THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: December 9, 2025

Subject: Safe Streets for WNC Safety Plan

Staff Resource(s): Ashley Haire, Director of Transportation
Jessica Morriss, Assistant Director of Transportation

Action Requested: Adoption of a resolution adopting the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization's Safe Streets for Western North Carolina Safety Plan.

Background:

- The French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), of which the City is a member, developed a regional multimodal transportation safety plan.
- City staff from multiple departments participated in preparing this regional plan throughout its development.
- The MPO adopted the plan on August 21, 2025.
- A key goal of the plan is to reduce fatalities and injuries from crashes.
- The plan provides regional counties and municipalities with detailed information about crash and safety histories and offers strategies and countermeasures as the region strives for safer roadways for all users.
- This plan is advantageous for the City of Asheville because its adoption and implementation will also create opportunities for grant applications, which are often contingent on having a safety plan in place for our region.
- Key steps in the development of this safety plan included:
    - Comprehensive data inventory and analysis to identify crash patterns and transportation safety problems throughout the region
    - Pinpointing areas with elevated risk of fatal and serious injury crashes
    - Developing crash reduction strategies, performance measures, and a prioritized list of projects
    - Building a safety countermeasure toolbox and policy recommendations to support short- and long-term regional safety improvements

Vendor Outreach Efforts: N/A

Council Goal(s):

- Transportation and accessibility

Committee(s): N/A

Pro(s):

- Implementing this plan will reduce crashes, fatalities, and injuries caused by poor driving habits and inadequate infrastructure.
- The plan provides strategies and countermeasure suggestions for various circumstances to assist decision-making for improved design, engineering, and enforcement methods.

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

- There is no fiscal impact associated with supporting this resolution.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to adopt a resolution adopting the French Broad River MPO's (Metropolitan Planning Organization) adopted Safe Streets for WNC.

Attachment(s):

- Resolution
- Safe Streets for WNC Plan

RESOLUTION NO. 25-____

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE FRENCH BROAD RIVER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION'S SAFE STREETS FOR WNC SAFETY PLAN

WHEREAS, the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which the City is a member of as authorized by N.C.G.S. § 160A-461, has developed a comprehensive regional multimodal transportation safety plan, with active participation from City of Asheville staff across various key departments; and

WHEREAS, the French Broad River MPO officially adopted the Safe Streets for WNC Safety Plan on August 21, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the plan furnishes regional counties and municipalities with detailed insights into crash and safety histories, alongside offering strategic countermeasures to foster safer roadways for all users; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of this plan will create valuable opportunities for the City of Asheville to pursue grant applications, which are often contingent upon the existence of a regional safety plan; and

WHEREAS, supporting this resolution aligns with the Council Vision 2036 Focus Areas of "A well-planned and liveable city" and "Transportation and accessibility," as well as its Council Priority Recovery Area of "Infrastructure"; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of this plan is anticipated to reduce crashes, fatalities, and injuries attributable to poor driving habits and inadequate infrastructure, and will provide valuable strategies and countermeasure suggestions to assist in decision-making for improved design, engineering, and enforcement methods;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE THAT:

The City of Asheville adopts the French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization's Safe Streets for Western North Carolina Safety Plan.

Read, approved, and adopted this the 9th day of December, 2025.

_____ _____

City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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City Attorney