

# Transportation Matters



photo from Go Mountain Commuting

Our Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Coordinator, Sandy taught a free course at the West Asheville library on Jan 13<sup>th</sup> on winter bike commuting. Fifteen folks left the course feeling more empowered to brave the winter weather on their bicycle.

## Locally Coordinated Plans

FBRMPO is updating its Locally Coordinated Public Transit–Human Services Transportation Plan (LCP) to better reflect current community needs. The update evaluates existing services, identifies unmet transportation needs for older adults, people with disabilities, and low-income residents, and sets priorities for future investments. This work will guide competitive funding decisions, strengthen coordination among providers, and ensure the region’s transportation system remains equitable, accessible, and responsive to growth and change across the French Broad River MPO planning area. The update is currently underway and is expected to be completed in early 2027; be on the lookout for surveys and public input opportunities.

## Draft UPWP

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) outlines the French Broad River MPO’s annual planning efforts and budget. It describes what transportation planning activities the MPO and its partners will undertake during that fiscal year. The UPWP also outlines how those activities will support federal and regional goals and how federal, state, and local planning funds will be used. The FY 2027 UPWP includes prep work for the next MTP, safety planning, and multiple special studies. The FY 2027 UPWP also focuses on maintaining the TIP, Prioritization 8.0, updating the Locally Coordinated Plan, and key strategic and organizational planning. To view the draft UPWP, [click here](#).



The 2026 call for NC Bike Helmet Initiative is open until Feb 20<sup>th</sup>. This annual opportunity aims to reduce child/youth bicycle fatalities and serious injuries, including head trauma, in North Carolina. Applicants have the option of requesting up to 100 helmets. The more helmets that are requested, the stronger the application must be in describing the event and benefit to the community. If you would like any assistance with an [application](#), please let us know!



LOS Safe Routes to School

## Hazelwood Sidewalks

Sidewalk improvements along Hazelwood Avenue in Waynesville are a strong example of how the prioritization process translates planning into real community benefits. Funded through a partnership between the MPO, the Town of Waynesville, and North Carolina Department of Transportation, the project created safer walking connections to Hazelwood Elementary School and nearby neighborhoods. Though constructed back in 2016, the sidewalks continue to support daily travel, student safety, and long-term community connectivity. The P8 prioritization process is currently underway with the hopes of providing more investments in safe infrastructure.

## Safety Targets

The MPO Board adopted updated annual safety performance targets consistent with the MPO’s Safety Action Plan, which sets a long-term goal of reducing serious and fatal injuries by 10% by 2035. While recent data show an upward trend in severe crashes, the Board chose targets that remain counter to this trend but are grounded in local conditions and observed patterns. These targets differ from the State’s more aggressive benchmarks and reflect a commitment to setting realistic, data-informed goals that support steady and measurable progress in improving transportation safety.

## February Events

- 2/11 Sparking the Movement Walk**  
Pisgah Forest Elementary School
- 2/13 Winter Bike to Work Day**  
Sparky’s Toys & Gifts, AVL Chamber of Commerce, or Pritchard Park: show up between 7am-9am on your bike for free hot beverages and breakfast!
- 2/17 RBRMPO Webinar: Transportation Funding & Prioritization in NC**  
12 pm-1 pm via Zoom
- 2/21 Bike Love**  
7pm-11:30pm at Eulogy. A fundraiser and dance party for Asheville on Bikes.

## Public Meetings

- Prioritization**  
Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am
- TCC**  
Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 11 am- 1 pm
- Board**  
Feb 19<sup>th</sup> RPO: 11 am  
MPO: 1 pm

## Moving in the Cold

Did you know that being active outside when it is cold out has health benefits for children? Cold weather can help to strengthen immune systems, boost Vitamin D levels, and stimulate creativity. Read more [here](#).

Get involved & stay connected



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