



METROPOLITAN PLANNING
ORGANIZATION

A PROGRAM OF LAND OF SKY

French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization
Minutes from the Governing Board meeting on November 17, 2016

Attendance:

Meeting Date: **11/17/2016**

Representing	Voting	TAC	Via Phone
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of	Julie	Mavfield	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of	Gwen	Wisler	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black Mountain, Town of	Larry	Harris	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe County	Brownie	Newman	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flat Rock, Village of	John	Dockendorf	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hawgood County	Michael	Sorrells	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henderson County	William	Lapsley	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laurel Park, Town of	George	Banta	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCBOT, Division 13	David	Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCBOT, Division 14	Jack	Debnam	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wavneville, Town of	LeRov	Roberson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weaverville, Town of	Douglas	Dearth	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Alternates/Agencies and Other Non Voting At TAC			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AECOM	Chris	Werner	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AECOM	John	Burris	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AECOM	Neil	Dean	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AECOM	Joanna	Rocco	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Apple Country Transit	Matt	Champion	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of	Dan	Baechtold	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asheville, City of - Transit	Mariate	Echeverry	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Black Mountain	Josh	Harrold	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe County	Josh	O'Conner	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Davenport	Lori	Bover	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Lyuba	Zuyeva	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Vicki	Eastland	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Tristan	Winkler	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Zia	Rifkin	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FHWA	Mike	Dawson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fletcher, Town of	Mark	Biberdorf	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henderson County	Autumn	Radcliff	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hendersonville, City of	Dave	Hazzard	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LOSRC	Ritchie	Rozelle	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LOSRC	Erica	Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maggie Valley, Town of	Andrew	Bowen	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mountain Mobility	Denise	Braine	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT TPB	Pam	Cook	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Kristina	Solberg	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Ed	Green	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Steven	Williams	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Brian	Burch	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vaughn and Melton	Joel	Setzer	<input type="checkbox"/>

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS, APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Doug Dearth called the meeting to order and requested that introductions be made. He read the Ethics statement and inquired if there were any conflicts of interest to note for today's meeting. None were heard. The agenda was presented for approval with no modifications requested.

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

REGULAR UPDATES

- Kristina Solberg provided Division 13 updates and Steve Williams provided Division 14 updates.
- Pam Cook shared the Planning Branch updates.
- FHWA updates were provided by Mike Dawson.
- Lyuba Zuyeva provided subcommittee updates:
 - Prioritization Subcommittee met November 15th to discuss MTP Amendments, the further development of the Congestion Management Process and the change of scope to the Biltmore Avenue Complete Streets project.
 - Transit Operators Workgroup has a meeting scheduled for December 6th;
 - Citizens Advisory Committee has ended its call for applicants but staff requests to leave the call for new members open indefinitely.
- Lyuba Zuyeva shared that the UPWP will be developed for FY 2018 beginning in early 2017.
- Lyuba Zuyeva provided legislative updates including that the federal level, the government continues to operate under a continuing resolution through early December. The general election saw a number of transit and general transportation local funding referendums around the country were approved by voters. Notably, the City of Atlanta approved funding measures for public transit, light rail, greenway loop, and other expansions of transit options. Wake County has approved a half-penny sales tax for regional transit.
- I-26 Connector Traffic Simulation- Base Year Travel Patterns Observations: Jim Dunlop and other NCDOT staff members and AECOM consultant team members working on the I-26 Connector traffic simulation presented on the preliminary findings that show how the traffic simulation represents today's existing traffic behavior. Final Environmental Impact Statement is planned for release in the summer of 2017.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lyuba Zuyeva announced that the 5310 Call for Projects will be going on through next November 23rd and after the review process, selected projects will come back to the MPO Board in January. Lyuba Zuyeva announced that there are no MPO TCC or Board meetings in December.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR TIP AMENDMENTS

Chairman Dearth opened the Public Hearing for the TIP Amendments. No public comments were heard and the hearing was closed.

CONSENT AGENDA

- October Minutes
- Meeting Calendar for 2017
- UPWP Modifications

Gwen Wisler moved to approve the Consent Agenda. John Dockendorf seconded and as all were in favor, the Consent Agenda was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

TIP Amendments

Tristan Winkler reviewed the proposed amendments to the FBRMPO 2016-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which include a number of projects in the region as well as statewide projects (which are advisory items for the FBRMPO). The projects included addition of the City of Asheville's STBG-DA projects for complete streets accommodations on Lexington Avenue and Coxe Avenue (funding approved by the MPO in October); the delay of Right-of-Way and Construction for a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) project on NC-191 just south of Mills River to allow more time for planning and design; the addition of funding to address stormwater issues on Upward Road in Henderson County; and a delay of Right-of-Way and Construction on Howard Gap Road in Henderson County to allow more time for planning and design.

Julie Mayfield moved to approve the TIP Amendments as presented for adoption. Leroy Roberson Seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Citizens Advisory Committee Roster

Tristan Winkler shared that the FBRMPO Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) is now operating under new bylaws adopted in November, 2015 to make its mission and membership requirements more defined. The CAC consists of interested citizens who live or work in the FBRMPO region and its mission largely focuses on recommending public outreach strategies to improve the public involvement in the transportation planning process. A call for new members was held from August, 2016 through October, 2016 resulting in seven applications. The roster was presented for approval. Tristan Winkler also communicated that MPO staff plans to have a rolling call for applications. Anyone who may be interested in regional transportation issues is encouraged to apply.

Larry Harris moved to approve the new members of the FBRMPO CAC and to leave the call for new members open to allow for applicants with interests throughout the region. Gwen Wisler seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

JARC Allocation of Remaining FR2015 Funds

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that JARC was a former type of funding for public transportation under SAFTEA-LU that was consolidated into Section 5307 under MAP-21 and the FAST Act. The Asheville Urbanized Area received approximately \$2,591,390 in FTA Section 5307 funds in FY 2015. Since MAP-21 went into effect, the MPO has set aside 10% of the region's allocation of Section 5307 funds for JARC call for projects. In the meantime, \$39,000 in JARC funding remains from FY 2015. A request has been discussed and generally supported by the Regional Transit Operators group to

allocate the \$39000 in federal JARC funds (for a combined \$78000 federal and local operating budget) to Black Mountain Trailblazer. In the absence of this bridge funding, Black Mountain Trailblazer operations are currently funded only through the end of February of 2017 and could be in jeopardy starting in March 2017. Providing bridge operating funding through JARC FY 2015 remaining funds would most likely allow the Black Mountain Trailblazer route to have sufficient operating funds through June of 2017. Starting in FY 2018, Buncombe County is expecting to benefit from the urban transit 5307 funds (pending 5307 Urban Formula Study completion).

Larry Harris moved to approve the allocation of remainder FY 2015 JARC funds to support the Black Mountain Trailblazer operations. Julie Mayfield seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Biltmore Avenue Feasibility Study

Tristan Winkler shared that the Biltmore Avenue project was originally submitted to the FBRMPO for STBG funding in June 2016. The project was initially part of a larger project that Lexington and Coxe Avenues. The City of Asheville initially requested funds for Preliminary Engineering for all three corridors. Tristan Winkler reviewed the process undertaken to date. NCDOT's Transportation Mobility and Safety Unit conducted a number of scenario analyses on both Biltmore Avenue and McDowell Avenue for a very preliminary feasibility consideration of various roadway treatments and road diet alternatives that could accommodate bicycle infrastructure. No results were conclusive, but the stakeholders involved in Biltmore Avenue discussion agreed that a feasibility study on both McDowell and Biltmore would be the best path forward. Tristan Winkler communicated that NCDOT Bike Ped Division had already agreed to fund a feasibility study for McDowell Avenue bicycle accommodation, and MPO staff has requested that the scope of that project be altered to include Biltmore Avenue as well. Additional STBG funds would be required to study parallel corridors that would be inter-dependent in addition to McDowell Avenue. Tristan Winkler shared that the TCC has recommended that the MPO Board consider extending the scope of the feasibility study to include Biltmore Avenue, McDowell up to Hilliard, Southside Avenue between Biltmore and McDowell and other pertinent connections, and to increase the funding from \$150000 to \$200000. A response to that request has not been received from the Bike/Pedestrian Division to date. He also informed the MPO committees that the City of Asheville has altered their request for this project from Preliminary Engineering to a Feasibility Study, and that STBG funds could be used to fund the study (with a local match). Currently, a little more than \$6 million dollars is available in STBG funding through FY 2019 through the MPO.

Julie Mayfield moved to approve amending the UPWP to allow \$200000 of STBG funding for the expanded feasibility study if NCDOT is unable to accommodate the expansion of the study. Gwen Wisler seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

I-4400/I-4700 I-26 Widening DEIS Comments Resolution

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that there appears to be a general consensus from the community that the I-26 widening project needs to move forward in an expedient manner. The Henderson County Board of Commissioners has adopted a resolution of support for this project. Lyuba Zuyeva communicated that the resolution in front of the MPO Board today states that the FBRMPO is in support of the project and provides a list of recommendations for the I-26 Widening project to consider, primarily focused on the interchanges along the corridor, taking into consideration the

regional Complete Streets Policy adopted by the FBRMPO in February of 2013, as well as local and regional bicycle, pedestrian and greenways plans and a request for a Park-and-Ride lot at Exit 44 from the TDM Committee. NCDOT staff have indicated that they can still accept comments for this project a few days past the official deadline which was November 14th.

Mike Sorrells moved to approve the resolution with comments for the I-26 Widening DEIS. John Dockendorf seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were presented.

ADJOURNMENT

Doug Dearth requested a motion to adjourn which was made and seconded and the meeting was adjourned.