



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
A PROGRAM OF LAND OF SKY

French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization
Minutes from the TCC meeting on May 19, 2016

Meeting Date:

05/19/2016

Representing	Voting TCC		Via Phone
<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"/> Black Mountain	Josh	Harrold	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe County	Josh	O'Conner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Canton, Town of	Jason	Burrell	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Haywood County	Kris	Bovd	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Henderson County	Autumn	Radcliff	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mountain Mobility	Denise	Braine	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Ricky	Tipton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Ed	Green	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, TPB	Brendan	Merithew	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wavnesville, Town of	Elizabeth	Teague	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weaverville, Town of	James	Eller	<input type="checkbox"/>

Non Voting At TCC			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Buncombe County	Karla	Furnari	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Davenport	Lori	Boyer	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Vicki	Eastland	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Zia	Rifkin	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Tristan	Winkler	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FBRMPO/LOSRC	Lyuba	Zuyeva	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JM Teague	Kristy	Carter	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JM Teague	Reuben	Moore	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land of Sky	Ritchie	Rozzelle	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LOSRC	Erica	Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 13	Kristina	Solberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Joel	Setzer	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NCDOT, Division 14	Jonathan	Woodard	<input type="checkbox"/>

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Autumn Radcliffe opened the meeting and introductions followed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Autumn Radcliffe indicated that the Consent Agenda included March minutes and an Amendment to the FY 2017 UPWP. She requested that the Agenda be approved at this time as well.

Elizabeth Teague moved to approve the Consent Agenda and the Agenda as presented. Josh Harrold seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were presented.

REGULAR UPDATES

Regular updates included NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates and TPB and MPO Subcommittee and staff updates. No FHWA/FTA updates were presented.

Brendan Merithew announced that he has taken another position with Division 13 and will no longer be attending MPO/RPO meetings as part of his job duties. The change will take effect early next month.

Denise Braine requested information about the alternative that was chosen for the I-26 connector. Lyuba Zuyeva communicated that there was a NEPA Merger/Concurrence Point 3 meeting in Raleigh yesterday where the alternative with the least environmental impact was selected for the project. She shared that Alternative 4-B was selected for section B, Alternative F-1 for section C, and "Build" alternative for section A. Zuyeva explained some of the details of those alternatives. The number of lanes for section "A" will be determined based on updated traffic forecast numbers, expected in June.

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that Joel Setzer is leaving Division 14.

Joel Setzer shared that it has been a pleasure to serve on the TCC and to work with the FBRMPO and local governments.

Lyuba Zuyeva provided Legislative updates including that there's some movement at the federal level to adopt a budget for Fiscal Year 2017, including transportation funding. The House has not yet released their version of the bill. A small rescission is likely, will probably not impact STP-DA funding.

Lyuba Zuyeva shared some information about the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) which supplements State and local resources for public roads, transit systems, and other transportation facilities, with the goal of improving access to federally owned high-use recreation sites and Federal economic generators. A call for FLAP projects is planned to open in August 2016. Lyuba Zuyeva shared that FLAP project selection is done at the statewide level.

Lyuba Zuyeva continued with state legislative updates, indicating that the \$500,000 project cap on light rail projects might be removed during the state budget discussion-this cap has been a barrier to the light rail project planned for Durham-Chapel Hill corridor. She shared the State is looking at some additional state revenues for the upcoming year.

BUSINESS

Prioritization Update

Tristan Winkler shared that NCDOT released preliminary SPOT Prioritization scores on April 13, 2016. SPOT Prioritization is the process used to score and select projects, as required under STI bill; the projects are scored and compete at the Statewide Mobility, Regional Impact and Division Needs levels. At the Statewide Mobility level, the scoring is fully data-driven and MPOs, RPOs and Divisions do not apply local points. He shared that at this time there are no projects that were funded in the FBRMPO region at the

Statewide Mobility tier in the latest round of SPOT. He communicated that MPO staff have also been working on the Regional Impact tier which is 70% data driven/30% local input for funding. Regional Impact tier funding is distributed to regions based on population. FBRMPO is part of combined Division 13 and Division 14 region-the second smallest region by population in the State, which means funding is on the low end. Staff is working through the adopted FBRMPO methodology and scoring of projects to assign MPO points for Regional Impact projects--those will come to the TCC and the Board for consideration in June. SPOT scores for Statewide Mobility and Regional Impact tiers are available at the following link: http://fbrmpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/SPOT_Scores.pdf

Tristan Winkler next shared that as part of the prioritization process, MPO staff held county-level discussions on projects that may receive MPO Local Input points in the Regional Impact tier. During these discussions, three projects from the Statewide Mobility tier have been requested to “cascade” into the Regional Impact tier. These projects include: the I-40 interchange at Blue Ridge Road in Black Mountain (Buncombe County); I-26 from North of I-26-I-40 split to North of Haywood Road (Buncombe County, I-26 Connector Section A); and I-26 at US 64 (Henderson County). It is up to the MPO Board whether to cascade the projects.

Discussion occurred about the A Section of the I-26 Connector (through West Asheville) which is not committed in the TIP. Discussion occurred about the possibility of cascading the three projects. If this were to happen, those projects would be competing with the other projects in the Regional Impact tier. Clarification was provided that if the projects were cascaded and scored high enough, not all of the funding would come out of the same Horizon- construction could be funded in what is called the “outer years”.

Discussion also occurred regarding that once a project has funding committed it has to stay in the tier it was funded through. Joel Setzer shared that for the I-26 Interchange at US 64 in Henderson County, right now the most important thing is getting the environmental impact documents done; cascading this project right now would not speed up the project delivery. Lyuba Zuyeva shared that the FBRMPO would have another opportunity in two years to look at SPOT prioritization for those three projects again, if they are not funded right now. Autumn Radcliffe shared that the Henderson County TAC met yesterday to discuss the projects-because it is so much money and it will affect the entire region. Henderson County Commissioners were not present at yesterday’s meeting.

Discussion occurred as to whether the decision about cascading those three projects should be deferred to the MPO Board. Joel Setzer shared that an environmental documents need to be finished before the A Section of the I-26 Connector before can move forward.

Autumn Radcliffe moved to defer the vote on cascading three projects to the Regional Impact tier to the FBRMPO Board. Denise Braine seconded the motion carried after a vote.

The FBRMPO TCC continued to discuss the possible impact of cascading the three projects and the group requested that additional information be shared with the MPO Board.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments

Lyuba Zuyeva shared that there are a number of proposed amendments and modifications that are requested to have MPO approval. These include: the addition of Broadpointe Drive with ARC funding; the addition of several Statewide projects; and the cost increases for bridge maintenance on I-40.

The MPO has not received any public comment on the proposed TIP Amendments.

Dan Baechtold moved to approve the resolution to adopt amendments to the 2016-2025 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and to recommend that for FBRMPO Board consideration. Matt Champion seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Amendments

Tristan Winkler shared that there are a number of amendments proposed to the twenty-five year Metropolitan Transportation Plan due to projects added to the TIP through an increase in available statewide funding from the NC State Budget (HB 97) and ARC funds.

Discussion occurred regarding the Black Mountain Connector and it was shared by MPO staff that all of these projects have been programmed from funding brought in at the State level as more funding was provided for capital projects. While this project has been reviewed previously, it just missed the cut. The Black Mountain Connector is a Division level project which means that it wouldn't be competing in the same category as regional projects.

Josh Harrold moved to approve recommending the amendments to the MTP favorably to the FBRMPO Board. James Eller seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES

Local Spotlight- The Town of Canton & Division 14

MPO staff introduced Jason Burrell from the Town of Canton and Jonathan Woodard with NCDOT's Division 14 who discussed a resurfacing and streetscape improvements project on Canton's Main Street. The project is notable in the FBRMPO region for the work that is being done to coordinate a DOT resurfacing project with locally-funded improvements to the downtown streetscape and sidewalks, ADA accessibility, and stormwater issues through a collaborative process. Jason Burrell presented details of Canton project funded with local funds. Jonathan Woodward added perspective from NCDOT which included details on where the funding came from for the resurfacing project. Recently there's been a push at NCDOT to get those resurfacing project contracts awarded even though the work was not scheduled to immediately begin in order to get the funding obligated. Once the resurfacing project was under contract, it was important to work with the contractor and the Town and to allow more time for the Town to implement its improvements. Jonathan Woodward shared that NCDOT has been able to start working on the outer edges of the resurfacing project to allow more time for the Town's sidewalk improvements to take place in the middle of Canton.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were presented.

ADJOURNMENT

Autumn Radcliffe adjourned the meeting as there was no further business.