

YEARS

LAND-OF-SKY  
REGIONAL  
COUNCIL



**LAND<sub>of</sub>SKY**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
2016 ANNUAL REPORT

# LAND OF SKY REGIONAL COUNCIL



Land of Sky Regional Council is a multi-county, local government, planning and development organization. LOS reaches across county and municipal borders to provide technical assistance for local governments and to administer projects and programs that benefit our region's citizens.

Our mission is to provide creative regional solutions to emerging issues in Buncombe, Henderson, Madison and Transylvania counties while providing a standard of excellence in the delivery of federal, state and regional services for our member communities.

**A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
COMING SOON!**

# BOARD OF DELEGATES

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair - Dona Mennella - Town of Laurel Park  
 Vice-Chair - Mike Hawkins - Transylvania County  
 Secretary - Open  
 Treasurer - Larry Harris - Town of Black Mountain  
 Past Chair - George Goosmann, III - Town of Biltmore Forest  
 County Delegate - Wayne Brigman - Madison County  
 Municipal Delegate - Open  
 Minority Delegate - Open  
 Aging / Volunteer Services Delegate - Charles Dickens

## MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Buncombe County - Tim Moffitt, Denise Braine, Miranda DeBruhl\*  
 City of Asheville - Gwen Wisler, Esther Manheimer  
 Town of Biltmore Forest - George Goosmann III, Jonathan Kanipe  
 Town of Black Mountain - Larry Harris, Ryan Stone  
 Town of Montreat - Tim Harris, Bill Gilliland, Letta Jean Taylor\*, Jack McCaskill\*  
 Town of Weaverville - Patrick Fitzsimmons, Dottie Sherrill, Gene Knoefel\*  
 Town of Woodfin - Jerry VeHaun, Debbie Giezentanner

Henderson County - Grady Hawkins, Larry Rogers  
 Village of Flat Rock - Anne Coletta, Albert Gooch  
 Town of Fletcher - Bob Davy, Mark Biberdorf  
 City of Hendersonville - Barbara Volk, Steve Caraker  
 Town of Laurel Park - Dona Mennella, Alison Melnikova

Madison County - Wayne Brigman, Matt Wechtel, Jim Baker\*  
 Town of Hot Springs - Brian Reese  
 Town of Marshall - Jack Wallin, Billie Jean Haynie, Lawrence Ponder\*  
 Town of Mars Hill - John Chandler, Darhyl Boone

Transylvania County - Mike Hawkins, Jason Chappell  
 City of Brevard - Charlie Landreth, Mac Morrow  
 Town of Rosman - Brian Shelton, Walter Pettit Jr.

Aging Services Representative - Charles Dickens  
 Volunteer Services Representative - Kathe Harris

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Buncombe County - George Morosani  
 Henderson County - Andrew Tate  
 Madison County - Ryan Cody  
 Transylvania County - Josh Hallingse, Mark Burrows\*

## AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Buncombe County - Brenda Mills  
 Henderson County - John Mitchell  
 Madison County - Simone Bouyer\*  
 Transylvania County - Sheila Norman

\*Served part of the fiscal year.



## HISTORY

Appalachian Regional Development Act included parts of 13 states, system of ultimately 69 Local Development Districts (LDDs)

1965

Upper French Broad Planning and Economic Development Commission organized (Haywood was 5th county/member) and board was appointed by 5 counties.

1965-66

Governor Dan Moore appointed the first Executive Director to serve the organization and some other staff were also state employees (until 1974).

TVA system of 14 dams proposed and strongly supported by UFBEDC, resulting in organized opposition by Upper French Broad Defense Association and ultimately cancellation by TVA in early 1970s.

Governor Bob Scott's Statewide Development Policy and an executive order provided for one Lead Regional Organization (LRO) in each of 17 proposed regions with primacy for certain funds and regional programs.

1971

New by-laws for Region B Commission provided for board of county and municipal government leaders.



Area Agency on Aging (AAA) promotes the highest level of well being of older adults and their families by partnering with organizations to provide a comprehensive system of opportunities, services, and protective services. The AAA is a leader and catalyst in helping older adults in our four county region lead more independent, vibrant lives. As part of a national network of aging agencies established by the Older Americans Act, we work to strengthen home and community care for older adults.

## HEALTH PROMOTION & DISEASE PREVENTION

- Sub-awardee for Administration on Community Living grant to expand Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Programs in NC
- Henderson County A Matter of Balance Program filmed for spotlight in National Council on Aging promotional video- final product will be available for viewing on NCOA website this September.

## FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM

- Provided \$2,000.00 for the printing of updated Henderson County Senior Services Directories. Graphic design and formatting was provided by Christina Giles at Land of Sky Regional Council. Printing and assembly was completed at Land of Sky Regional Council.
- Distributed over 1,000 Caregiver Resources Directories and provided formation about services for caregivers at conferences and health fairs.
- Distributed over 200 Madison County Senior Services Directories, and 200 Transylvania County Senior Services Directories.
- Provided information and assistance to 13 caregivers from outside of Region B who called for information or services
- Distributed over 200 Caregiver Resources Directories and provided information about services for caregivers at the Alzheimer's Caregivers Geriatric Summit offered by MAHEC (Mountain Area Health Education Consortium).
- Partnered with others to plan and host a Caregivers

and Depression seminar for professionals who work with family caregivers.

- Provided assistance to 205 caregivers for information or services.

## PROJECT C.A.R.E.

- Funded \$1271 worth of respite for five family caregivers in three Region B counties (Buncombe, Henderson and Transylvania) and in Avery and McDowell counties using donated funds.
- Provided ongoing care consultation services to 67 caregivers in WNC and information & referral services to many others.

## OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

- Organized and hosted annual Community Advisory Committee volunteer retreat with 39 attendees.
- Hosted Financial Exploitation Summit with 80 people in attendance.
- Organized and hosted meeting between Division of Health Service Regulations Adult Care Home Section Chief Megan Lamphere and her key staff with WNC Regional Ombudsmen representing 18 counties, Adult Home Specialists and Adult Protective Service staff from 9 counties, with a total of 28 attendees.
- Hosted Annual NC Division of Health Services Regulation "1068" Trainings for Adult Care Homes with 100 participants and another with 60 participants.

- Assisted MAHEC with Advance Directives education and completion in Korean Adult Care Homes
- Hosted Buncombe County Adult Care Home Administrator and Staff training 10 times. Assisted Buncombe County Adult Care Home Continuing Education Committee with 2016 planning.
- Planned and implemented Long Term Care Voter Registration Drive for Long Term Care Facilities in Buncombe County.
- Provided Key-Note Presentation for MAHEC's C.N.A. conference with 100 participants.
- Planned and facilitated quarterly Adult Care Home and Behavioral Health Provider meetings and had a meeting with stakeholders and NC Representative Susan Fisher to discuss gaps in care for those with behavioral health issues.
- Provided Older Adult Sensitivity Training to a variety of groups including Hospice Volunteers, Nursing students, Long Term Care staff members and new CAC Volunteers.
- Served on State Advisory Committee for New Ombudsman Guidelines.
- Just Press Play: Awakening the Mind through Music
  - Presented at MAHEC Geriatric Summit and Region A Aging Summit.
  - \$2125 Donations Collected.
  - 9 Grants approved for facilities totaling \$920 cash, \$1125 in iTunes gift cards, and 45 new and used MP3 players.
  - Hosted Just Press Play workshop for long term care staff and general community. 20 people attended from all four counties.
- Presented information on the Ombudsman Program to residents and families in long term care settings.
- Presented information on Residents Rights to Resident and Family Councils and Long Term Care Staff in all 4 counties.
- Contributed information about current long term care issues and new ombudsman regulations to CAC meetings.
- Collaborated with Triad Hendersonville Shred Drug Tackback Event.
- Participated in Department of Health and Service Regulation recertification and complaint investigations to promote the wellbeing of residents in long term care facilities.

## OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

Regional Ombudsmen responded to

**236**

cases of complaints or concerns regarding long-term care, and completed

**1,360**

advocacy and general information activities including:

**24** Community Education

**115** Long-Term Care Selection Assistance

**77** Division of Health Service Regulation Surveys

**332** Facility Visits

**14** Training Sessions to CAC Volunteers

**13** Provider In-Service Trainings

**81** Provider Consultations

## CAC VOLUNTEERS

CAC Volunteers made

**143**

visits to long-term care facilities and contributed

**2,469**

hours.

 **VOLUNTEERS = \$ SAVED**

According to the Independent Sector, the value of volunteer time in North Carolina is \$21.88 per hour, meaning that the Foster Grandparent Program, Senior Companion Program and Retired and Senior Volunteer Program saved our region

**\$54,022**

by providing these services to their respective communities.

Lead Regional Organization (LRO) designation was last in State after staffing dispute and membership "renewals"/activation and other issues were resolved.

Area Agency on Aging (AAA) started in Region as one of few High Priority Areas for elderly services and elderly nutrition program began.

Renamed Land-of-Sky Regional Council on motion by Mayor Bill Baxter (Laurel Park).

Robert Shepherd named Executive Director of Land-of-Sky Regional Council.

Governor James Holshouser offers package of programs (several new) to LROs-- Intergovernmental Human Services Program, which included aging, EMS, workforce development, law enforcement planning, child development (ARC-funded), comprehensive family planning, and WIC--Women, Infants and Children nutrition. The Council wrote the application which brought WIC to all 4 county health departments.

US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) designation as Areawide Planning Organization (APO) and annual funding (until program ending in 1982)--paid for first regional plans in land use (1978),

## AAA FUNDING & SERVICES #'S

### CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM & PROJECT C.A.R.E

The Family Caregiver Support Program distributed

**\$55,000** to

**6** agencies to provide respite and care management for

**58** family caregivers and distributed

**\$25,000**

to Project C.A.R.E. (Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty) to provide respite supplemental services for

**30**

caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's Disease or related dementia by distributing grants ranging in the amounts of

**\$350 - \$1,500.**

### HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE BLOCK GRANT AND COUNTY FUNDS

HCCBG and county funds provided

**\$3,932,767**

in funding for services that supported over

**3,900**

older adults living independently in their homes. Through this funding

**1,451**

older adults were given nutritional meals,

**118**

participated in adult day programs,

**618**

received in-home health care and home repair services,

**423**

received financial education and counseling, and

**1,385**

received transportation services.

### SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The Senior Community Service Employment Program provided job search training and part-time employment worth

**\$115,246**

to

**22**

participants that contributed

**15,896**

hours of community service hours to

**11**

host agencies in the community. (All counties except Madison)

**2**

participants entered unsubsidized employment within the year.

### OPERATION FAN/HEAT RELIEF

The Area Agency on Aging secured

**\$5,029**

in funding from Duke Energy which provided

**239**

fans and

**13**

air conditioners to older adults in need. The Council on Aging of Buncombe County, Council on Aging for Henderson County and Western Carolina Community Action - Brevard distributed these fans and air conditioners.

## ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Land of Sky is the local economic development district for our region, providing access to a wide variety of expertise, partnerships, and funding streams. Current efforts are focused on greater regional cooperation in the areas of job creation, job retention, quality of place, entrepreneurship, and economic competitiveness. Professionally trained and experienced staff diligently strive to improve economic, environmental, and social conditions in every program area and project. Services available to local governments and communities include facilitation, grant writing and management, project administration, data management, policy and plan research and development, and training.

### LAND OF SKY RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

- Land of Sky RPO staff in partnership with the Land of Sky Regional Council Economic and Community Development staff, assisted Madison County and the Town of Mars Hill in successfully securing an Appalachian Regional Commission, Rural Access Road grant in the amount of \$1,779,515.00 for the construction of the SR 1631/Crossroad Parkway Access Road Project.

This project will reconnect Crossroads Parkway south for approximately 2,165 feet to SR 1549 Calvin Edney Road, and provide a connection to Hwy 213 at Exit 11 off Interstate 26. For many years Mars Hill has needed a direct access to connect the commercial/industrial area of N. Main Street, Parkway View Drive and SR 1631 (Crossroad Parkway) to I-26 at Exit 11. This roadway improvement will extend Crossroads Parkway along the east side of Interstate 26 and connect tractor trailer traffic to Exit 11.

The construction of the Crossroad Parkway Access Road will spur growth in the North Main Street Commercial/Industrial district by providing a more direct route for large vehicles to access the north side of Town. Additionally, the project will provide frontage road access between Carl Eller Road NC213 (Exit 11) and U.S. 19 (Exit 9).

- The Land of Sky RPO and French Broad River MPO staff assisted Town of Marshall staff in the layout of Shared Lane markings also known as SHARROW markings along the Main Street corridor of Marshall. Sharrow markings are put in place to alert motor vehicle drivers to the presence of cyclists and to encourage cyclists to ride outside of the "door zone" of parked cars. Marshall is a hub for cyclist and outdoor enthusiasts, the new infrastructure will provide a degree of safety for cyclists while they visit downtown businesses.
- The Land of Sky RPO and French Broad River MPO staff assisted City of Brevard staff in the layout of SHARROW markings along both Probart Street and Rail Road Ave. Brevard's existing bike path terminates at McLean Road just before Rail Road Ace. This new infrastructure will serve to connect the bike path on Brevard's Main Street area as well as the nearby Music Center and Bracken Mountain Preserve.
- RPO staff continued to partner with FBRMPO to implement a Pedestrian Count Program for the region using the MPO's automated pedestrian counter. These counts help inform local staff of pedestrian volumes on corridors.
- The MPO staff, in collaboration with Land of Sky GIS staff, have completed the downtown areas parking inventory for the five-county region.
- Land of Sky RPO and the French Broad River MPO

## AAA ACTIVE AGING #'S

### HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION

Staff and trained leaders screened

**5**

Living Healthy with a Chronic Condition workshops and 1 leader training with 117 community participants enrolled in the program

**5**

A Matter of Balance, Managing Concerns About Falls workshops and 2 coach trainings with 87 community participants enrolled

**8**

Laughter Yoga presentations with 55 enrolled participants

Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) application approved by US Department of Agriculture.

Areawide Water Quality Planning Agency designation and funding by Environmental Protection Agency, second in State. The Management Plan called for consolidation of 13 leaky sewer systems, achieved in 1989 under MSD.

TVA began funding of River Improvement Program, leading to river cleanup by counties, 15 river access parks, French Broad River Festival, FBR Foundation (later merged into River Link)

Took over the Title V Program from the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker's program.

Regional Vision '95 strategic plan completed; first of several COG-based plans in the nation. National Strategic Planning Guide published by National Association of Regional Councils and training events held: "Guide to Strategic Decision Making for

1975

1976

1978

1982

staff, in collaboration with Land of Sky GIS staff, have completed a sidewalk inventory for the five-county region.

- Land of Sky RPO purchased a Jamar Cycles Plus Traffic counter and Pedestrian counter. This new equipment will enable staff to gather additional volume and usage data on local roadways as well as greenways, sidewalks and shared use paths, for our member governments.

## INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Land of Sky continues to support Buncombe County by serving and administering the County's Fair Housing Activities. In 2016, Land of Sky responded to over 176 housing inquires which included renter's rights, buyer's rights and responsibilities, availability of affordable housing within the county, and requests for home repairs assistance. Additionally, staff distributed fair housing posters and brochures to supportive service agencies and libraries throughout the county and presented Fair Housing – Renters Rights and Responsibility programs with 222 attendees.

## GIS SERVICES

- Land of Sky Regional Council provided GIS Technical Assistance for the Town of Black Mountain. This assistance included the processing and analysis of GIS Data to be utilized by the Town's Planning and Development Department and the Public Services Department.
- Land of Sky Regional Council developed and hosts an online Web Map for the Town of Black Mountain. This Web Map illustrates local information including Zoning Boundaries, Flood Plains, Trash and Recycling Schedules, etc.
- Land of Sky Regional Council conducted a Stormwater Inventory for the Town of Black Mountain. This tool is used by the Town's Public Service Department to reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff and to locate drainage systems in the case of an emergency.
- Land of Sky Regional Council developed and hosts an online Web Map for the Town of Fletcher. This Web Map illustrates local information including Zoning Boundaries, Flood Plains, and Trash and Recycling Routes.

## RECYCLING EDUCATION

- Land of Sky provides resources to support recycling efforts and education. The Recycling Education Vehicle (REV) was in present at 62 different events in the region and provided recycling education to over 6,000 residents.

## WASTE REDUCTION PARTNERS

- Waste Reduction Partner's engineer, Adrian Boutwell provided a comprehensive energy efficiency assessment for the Brevard Music Center this year. The objective of the assessment was to determine a cost/benefit analysis of energy efficiency and renewable opportunities on the Center's large campus to help them prioritize facility investments, short term and long term. The report addressed strategies to reduce and offset over 40 percent of the Center's energy use. WRP supported other business energy efficiency efforts in the county as well.

## MOUNTAIN MOBILITY

- In the spring of 2016, Mountain Mobility completed a community survey to gauge our effectiveness and customer satisfaction with our services. Eighty-five percent (85%) of respondents said they were "Very likely" to recommend Mountain Mobility to a friend or a neighbor!
- Mountain Mobility vehicle operators who took first place in the North Carolina Public Transit Association's Annual State Rodeo in June 2016. The competition evaluates the skills necessary to be a great vehicle operator. Mountain Mobility's team – Pam Hensley, Leslie Penland and Carolyn Hensley – placed first in the Team Van competition. Pam Hensley took first place in the Individual Van category.

## CLEAN VEHICLES COALITION

- Clean Vehicles Coalition continued to get our region "EV Ready" through education and outreach programs, technical assistance and working with partners to install EV Charging stations across the region including the region's

## WASTE REDUCTION PARTNERS

### \$294,000

Identified annual operational savings for 26 technical assessments for businesses, industries, schools in region B. Technical assessments focused on energy efficiency strategies, zero waste to landfill goals, efficient use of water and productivity improvements.

### \$117,000

The business value of WRP efforts in a special Lean and Green training workshop that WRP engineers delivered for Selee Corporation. The workshop supported Selee's continual improvement programs and efforts to reduce wastes being landfilled. The WRP team also provided assistance to county staff on energy management and supported recycling efforts in the agriculture sector businesses.

### \$100,000

Potential cost savings per year for 20 businesses, manufacturers and schools in Buncombe County in energy, water, sewer and solid waste management costs. Utilizing the WRP team of engineers and scientists, the assistance ranged from helping a manufacturer conduct a solid waste "dumpster dive" analysis to increase recycling efforts, to providing a water-use efficiency assessments of Buncombe County Schools, to delivering a sustainability "greening" assessment for local hotel management team.

- growing network of DC Fast Chargers.
- Clean Vehicles Coalition staff represented our region on the NC Plug In Electric Vehicles Task Force that trains local governments and others statewide on electric vehicle deployments and charging.
- Clean Vehicles Coalition continued assisting the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Carl Sandburg Home Historic Site apply for funding or implement projects under the DOE's National Parks Initiative. The Smokies installed the first DC Fast Chargers in a national park.
- Clean Vehicles Coalition assisted many public and private sector fleets in the region with fleet assessments or their alt fuel vehicle projects.
- Clean Vehicles Coalition cosponsored several training sessions for local fleet managers including:
  - May 23 Propane Vehicle Training and Vehicle Showcase with Blossman Gas of Swannanoa.
  - June 8 Natural Gas Vehicle and Maintenance Facility workshop with PSNC Energy.
  - June 15 Electric Vehicle Workplace Charging Workshop with Advanced Energy, City of Asheville and Sierra Nevada Brewing.

## FRENCH BROAD RIVER METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

- Hosted a LAPP (Locally Administered Projects Program) training session for local government staff interested in applying for the federal transportation funds in the spring of 2016 in preparation for a new call for STP-DA and TAP projects. As a result of the spring 2015 call for projects, \$2,045,000 was allocated by the French Broad River MPO in STP-DA and TAP funds for transportation projects and feasibility studies in our region.
- An orientation was held by MPO staff, in collaboration with NCDOT Division 13 and Division 14 staff, for new MPO board members in February of 2016. This orientation is designed to educate new board members on the role and structure of the MPO and the responsibilities of MPO board members.
- The MPO Board adopted a list of amendments to the 2016-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), a document that reflects funded transportation projects as well as projects that are in development in the fall of 2015 and winter of 2016. With the amendments, the French Broad

Carolina West (recommended in RV '95 strategic plan) organized for economic promotion (included professional county/city and public utility developers and additional counties).

1982

Economic Development Administration funded program to develop plans leading to funding as an Economic Development District (EDD); funding continues and designation was finalized in 1991 after providing for at-large Economic Development Representatives on Council.

1983

Began volunteer program funding by Corporation for National Service with Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), later followed by Senior Companions and Foster Grandparent Programs and \$3 million of annual benefit to Region.

1985

Began regional solid waste reduction program aided by the Regional Solid Waste Alternatives Committee (RSWAC).

Organized I-26 Corridor Association, 17 Counties, to advocate for a better connection of the Region to Tennessee, leading to completion in 2003.

1988

## INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### \$2,597,140

Continues to support the Town of Marshall in the Administration of the NC Department of Environmental Quality – Community Development Block Grant – Infrastructure grant and NC Department of Commerce Rural Economic Development Division – Infrastructure grant. These funds support Phase II of the Town’s Water Infrastructure Improvements Project.

### \$790,440

Continues to support Henderson County with Habitat match with grant administrative support on the Dodd Meadows Habitat for Humanity subdivision project. This project is funded through the NC Department of Commerce CDBG-Capacity Building program.

### \$487,650

Assisted the Town of Mars Hill in successfully securing a Golden Leaf grant that will support much needed improvements to the Town’s Wastewater Treatment Plant and extension of sewer lines to the east side of Interstate 26.

### \$199,995

Assisted the Town of Marshall in successful securing a USDA- Rural Development – RBDG to support improvements to the Town’s Wastewater Treatment Plant.

### \$175,000

Supported Henderson County and Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development in successfully securing Appalachian Regional Commission funding to develop the Old Fairground Industrial site. The project had an additional \$75,000 local match.

### \$75,000

Assisted the Town of Marshall in successfully securing a NC Department of Commerce – Building Reuse grant to support the relocation of the BUCHI Kombucha Tea Co. BUCHI will be moving their tea production and warehousing facility to Marshall and will expand their employee base from nine to fifteen jobs.

### \$10,000

Assisted the Town of Mars Hill in successfully securing an Appalachian Regional Commission – Emerging Opportunities grant for downtown revitalization efforts that will support over 7 businesses, improve the community and promote visitation in the downtown district.

### \$10,000

Assisted the Town of Mars Hill in successfully securing an Appalachian Regional Commission – Emerging Opportunities grant for downtown revitalization efforts that will support streetscape and sidewalk improvements.

## FRENCH BROAD RIVER MPO

### \$4 Million

In STBG and TAP-DA federal transportation funds are directly allocated to the MPO region on an annual basis. Local governments apply through the MPO to access these funds for a variety of transportation projects. MPO held a training session for local government staff interested in applying for those federal transportation funds.

### \$830 Million

Worth of transportation projects have been programmed in our region in the 2016-2025 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), a document that reflects projects committed for funding in the first five years, as well as projects that are in development, scheduled for the outer five years. FBRMPO participated in the statewide STI/SPOT Prioritization process, solicited local stakeholder and public input and coordinated with NCDOT to submit projects for funding in the STIP.

### \$250,000

The MPO held a call for projects for FTA Section 5310 funds- federal public transportation funding that is programmed to help elderly residents and individuals with disabilities.

## CLEAN VEHICLES COALITION

### \$39,000

Began work under a US DOE Clean Cities Program grant for our region’s participation in the Southeast Alt Fuel Demonstration Initiative (SADI) that is loaning alternative fueled cars and trucks to the region’s fleets for test driving in 2016-17.

River MPO region has received \$707,081,000 in Statewide Mobility Tier projects funding, \$79,367,000 in Regional Impact Tier projects funding and \$44,098,000 in Division Tier funded projects included in the 2016-2025 TIP. Ensuring that those projects are programmed in the TIP/STIP required the MPO to solicit local stakeholder and public input and coordinate with NCDOT to submit projects as part of STI SPOT 3.0 prioritization process.

- The MPO Board adopted the 25-year Metropolitan Transportation Plan, MTP 2040, in September of 2015. MTP 2040 was developed with guidance from the MPO TCC, the MPO Board, the MTP Executive Committee and the Citizens Advisory Committee. The MTP is a federally-required, fiscally-constrained plan that highlights the region’s vision, goals, and projects that are planned for the next twenty-five years. As part of the plan adoption process, MPO staff attended seven public outreach events and heard input from 125 members of the public. Thanks to support from Land of Sky GIS staff, a map of MTP 2040 highway and bicycle and pedestrian projects may be viewed online.
- The MPO participated in the NEPA Merger meeting in May of 2016 for the I-2513 project, where the I-26 Connector preferred alternatives were selected. Selected alternative for section “B” will remove interstate traffic from Jeff Bowen Bridge and will allow Patton Avenue to become a complete streets corridor accommodating all modes.
- FBRMPO funds were programmed for the Asheville in Motion Multi-Modal Transportation Plan for the City of Asheville, which was adopted by the Asheville City Council in June of 2016. MPO staff worked on the steering committee and coordinated with NCDOT to program funding for this study.
- MPO staff continued to implement a Pedestrian Count Program for the region and administered 10 pedestrian counts using the MPO’s automated pedestrian counter. These counts help inform local staff of pedestrian volumes on corridors.
- The MPO initiated a study to recommend a fair, effective, and equitable formula to distribute regional urban transit funding to various transit operators in the region.
- MPO staff worked with local government partners and consultants in the development of local bicycle and pedestrian plans. The MPO passed required letters of support for the Towns of Laurel

Park, Weaverville, and Canton as well as the Village of Flat Rock to help local governments be considered for NCDOT’s bike/ped planning grant initiative.

- MPO Staff also served on steering committees for bicycle plans in progress in Black Mountain and Hendersonville.
- The MPO’s Regional Transportation Demand Model update was finalized in the fall of 2015, with incorporated changes based on the adopted Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2040. The updated model is a result of over two years of work on collecting data that is unique to our region and calibrating model assumptions to provide the traffic forecast for our region’s roadways out to 2040.
- French Broad River MPO helped allocate federal funding to start the Regional Transportation Demand Management Program. The Regional TDM Program receives additional funding through an NCDOT grant and was initiated in March of 2015

Organized Blue Ridge Mountain Host for joint promotion of tourism in Region (with additional counties).

1988

Began Regional Articulation in Vocational Education (RAVE) in cooperation with AB Tech, Blue Ridge Tech, 4 county school systems and industry/business representatives. Program was funded by ARC, NC Division of Community Colleges, NC Department of Public Instruction, Z Smith Reynolds Foundation and others. Program which gives advanced placement in community colleges for qualifying high school coursework is still in effect.

Named “Outstanding Regional Council” in nation by National Association of Regional Councils.

1990

TVA began funding of Waste Reduction Partners (originally Waste Reduction and Technology Transfer program (WRATT) to utilize retired engineers and technicians.

Home and Community Care Block Grants (HCCBG) were created and began contracting with the counties.

1992

Organized, and achieved funding for, Asheville Regional Housing Consortium with 12 local governments as members (still active).

1993

# TRANSPORTATION RESOURCE

## MOUNTAIN MOBILITY

**158,940**

Total number of trips provided to individuals in Buncombe County in FY16. Our partnerships with other community service providers, including Medicaid and the City of Asheville's ART Transit System, helped us to serve more disabled and low-income residents than ever before.

**44** Vehicles in our fleet

**436** Average number of daily trips

**1,457,573** Total miles driven

**92%** On-time performance

**1,711** Number of new passengers that signed up for transportation services provided by Mountain Mobility.

**\$34,425**

Total amount of RIDE Voucher subsidies for taxi rides redeemed by 270 eligible disabled individuals in Buncombe County.

## NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAID TRANSPORTATION FOR BUNCOMBE COUNTY

**116,965**

Number of one way trips scheduled by the call center.

**73,474**

Number of trips provided by vendors. This does not include trips provided by individuals.

**13,115**

Number of information and referral calls received by the call center.

**700**

Number of assessments taken for new clients by the call center.



# VOLUNTEER SERVICES



North Carolina continues to have a strong spirit of volunteerism throughout the state. According to the Corporation for National and Community Service, Senior Corps in North Carolina contribute their time and talents in one of three Senior Corps programs. Foster Grandparents serve one-on-one as tutors and mentors to more than 3,100 young people who have special needs. Senior Companions help more than 720 homebound seniors and other adults maintain independence in their own homes. RSVP volunteers conduct safety patrols, renovate homes, protect the environment, tutor and mentor youth, respond to natural disasters, and provide other services through more than 540 groups across North Carolina. During 2105, Senior Corps commemorated these special events:

### 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOSTER GRANDPARENTS PROGRAM

August 2015 marked the 50th Anniversary of the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP). What began as a pilot project of 21 programs under President Johnson's "war on poverty" to assist older adults has today grown into a program of nearly 30,000 volunteers who serve over 24 million hours to help more than 280,000 children and youth. The program is truly a win-win for both the volunteer serving and the children served offering significant benefits for both. The Foster Grandparent Program is "A Legacy Beyond the Ability to Measure", said Dr. Bernie Nash, originator of the Foster Grandparent Program concept.

### 9/11 NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE

Volunteer Services teamed with Operation North State, Walgreens, and Asheville Newcomers Club to collect toiletry items including deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, antibiotic cream, hot sauce and candy to give to our service men and women. Over 7,600 items were collected/donated to Operation North State to create care packages for our military troops.

### NATIONAL VETERANS CORPS

The Corporation for National and Community Service launched the National Veterans Corps to recognize the contributions of veterans in national service and to celebrate the impact Senior Corps volunteers, and organizations are making in the veterans community. Volunteers from our Foster Grandparent, Senior Companion and Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs, who are themselves veterans or serve veterans, were honored at the December 2015 Land of Sky Regional Council Board Meeting with a special commemorative service pin and ceremony from the Volunteer Services Advisory Council.

### MAYOR'S AND ELECTED OFFICIALS DAY OF SERVICE

In April, Mayors and County Officials in our 4 county service area of Madison, Buncombe, Henderson and Transylvania County honored national service work and our volunteers with proclamations and appreciation.

### RSVP

Land of Sky Retired and Senior Volunteer (RSVP) Program ceased operations on March 31, 2016. Land of Sky Regional Council is proud to have sponsored, for over 31 years, this volunteer engagement opportunity for ages 55 and better providing solutions to community challenges.

## HISTORY

National Model developed for regional solid waste planning with a manual and national conference in Asheville.

1994

Received and administered US Department of Commerce grant that funded Mountain Area Information Network (MAIN) to provide last-mile Internet connectivity to WNC.

1995

Regional Air Quality Programs: SAMI (Southern Appalachian Mountains Initiative), contracted with NC DENR to conduct a study of an 8-state region. Other related work includes Clean Air Campaign, Clean Vehicles Coalition and supportive data for Clean Smokestacks Act.

1996

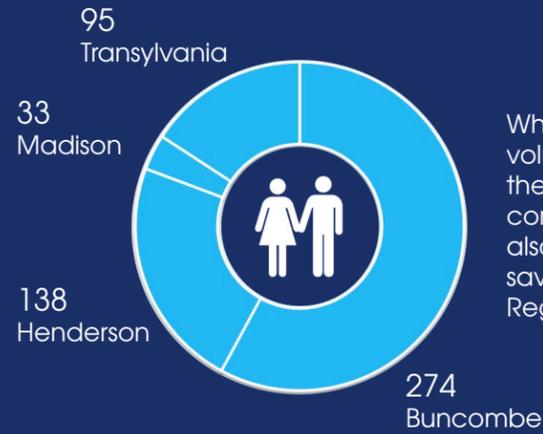
The Foster Grandparent Program joined the Volunteer Services funded by Corporation for National Service.

1999

The Family Caregiver Support Program began under the Older Americans Act of 1965.

2000

# VOLUNTEERS = \$ SAVED



While the number of volunteers and the hours they serve strengthen our communities, those hours also translate into dollars saved for the economy in Region B.



# MOUNTAIN AREA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD



The Mountain Area Workforce Development Board designs and implements a strategic plan to meet the needs of the region's businesses for a skilled, reliable and proficient workforce; and meets the skill development and job acquisition needs of the region's jobseekers. MAWD is engaged in public/private partnerships that respond to emerging workforce issues and economic development opportunities.

## FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM

The Foster Grandparent Program saved the region

**\$1,668,809**

with

**76**

volunteers providing

**76,271**

hours to assist special needs or at-risk children in achieving their short and long-term goals.

## SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM

The Senior Companion Program saved the region

**\$1,662,026**

with

**83**

volunteers providing

**75,961**

hours to assist older adults to remain independent and active in their homes and communities for as long as possible.

**174,141**

transporting clients to medical appointments, grocery shopping, pharmacy, social outings.

## RETIRED & SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Retired and Senior Volunteers were engaged in community solutions with

**54**

non-profit and governmental organizations throughout the region.

**365**

volunteers providing

**37,085**

hours of service in

**148**

specific volunteer jobs saving the region

**\$811,420**

According to the Independent Sector, the value of volunteer time in North Carolina is \$21.88 per hour, meaning that the Foster Grandparent Program, Senior Companion Program and Retired and Senior Volunteer Program saved our region

**\$4,142,256**

by providing these services to their respective communities.

## FUNDING & SERVICES

### WIOA FUNDS

**\$2.1 Million**

Operational leadership and administrative service funds that provided career development and job preparation services to nearly

**28,431**

individuals in the four career centers. An additional

**4,564**

individuals accessed career development and job search services online.

### WORKFORCE SERVICES

**160**

Number of job preparation/job search workshops with over

**731**

individuals attending. Approximately

**207**

clients received career counseling, financial assistance for tuition and books, and post participation follow-up assistance with job search and retention.

**4**

Clients retained employment after the completion of On-the-Job Training (32 total served).

**274**

Clients that received services from youth programs, which focused on career guidance, academic assistance and paid work experience to encourage dropout prevention and high school graduation.

## HISTORY

2003

NC DOT designated the Council as Rural Transportation Regional Planning Organization (RPO) also serving Haywood County.

Regional Brownfields Program began to remediate polluted sites with economic development potential.

Joe McKinney becomes Executive Director of Land-of-Sky Regional Council.

2004

Began the Clean Vehicles Coalition under the Clean Cities which is a program of the US Department of Energy that works with states and communities across the country to promote the use of cleaner alternative fuels and vehicles.

2007

Began administering the Living Healthy with a Chronic Condition or Diabetes program, also known as Chronic Disease Self-Management Program.

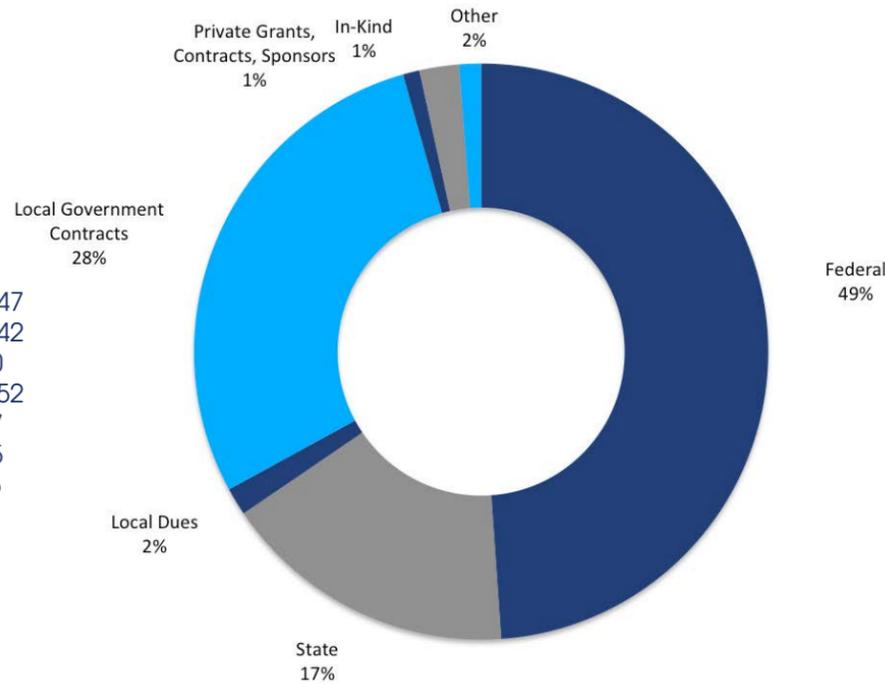
2009

Staffs the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Asheville Metropolitan Area transportation and resumed staffing the regional Workforce Development Board for the 4 counties.

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

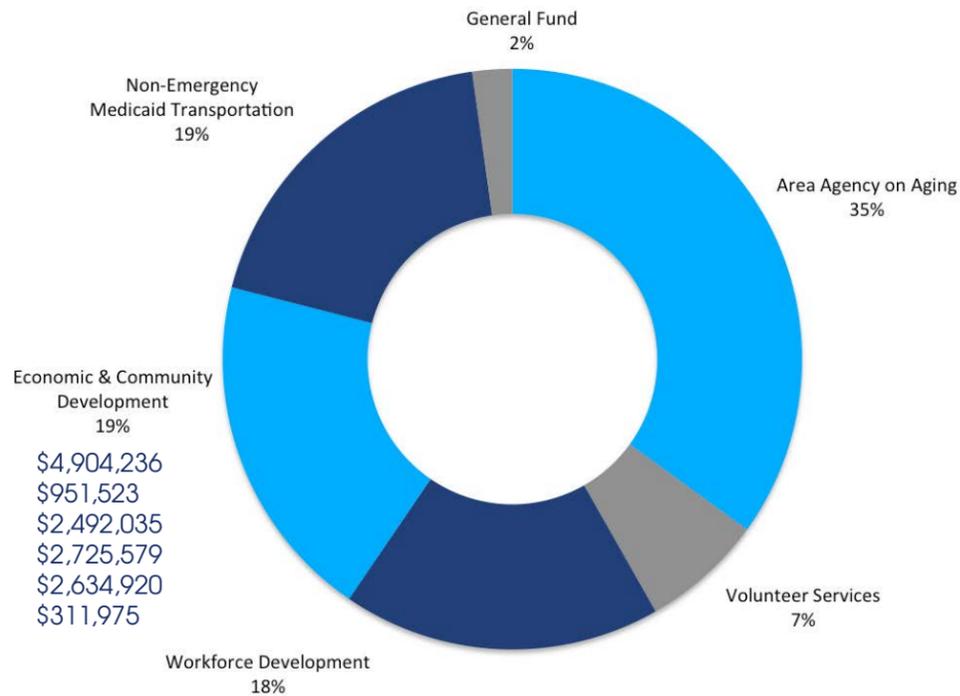
## FY 2016 BUDGETED REVENUES \$14,020,268

Federal	\$6,853,547
State	\$2,330,442
Local Dues	\$218,290
Local Government Contracts	\$4,002,752
Private Grants, Contracts, Sponsors	\$130,567
Other	\$313,345
In-Kind	\$171,325



## FY 2016 BUDGETED EXPENDITURES \$14,020,268

Area Agency on Aging	\$4,904,236
Volunteer Services	\$951,523
Workforce Development	\$2,492,035
Economic & Community Development	\$2,725,579
Non-Emergency Medicaid Transportation	\$2,634,920
General Fund	\$311,975



# LAND OF SKY STAFF

## ADMINISTRATION

Justin Hembree - Executive Director  
 Danna Stansbury - Deputy Executive Director  
 Christina Giles - Communications and Administrative Services Coordinator  
 Zia Rifkin - Administrative Program Specialist

## FINANCE

Vickie Thomas - Finance Director  
 Arlene Wilson - Accounting Specialist  
 Rose Sabo - Accounting Specialist  
 Wanda Clark - Accounting Assistant

## AREA AGENCY ON AGING

LeeAnne Tucker - Director of Aging and Volunteer Services  
 Carol McLimans - Family Caregiver Specialist  
 Nancy Hogan - Project C.A.R.E. Family Consultant - WNC  
 Ruth Price - Lead Regional Ombudsman  
 Julia Gibson - Senior Regional Ombudsman  
 Turkessa Baten - Associate Regional Ombudsman  
 Linda Holt - Senior Community Services Employment Program Coordinator  
 Sherry Christenson - Aging Program Specialist, Contracts / ARMS  
 Stephanie Stewart - Aging Program Specialist, HPDP / Senior Centers  
 Pat Hilgendorf - Caregiver Program Associate  
 Linda Kendall Fields\* - Aging and Disabilities Program Specialist  
 Ali Climo\* - Aging and Disabilities Program Specialist

## VOLUNTEER SERVICES

LeeAnne Tucker - Director of Aging and Volunteer Services  
 Ann Whisenhunt - Senior Companion Program Manager  
 Stacy Friesland - Foster Grandparent Program Manager

## ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Erica Anderson - Director of Economic and Community Development  
 Bill Eaker - Senior Environmental Planner  
 Chris Dobbins\*\* - Fleet Advisor  
 Karen Kiehna - Principal Planner  
 Lyuba Zuyeva - French Broad River MPO Director

Tristan Winkler - Transportation Planner, FBRMPO  
 Vicki Eastland - RPO Coordinator  
 Jon Beck - GIS Planner  
 Ritchie Rozzelle - TDM Coordinator  
 Tracy Wahl\*\*\* - Brownfields Project Manager  
 Zia Rifkin - ECD Administrative Assistant

## TRANSPORTATION RESOURCE CENTER

Vicki Jennings - Mountain Mobility Program Manager  
 Geri Ballew - Mobility Specialist  
 Shana Doyle - Senior Program Assistant  
 Zack Schmitt - Transportation Accounting/Database Specialist  
 Deon Lytle - NEMT Supervising Lead  
 Kim Ward - NEMT Lead Specialist  
 Pegge Dixon - NEMT Specialist  
 Glenda Brown - NEMT Specialist  
 Wendy Campbell - NEMT Specialist  
 Tequila Merriweather - NEMT Specialist  
 Yareli Rauda - Bi-Lingual NEMT Specialist

## WASTE REDUCTION PARTNERS

Terry Albrecht\*\*\* - WRP Director  
 Russ Jordan - Energy Program Manager  
 Dee Hanak - WRP Office Manager  
 Jan Foster - Solid Waste Manager  
 Tom Kimmell\*\* - Water Programs Manager

## MOUNTAIN AREA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Nathan Ramsey - MAWDB Director  
 Kim Cox - MIS Specialist / Local Area's EO Officer  
 Barbara Darby - Business Services Coordinator  
 Zia Rifkin - MAWDB Administrative Assistant

\* Independent Contractor  
 \*\* WRP Employee  
 \*\*\* NC DENR Employee

# HISTORY





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