



**Henderson County Local Government**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Henderson County Transportation Advisory Committee Seeks Input on Transportation Projects

**HC-2019-21**

**Hendersonville, NC – June 18, 2019**

At its August meeting, the Henderson County Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) plans to recommend projects for funding and wants to hear from Henderson County residents about their transportation priorities. The Henderson County TAC works with the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) to provide input on transportation planning and investments in Henderson County. One of the ways the TAC does this is by recommending priority projects to the MPO and DOT as part of the prioritization process.

In North Carolina, the prioritization process works to determine which major transportation investments will be funded with the state's transportation funds and federal funds utilized by the North Carolina DOT. These projects are required to be in an adopted plan and the process is generally geared towards major investments (widening the road to add more lanes, adding sidewalks, upgrading the roads to add shoulders and/or other safety features, etc.). The process is transparent, data-driven, collaborative, and involves several steps:

1. Planned projects are submitted into the prioritization process by Planning Organizations and the Department of Transportation
2. The Department of Transportation uses data to give submitted projects quantitative scores (Spring, 2020)
3. Planning Organizations and DOT Divisions assign local input points to boost project scores (Fall & Winter, 2020/2021)
4. DOT releases the Draft State Transportation Improvement Program which lists the projects that scored well enough to be funded (Spring, 2021)

At this stage of the current round of the prioritization process, the French Broad River MPO is determining the planned projects to submit for the region and has requested the TAC provide recommendations for Henderson County. In August 2019, the TAC plans to make those



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recommendations at its monthly meeting and wants input from the public about what projects are most important to them. To provide input at this stage, please respond to the online survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/SPOT6](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SPOT6). There is a link on the TAC page on the County's website also. There will be more opportunities for public input throughout the process. The MPO plans to accept additional public input this winter, a survey by the MPO in early 2020 will also seek public comment on the Draft Transportation Improvement Program.

To note, selecting projects to submit does not mean those projects will be funded- most submitted projects are not funded. There are no definitive designs for projects at this point; projects need funding in order for comprehensive design work to begin.

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