French Broad River MPO Update

August 10, 2026

a program of Land of Sky

FRENCH BROAD RIVER

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

What is a Metropolitan Planning Organization?

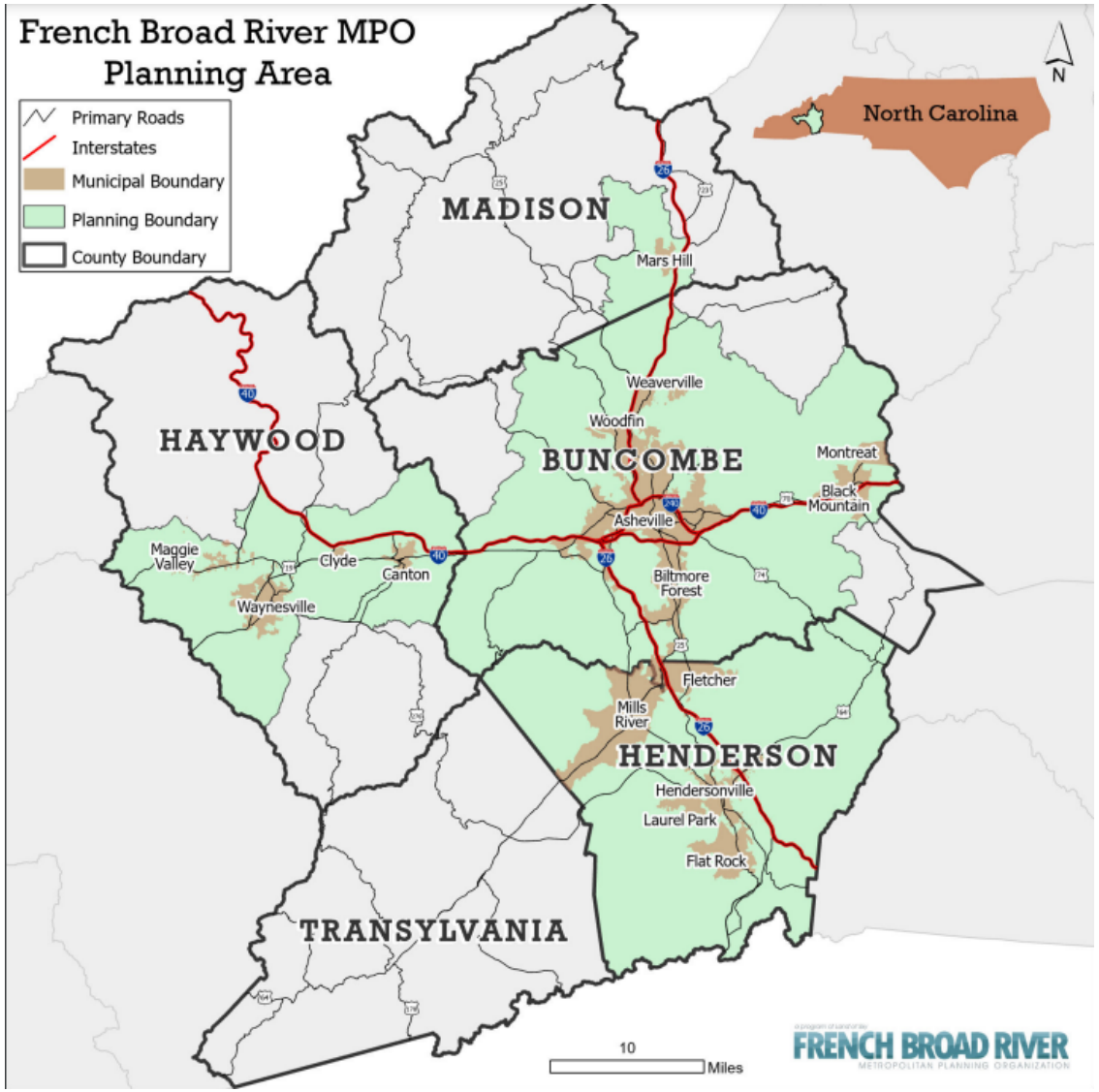
"The forum for cooperative transportation decision making for the metropolitan planning area"

Source: 23 CFR Part 450.104



FRENCH BROAD RIVER MPO PLANNING AREA

- Centered around the Asheville Urban Area
- Grew to include Henderson & Haywood in 2000, Madison and a (tiny bit of) Transylvania in 2010
- Lost Transylvania in 2020



Primary Services for Black Mountain



1. Planning



2. Prioritizing Projects



3. Providing Funding

Planning

In-House

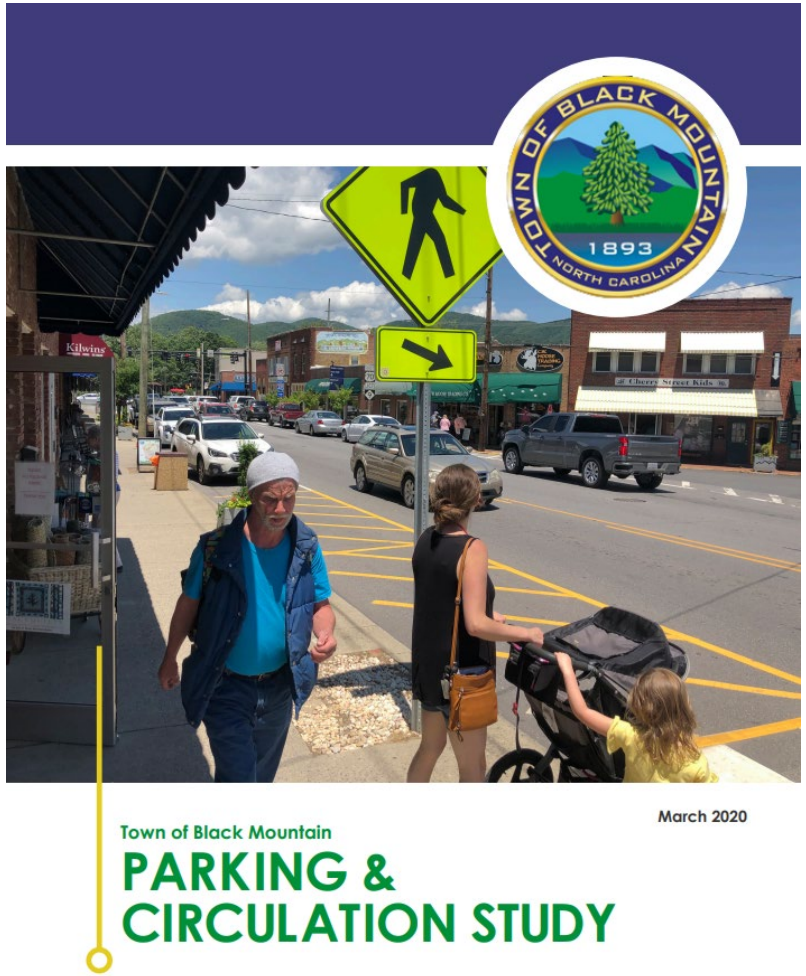
The MPO provides long-range planning for the region in accordance with federal requirements

Grants Provided

The MPO makes federal planning funds available to member governments roughly annually – grants cover 80% of eligible expenses

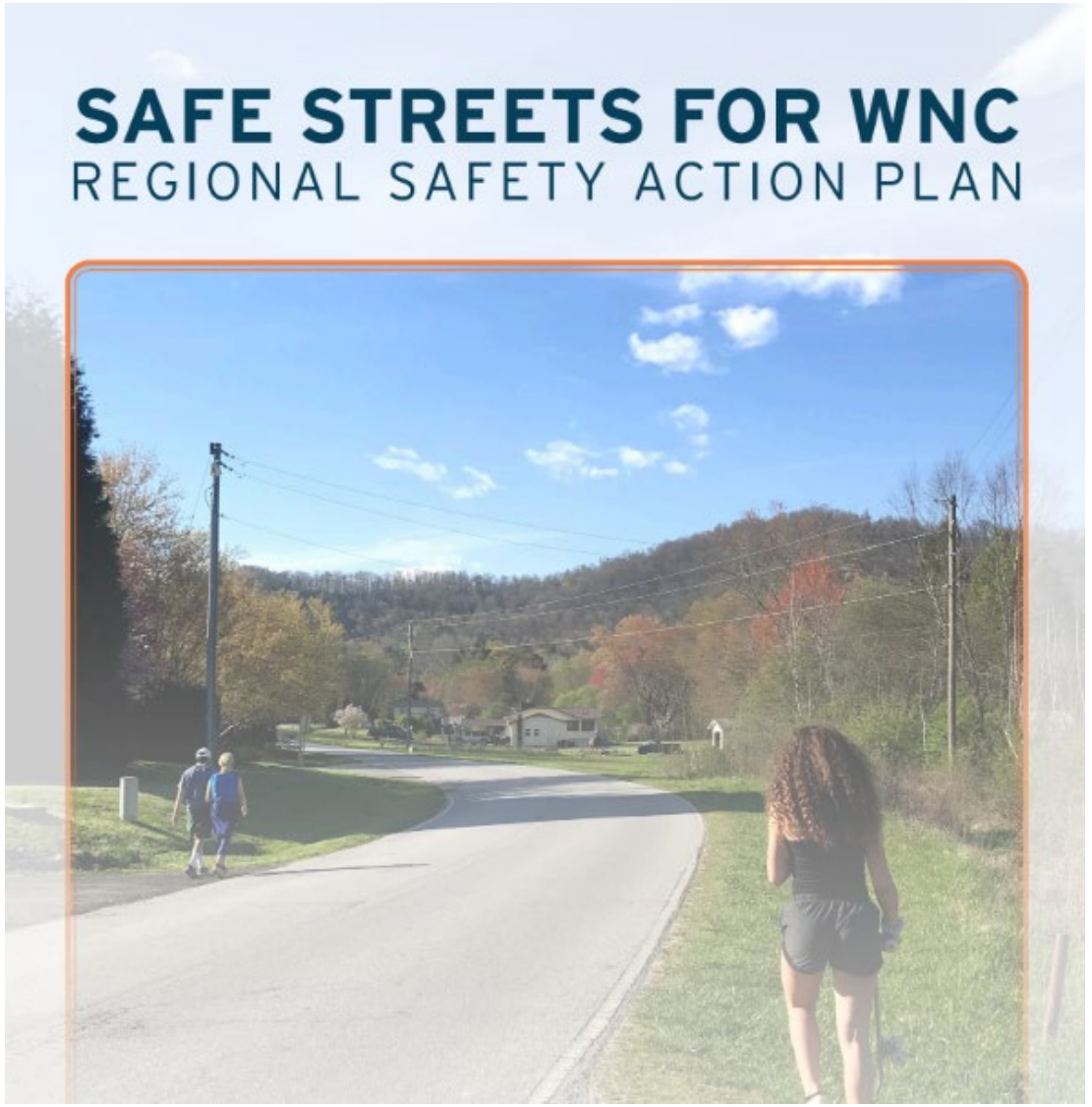
The Town of Black Mountain has received two planning grants since 2019

- Downtown Parking & Circulator Study
- Ridgecrest Trail Feasibility Study



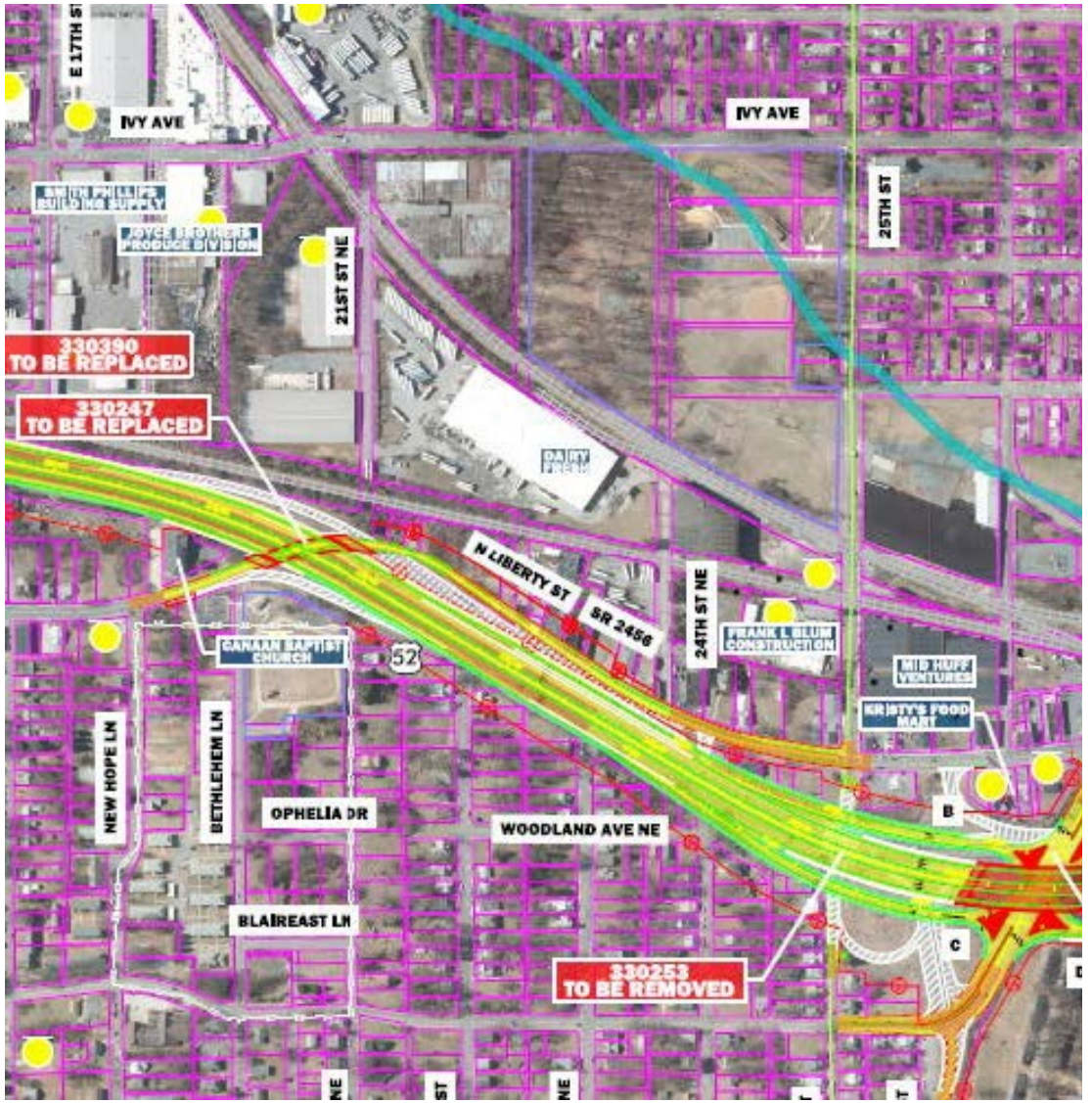
Safe Streets for WNC

- Completed in 2025
- Identifies Areas With Disproportionate Crashes and Risk
- Enables Every Member Government of the MPO to Apply for Safety Funds Through USDOT



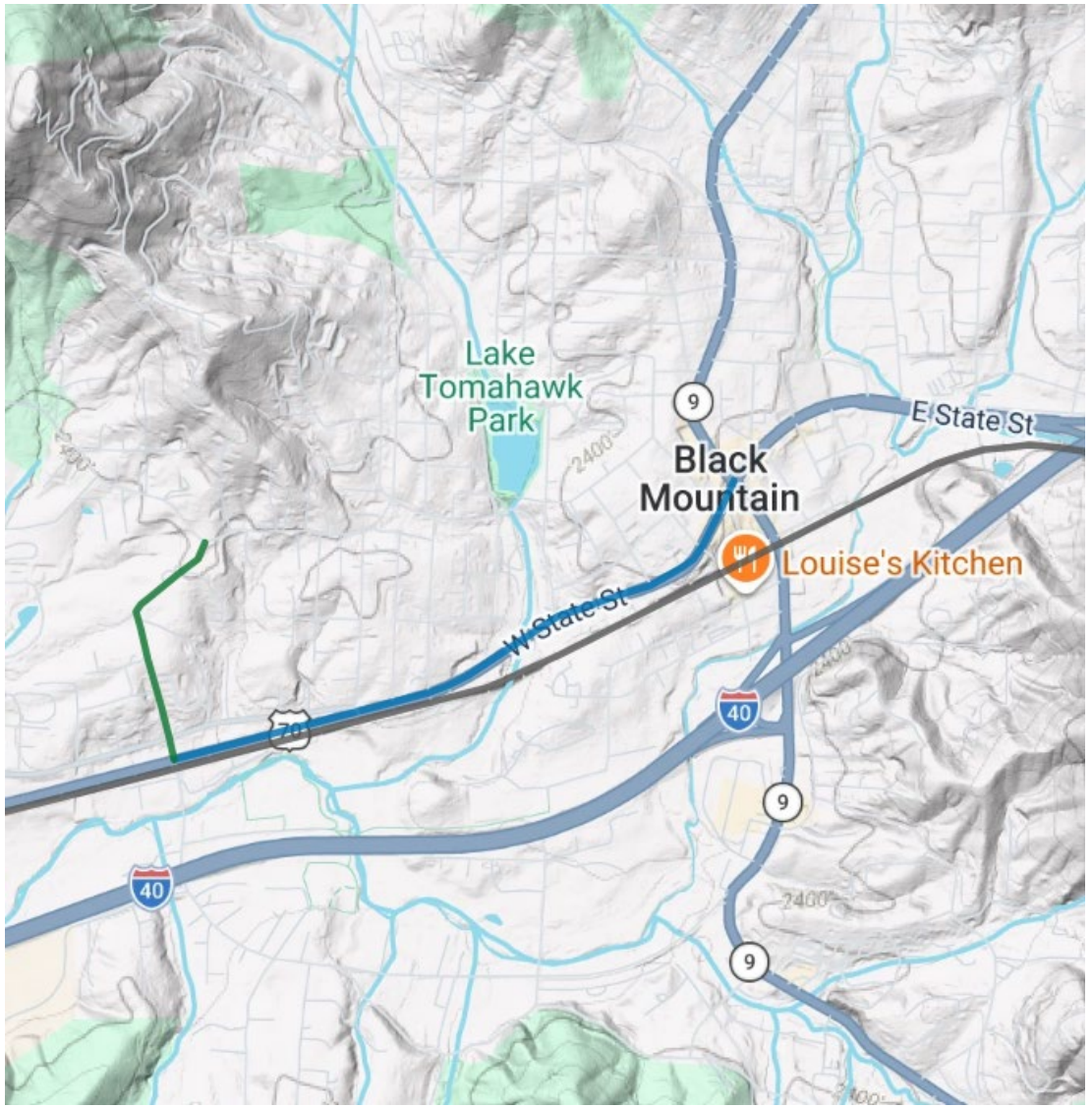
Planning

- Express Designs
  - Quick Designs on Projects in Prioritization (or considered for submitting)
  - Enables a Better Idea of Scope, Costs, and Constraints for Planned Projects
  - Expected to be a Requirement in 2027 for projects to pursue funding
  - The MPO assigns roughly five (5) express designs per year



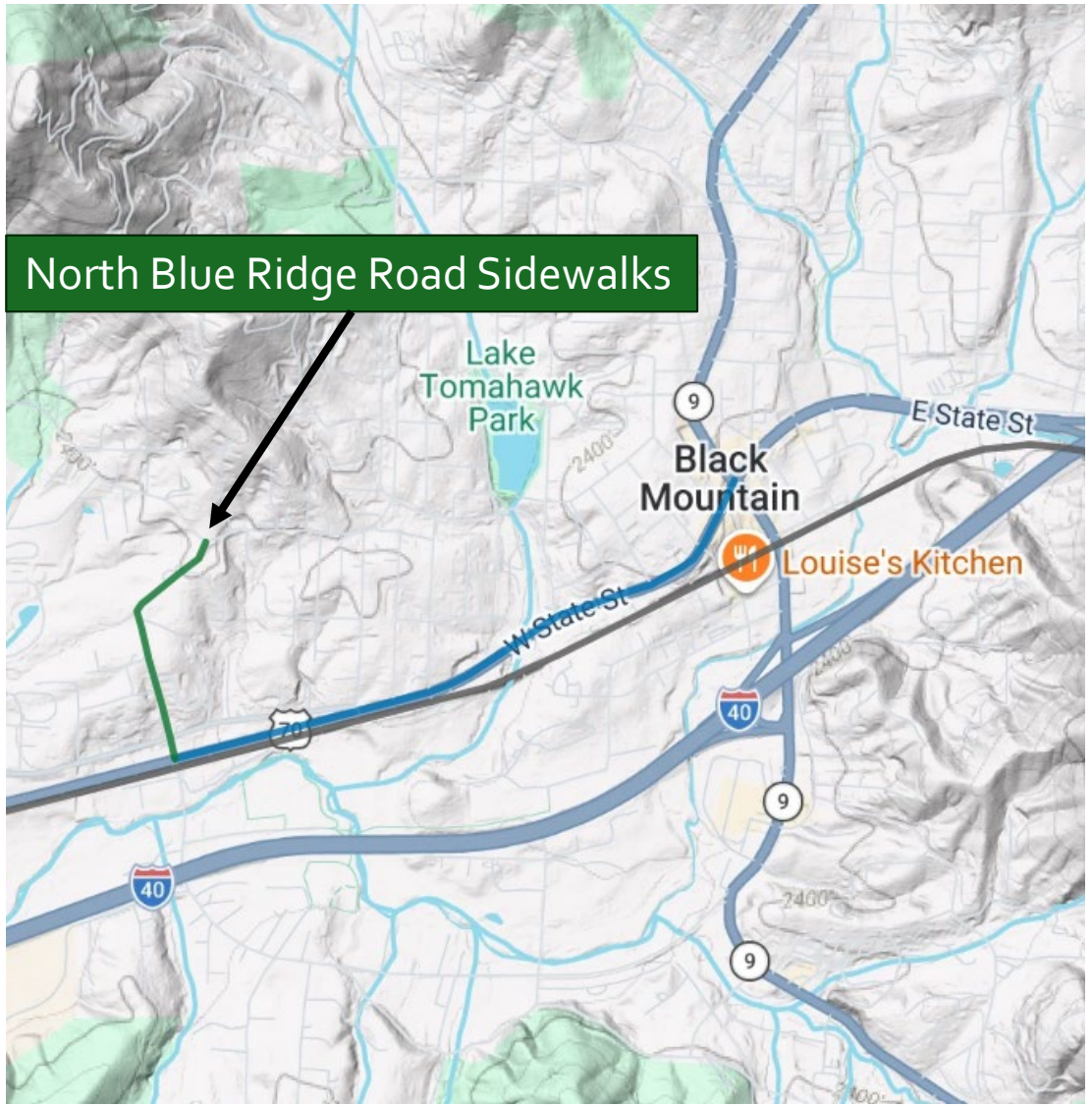
Prioritization

- The MPO submits local & regional transportation priorities into the Prioritization process on behalf of local governments and prioritizes projects to improve their chances of being funded
- Special Thanks: Vice Member Pertiller for serving on the Prioritization Subcommittee!!!



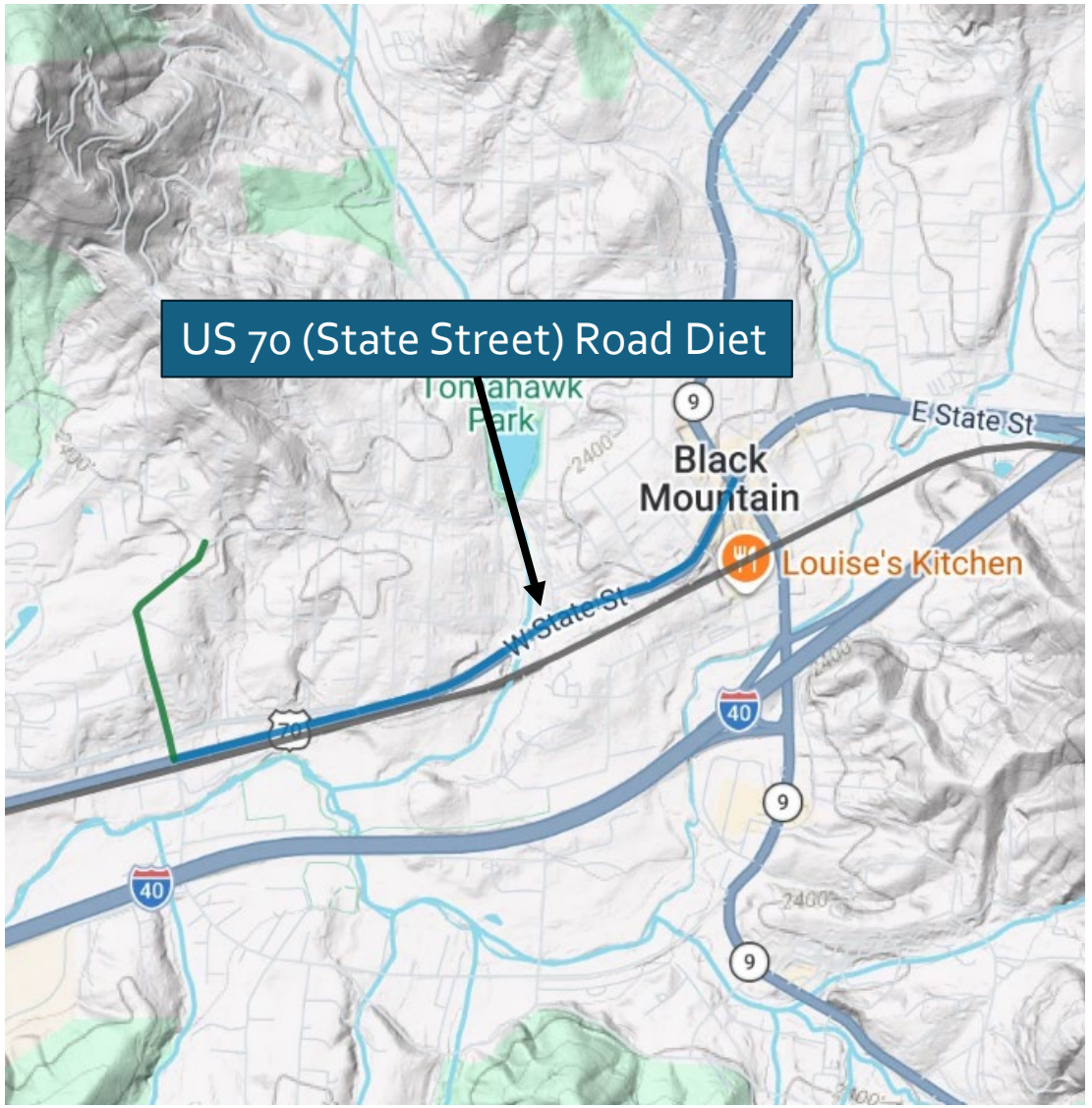
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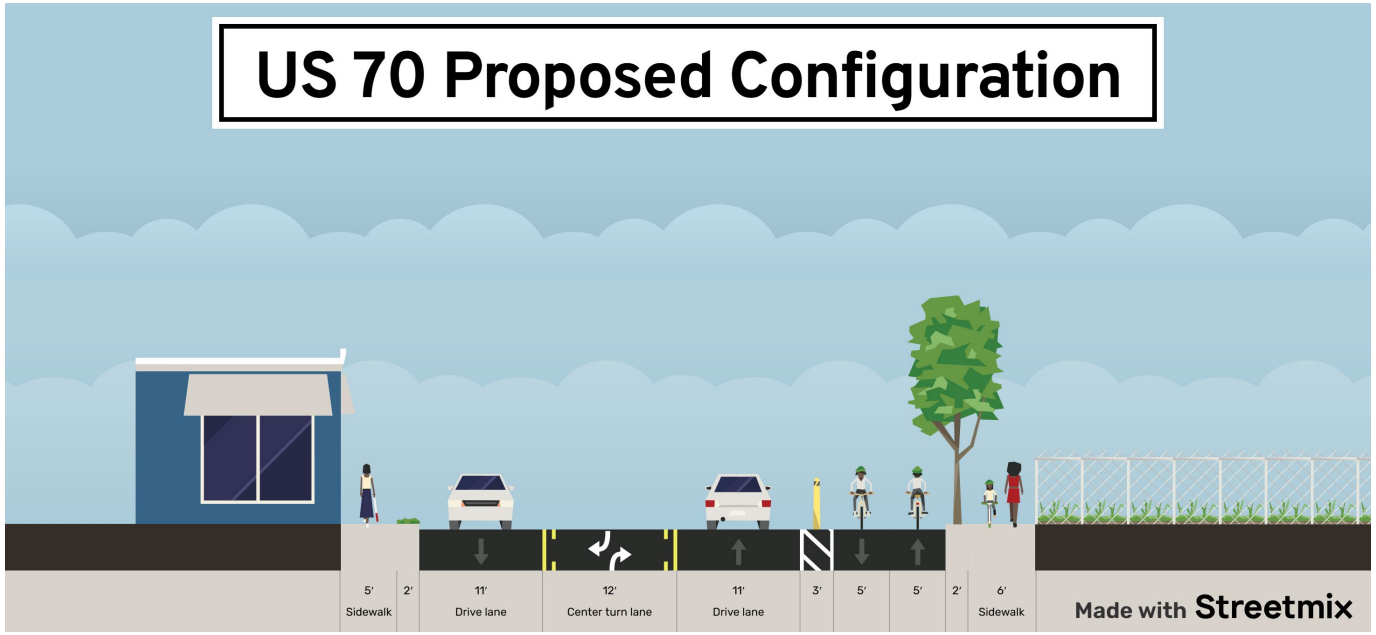
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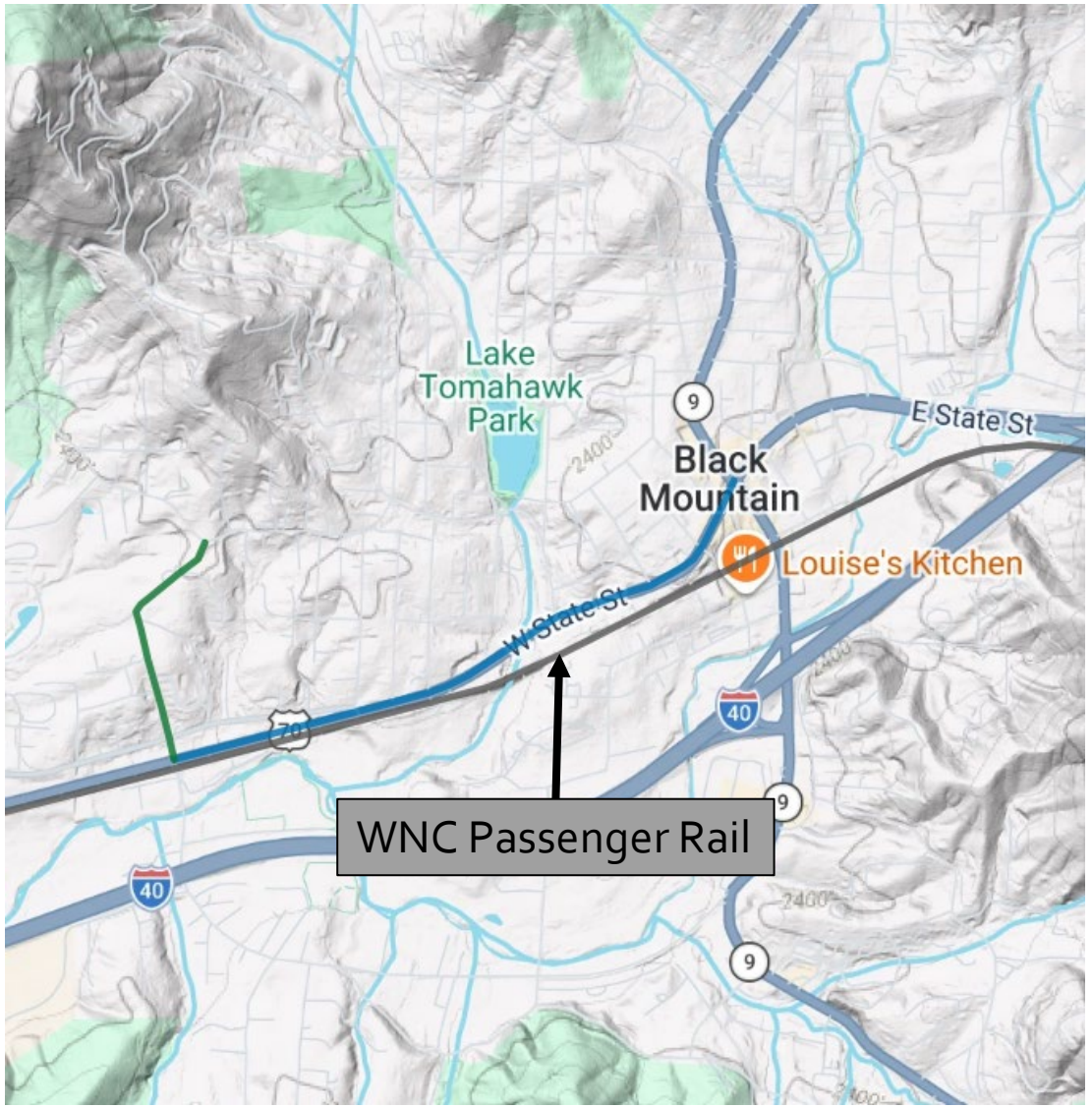


Prioritization

- Reduces crashes by 19-47%
- Reduces average speeds
- Provides a multimodal link (Fonta Flora/Hellbender)

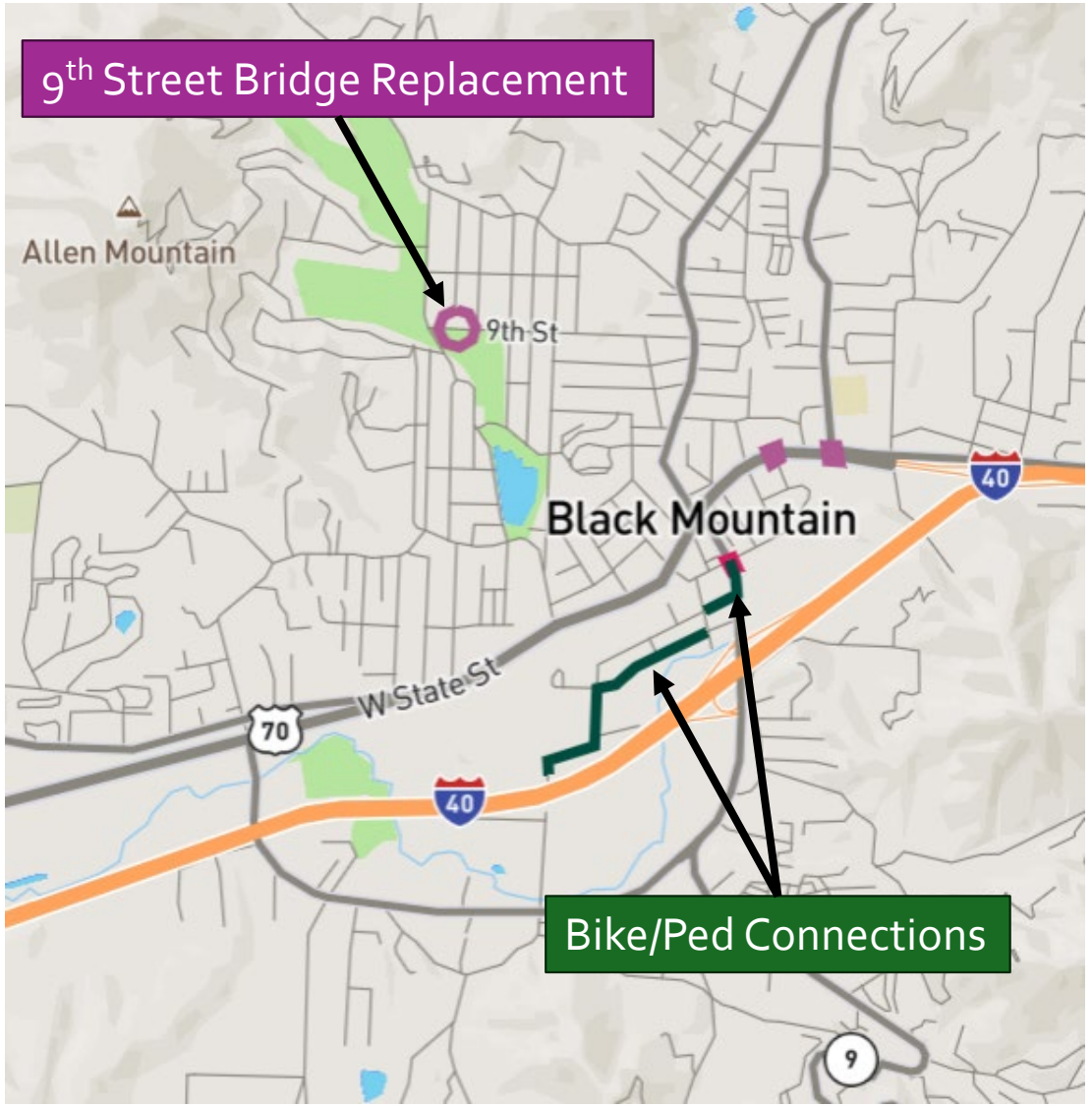
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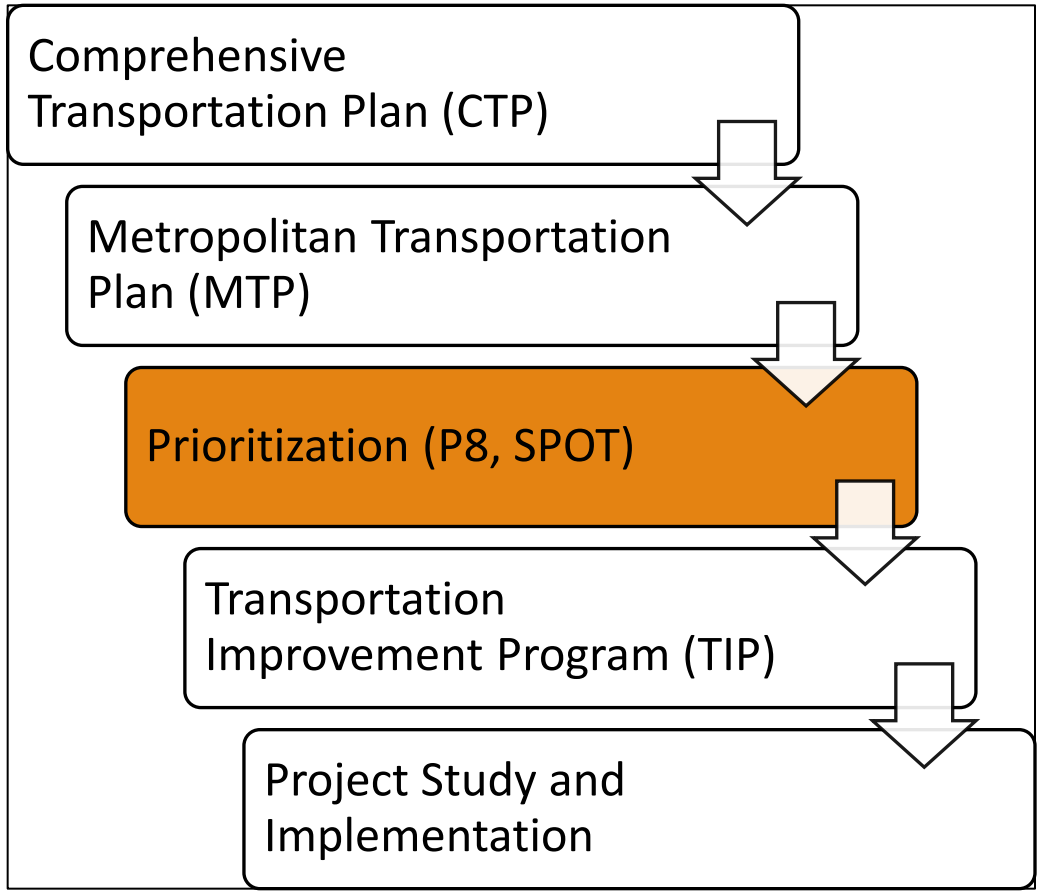
Funding

- MPO-Awarded Projects
- The MPO receives roughly $6.5 million/year in federal transportation funds to be awarded at the discretion of the MPO Board
- More than $4 million in MPO-Awarded Projects has been programmed to:
  - "The Project Formerly Known as Riverwalk Greenway"
  - 9th Street Bridge Replacement



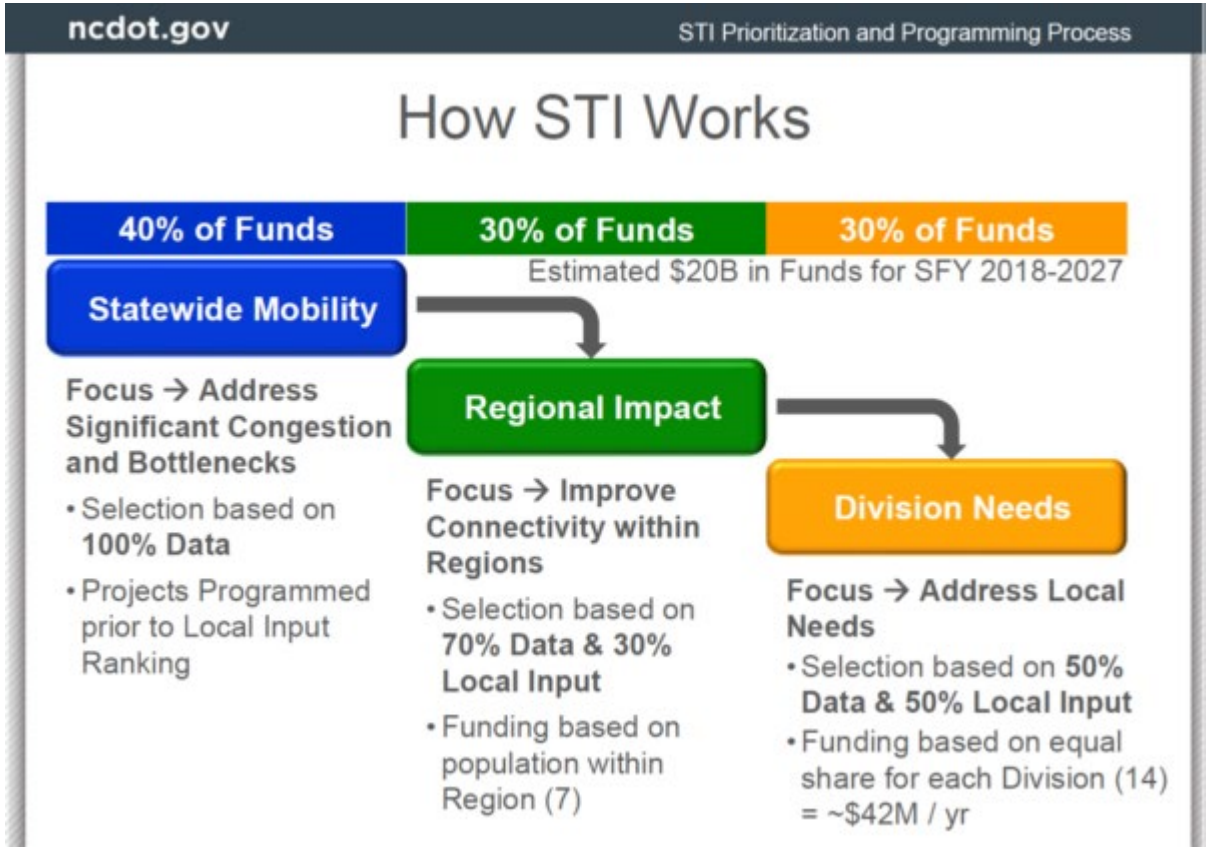
Reference Slides

P 8 Background



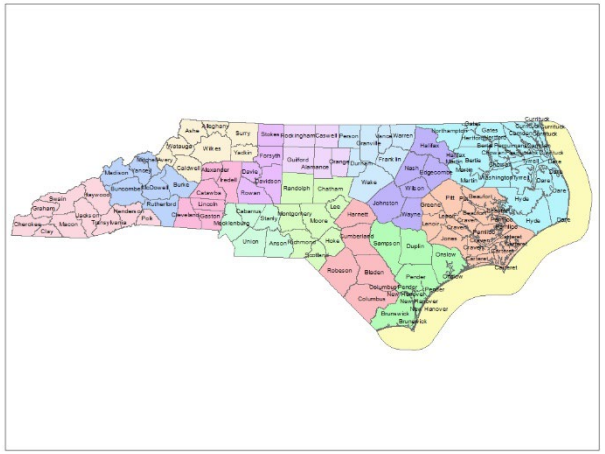
- Process North Carolina uses to determine where the majority of funding for capital improvements go
- Governed by the Strategic Highway Investments Act of 2012
- “Data-Driven & Transparent” process to select projects (also complicated)

P 8 Basics

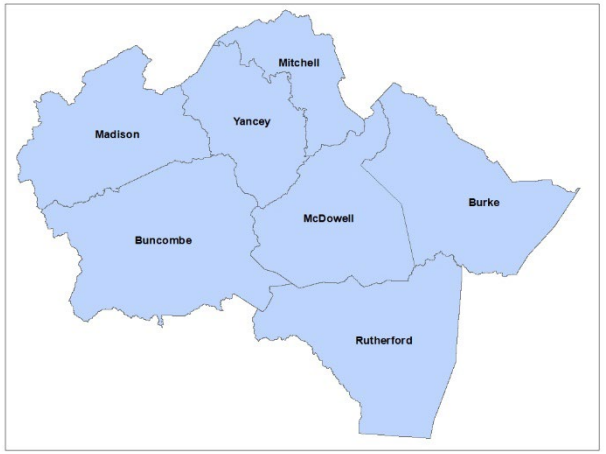

ncdot.gov
STI Prioritization and Programming Process
How STI Works
40% of Funds
30% of Funds
30% of Funds
Estimated $20B in Funds for SFY 2018-2027
Statewide Mobility
Regional Impact
Division Needs
Focus → Address Significant Congestion and Bottlenecks
• Selection based on 100% Data
• Projects Programmed prior to Local Input Ranking
Focus → Improve Connectivity within Regions
• Selection based on 70% Data & 30% Local Input
• Funding based on population within Region (7)
Focus → Address Local Needs
• Selection based on 50% Data & 50% Local Input
• Funding based on equal share for each Division (14) = ~$42M / yr

P 8 Basics

40%	30%	30%
Statewide Mobility	Regional Impact	Division Needs
Projects Selected Across the State By Quantitative Score	Funding Distributed to 7 Regions By Population (8.6% for Region G)	Funding Distributed to 14 Divisions Equally (7.14% to Divisions 13 & 14)

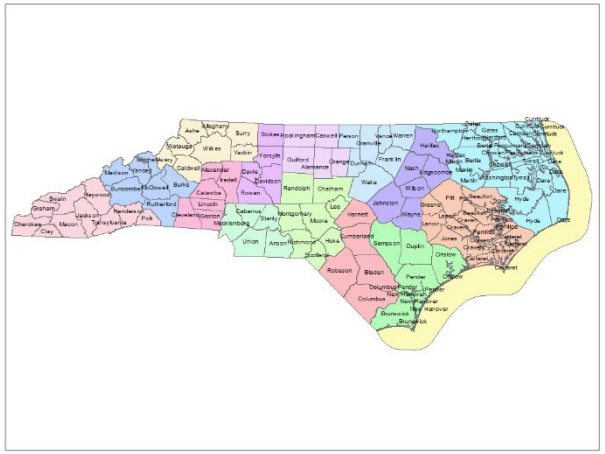




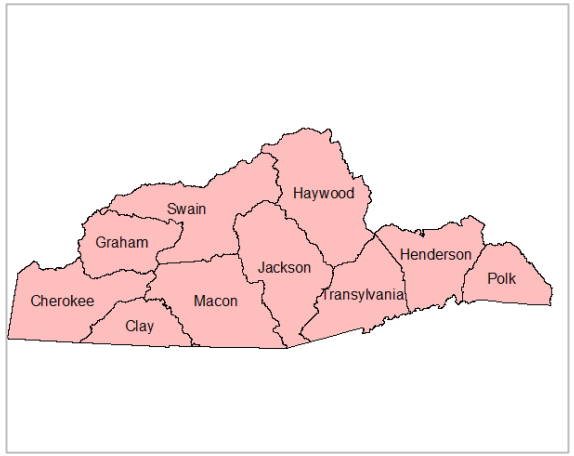


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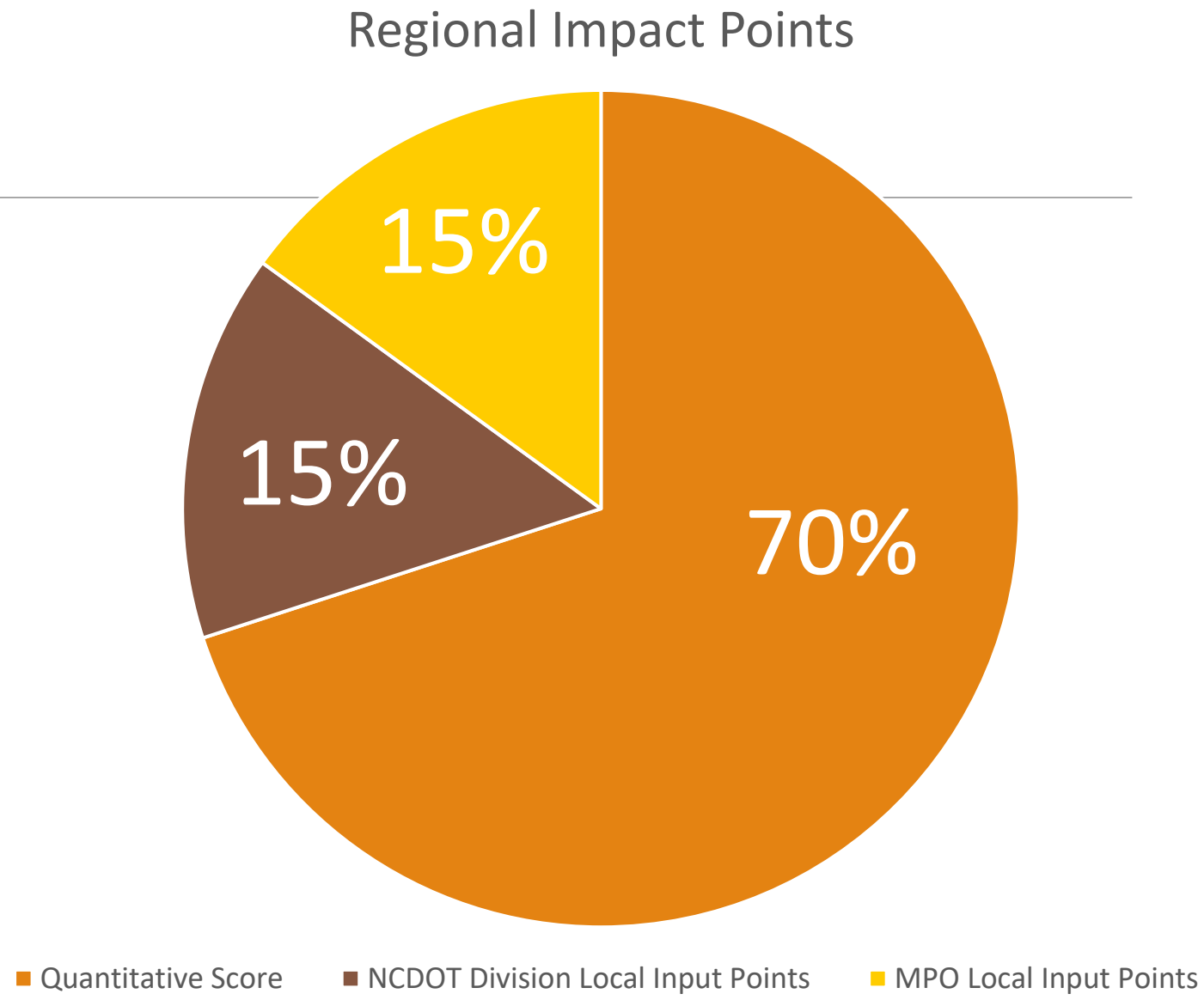




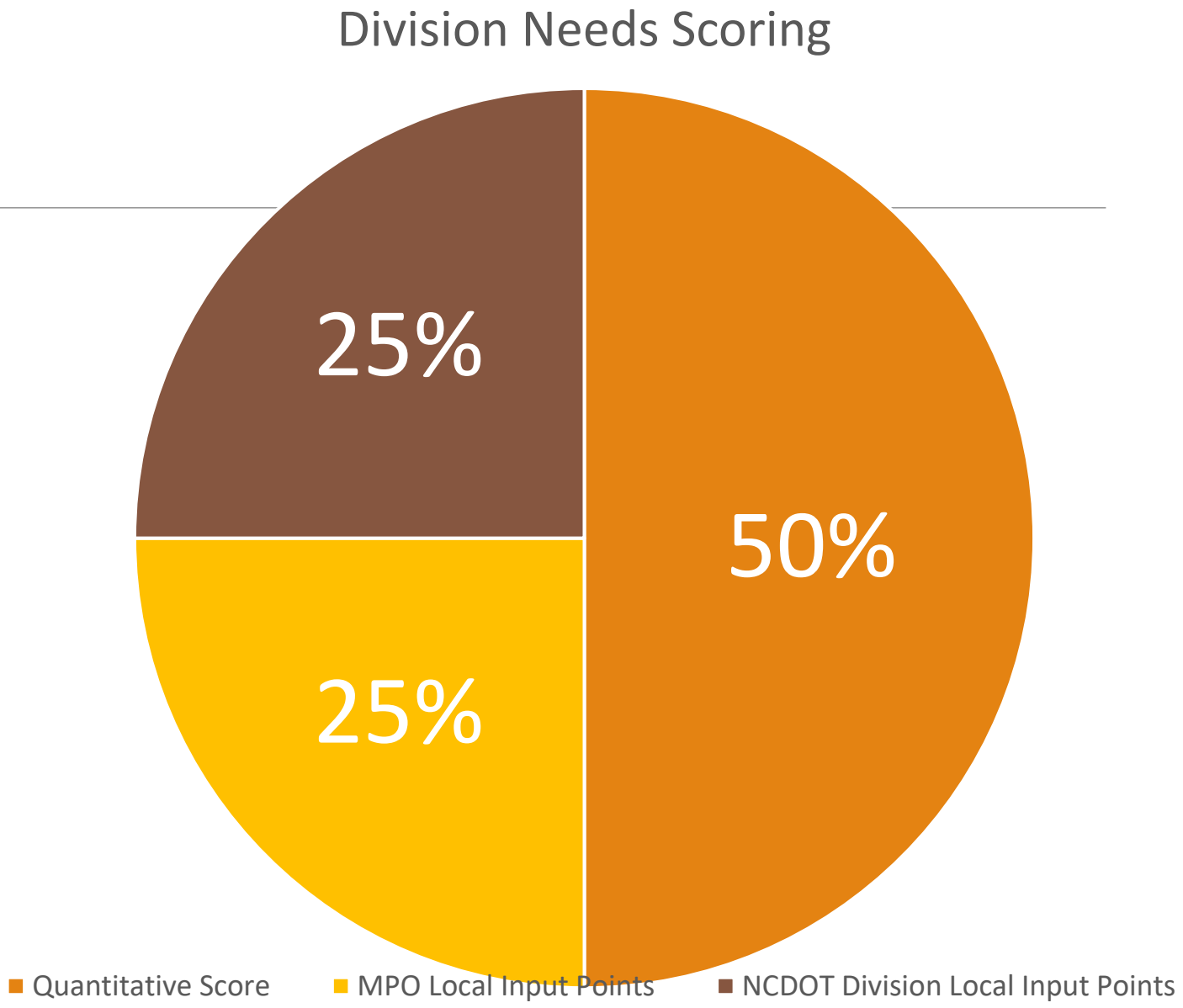
P 8 Basics

Mode	Statewide Mobility	Regional Impact	Division Needs
Highway	• Interstates • STRAHNET • National Highway System • Designated Toll Facilities	• US Highways • NC Highway	• All Secondary Roads • Federal-Aid Eligible Local Roads
Aviation	• Large Airports (Including AVL)	• Other Commercial Service Airports	• Airports Without Commercial Service
Bicycle/Pedestrian	• NA	• NA	• All Projects
Public Transportation	• NA	• Service Spanning Multiple Counties	• All Other Service
Rail	• Freight Service on Class I	• Rail Service Spanning Two or More Counties	• All Other Service, Including Terminals and Stations
Ferries	• NA	• Vessel or Infrastructure Expansion	• Replacement Vessels

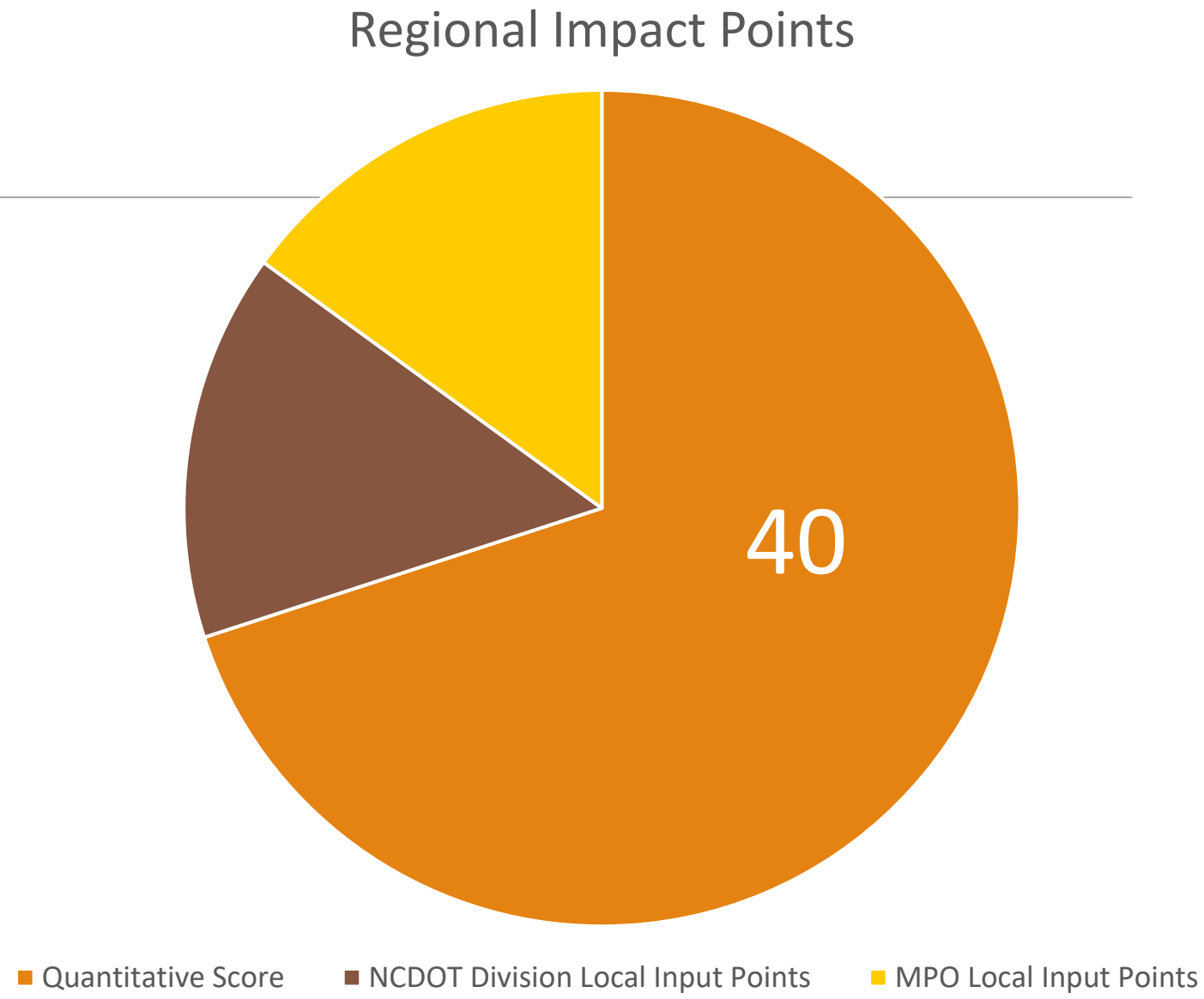
Regional Impact Scores



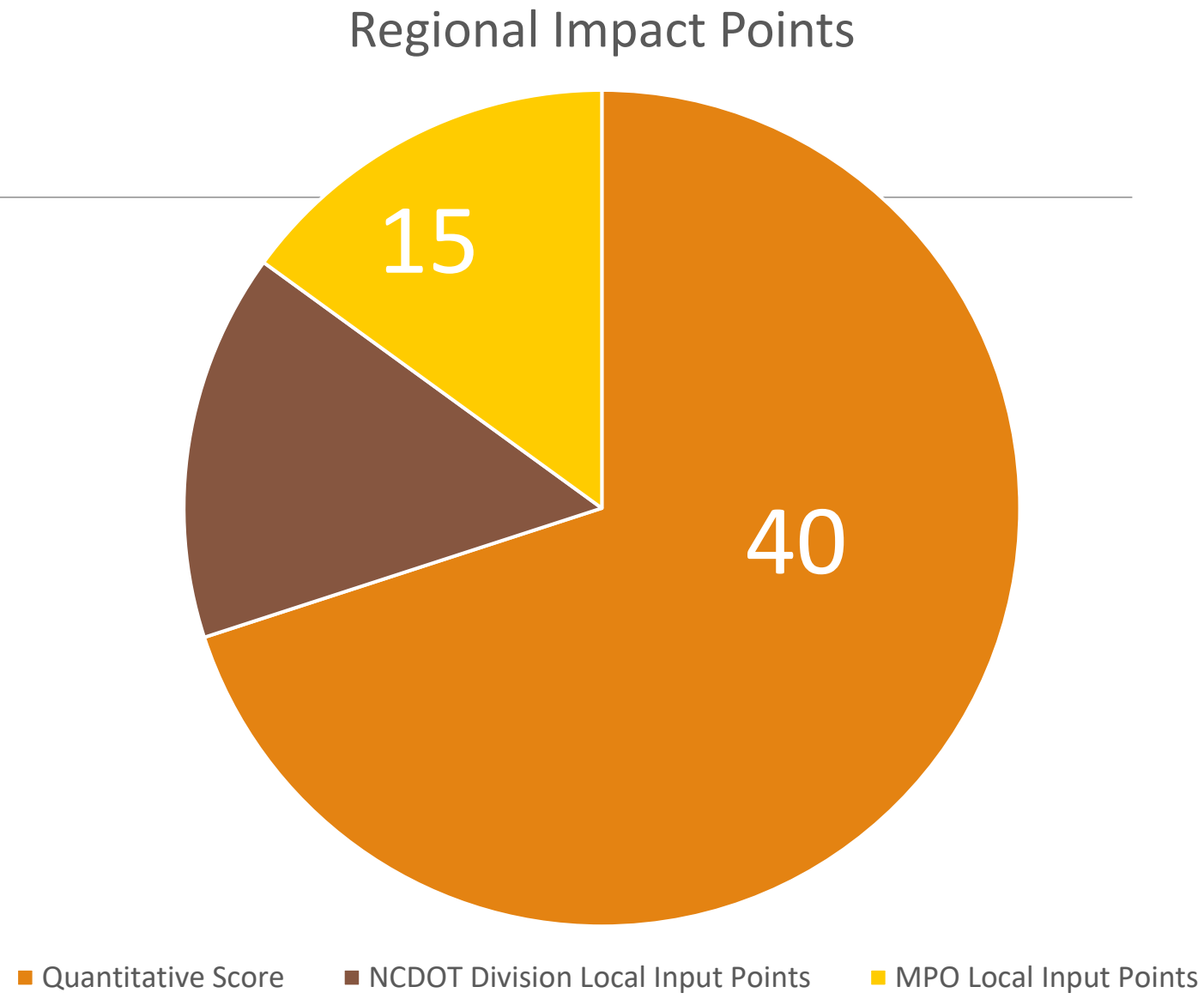
Division Needs Scores



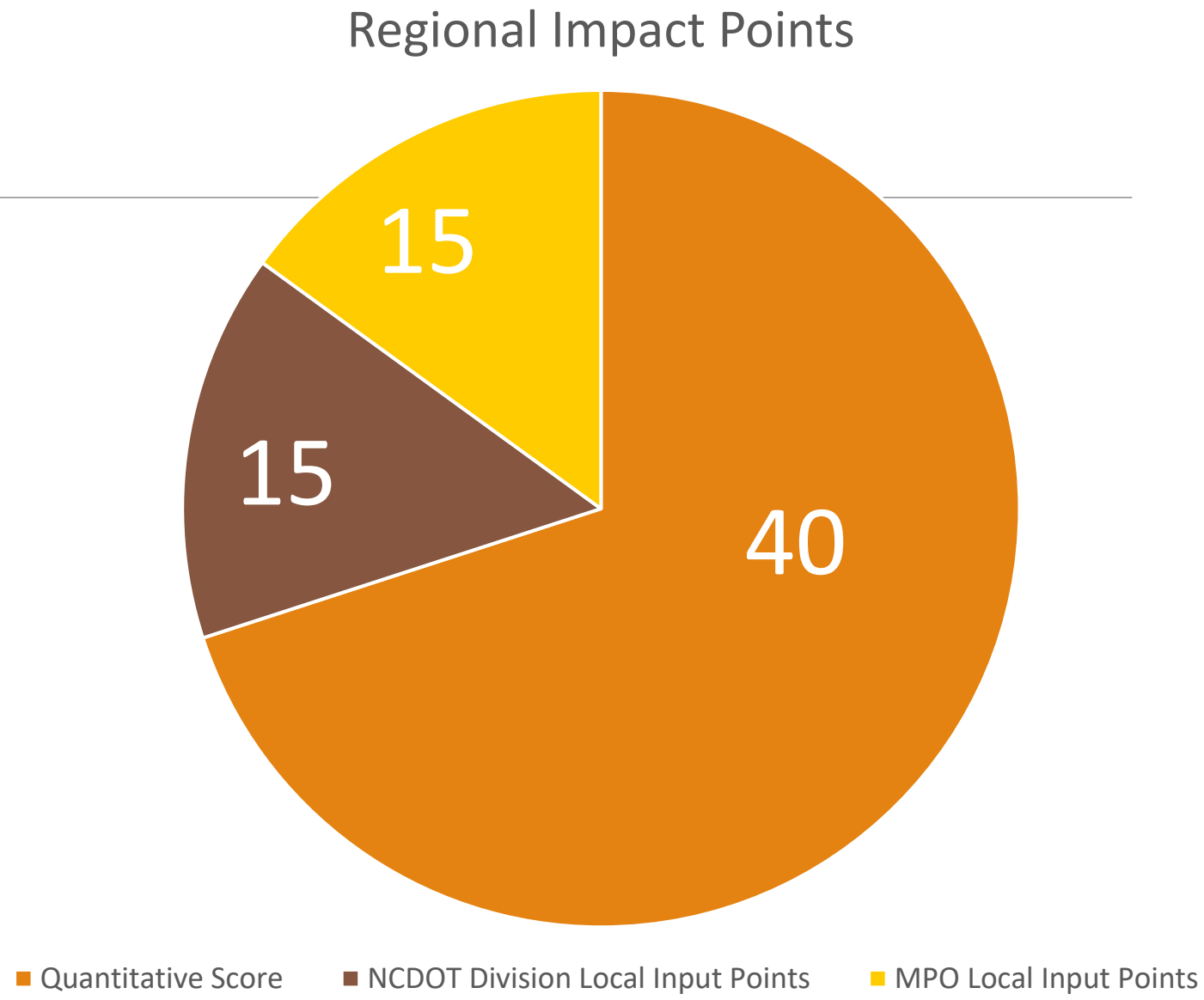
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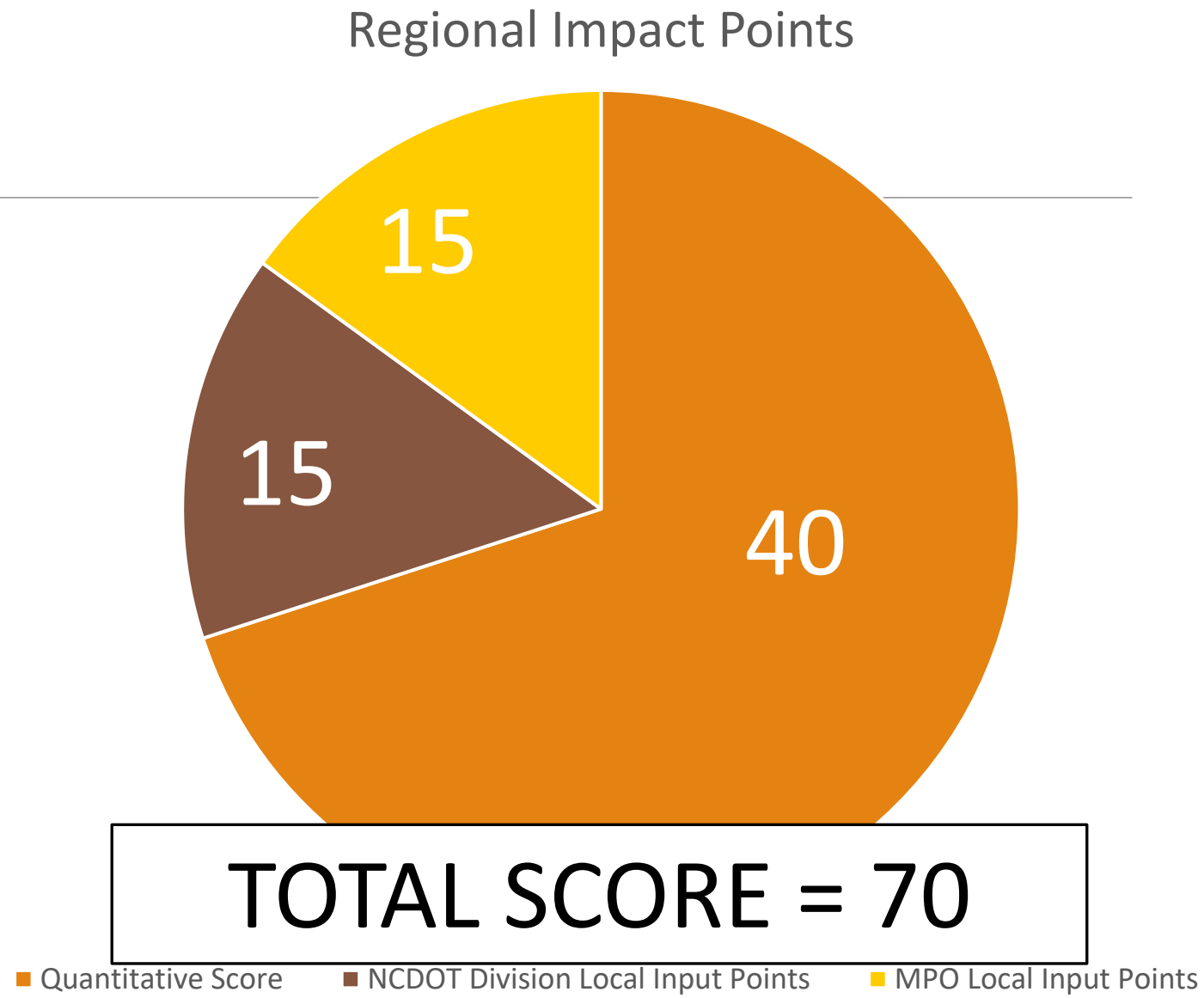
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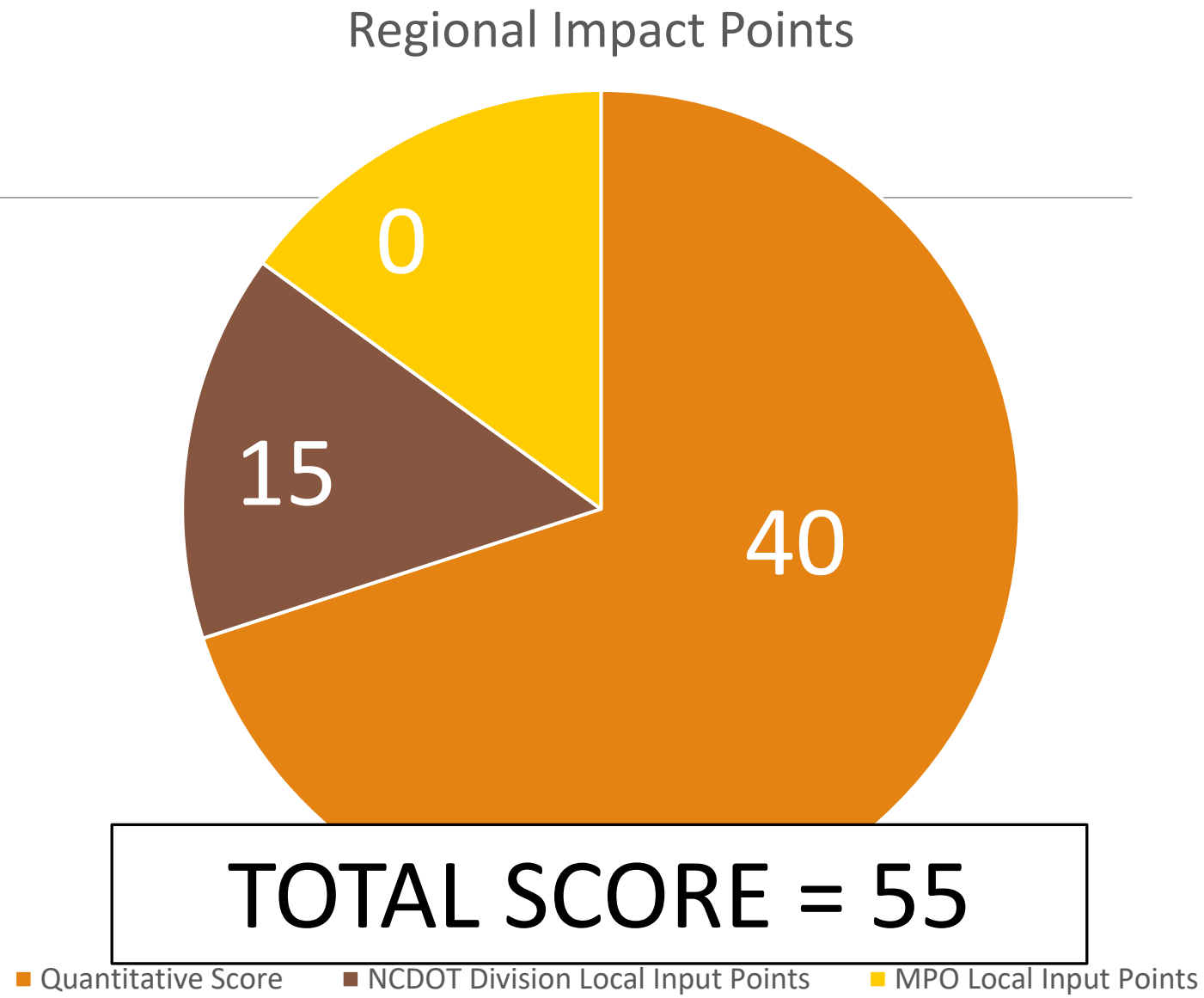
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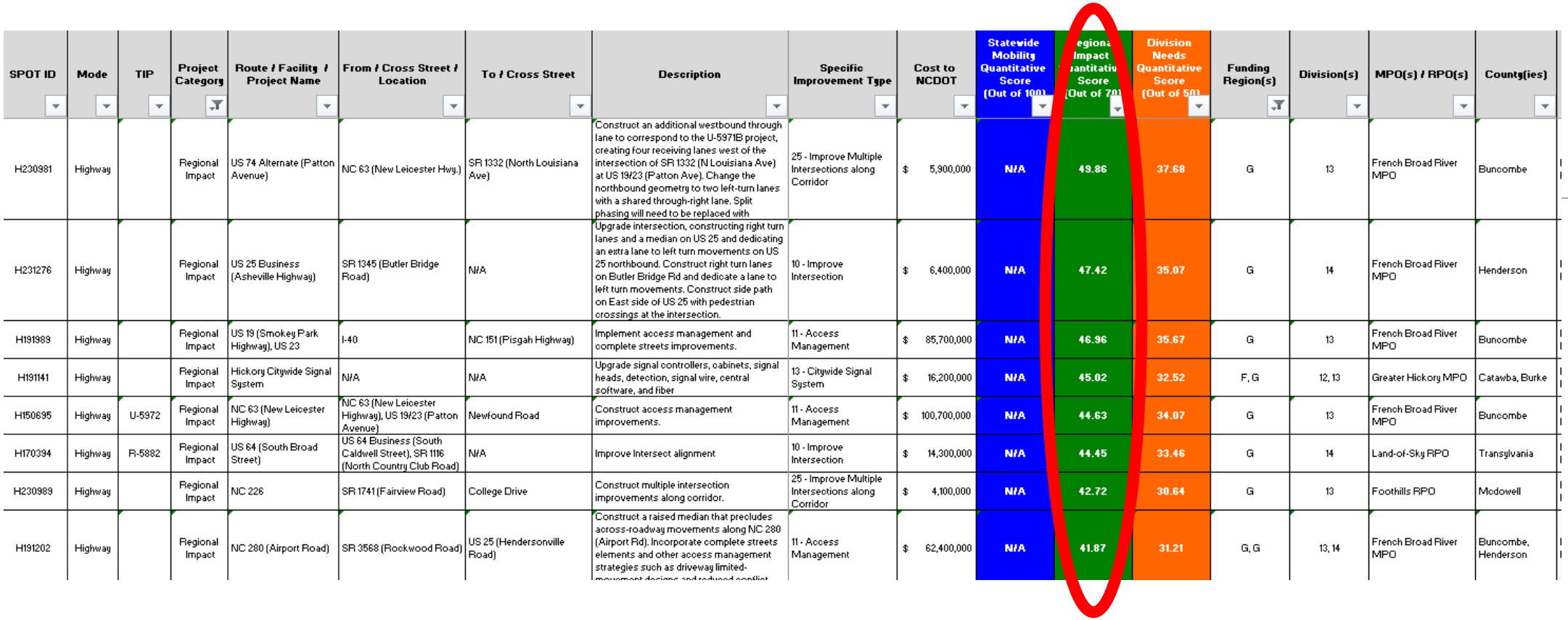


Regional Impact Scores



Regional Impact Scores





SPOT ID	Mode	TIP	Project Category	Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improvement Type	Cost to NCDOT	Statewide Mobility Quantitative Score (Out of 100)	Regional Impact Quantitative Score (Out of 70)	Division Needs Quantitative Score (Out of 50)	Funding Region(s)	Division(s)	MPO(s) / RPO(s)	County(ies)
H230981	Highway		Regional Impact	US 74 Alternate (Patton Avenue)	NC 63 (New Leicester Hwy.)	SR 1332 (North Louisiana Ave)	Construct an additional westbound through lane to correspond to the U-5971B project, creating four receiving lanes west of the intersection of SR 1332 (N Louisiana Ave) at US 19/23 (Patton Ave). Change the northbound geometry to two left-turn lanes with a shared through-right lane. Split phasing will need to be replaced with	25 - Improve Multiple Intersections along Corridor	$ 5,900,000	N/A	49.86	37.68	G	13	French Broad River MPO	Buncombe
H231276	Highway		Regional Impact	US 25 Business (Asheville Highway)	SR 1345 (Butler Bridge Road)	N/A	Upgrade intersection, constructing right turn lanes and a median on US 25 and dedicating an extra lane to left turn movements on US 25 northbound. Construct right turn lanes on Butler Bridge Rd and dedicate a lane to left turn movements. Construct side path on East side of US 25 with pedestrian crossings at the intersection.	10 - Improve Intersection	$ 6,400,000	N/A	47.42	35.07	G	14	French Broad River MPO	Henderson
H191989	Highway		Regional Impact	US 19 (Smokey Park Highway), US 23	I-40	NC 151 (Pisgah Highway)	Implement access management and complete streets improvements.	11 - Access Management	$ 85,700,000	N/A	46.96	35.67	G	13	French Broad River MPO	Buncombe
H191141	Highway		Regional Impact	Hickory Citywide Signal System	N/A	N/A	Upgrade signal controllers, cabinets, signal heads, detection, signal wire, central software, and fiber	13 - Citywide Signal System	$ 16,200,000	N/A	45.02	32.52	F, G	12, 13	Greater Hickory MPO	Catawba, Burke
H150695	Highway	U-5972	Regional Impact	NC 63 (New Leicester Highway)	NC 63 (New Leicester Highway), US 19/23 (Patton Avenue)	Newfound Road	Construct access management improvements.	11 - Access Management	$ 100,700,000	N/A	44.63	34.07	G	13	French Broad River MPO	Buncombe
H170394	Highway	R-5882	Regional Impact	US 64 (South Broad Street)	US 64 Business (South Caldwell Street), SR 1116 (North Country Club Road)	N/A	Improve Intersect alignment	10 - Improve Intersection	$ 14,300,000	N/A	44.45	33.46	G	14	Land-of-Sky RPO	Transylvania
H230989	Highway		Regional Impact	NC 226	SR 1741 (Fairview Road)	College Drive	Construct multiple intersection improvements along corridor.	25 - Improve Multiple Intersections along Corridor	$ 4,100,000	N/A	42.72	30.64	G	13	Foothills RPO	Mcdowell
H191202	Highway		Regional Impact	NC 280 (Airport Road)	SR 3568 (Rockwood Road)	US 25 (Hendersonville Road)	Construct a raised median that precludes across-roadway movements along NC 280 (Airport Rd). Incorporate complete streets elements and other access management strategies such as driveway limited-	11 - Access Management	$ 62,400,000	N/A	41.87	31.21	G, G	13, 14	French Broad River MPO	Buncombe, Henderson

Higher SPOT Score = More Likely to Be Funded

Draft 2028-2037 STIP Estimated Funding Availability for Selecting Projects from Prioritization 8.0
As of May 28, 2026

STI Funding Category	Funding Availability
Region A (Divisions 1 & 4)	**$100M**
Region B (Divisions 2 & 3)	**$150M**
Region C (Divisions 5 & 6)	**$551M**
Region D (Divisions 7 & 9)	**$236M**
Region E (Divisions 8 & 10)	**$246M**
Region F (Divisions 11 & 12)	**$432M**
Region G (Divisions 13 & 14)	**$122M**
Division 1	**$228M**
Division 2	**$159M**
Division 3	**$31M**
Division 4	**$29M**
Division 5	**$125M**
Division 6	**$186M**
Division 7	**$106M**
Division 8	**-$21M**
Division 9	**$80M**
Division 10	**$97M**
Division 11	**$15M**
Division 12	**$47M**
Division 13	**$190M**
Division 14	**$257M**

There Is Funding?!