

Doug Matheson
Chair of the Board

Dennis Aldridge
Vice-Chair



Larry Fontaine
Secretary

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Treasurer

468 New Market Blvd.
Boone, NC 28607

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Bill Shepley, Alleghany County Manager
Adam Stumb, Ashe County Manager
Phillip Barrier, Avery County Manager
Allen Cook, Mitchell County Manager
Deron Geouque, Watauga County Manager
John Yates, Wilkes County Manager
Lynn Austin, Yancey County Manager
Amy Davis, Boone Town Manager

FROM: David Graham, Transportation Planner

SUBJECT: Solicitation of New Transportation Projects for the
2028-2037 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

DATE: June 5, 2025

The High Country Rural Planning Organization (RPO) utilizes a project prioritization system to produce a Priority Needs List of transportation projects for the High Country RPO region for funding consideration in the State Transportation Improvement Program. The first step in the project prioritization process and the development of the Priority Needs List is the solicitation of **new transportation projects** from each county and the Town of Boone. According to the High Country RPO project prioritization system, each county and the Town of Boone can submit up to the requisite number of **new projects by mode** (highway, bicycle & pedestrian, transit, aviation, and rail) as noted below. For example: Yancey County can submit up to 3 highway, 3 bicycle & pedestrian, and 3 transit projects.

- Alleghany County - 2 projects
- Ashe County - 3 projects
- Avery County - 3 projects
- Mitchell County - 2 projects
- Watauga County - 4 projects
- Wilkes County - 6 projects
- Yancey County - 3 projects
- Boone – 1 project

Please be advised that the NCDOT Board of Transportation is considering a 30% reduction in new project submittals next month. If the Board of Transportation approves a 30% reduction in new submittals it will result in one less submission per county. Therefore, when submitting projects please submit projects in priority order (and grouped by mode) in the event the lowest priority project per county must be removed to meet the 30% reduction.

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When submitting new projects, please provide a detailed description of each new project (widen highway from/to, new van, extend runway, multi-use path/sidewalk from/to, etc...).

Note: Projects identified as "Carryover" projects on the attached list should not be submitted as a new project. "Holding Tank" projects identified on the attached lists are eligible to be submitted as a new projects.

Carryover projects are defined as projects that automatically carry over from the previous round of project prioritization for evaluation in the current round of project prioritization (P8.0).

Modifications of Carryover projects that create segments will count toward the maximum number of submittals. Modifications that change a project's limits or scope will not count toward the maximum number of submittals. All modifications must have agreement between the Division(s) and the RPO.

Holding Tank projects are those projects that will be removed from the current round of project prioritization (P8.0) unless they are re-submitted as new projects.

Note: Multiple projects are allowed along the same section of roadway. If two conflicting projects along the same section score high enough to be funded, a discussion with the NCDOT STIP Unit and the associated Division(s)/RPO will be held to pick the project that will remain in the STIP.

Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Transit Project Requirements

Please note that for a bicycle and pedestrian project to be eligible, a cost estimate for the project must be provided and a commitment letter (on letterhead) for the 20% project match from the local government is required with project submission. A 10% local match for transit projects is required for new projects. Acknowledgement of the required 10% match from local government is required with project submission.

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Please submit to me by July 16, 2025 the designated modes and number of **new** projects in accordance with the schedule noted above that your jurisdiction would like to have considered in the development of the 2028-2037 STIP.

As individual municipalities (with the exception of the Town of Boone) will not be submitting projects to the RPO for consideration, the county requests should include both rural and urban projects. Therefore, I encourage all counties to discuss new projects with their respective municipalities prior to submittal of new projects.

The next step in the project prioritization process will be the solicitation of Priority Projects from County Managers with a supplemental overall project scores list beginning in early May of 2026 for local scoring and ranking.

I look forward to your new transportation projects submissions. Please call (828) 265-5434 ext. 135 or email dgraham@hccog.org if you have any questions or if you would like to set up a meeting.

Enclosure

cc: High Country RPO Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) members
Julie Wiggins, Executive Director, High Country Council of Governments
Chris Grubb, Planning Director, High Country Council of Governments
High Country Town Managers
Todd Moody, Town of Boone
Jason Walker, Watauga County

P8.0 HIGHWAY HOLDING TANK PROJECTS												
SPOT ID	Mode	TIP	Project Category	Route	From / Cross Street	To	Description	Statewide Mobility Quantitative Score (Out of 100)	Regional Impact Quantitative Score (Out of 70)	Division Needs Quantitative Score (Out of 50)	County(ies)	P 8.0 Status
H170959	Highway		Regional Impact	NC 18	SR 1206 (Sparta Parkway)	N/A	Upgrade two way stop controlled intersection to a roundabout	N/A	35.39	25.48	Alleghany	Holding Tank
H191024	Highway		Division Needs	SR 1206 (Sparta Parkway)	SR 1172 (Grandview Drive)	N/A	Construct roundabout	N/A	N/A	9.38	Alleghany	Holding Tank
H231164	Highway		Division Needs	US 221, NC 113	NC 113	N/A	Improve Intersection	N/A	N/A	10.93	Alleghany	Holding Tank
H150358	Highway	R-5833	Regional Impact	US 221, NC 194 (South Jefferson Avenue)	NC 194 and SR 1248 (Beaver Creek School Road)	N/A	Construct superstreet intersection	N/A	38.31	27.41	Ashe	Holding Tank
H230813	Highway		Regional Impact	US 221, NC 88	US 221 Business	NC 16	Construct access management improvements, construct turn lanes as needed, and construct bicycle and pedestrian improvements.	N/A	30.67	23.79	Ashe	Holding Tank
H230817	Highway		Regional Impact	NC 88 (New NC 88 Connector)	US 221 Business	NC 88	Construct roadway on new location	N/A	21.85	15.64	Ashe	Holding Tank
H230818	Highway		Regional Impact	NC 163	US 221	NC 16	Modernize roadway and construct multiuse path.	N/A	40.20	33.23	Ashe	Holding Tank
H090110-B	Highway	R-2520B	Statewide Mobility	US 19, NC 194	SR 1106 (Mullin Hill Road) in Avery County	US 221	Widen to Multi-Lanes.	31.77	21.85	16.20	Avery	Holding Tank
H090169	Highway	R-5902	Regional Impact	NC 184	NC 105	SR 1342 (Hickory Nut Gap Road) in Banner Elk.	Widen to Multi-Lanes	N/A	33.85	25.59	Avery	Holding Tank
H190480	Highway		Regional Impact	NC 105	NC 184	Watauga River Road	Extend climbing lane into NC 184 intersection and include additional turning lanes at the NC 184/NC 105 intersection to Watauga River Road.	N/A	27.41	19.18	Avery	Holding Tank
H190484	Highway		Regional Impact	US 19 (US 19 East)	SR 1121 (Squirrel Creek Road)	SR 1164 (Minneapolis School Road)	Widen US 19 E to 12 foot lanes with 4-5 foot paved shoulders to accommodate bicycles.	N/A	25.91	25.51	Avery	Holding Tank

SPOT ID	Mode	TIP	Project Category	Route	From / Cross Street	To	Description	Statewide Mobility Quantitative Score (Out of 100)	Regional Impact Quantitative Score (Out of 70)	Division Needs Quantitative Score (Out of 50)	County(ies)	P 8.0 Status
H230692	Highway		Statewide Mobility	US 221 Truck, NC 105	NC 184 (Tynecastle Highway)	N/A	Construct improvements to provide continuous flow intersection.	53.65	36.39	26.24	Avery	Holding Tank
H231155	Highway		Regional Impact	US 221	NC 105	N/A	Improve Intersection	N/A	35.14	26.21	Avery	Holding Tank
H090921-A	Highway	R-2566A	Statewide Mobility	NC 105	US 221 in Avery County	SR 1136 (Clarks Creek Road) in Watauga County	Widen to Multi-Lanes.	59.77	39.81	30.50	Avery, Watauga	Holding Tank
H230551	Highway		Regional Impact	NC 105	Adam's Apple Drive	US 221	Upgrade Roadway	N/A	29.89	14.24	Avery, Watauga	Holding Tank
H090504	Highway	R-5804	Regional Impact	NC 226	Blue Ridge Parkway	SR 1274 (Summit Avenue)	Widne to 3-lanes.	N/A	34.28	29.28	Mitchell	Holding Tank
H191983	Highway		Statewide Mobility	US 19	SR 1271 (Earls Repair Shop Road)	SR 1143 (Beaver Creek Road) or East of Spruce Pine in Mitchell County	Construct a raised median that precludes across-roadway movements along US 19. Incorporate complete streets elements. Division request to reduce median width along project limits.	31.90	23.44	16.78	Mitchell	Holding Tank
H230017	Highway		Regional Impact	NC 226	NC 197	NC 261	Upgrade NC 226 to include wider travel lanes and paved shoulders. Systemic safety improvements should be undertaken to limit impacts to the local community.	N/A	25.96	15.54	Mitchell	Holding Tank
H090110-A	Highway	R-2520A	Statewide Mobility	US 19	SR 1143 (Beaver Creek Road) or East of Spruce Pine in Mitchell County	SR 1106 (Mullin Hill Road) in Avery County	Widen to multi-lanes	38.35	26.61	19.47	Mitchell, Avery	Holding Tank
H090163-A	Highway	R-5903	Regional Impact	US 421	Tennessee Line	US 321/421 Junction near Vilas	Widen to Multi-Lanes	N/A	30.51	23.87	Watauga	Holding Tank
H111016	Highway		Statewide Mobility	US 321 Truck, US 421 Truck, SR 1107 (NC 105 Bypass Road)	NC 105	US 421, US 321, NC 194	Widen to 3 lanes with 5 foot paved shoulders to accommodate bicycles.	76.77	48.79	30.99	Watauga	Holding Tank
H170838-A	Highway	R-5915A	Statewide Mobility	US 421 (Daniel Boone Parkway)	US 321/421 West of Boone	NC 105	Construct freeway on new location south of the City of Boone	76.55	52.91	30.13	Watauga	Holding Tank

SPOT ID	Mode	TIP	Project Category	Route	From / Cross Street	To	Description	Statewide Mobility Quantitative Score (Out of 100)	Regional Impact Quantitative Score (Out of 70)	Division Needs Quantitative Score (Out of 50)	County(ies)	P 8.0 Status
H170838-C	Highway	R-5915C	Statewide Mobility	US 421 (Daniel Boone Parkway)	US 221/321	US 221/421 East of Boone	Construct freeway on new location south of the City of Boone	60.16	39.24	30.66	Watauga	Holding Tank
H191026	Highway		Regional Impact	NC 105	SR 1568 (Old Shulls Mill Road)	J.H. Mclean Road	Widen roadway to 3 lanes with 5 foot paved shoulders from Old Shulls Mill Road to J.H. Mclean Road.	N/A	34.57	27.53	Watauga	Holding Tank
H230682	Highway	U-5603	Statewide Mobility	US 221 Truck, US 321 Truck, NC 105	SR 1107 (NC 105 BYP Road)	US 221, US 321 (Blowing Rock Blvd.)	Improve corridor by constructing median and RCI intersections. Also construct bicycle and pedestrian improvements.	64.90	40.00	30.20	Watauga	Holding Tank
H230694	Highway		Statewide Mobility	US 221, US 421	SR 1416 (Old US 421 South), SR 1672 (Old US 421 South)	N/A	Construct interchange to improve safety.	19.76	12.21	8.87	Watauga	Holding Tank
H230697	Highway		Regional Impact	NC 194	US 221, US 421	SR 1333 (Castle Ford Road)	Modernize Roadway, including construction of center turn lane and sidewalks from US 221/421 to Rainbow Trail (NS).	N/A	34.68	27.92	Watauga	Holding Tank
H231162	Highway		Division Needs	SR 1524 (Bamboo), SR 1523 (Deerfield)	SR 1523 (Deerfield)	N/A	Improve Intersection	N/A	N/A	10.15	Watauga	Holding Tank
H231165	Highway		Statewide Mobility	SR 1233 (Old US Hwy 421), US 321	SR 1233 (Old US Hwy 421)	N/A	Improve Intersection	22.55	14.77	10.76	Watauga	Holding Tank
H090048	Highway	R-0616	Regional Impact	NC 268 Connector	NC 18	US 421	Construct Multi-Lane Facility, part on new location	N/A	35.34	27.33	Wilkes	Holding Tank
H150297	Highway		Regional Impact	NC 115 (Statesville Road)	SR 2340 (Fishing Creek Road)	US 421	Upgrade roadway.	N/A	30.18	25.23	Wilkes	Holding Tank
H171412	Highway		Regional Impact	SR 2366 (Wilkesboro Avenue), NC 18 (6th Street)	NC 18 (Wilkesboro Boulevard)	NC 18 (Main Street)	Widen to 3 - Lane Facility w/ Bike and Pedestrian Accommodations	N/A	22.87	22.02	Wilkes	Holding Tank
H191004	Highway		Regional Impact	NC 18 (Cherry Street)	Corporation Street	N/A	Construct roundabout	N/A	19.87	14.73	Wilkes	Holding Tank

SPOT ID	Mode	TIP	Project Category	Route	From / Cross Street	To	Description	Statewide Mobility Quantitative Score (Out of 100)	Regional Impact Quantitative Score (Out of 70)	Division Needs Quantitative Score (Out of 50)	County(ies)	P 8.0 Status
H191009	Highway		Division Needs	SR 1372 (Boone Trail)	NC 16	SR 1517 (Suncrest Orchard Road)	Modernize roadway from NC16 to Suncrest Orchard Road	N/A	N/A	19.88	Wilkes	Holding Tank
H191368	Highway		Regional Impact	US 421 Business	US 421	NC 18/268 (CBD Loop)	Widen existing lanes and shoulders	N/A	27.14	21.28	Wilkes	Holding Tank
H191371	Highway		Regional Impact	NC 16	US 421	SR 1315 (Pleasant Home Church Road)	Access management with widening to 3 lane facility in sections.	N/A	43.07	32.21	Wilkes	Holding Tank
H230690	Highway		Division Needs	SR 2340 (Fishing Creek Road)	US 421	N/A	Convert existing grade separation into an interchange.	N/A	N/A	5.92	Wilkes	Holding Tank
H230976	Highway		Division Needs	SR 1143 (Browns Ford Road)	NC 268	US 421	Improve roadway to 12 foot lanes with paved shoulders with a portion of new location to straighten curves at the Yackin River crossing.	N/A	N/A	15.68	Wilkes	Holding Tank
H190551	Highway		Regional Impact	US 21	Oklahoma Road	Railroad Grade Road	Widen and Cut back Slopes	N/A	15.14	10.30	Wilkes, Alleghany	Holding Tank
H190199	Highway		Regional Impact	US 19 (US 19 West)	US 19 East	SR 1411 (Little Creek Road)	Modernize US19W to include wider lanes/shoulders and improvements to horizontal/vertical alignments.	N/A	27.66	26.47	Yancey	Holding Tank
H230008	Highway		Regional Impact	NC 197	US 19 East	SR 1113 (Concord Church Road)	Modernize to 12 foot lanes with paved shoulders.	N/A	29.52	26.31	Yancey	Holding Tank
H230012	Highway		Regional Impact	NC 197	US 19 East	SR 1416 (Clearmont School Road)	Modernize NC 197 to include wider lanes and paved shoulders. Climbing lanes should be considered along steep grades.	N/A	25.12	17.34	Yancey	Holding Tank

P8.0 BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN HOLDING TANK PROJECTS												
SPOT ID	Mode	TIP	Project Category	Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street	To / Cross Street	Description	Statewide Mobility Quantitative Score (Out of 100)	Regional Impact Quantitative Score (Out of 70)	Division Needs Quantitative Score (Out of 50)	County(ies)	P 8.0 Status
B230730	Bicycle & Pedestrian		Division Needs	Middle Fork Greenway Section 5B	South of Jordan Cook Road	Watauga Medical Center	Construct greenway along US 321 to Watauga Medical Center	N/A	N/A	23.80	Watauga	Holding Tank
B190467	Bicycle & Pedestrian		Division Needs	New River Hills Road Multi-Use Path	US 421	Casey lane	Construct a multi-use sidepath along New River Hills Road from US 421 multi-use path termini and future committed project (EB-5983) termini to connect to the existing Boone Greenway termini at Casey Lane.	N/A	N/A	22.65	Watauga	Holding Tank
B230735	Bicycle & Pedestrian		Division Needs	Middle Fork Greenway Section 5C	Payne Branch Park	Goldmine Branch Park	Construct greenway along US 321 between Payne Branch Park and Goldmine Park	N/A	N/A	19.58	Watauga	Holding Tank
B230719	Bicycle & Pedestrian		Division Needs	Middle Fork Greenway Section 3A	North of Aho Road	Sterling Creek park	Construct greenway along US 321 north of Aho Road and south of Sterling Creek Park. This segment includes 2 bridges, parking area, river access, and trail and will connect to existing 2 miles of trail.	N/A	N/A	16.60	Watauga	Holding Tank
B230668	Bicycle & Pedestrian		Division Needs	Middle Fork Greenway Section 1B	South of Blue Ridge Parkway	Chestnut Ridge Parkway	Construct greenway along US 321 south of Blue Ridge Parkway to Chestnut Ridge Parkway	N/A	N/A	12.99	Watauga	Holding Tank
B230792	Bicycle & Pedestrian		Division Needs	421 Business (West D Street) Sidewalk	(SR 1185) Curtis Bridge Road	(SR 1500) Boone Trail Road	Construct new sidewalk from Curtis Bridge Road to Boone Trail Road	N/A	N/A	27.44	Wilkes	Holding Tank
B230799	Bicycle & Pedestrian		Division Needs	NC 18 North Sidewalk	(SR 1523) Sunset Drive	(SR 1532) Byrd Ridge Road	Construct sidewalk along NC 18 from Sunset Drive to Byrd Ridge Road to provide a safe mode of transportation for pedestrians along the corridor.	N/A	N/A	23.58	Wilkes	Holding Tank
B230791	Bicycle & Pedestrian		Division Needs	Courthouse Drive Sidewalk	Cub Creek bridge	Herring Hall	Construct new sidewalk beginning at Cub Creek bridge to the Wilkes County Courthouse along Courthouse Drive and to Herring Hall along Executive Drive.	N/A	N/A	18.46	Wilkes	Holding Tank
B190977	Bicycle & Pedestrian		Division Needs	NC 268 Sidewalk	Stokes Street	YMCA Blvd.	Construct new sidewalk along NC 268 from Stokes Street to YMCA Blvd.	N/A	N/A	9.42	Wilkes	Holding Tank

P8.0 AVIATION HOLDING TANK PROJECTS										
SPOT ID	Mode	Project Category	Route / Facility / Project Name	Location (From / Cross Street)	Description	Statewide Mobility Quantitative Score (Out of 100)	Regional Impact Quantitative Score (Out of 70)	Division Needs Quantitative Score (Out of 50)	County(ies)	P 8.0 Status
A190645	Aviation	Division Needs	GEV - Ashe County Airport: Construct new terminal building and hangar building	Construct new terminal building and hangar building at 639 Airport Road, Jefferson, NC 28640	Construct a new terminal building and hangar building to address facility deficiencies and capacity issues.	N/A	N/A	29.94	Ashe	Holding Tank
A190436	Aviation	Division Needs	7A8 - Avery County Airport: Avery Airport Terminal and Hangar	Construct new terminal building and hangar building at 400 Brushy Creek Road, Spruce Pine NC 28777.	Construct new terminal building and maintenance building. This includes demolition of existing maintenance facility that has reached its useful life. (PR 4782)	N/A	N/A	33.69	Avery	Holding Tank
A130280	Aviation	Division Needs	UKF - Wilkes County Airport: North Hangar Development	640 Wood Wallace Road, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659	Phase I - paving two taxiways for a 10 bay T-hangar building and construction of a 10 bay T-hangar. Phase II - paving one taxiway for the north hangar development area and construction of a 10 bay T-hangar. Phase includes paving a connector taxiway one taxiway and construction of a 20 bay T-hangar building on the north hangar development area. (Includes Project Request Numbers: 2301 & 4240)	N/A	N/A	23.24	Wilkes	Holding Tank
A170731	Aviation	Division Needs	UKF - Wilkes County Airport: New Airport Terminal	640 Wood Wallace Road, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659	Construct new airport terminal. Anticipated size of the new terminal building is 8500 square feet to replace the existing building. The age of the existing facility is approximately 35 years old. (PR#4140)	N/A	N/A	28.65	Wilkes	Holding Tank
A170733	Aviation	Division Needs	UKF - Wilkes County Airport: Eastside Parallel Taxiway	640 Wood Wallace Road, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659	This project would complete a second parallel taxiway east of Runway 1/19 to connect to the eastside development area and promote future growth. PR 3803	N/A	N/A	6.23	Wilkes	Holding Tank
A170736	Aviation	Division Needs	UKF - Wilkes County Airport: Eastside Development and Access Road	640 Wood Wallace Road, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659	Project includes land acquisition, site preparation and paving of a partial parallel taxiway, taxiways, ramp areas, and access road extension for hangar development. PR 2307	N/A	N/A	4.28	Wilkes	Holding Tank
A190081	Aviation	Division Needs	UKF - Wilkes County Airport: New Fuel Farm	640 Wood Wallace Road, North Wilkesboro, NC 28659	The current above ground fuel tanks are dated and not compliant with current industry standards. Maintenance and replacement of failed components is problematic. New tanks will be compliant with current industry standards and will require less maintenance. PR 4471	N/A	N/A	13.69	Wilkes	Holding Tank
A230535	Aviation	Division Needs	UKF - Wilkes County Airport: Eastside Hangar	The hangar will be located on the east side of the airport	The hangar project includes site preparation and construction of a new 100x100 hangar on the east side of the airport	N/A	N/A	24.68	Wilkes	Holding Tank

P8.0 TRANSIT HOLDING TANK PROJECTS													
SPOT ID	Mode	TIP	Project Category	Route / Facility / Project Name	Location (From / Cross Street)	N/A (To)	Description	Specific Improvement Type	Statewide Mobility Quantitative Score (Out of 100)	Regional Impact Quantitative Score (Out of 70)	Division Needs Quantitative Score (Out of 50)	County(ies)	P 8.0 Status
T190086	Public Transit		Division Needs	Mitchell County Transportation Expansion Vehicle	Mitchell County	N/A	An expansion vehicle is needed due to there being no ADA back up vehicle available on majority of weekdays.	4 - Demand Response	N/A	N/A	36.92	Mitchell	Holding Tank