expand broadband in our region, that allows local governments to enter into partnerships with private providers and that commits additional funding to increase access to broadband.
2. **Local Government Sales Tax Flexibility:** Local Governments currently have sales tax options that are contingent on voter approval. The Council requests that the existing sales tax authority be more flexible to meet the needs of



local government but that the additional sales tax flexibility be subject to voter approval from voters within the respective local government jurisdiction.

- 3. Sustainable Transportation Funding for NC and our region:** Additional funding is required to address the immediate and long-term transportation funding model. The Council does not take a position on how to generate additional transportation revenues. The Council endorses the NC Chamber of Commerce Destination 2030 plan and will join as a coalition member. The NC First Commission has recently released their report and the Council requests that the NC General Assembly to seriously consider the options proposed in the report. The Council does not take an official position on how to raise the additional revenue needed.

Let us know if you have any questions. We wish you safety, health and wisdom as you serve our region in the NC General Assembly. We appreciate your dedicated service and leadership on behalf of our region and NC.

You are always welcome to join us at one of our board meetings (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 12:30 pm) or our weekly COVID19 calls (Thursdays at 1:00 pm).

Contact me anytime.

Best wishes,  
Nathan

Nathan Ramsey  
Executive Director, Land of Sky Regional Council  
Director, Mountain Area Workforce Development Board  
339 New Leicester Hwy., Suite 140 • Asheville, NC 28806  
mobile: 828.768.3216 • direct: 828.251.7473 • fax: 828.251.6353



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GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL 179

Short Title: Asheville Local Option Sales Tax for Transit. (Local)

Sponsors: Senator Mayfield (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 4, 2021

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE TO LEVY A MUNICIPAL  
QUARTER-CENT SALES AND USE TAX FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION UPON A  
VOTE OF THE MAJORITY OF VOTERS IN A REFERENDUM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** This act applies to the City of Asheville only.

**SECTION 2.** Subchapter VIII of Chapter 105 of the General Statutes is amended by  
adding a new Article to read:

"Article 47.

"One-Quarter Cent (1/4¢) Municipal Sales and Use Tax for Public Transportation.

**"§ 105-540. Short title.**

This Article is the One-Quarter Cent (1/4¢) Municipal Sales and Use Tax for Public  
Transportation Act.

**"§ 105-541. Definitions.**

The definitions in G.S. 105-164.3 and the following definitions apply in this Article:

(1) Net proceeds. – Defined in G.S. 105-472(a).

(2) Public transportation system. – Any combination of real and personal property  
established for purposes of public transportation. The systems may include  
one or more of the following: structures, improvements, buildings, equipment,  
vehicle parking or passenger transfer facilities, railroads and railroad  
rights-of-way, rights-of-way, bus services, shared-ride services,  
high-occupancy vehicle facilities, carpool and vanpool programs, voucher  
programs, telecommunications and information systems, integrated fare  
systems, and the interconnected bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure that  
supports public transportation, bus lanes, and busways. The term does not  
include, however, streets, roads, or highways except to the extent they are  
dedicated to public transportation vehicles or to the extent they are necessary  
for access to vehicle parking or passenger transfer facilities.

**"§ 105-542. Levy.**

(a) Authority. – If the majority of those voting in a referendum held pursuant to this  
Article vote for the levy of the tax, the governing body of the municipality may, by resolution  
and after 10 days' public notice, levy a local sales and use tax at a rate of one-quarter percent  
(0.25%) in addition to any other State and local sales and use taxes levied pursuant to law.

(b) Vote. – The governing body of the municipality may direct the county board of  
elections to conduct an advisory referendum on the question of whether to levy a local sales and  
use tax in the municipality as provided in this Article. The election shall be held on a date jointly



1 agreed upon by the governing body of the municipality and the county board of elections and  
2 shall be held in accordance with the procedures of G.S. 163-287, except that the election shall  
3 not be held within one year from the date of the last preceding election under this section.

4 (c) Ballot Question. – The form of the question to be presented on a ballot for a special  
5 election concerning the levy of the tax authorized by this Article shall be:

6 "[ ] FOR [ ] AGAINST

7 One-quarter percent (0.25%) local sales and use taxes, in addition to the current local  
8 sales and use taxes, to be used only for public transportation systems."

9 **"§ 105-543. Administration.**

10 Except as provided in this Article, the adoption, levy, collection, administration, and repeal  
11 of the additional taxes authorized by this Article shall be in accordance with Article 39 of this  
12 Chapter. In applying the provisions of Article 39 of this Chapter to this Article, references to  
13 "this Article" mean Article 47 of this Chapter and references to "county," "counties," or "board  
14 of county commissioners" within Article 39 of this Chapter shall be interpreted as referring to  
15 "municipality," "municipalities," or "governing body of the municipality," respectively, for  
16 purposes of the tax authorized by this Article. G.S. 105-468.1 is an administrative provision that  
17 applies to this Article. A tax levied under this Article does not apply to the sales price of food  
18 that is exempt from tax pursuant to G.S. 105-164.13B or to the sales price of a bundled  
19 transaction taxable pursuant to G.S. 105-467(a)(5a).

20 **"§ 105-544. Distribution and use of tax.**

21 (a) Distribution. – The Secretary shall, on a monthly basis, distribute to each taxing  
22 municipality for which the Secretary collects the tax, the net proceeds of the tax collected in that  
23 municipality under this Article. If the Secretary collects local sales or use taxes in a month and  
24 the taxes cannot be identified as being attributable to a particular taxing municipality, the  
25 Secretary shall allocate the taxes among the taxing municipalities in proportion to the amount of  
26 taxes collected in each municipality under this Article during that month and shall include them  
27 in the monthly distribution. Amounts collected by electronic funds transfer payments are  
28 included in the distribution for the month in which the return that applies to the payment is  
29 received.

30 (b) Use. – A municipality may use the net proceeds of the tax levied under this Article  
31 only for financing, constructing, operating, and maintaining local public transportation systems.  
32 A municipality shall use the net proceeds to supplement and not to supplant or replace existing  
33 funds or other resources for public transportation systems."

34 **SECTION 3.** For the first two fiscal years, beginning with the fiscal year during  
35 which the City of Asheville levies the tax authorized by this act, the Secretary may retain the  
36 Department's cost of collecting and administering the tax as determined by the Secretary, not to  
37 exceed three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000), from the gross proceeds of the tax, as  
38 reimbursement to the Department. All other costs of collecting and administering the tax shall be  
39 deducted from the gross proceeds of the tax in accordance with G.S. 105-472(a).

40 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law. The provisions of  
41 G.S. 105-466(c) apply to a tax levied under this act, except that the City must give the Secretary  
42 at least six months advance notice of a tax levied under this act.



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM**

- Item Number:** 3B – LOSRC Nominating Committee Report
- Nature of Item:** Report
- Attachment(s):** LOSRC Nominating Committee Report
- Background:** LOSRC Nominating Committee was appointed pursuant to the Bylaws & Charter at the February meeting. Nominating Committee members are Bill Lapsley, Commission Chairman, Henderson County, Terri Wells, Commissioner, Buncombe County and George Morosani, Economic Development Representative – Buncombe County.
- Responsible Staff:** N/A
- Suggested Motion:** N/A



**2021-22 Officers/Executive Committee  
(Terms Ending March 23, 2022)  
Nominating Committee Recommendation**

**Chair:** Barbara Volk, Hendersonville (Henderson)  
**Vice-Chair:** Patrick Fitzsimmons, Weaverville (Buncombe)  
**Secretary:** Maureen Copelof, Brevard (Transylvania)  
**Treasurer:** Norris Gentry, Madison County  
**County Delegate:** Matthew Wechtel, Madison County  
**Municipal Delegate:** Albert Gooch, Flat Rock (Henderson)  
**Past Chair Delegate:** Larry B. Harris, Black Mountain (Buncombe)  
**Minority Representative Delegate:** Preston Blakely, Fletcher (Henderson)  
**Aging/Volunteer Services Representative:** Bob Tomasulo, Regional Aging Advisory Committee

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee:  
Bill Lapsley, Chairman, Board of Commissioners, Henderson County  
George Morosani, Council Member – Economic Development, Buncombe County  
Terri Wells, Commissioner, Buncombe County



Land of Sky Regional Council  
Executive Director's Report  
Respectfully submitted by Nathan Ramsey  
March 24, 2021

1. Economic Community Development & Transportation

a. Planning Services

- The Grey Mill Apartments in Hendersonville has been awarded an IEDC Excellence in Economic Development Award and NC Main Street award for best Adaptive Reuse project. LOSRC applied for and administered NC Commerce Neighborhood Revitalization Program funding (\$500,000) for the project.
- Land of Sky, Region A, High Country Council, and Asheville-Buncombe Chamber's Riverbird Research have been awarded the EDA Reshoring PPE and Outdoor Manufacturing Gap Analysis project. The total project award is \$116,078.
- Black Mountain's water/sewer extensions for the future Avadim expansion site have been closed out by Golden LEAF. We are in the final stage of close-out by EDA as well.
- Work has been completed in Mars Hill for sewer extension to the future Industrial Site and is in the project close-out stage.
- Staff are preparing a Planning Menu of Services.
- LOSRC launched the Regional Stormwater Services Program to support small MS4s and interested communities with stormwater management and MS4 stormwater compliance.
- Staff are preparing to review draft Census data in anticipation of Apportionment Data and the Redistricting data later this summer. Please connect with us if you would like to discuss the 2020 Census data timeline.
- Contracting with several towns for zoning and mapping assistance
- LOSRC held the first Regional Resilience Advisory Board in February to guide the continued development of the regional resilience assessment and action planning.
- LOSRC and its Waste Reduction Partners program are hosting an 11-week training course for municipal wastewater treatment operators presented by USEPA. The course covers optimization of nutrient removal and energy savings.
- LOSRC has been selected to participate in USEPA's Greening America's Communities program, which will provide a conceptual level design for a hazard mitigation project.
- Submitted multiple competitive grants to EDA, ARC, FEMA, and DEQ, including reshoring manufacturing focused on the outdoor gear sector in collaboration with Southwestern Commission and High Country Council of Governments.
- Submitted a \$160,000 grant application to the FEMA BRIC program through NCDPS in partnership with several entities.

- Partnering with the Chambers of Commerce, Small Business Support Agencies, nonprofits, and economic developers to assist small businesses through COVID-19 impacts.
- **Broadband**
  - The annual Broadband Leadership Forum was held on March 2nd. This successful event brought local, state, and national level leaders to discuss changes in policy, funding, and technology that may occur in 2021.
  - Town of Mars Hill awarded Downtown WIFI project from ARC. This project also partners with Madison County and Hometown Strong to start creating more public places to connect.
  - WestNGN is working on getting better broadband data to help leverage more broadband investment to the region. We have been working with Dogwood Health Trust and Southwestern Commission on putting outreach materials and marketing for the NC Broadband Survey. Please share videos with your network so we're ready for the next rounds of funding. Contact Sara Nichols at Sara@landofsky.org for more information about where the missing data for your community may be.
  - Assisted in the submission of several GREAT broadband applications on behalf of our region and providers. Two projects in the region were selected for funding – Transylvania County and Buncombe County!
  - ARC Community Center WIFI is making progress! We have public wifi access set up in the Leicester, Balsam Grove, and Broad River Community Centers! These sites have been identified as areas with gaps in widespread broadband coverage and are addressing needs for business, education, telehealth, and more.
- **Housing**
  - The 5-Year Strategic Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan has been completed and submitted to HUD for the Asheville Regional Housing Consortium to guide the use of HOME funds for the region and CDBG funds for the City of Asheville.
  - LOSRC is leveraging this experience to support the newly formed HOME Consortium in Region A, and launching their consolidated planning process in January.
- b. **Transportation Services**
  - RPO and LOSRC staff have supported Transylvania County Public Transit now know as Transylvania in Motion, (TIM's) with the development and mapping of their new fixed route.
  - RPO staff continues to work with local partners and NCDOT on project design and development
  - RPO staff serving as NCARPO Association President, the NCARPO is the statewide organization representing Rural Transportation Planning Organizations in NC

- RPO staff working with SWRPO, Great Smoky Mountains National Park Staff and LOSRC staff on the development of CMAQ, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality, funding applications. These funds support ongoing air quality education and outreach programs in the Smoky Mountain Region
- RPO staff served on the FTA 5307 Urban Transit Funding selection committee for Haywood County
- RPO staff is surviving on the steering committee for the FBRMPO Regional Transit Study
- MPO staff is participating on NCDOT’s Statewide Resiliency Planning Workgroup to help identify how resiliency challenges to transportation infrastructure (rockslides, floods, wildfires) can be incorporated into the planning process to evaluate transportation needs and planned improvements
- MPO staff is participating on a VMT reduction work group with NCDOT. The work group is looking at the potential efficacy in a number of efforts to reduce the amount that people drive in metropolitan areas in North Carolina.
- The MPO is in the process of approving more than \$300,000 in FTA Job Access Reverse Commute Funding (JARC) to transit providers in the region
- The MPO held a training session for Locally Administered Projects management for jurisdictions that have been awarded federal transportation funds through the MPO on February 18, 2021.
- The MPO is continuing to work through a Regional Transit Feasibility Study. <http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/regional-transit-feasibility-study/>
- The MPO held its final design workshop on the Hendersonville Corridor Study on February 10, 2021. <http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/regional-transit-feasibility-study/>
- MPO staff is continuing to work through its Tunnel Road Corridor Study with an initial public meeting planned for April
- MPO staff assisted with the procurement of transit services for Haywood County as it transitions to an “urban” transit provider under FTA rules and regulations.
- The MPO recently programmed a number of projects into the Transportation Improvement Program, utilizing its direct allotment of federal transportation funds. These projects include:
  - Engineering and Construction for three phases of the Ecusta Trail
  - Construction funding for improvements on Coxe Avenue
  - Additional funding for construction of the North RAD Greenway
  - Engineering and Construction for the Clear Creek Greenway
  - Construction funds for bike/ped upgrades on Haywood Road in West Asheville
  - Construction funds for an extension of sidewalk on Broadway Avenue
  - Construction funds for pedestrian improvements at the I-240/Charlotte Street Interchange
  - Construction funds for pedestrian safety improvements at various sites around the City of Asheville
  - Construction funds to add a signal at Biltmore Avenue and White Fawn Drive

- Additional construction funds for the Riverwalk Greenway in Black Mountain
- Continuing to work with the City of Asheville on the Close the GAP Plan (Greenways, ADA, and Pedestrian)
- MPO staff is working with the Town of Waynesville on its Richland Creek Greenway Feasibility Study
- MPO staff worked with Henderson County staff on its Mud Creek Greenway Study, which is in the process of closing-out
- MPO staff is working with City of Asheville staff on its Biltmore/McDowell corridor study
- The MPO recently approved its Draft FY 22 budget (Unified Planning Work Program) that includes funding for several local projects: Hellbender Feasibility Study (Haywood County), Pedestrian Plan (Buncombe County), Reed Creek Greenway Extension Study (City of Asheville), etc.

## 2. Finance

- a. Finance welcomes a new Administrative and Finance Clerk on April 12. Melissa Lindsey has accepted the position. Melissa has many years of experience working for two local CPA firms.
- b. Sherry Christenson and Charlotte will attend the School of Government class, *Governmental and Financial Reporting* starting Wednesday, March 24. All classes are online and are held every Wednesday through April 14. Sherry and Charlotte both received a scholarship of \$400 each from the Local Government Training Program at Western Carolina. Both of us are excited to attend!
- c. Charlotte also attended the MIP (Financial Software) class – Advanced Reporting on March 11.
- d. The audit team performed compliance work the week of March 8. We are happy to report that there are “No concerns” at this time.
- e. Charlotte continues to meet with Leadership Team members on current year budgets and fiscal year 2022 budgets.
- f. Our finance intern, Senuri is working on a budget handbook. The budget handbook includes worksheets that will help departments budget and monitor spending.

## 3. Aging

Updated Demographic Data Available on Older Adults: The [North Carolina State Aging Profile](#) and [County Profiles](#), and [State Demographic Slide Show](#) are now available from NC DHHS Division of Aging and Adult Services. The reports were released in February 2021 and can be viewed online or downloaded [here](#).

### Staff presentations

- Staff presented to MAHEC’s UNC School of Pharmacy students on how to access older adult resources in our region and state.
- Staff presented on Older Americans Month to aging providers at the monthly Buncombe County Aging Services Alliance meeting.

**Home and Community Care Block Grant Services: February 2021**

Adult Day Care/Health Hours	Meals Served	In-Home Aide Hours	Legal Hours	Transportation Trips	Home Improvement Projects
3,587	87,759	14,698	534	19,389	10

**Health Promotion/Disease Prevention:**

Community Health workers at Asheville Terrace Apartment successfully implemented support efforts with MAHEC to help facilitate distribution of the J&J shot to qualified residents on March 9. Staff begins the process of increasing the number of community health workers and onboarding new volunteers at Asheville Terrace. Licensing complete to continue offering the Living Healthy programs which resume virtually in late April.

**Family Caregiver Program:**

Launched a second *Harnessing Tech to Connect for Caregivers* on Facebook and YouTube, taking place on March 11, 18, and 25. All sessions will be recorded and available afterwards. Collaborating with Jewish Family Services and AARP for virtual segments on May 5, 12, and 19 for Older Americans Month to “Spark Joy” and encourage brain health.

**Ombudsman Program:**

The Ombudsmen Program has received new regulations which now allows for facility visitation. The Ombudsmen will wear PPEs as requested and will adhere to facility visitation guidelines. Facility visits may not be completed due to a high County Positivity Rates and COVID-19 Outbreaks. Even with facility visits being completed, the Ombudsmen will continue to advocate for residents through phone calls, email, and video calls.

**Other updates:**

- Regulations continue to state that the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is unable to visit facilities however committee meetings are being held virtually and continuing education opportunities are being provided.
- CARES Act Funding will be utilized to provide personal amplifiers to facilities. The funds have also been used to create postcards about stimulus checks. These postcards have been mailed to all facilities in Region B and will be provided to residents.
- Two presentations titled “What is an Ombudsman?” have been scheduled in April 2021.
- Zakit Levine, a student from Mars Hill University, is a new intern who is working with the Ombudsman Program until May 2021. Zakit is assisting the program in updating the Long Term Care and Senior Housing Directory and creating new presentations that will be provided to facility staff (i.e. resident rights, managing difficult behaviors, etc.). She is also attending meetings which allows her to learn not only about our program but about other issues within the aging community.



#### Money Follow The Person:

March is the third month Land of Sky has been implementing the program. Current caseload is 14 participants ranging from the ages of 34 to 75 years old. Our youngest participant is 34 years old and legally blind due to a brain tumor. She has been in the nursing facility for three years and is ready to have her own apartment. She is currently at the top of the waiting list for housing in Hendersonville. This is a new adventure for her and Money Follows the Person is proud to be able to take the journey with her. Once she is in her own apartment, she will have community services to help her get acclimated to the community and her own apartment. Her transitioning has started while in the facility. We have connected her with Services for the Blind and also a mentor that is blind himself.

#### Foster Grandparent Program:

Volunteers of the Foster Grandparent Program remain on “pause” during the COVID-19 pandemic until it is safe for them to return to service. Our federal funder, AmeriCorps, has been responsive to the impact of COVID-19 on our program. AmeriCorps has authorized a temporary stipend payment to volunteers while our programs are on hold, through March 31.

#### Project C.A.R.E. (Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty):

The Project C.A.R.E. Family Consultant has distributed \$53,720 in federal, state, and private grant respite funds to caregivers across her 15-county region and of this amount \$33,500 has thus far been spent on respite services. Caregivers have reported feeling great relief from the time off from caregiving that these funds have provided them. Care consultation services are also being provided to all enrolled caregivers and to a handful of other caregivers who do not need or want the funding. The Western Project C.A.R.E. office has three sources of respite funding for caregivers this fiscal year. They are 1) the State Project C.A.R.E. funds, 2) North Carolina Lifespan Respite Program (federal), and 3) a grant from the Dogwood Health Trust (for Region B only). Including all three funding sources, \$32,409 is currently available for caregiver respite services and there are 39 caregivers in line to receive funds. Also, the Project C.A.R.E. Family Consultant is getting acquainted with an online educational platform developed for caregivers, TRUALTA <trualta.com>, recently made available to Project C.A.R.E. Family Consultants and Family Caregiver Support Specialists by the State, and will soon be inviting caregivers to become registered users. The hope is that caregivers making use of this online learning opportunity will grow in both confidence and competence.

#### 4. Administration

- a. We will be hosting a NC State University student as an intern through the university’s Rural Works internship program. We have selected the intern and the intern will work under the supervision of the Deputy Director. The internship will be paid for by a grant from the State Employees Credit Union (SECU).
- b. Continuing to host weekly COVID19 calls on Thursday at 1:00 pm, the most recent call featured representatives of the NC League of Municipalities (NCLM) and NC Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) discussing the details of the \$130 million local governments in our region will receive from the American Recovery Act. This call featured over 80 participants. Upcoming calls will feature the region’s public health directors and NC Department of Commerce, Assistant Secretary for Rural Development



- c. Christina Giles is representing the Council on a statewide team to create a NCARCOG Impact Report. We will create a regional impact report based on this template.
- d. In the early stages of planning a regional summit in the fall of 2021 with Southwestern Commission. We are discussing with the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond the possibility of a partnership in hosting the summit. .
- e. We are working with Epsilon on their transition as the Council's IT Managed Services provider.
- f. Hosted a second mandatory staff training for our Council's "The Manual"/Handbook held in partnership with Craft HR Solutions and the Council's Legal Counsel.
- g. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion committee is continuing to meet biweekly with support from Craft HR Solutions. The committee is focused on staff training, external outreach, review of our personnel policy and employee handbook, hiring practices among other efforts. One goal of this effort is by 2022 our staff will reflect the diversity of our region.
- h. We have contracted with Deborah Miles to provide Equity, Diversity and Inclusion training to staff. Deborah was selected based on evaluation from the Council's EDI committee. This training will be offered in April.
- i. Submitted a request to the John M Belk Endowment (JMBE) to support the Land of Sky Education & Workforce Collaborative. JMBE has already provided \$200,000 and they have been very pleased with the work of our region.
- j. Monthly staff evaluations are in process following the tool developed with the assistance of Craft HR Solutions.
- k. Danna held new employee orientation meetings for new staff members
- l. Supporting staff telework needs and many virtual meetings.
- m. Working with Susan Russo Klein on moving forward with the LOSRC nonprofit "Friends of LOSRC"; we are waiting on approval from the Internal Revenue Service.
- n. Working with the five Chambers of Commerce in Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison and Transylvania Counties. The chambers would like to retain an outside firm to review the strategic plans of the chambers and local governments to determine areas of agreement for potential focus. LOSRC will assist in securing funding to support this effort and is incorporating this work into the CEDS.
- o. Hosted quarterly managers meeting.

## 5. Workforce

- a. Despite an unemployment rate around twice what it was one year ago, many employers in the region are struggling to meet their workforce needs. Even hospitality and tourism employers are starting to hire and host job fairs, while this sector's job openings are not as great as pre-pandemic there are still large number of job openings in that sector.
- b. We are working with Southwestern Commission and Dogwood Health Trust to apply for ARC POWER grant to increase the number of early childhood educators in our eleven county region.
- c. We are working with our financial monitor to secure approval for our partnership with the Asheville Chamber of Commerce to host the WNC Career Expo on April 14 – 16. The event will be virtual April 14 – 16 with an in-person event on April 15. We provide \$7,500 for sponsorship and \$15,000 for outreach.

- d. Region's Experienced Worker Initiative (EWI) was highlighted by the NC Department of Commerce as an innovative workforce development program. This effort is a partnership between AARP NC, Land of Sky Regional Council AAA, Mountain Area Workforce Development Board, NCWorks Career Center Asheville, AB Tech, Buncombe County Government and many others. The EWI is focused on supporting older workers with their career transitions.
- e. Christy Cheek, Education and Work-Based Learning Coordinator with MAWDB is working with Buncombe County on possible registered apprenticeship partnerships.
- f. We are working to increase the number of employers who have endorsed the Career Readiness Certification and make Buncombe, Henderson and Madison work-ready certified communities. Transylvania County is already certified as a Work-Ready Community.
- g. We have selected JB Media to be the firm which leads our NCWorks Dislocated Worker Outreach to connect more dislocated workers with our region's NCWorks Career Centers and community colleges to support them with education, training and employment. We received four proposals from this RFP.
- h. We have selected Integritive to be the firm which leads the Land of Sky Education & Workforce Collaborative website outreach. The Collaborative oversees our region's postsecondary credential attainment effort aligned with My Future NC. This effort is funded by the John M Belk Endowment. Our region is the pilot in NC for a regional postsecondary credential attainment effort.
- i. We have received positive news from the ARC for a grant application in partnership with Southwestern Workforce Development Board for \$500,000. The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Inspire (Investments Supporting Partnerships in Recovery Ecosystems) grant will support recovery to work. Dogwood Health Trust provided a professional grant writer for this project and they have agreed to match the grant award (1:1) from ARC if we are successful.
- j. Our Board staff are working closely with multiple partners, including but not limited to the Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce, NC Community College System and AB Tech, to support the Pratt & Whitney project. We have submitted multiple requests to our financial monitor for approval of expenditures that will support pre-employment training and outreach for Pratt & Whitney jobs.
- k. Despite the tens of thousands of layoffs impacting our region, we still have many employers hiring. Our career center managers are indicating demand for talent by employers is now as great or greater as it was prior to the pandemic. Our board is maintaining a list of current job openings to highlight that there are still jobs available. This list is in addition to the thousands of job opportunities in our region available through NCWorks.gov. We are trying to share the news that despite a historically elevated unemployment rate, many employers in our region are hiring.
- l. We have developed a professional NCWorks newsletter that is being sent to over 18,000 individuals in our Local Area registered on NCWorks.gov. This is one of our most effective and least costly ways to reach job seekers.

## 6. Mountain Mobility

- a. Mountain Mobility has provided more than 170 trips to vaccine appointments for those needing transportation in Buncombe County. In addition to transportation to the Buncombe County DHHS vaccine clinics, we are also working with other providers such as MAHEC and local pharmacy locations. These trips are provided at no cost to the passenger.
- b. Mountain Mobility has distributed 1200 packets to homebound seniors who are feeling the effects of isolation during the pandemic. These packets are filled with items ranging from toys and games, craft projects, snacks and information on services in the community. The project, funded by the CARES Act, is scheduled to continue through calendar year 2021.

## 7. NEMT

- a. Monitoring Medicaid Transformation to determine the impact on the Council's NEMT contract with Buncombe County. Latest projection from NCDOT is about 85% of clients will not transition to Managed Care.
- b. Buncombe County has budgeted funds to support full NEMT program for FY21-22.