



July Transportation Matters



MPO Board Advances Draft Local Input Point Assignments for P 8

At its July meeting, the French Broad River MPO Board reviewed Regional Impact project scores for the Prioritization 8.0 process and selected projects from to receive Draft Local Input Points. This approach assigns points to projects that reflect locally identified priorities from across the region while staying within the MPO's available Local Input Point capacity.

The selected projects include WNC Passenger Rail, US 25B (Asheville Highway) Intersection Improvements, US 19/23 (Smokey Park Highway) Access Management, the US 70 (Tunnel Road) Road Diet, US 176 (Spartanburg Highway) Access Management, US 25A (Sweeten Creek Road) widening, New Leicester Highway Intersection Improvements, US 19 (Dellwood Road) Access Management, US 23B (South Main Street) widening in Waynesville, NC 213 Modernization in Mars Hill, and Intersection Improvements along US 64 (Brevard Road).

Public comment on the Draft Local Input Point assignments will begin **July 22**. Following the public comment period, the final point assignment is expected to return to the MPO TCC and Board for consideration in August.



Help Prioritize Transportation Investments in Western North Carolina

The French Broad River MPO is encouraging residents, commuters, business owners, and community stakeholders to participate in the region's Transportation Prioritization Survey before it closes on **July 22**.

The survey is part of North Carolina's transportation prioritization process, which helps determine which projects compete for future state and federal funding. Proposed projects include roadway improvements, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, transit investments, freight projects, and safety enhancements throughout the region.

Transportation decisions made today can have lasting impacts on how people travel, access jobs and services, and move throughout our communities. That's why public input is an important part of the process.

The survey allows participants to review proposed projects and share their level of support or concern. Respondents do not need to evaluate every project—only those that matter most to them.

Whether you're concerned about traffic congestion, pedestrian safety, transit access, bicycle connectivity, or freight movement, your perspective can help shape future transportation investments in Western North Carolina.

Take the survey before July 22 at: publicinput.com/prioritization



Bike Rack Survey

Go Mountain Commuting is kicking off a region-wide bike parking survey. If you know where bike racks are located on your regular routes or at destinations, please take a moment to stop and answer a few questions about that location when you pass by! This process will help us create a public-facing map, and prioritize where bike racks need to be added in the future. <https://arccg.is/OXH9L50>

If you would like to volunteer to cover a neighborhood, email sandy@landofsky.org

Project updates

Nasty Branch Greenway - U-5019A

The Nasty Branch Greenway is a ¾ mile long greenway that begins at the Dr. Wesley Grant Southside Center at the corner of Depot and Livingston Streets and terminates at Phifer Street near the McDowell and Southside Streets intersection. The project is funded with federal funds through the MPO with a 20% local match required. Due to rising costs, the City of Asheville requested an additional \$840,000 in federal funds from the MPO for the construction of the greenway, which was approved by the MPO Board on June 18th. The City of Asheville expects to open the project for construction bids in the next few months.



Ninth Street Bridge Replacement - HL-0013

In 2018, the 9th Street Bridge in Black Mountain was inspected and recommended its replacement. The project is funded with federal funds through the MPO with a 20% local match required. The project completed Preliminary Engineering and Right of Way in 2025 and was advertised for construction and received bids in early 2026. Costs associated with the project have increased, requiring the need for additional funds. Black Mountain requested an additional \$766,000 in federal funds from the MPO to award the project to a contractor. This was approved by the MPO Board on June 18th. Construction is expected to begin later this year, once the construction contract is in place.



Summer Strolls are back!

The Land of Sky Safe Routes to School program is hosting our community walk series for six weeks again this summer. The first stroll started at Southern Streams in Hendersonville with 13 participants. These meet-ups are intended to support a local coffee shop, start your day with movement, and provide a time to connect with your neighbors.

Join us for the July dates all going from 8:30 am to 9:30 am.

July 1st at Rowan Coffee West Asheville

July 8th at Cup & Saucer in Brevard

July 15th at Short Sleeves in Swannanoa (sneak peak at Beacon Park)

July 22nd at Zuma Coffee in Marshall

July 29th at Papertown in Canton

Upcoming Events

Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee Applications due on July 6!

The MPO is establishing a Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee (PBAC) to provide input on matters related to bicycle and pedestrian transportation, safety, and multimodal planning. The PBAC shall serve as a forum for community input and stakeholder perspectives on active transportation issues and provide recommendations to the MPO Board and TCC. Apply here:

[MPO Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee - Application – Fill out form](#)



Safe Routes to School: NC Communities in Action webinar July 7th

Our own Ada McGovern will join two other Safe Routes to School peers in a lunch and learn webinar hosted by the Great Trails State. Register [here](#).



Save the Date! August 10-12

The Great Trails State annual conference will be hosted in Winston Salem this year. This gathering brings together trail planners, designers and builders, recreational professionals, community and elected leaders, tourism partners, and others to learn and share best practices to advance trail and greenway development and promotion throughout North Carolina. Registration linked [here](#).

