

Transportation Matters



photo from French Broad River MPO

Our RPO Director, Vicki Eastland with partners Lucy Crown and Aaron Bland speaking on a panel at the Mountains to Main Street summit about regional safety leadership. Tristan Winkler, our MPO Director also presented on setting safety targets.

Johnston Blvd Sidewalk Project Nearing Construction

The Johnston Boulevard Sidewalk Project is approaching the start of construction. The project, which is being constructed as an MPO Locally Administered Projects Program (LAPP) project with local match from the City of Asheville, will close a key gap in the pedestrian network by building a continuous sidewalk from US 19/23 (Patton Avenue) to Iona Circle.

In addition to improving access to Johnston Elementary and surrounding neighborhoods, the new sidewalk will connect seamlessly to Asheville’s existing network along Patton Avenue and Haywood Road. The project will also add accessible pedestrian crossings along Patton Avenue, enhancing safety and mobility for all users. More information [here](#).

I-40 Express Lanes Decision

The French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Board voted at its November meeting to support the planned I-40 expansion as an express lane project rather than a traditional highway widening for prioritization considerations. This direction asks NCDOT to evaluate adding managed lanes that prioritize reliable travel times and carpool/potential-transit options, instead of simply adding general-purpose lanes. The Board’s action keeps the project moving forward while emphasizing congestion management, travel-time reliability, and transportation demand management strategies for the corridor.



Photo from Go Mountain

Commute Friendly WNC

Commute Friendly WNC had its official kickoff on Monday, November 3rd. It's a new program by Go Mountain Commuting that partners with employers, universities, and community organizations to work toward removing transportation barriers to education and employment opportunities. Over 30 businesses attended this inaugural lunch & learn. Multiple businesses have already applied for certification, including New Belgium Brewing, Sierra Nevada Brewing Co, and Mars Hill University.



Photo from LOS SRTS

Sparking the Movement Walk Series

Our Safe Routes to School program hosted two “Sparking the Movement” walks this month. We had 36 students participate from Claxton Elementary School and 23 students participate from Hendersonville Elementary School. We will have a walk at school event at Clyde Elementary on January 16th. If you know a school that would be excited about having a walk, reach out to Ada about getting on the calendar for the February walk.



photo from LOS SRTS

Grant Opportunity

The National Safety Council is accepting applications for its [2026 Road to Zero Traffic Safety Grants](#), offering \$50,000–\$200,000 for projects that reduce roadway deaths and align with the Safe System Approach. Eligible applicants include local and state governments, nonprofits, tribes, and other organizations. Projects should be innovative, evidence-based, and scalable. Applications are due January 16, 2026. More details and application materials are available through the Road to Zero Coalition.

Mountains to Main Street Safety Summit

On November 13, MPO and RPO staff attended the Mountains to Main Street Local and Regional Safety Workshop in Biltmore Village. Attendees from local governments, NCDOT, and others came in from across the state to share and learn about current roadway safety best practices. Presentations included topics from safety goal setting, public education and outreach, and implementing and monitoring safety solutions.

December Events

12/4 Buncombe County Pedestrian Steering Committee Kick off

1 pm

12/11 [Tiny Tykes Bikes with Buncombe Parks & Rec](#)

10 am-11:30 am. Stephens Lee Community Center

We wish everyone a joyful holiday season!

Public Meetings



Prioritization Subcommittee

No meeting this month



TCC & Board

No meetings this month

Fun Fact

Santa Clause needs to travel to 822 homes per second to deliver all the presents on Christmas Eve. Track the journey, [here](#).



Get involved & stay connected



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