

Transportation Matters



photo from BikeWalkNC

Several of our staff attended the annual BikeWalkNC Summit this past month in Hickory, NC. Pictured is a group of folks (our SRTS coordinator included) that woke up early for a stair climb supporting the Coach Knapp Memorial Fund, bringing awareness to distracted driving.



Commute Friendly WNC

Go Mountain Commuting is launching [Commute Friendly WNC](#), a free certification program for employers, workplaces, and college campuses that take an active role in supporting multimodal employees, students, & visitors. It is a program that recognizes, celebrates, and encourages those organizations that go the extra mile to promote ways of getting around our community that reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. (That means carpooling, vanpooling, public transit, biking, walking, and even remote work!) Organizations can be certified as Bronze, Silver, or Gold levels of commute friendliness, and [unlock great benefits](#) for participating. Any org interested in learning more is encouraged to attend the program kickoff at the Land of Sky Regional Council on Monday, November 3rd from 12:30pm-2pm. Lunch will be provided. [Register here](#).

Prioritization

The FBRMPO MPO Board recently finalized its selection of projects for submission through SPOT 8.0. Projects submitted under SPOT include aviation, rail, highway, bike & pedestrian, and public transportation infrastructure. SPOT 8.0 refers to the prioritization process that guides the development of the [2028-2037 STIP](#) which serves as the main vehicle for transportation improvement funding in the state as set by the [State Transportation Investments \(STI\) Law](#). Projects submitted by the MPO to SPOT are taken from existing plans and studies across the region. A list of projects being submitted can be found [here](#).



photo from Rey Castillo Photography

National Walk to School Day, October 8th

We have 10 schools in the region celebrating walking and biking to school this month.

- Brevard Elementary, Brevard Middle, Brevard High, Pisgah Forest Elementary, Mountain Sun, and Pisgah Collective
- Black Mountain Primary and Elementary
- Hazelwood Elementary
- Lucy S. Herring Elementary

Walk and bike to school day events do not have to be confined to certain days. We are here to plan any day a year.



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Managed Lanes

At the September meeting, the MPO Board examined converting a widening project (I-6054) on I-40 between Exit 44 (in Buncombe County) and Exit 27 (in Haywood County) into a tolled, managed lanes project to improve congestion, reliability, and funding viability. The Board voted to continue deliberations on the possible treatment over the next couple of meetings, the project being considered for funding in this round of prioritization. FHWA has more information on managed lanes and other treatments available [here](#).



MTP

Approved by the MPO Board in September, [Elevate 2050](#) is the long-range transportation plan that lays out how our region will invest in roads, transit, and greenways over the next 25 years. It highlights major projects to keep people and goods moving safely and efficiently as the population grows. The plan includes more than \$9 billion in transportation improvements, from highway widenings to expanded greenway connections.

Week Without Driving The Week Without Driving is a nation-wide event meant to draw attention to the 1/3 of people in the United States who do not have the ability to drive. Go Mountain Commuting and Mountain True partnered to plan the Asheville Public Transit Forum and the Asheville Recyclery Open House, to highlight multimodal resources in our community. Details in the events section below. There are also multiple options designed to teach people how to ride the bus. [Sign up to participate in a learn to ride the bus event!](#)

October Events

- 10/2 Asheville Recyclery Open House**
4pm-8pm. 271 Haywood Street, AVL. Drop in and learn about the earn-a-bike program, DIY bike maintenance, and other resources.
- 10/4 [Tour de Fat](#)**
11 am-6 pm. New Belgium Brewing.
- 10/8 [National Walk to School Day](#)**
Various locations
- 10/25 [Pumpkin Pedaller](#)**
1:30 pm-7 pm. New Belgium Brewing.
- Save the Date*
- 11/13 Mountains to Main Street Workshop**
8 am-4 pm. AC Hotel in Biltmore. Registration [here](#).

Public Meetings

- Prioritization Subcommittee**
October meeting was cancelled.
- TCC**
Oct 9th RPO 10 am - 11 am
MPO 11am - 1pm
- Board**
Oct 16th RPO 11:30 am - 1 pm
MPO 1 pm - 3:30pm

Fun Tool

When's the last time you tested your knowledge of bicycle commuting? BikeWalkNC has developed an interactive quiz to brush up on your knowledge. There are different versions for adult bikers, child bikers, motorists, and truck drivers. Explore [here](#).

Get involved & stay connected



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