

**Henderson County
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 18, 2023**

The Transportation Advisory Committee held a regularly scheduled meeting on January 18, at 4:00 p.m. in the King Street Meeting Room and online via Microsoft Teams.

Voting Member	Present	Not in Attendance
Beau Waddell, Chair at-large	√	
Joe Sanders, Vice-Chair at-large	√	
Sam Henderson, at-large	√	
Jay Egolf, at-large	√	
Rebecca McCall, Henderson County	√	
Bill Lapsley, Henderson County	√	
Jennifer Hensley, City of Hendersonville	√	
Anne Coletta, Village of Flat Rock		√
Shanon Gonce, Town of Mills River	√	
Bob Davy, Town of Fletcher	√	
George Banta, Town of Laurel Park	√	

Also present: Janna Bianculli, Senior Planner; Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director; Tristan Winkler, FBRMPO (via Microsoft Teams).

Mr. Beau Waddell, Chair at-large, called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

Public Comment:

Mr. Ward Seguin gave public comment regarding a survey prioritizing transportation projects, released by the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization. Mr. Seguin shared his thoughts and several ideas to NCDOT and the FBRMPO related to traffic and transportation within Henderson County. He also requested that more data and information related to transportation-decisions be made available to the public.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

Committee Vice-Chair, Joe Sanders, moved to approve the meeting agenda and the October 19, 2022, meeting minutes. Councilwoman Jennifer Hensley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion:

TAC Purpose and Ideas for Future Meetings

Committee Chair, Beau Waddell, led a discussion regarding the purpose of the Transportation Advisory Committee and the responsibilities of its members to the County commissioners. The TAC was formed in 2000 by the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Waddell expressed that the TAC was formed as an advisory committee to the County commissioners, and that they need to continue to actively fill that role. After reading the committee purpose, Commissioner Bill Lapsley stated that he believes the purpose has not changed and restated the main responsibilities of the TAC. Commissioner Rebecca McCall also agreed that the purpose has not changed. Commissioner McCall requested that all committees provide yearly updates to the Board of Commissioners. Joe Sanders, Vice-Chair, shared information and data from the *2021 Traffic Crash Facts* report, released by the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles. Tristan Winkler, FBRMPO, offered to meet with Mr. Sanders regarding previous crash reports. Janna Bianculli, Senior Planner, shared opportunities for the TAC to become involved in, such as the Transit Study, and other Planning Department projects.

Adoption of 2023 Meeting Calendar

Mr. Waddell shared two different meeting options with the committee. The first option was to keep the meeting calendar the same as before, meeting on the third Wednesday of the month at 4:00 PM. Councilman Shanon Gonce motioned to approve the first option. Councilman Bob Davy seconded the motion. Motion carried. The committee also discussed continuing to provide a virtual option for those who cannot attend meetings in-person.

Transit Feasibility Study

Mrs. Bianculli presented the Transit Feasibility Study for the Apple Country Public Transit system, to the committee. Mrs. Bianculli informed the committee that the fixed-route system is owned by Henderson County and operated by WNC Source (formerly WCCA). Henderson County also owns and operated the Paratransit system, a door-to door transportation service (within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of the fixed-route system). The last study that was conducted on the Apple Country Public Transit system was in 2004, prior to the County owning it. The purpose of the new study is to find ways to increase bus ridership and understand the feasibility of implementing service changes. Mrs. Bianculli also shared that the study will be looking at the possibility of a fare-free system or other alternative ways to collect fares. Mr. Sanders, Vice-Chair, asked if there was a possibility of increased ridership as an impact of a fare-free system. Mrs. Bianculli stated that increased ridership was something the study was researching.

2020 Census Federal UZA Changes

Mrs. Bianculli provided an overview of the 2020 Federal Urbanized Area (UZA). The Urbanized Area(s) is created by the Federal government, based on data from the US Census. Mrs. Bianculli showed the committee the difference between the 2010 Asheville Urbanized Area and the 2020 Asheville Urbanized Area. The 2020 Urbanized Area was calculated using housing-unit density, rather than population density. She then explained to the committee how Henderson County will be impacted by these changes. Regarding transit, The Federal Transit Administration providing funding through a formula-based grant titled, 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Grant. This grant was previously divided among the counties of Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, and Madison. Haywood County is no longer classified as part of the Asheville Urbanized Area, potentially allowing Henderson County to receive more funding in the future. Mrs. Bianculli informed the committee that the regional changes in the Urbanized Area could also affect the FBRMPO. Membership for the FBRMPO could be restructured, without Haywood County and its municipalities. However, two areas of Haywood County (along I-40 and US-74) are considered to become urban within MPO projections and the 20-year projection requirement for the Urbanized Area. Tristan Winkler added that Madison County and Mars Hill are also no longer included in the 2020 Asheville Urbanized Area. Committee member Jennifer Hensley asked Mr. Winkler if those areas no longer participating in the MPO, could form their own RPO (Rural Planning Organization). Mr. Winkler stated that those jurisdictions would most likely join the Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization. He also stated that based on current and future projections for Haywood County, it would not take a lot for it to rejoin the Asheville UZA.

Updates:

NCDOT Update

See attached PDF of Division 14 Project Development Updates.

Development

See attached PDF of Division 14 Project Development Updates.

Village of Flat Rock

There were no updates from Flat Rock.

Henderson County

Commissioner McCall expressed her excitement for the start of construction on the Ecusta Trail. She also shared that there are already some businesses beginning to appear along the trail.

Town of Laurel Park

There were no updates from Laurel Park.

City of Hendersonville

Committee member Jennifer Hensley shared that the city recently approved a NCDOT Integrated Mobility Paved Trail & Sidewalk Feasibility Study grant. The city is also applying for the NCDOT Bicycle Helmet Initiative. Mrs. Hensley also informed the committee that she is running for vice-chair of the MPO Board.

Town of Mills River

There were no updates from Mills River.

Town of Fletcher

Committee member Bob Davy shared updates from the Town of Fletcher. The project that was slated to take place in downtown Fletcher has since been stalled, due to the previous developer pulling out of the project. Mr. Davy stated that the project became cost-prohibitive for the developer due to the results of the Traffic Impact Analysis.

At-large/Staff Updates

Mr. Sanders informed the committee that the design for the Ecusta Trail is 90% complete and set to start construction this summer. This would cover the portion of the trail from Kanuga Rd to US-64 in Horse Shoe. Mrs. Bianculli informed the committee that Planning Staff would have material from the 90% Ecusta Trail design to share at the next meeting. Planning Staff are also working to create a database of businesses located along the Ecusta Trail and opportunities for collaboration with those owners.

Next Meeting:

The next TAC meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 PM.

Beau Waddell, Chair
Henderson County Transportation Advisory Committee

FBRMPO, Division 14, January 2023, Project Development Update

Project ID	County	Description	R/W Acq Begins	DRAFT 2024-2033 STIP R/W	Let Date	DRAFT 2024-2033 STIP Let	Project Manager
B-3186/B-5898	HAYWOOD	REPLACE US 23/74 BIDGES OVER RICHLAND CREEK AND US 19 BRIDGE AT US 23/74	9/30/2021		10/17/2023	2024	Zach Shuler
EB-5945	HAYWOOD	SIDEWALK ON CHAMPION DRIVE FROM NORTH CANTON ROAD TO THICKETY ROAD	3/14/2022	2022	9/12/2023		Jeanette White
R-5921	HAYWOOD	RUS 276 (JONATHAN CREEK) FROM US 19 TO I-40 UPGRADE. MODERNIZE ROADWAY.	1/9/2023	2023	9/17/2024	2024	Jeanette White
U-4712	HAYWOOD	US 23 BUSINESS (SOUTH MAIN STREET) FROM SR 1164 HYATT CREEKROAD) TO US 276 (PIGEON STREET) WIDEN TO MULTI-LANES	5/21/2024	2027	9/15/2026	2030	Barry Mosteller
U-5839	HAYWOOD	US 276 (RUSS AVENUE) FROM US 23/74 TO US 23 BUSINESS (MAIN STREET) UPGRADE CORRIDOR	8/12/2019	2019	5/16/2023	2023	Kenneth McDowell
U-6048	HAYWOOD	US 19/23 FROM SR 1836(CHESTNUT MOUNTAIN ROAD) TO SR 1200 (WIGGINS ROAD. UPGRADE ROADWAY	7/19/2028	2028	1/1/2040	2030	Barry Mosteller
U-6158	HAYWOOD	US 276 AT SR 1134 (CRYMES COVE ROAD) AND RACCOON ROAD. INTERSECTION REALIGNMENT.	7/12/2028	2028	1/1/2040	2030	Joshua Deyton
U-6159	HAYWOOD	US 276 (RUSS AVENUE) FROM US 23-74 (GREAT SMOKEY MOUNTAIN EXPRESSWAY) TO US 19 (DELLWOOD ROAD). ACCESS MANAGEMENT.	10/12/2028	2028	1/1/2040	2030	Barry Mosteller
U-6160	HAYWOOD	US19 from FIE TOP ROAD (SR 1304) to BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY	10/20/2028	Not Funded	1/1/2040	Not Funded	Joshua Deyton
U-6172	HAYWOOD	US 23/US 74 GREAT SMOKEY MOUNTAINS EXPRESSWAY FROM SR 1777 (BALSAM VIEW DRIVE) TO SR 1158 (OLD BALSAM ROAD) MODERNIZE ROADWAY.	11/13/2026	Preliminary Eng Only	1/1/2040	Preliminary Eng Only	Joshua Deyton
EB-5860	HENDERSON	BLYTHE STREET, US 64 (BREVARD ROAD) TO NC 191 (HAYWOOD ROAD) CONSTRUCT SIDEWALKS, Managed by City of Hendersonville	9/26/2025	2025	9/25/2026	2026	Hendersonville
EB-5863	HENDERSON	GROVE STREET FROM BARNWELL STREET TO US 176 (SPARTANBURG HIGHWAY), Managed by City of Hendersonville	1/28/2025	2025	7/28/2026	2026	Hendersonville
EB-5946	HENDERSON	MULTI USE PATH ALONG NC 191/280 FROM FRENCH BROAD RIVER TO NC 191, PE ONLY		Preliminary Eng Only	Move Forward	Preliminary Eng Only	Jeanette White
EB-6037B	HENDERSON/TRANSYLVANIA	ECUSTA TRAIL, RAIL TO TRAIL, CONSTRUCTION NOT PROGRAMMED IN STIP	3/9/2022	2021			Stacy Oberhausen
I-4400A	HENDERSON	I-26 FROM US25 to US64, MODERNIZE INTERSTATE	7/26/2029	Not Funded	1/1/2040	Not Funded	Joshua Deyton
I-4400BA	HENDERSON	I-26 AT US 64 (EXIT 49) INTERCHANGE	7/21/2028	Preliminary Eng Only	1/1/2040	Preliminary Eng Only	Joshua Deyton
I-5925	HENDERSON	I-26 - HENDERSON COUNTY FROM MILEMARKER 50 TO POLK COUNTY LINE. PAVEMENT REHABILITATION.			3/18/2025	2025	Joshua Deyton
R-2588B	HENDERSON	NC 191 FROM SR 1381 (MOUNTAIN ROAD) TO NC 280 SOUTH OF MILLS RIVER	7/16/2021	2022	7/18/2023	2024	Joshua Deyton
R-5748	HENDERSON	SR 1127 (KANUGA ROAD) FROM US 25 BUSINESS (CHURCH STREET) TO SR 1123 (LITTLE RIVER ROAD). UPGRADE ROADWAY.	9/21/2026	2027	1/1/2040	2029	Jeanette White
U-5783	HENDERSON	US 64 FROM SR 1180(BLYTH STREET) TO SR SR 1173 (WHITE PINE DRIVE)/SR 1186 (DANIEL DRIVE). WIDEN ROADWAY.	6/29/2021	2022	5/21/2024	2024	Kenneth McDowell
U-5886	HENDERSON	SR 1170 (WHITE STREET) FROM SR 1171 (WILLOW ROAD) TO US 176 (SPARTANBURG HIGHWAY). REALIGN AND EXTEND ROADWAY	12/19/2022	2023	10/21/2025	2026	Jeanette White
U-6049	HENDERSON	NC 225 (SOUTH MAIN STREET)FROM SOUTH MAIN STREET AT SOUTH KING STREEET TO US 176 WIDEN BRIDGE 143 TO 5 LANES	12/19/2022	2023	10/21/2025	2026	Jeanette White
U-6124	HENDERSON	NC 280 (BOYLSTON HIGHWAY) HENDERSON HIGHWAY AT NC 191 (HAYWOOD ROAD) TO NC 191 (OLD HAYWOOD ROAD). CONSTRUCT ACCESS MANAGEMENT AND INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS.	11/15/2028	Not Funded	11/1/2040	Not Funded	Jeanette White