



High Country Rural Planning Organization (RPO)

Municipalities and Counties of
Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Mitchell, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yancey

*“Serving North Carolina’s High Country with Continuing, Cooperative, and
Comprehensive Transportation Planning”*



Woodie Young, RTAC Chair

David Graham, Transportation Planner

Brantley Price, RTCC Chair

RURAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RTAC)

Agenda **November 15, 2023** **2:00 PM**

Action Items

1. Approval of August 16, 2023 Minutes (RTAC Chair)
2. Selection of RTAC Chair and Vice Chair (David Graham)

Informational Items

3. RTAC Membership Terms Update (David Graham)
4. Wildlands Network Presentation (Nikki Robinson, North Carolina Project Manager)
5. Comprehensive Transportation Planning Process Presentation (Reuben Crummy, NCDOT TPD)
6. Prioritization 7.0 Update (David Graham)
7. 2024-2033 STIP Project Development Update (David Graham)
8. Division Engineers Report (NCDOT Division 11 and Division 13 Representatives)
9. Transportation Planning Division Report (NCDOT Transportation Planning Representative)

Other Items

10. Committee Member Comments/Other Business (RTAC Chair)
11. Public Comment (RTAC Chair)
12. Adjournment (RTAC Chair)

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the RTAC is February 21, 2024 at 2:00 PM.

This information is available in Spanish or any other language upon request. Please contact High Country RPO Transportation Planner at (828) 265-5434 ext. 135 or at 468 New Market Blvd. Boone, NC 28607 for accommodations for this request.

Esta información está disponible en español o en cualquier otro idioma bajo petición. Por favor, póngase en contacto con High Country RPO Transportación Planner al (828) 265-5434 ext. 135 o en 468 New Market Blvd. Boone, NC 28607 de alojamiento para esta solicitud.

**High Country RPO
Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC)
August 16, 2023
Minutes**

The Rural Transportation Advisory Committee held their quarterly meeting, August 16, 2023, at 2pm in the High Country Council of Governments Board Room. The following members were present:

Rocky Buchanan- Town of Spruce Pine	Todd McNeill- Ashe County
Wayne Bonomo- Town of Seven Devils	Harley Masters- Mitchell County
Denise Collier- Town of Burnsville	Meagan Phillips- NCBOT Division 11
Stoney Greene- Wilkes County	John Shepherd- Town of Jefferson
Mike Inscore- Town of Wilkesboro	Larry Turnbow- Watauga County
John Irwin- Alleghany County	Woodie Young- Avery County
Brenda Lyerly- Town of Banner Elk	

Others present: Jim Blevins-Town of Lansing, McCray Coates-NCDOT Division 13, and Michael Poe-NCDOT Division 11.

Guests present: Stephen Sparks-NCDOT Division 13, Brendan Spencer-NCDOT Division 11, Samuel Henson-NCDOT Division 11, James Upchurch-NCDOT TPD, Reuben Crummy-NCDOT TPD, Gerald Carter-NCDOT TPD, and Chase Milner-FTRPO.

The following staff members were present from High Country Council of Governments: David Graham-Transportation Planner, Julie Wiggins-Executive Director, and Victoria Oxentine-Communications Manager.

Call to Order

Chairman Woodie Young read the Ethics Statement and called the meeting to order. Chairman Young recognized and welcomed new members in attendance.

Approval of May 17, 2023 Minutes

Woodie Young asked for a motion for approval of the May 17, 2023 minutes. Motion was made by Todd McNeill and seconded by Mike Inscore. Motion carried and approved.

Opening of Public Hearing for Amended FY 23-24 RPO Planning Work Program

Mike Inscore made a motion to open the public hearing for the Amended FY 23-24 Planning Work Program. Todd McNeill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Closing of Public Hearing for Amended FY 23-24 RPO Planning Work Program

With there being no business or comments for the public hearing, John Irwin made a motion to close the public hearing for the Amended FY 23-24 Planning Work Program. Stoney Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Amended FY 23-24 RPO Planning Work Program

David Graham, Transportation Planner gave an overview of the amendment of the FY 23-24 RPO Planning Work Program budget, which is an increase in funding of \$23,937.00 bringing the new total to \$183,500.00. Wayne Bonomo made a motion to approve the Amended FY 23-24 RPO Planning Work Program. John Irwin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Prioritization 7.0 New Projects List

David Graham, Transportation Planner discussed the Prioritization 7.0 New Projects List and thanked the managers for their help compiling the list. Mr. Graham noted that there are 24 highway projects, 9 bicycle/pedestrian projects, 1 transportation planning project, and 8 aviation projects in the list. Mr. Graham explained that at the RTCC meeting this morning, John Yates, Wilkes County manager asked to swap one of their projects. Stoney Greene made a motion to approve the Prioritization 7.0 New Projects List, including the swap in Wilkes County. Mike Inscore seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meagan Phillips recused herself from voting due to potential conflict of interest concern.

Regional Transit Plan Pilot Study Presentation

Bryan Lopez, Regional Planning Manager for the Integrated Mobility Division of NCDOT presented a slideshow via Zoom overviewing the Regional Transit Plan Pilot Study which will include multi-modal planning initiatives. Mr. Lopez will be coordinating a Regional Transit Plan Guidebook project with the High Country area stakeholders that kicked off 2 months ago. This guidebook will be for 2025-2029. Mary Kate Morookian with Kimley-Horn is leading the High Country Transit Plan Initiative.

Carbon Reduction Program Presentation

Mark Eatman, Statewide Initiatives Engineer for the Transportation Planning Division of NCDOT presented a slideshow via Zoom overviewing the Carbon Reduction Program. Mr. Eatman explained that this program began in 2022 and the main goal is to reduce CO2 emissions through transportation projects. Mr. Eatman reviewed project guidelines and details and noted that the program accepts applications continuously.

Prioritization 7.0 and 2024-2033 STIP Project Development Update

David Graham, Transportation Planner noted that the submittal online portal is now live and that he will be working with managers on data review and scoring of projects October-March. In May 2024 counties will be able to prioritize their projects. Mr. Graham noted that the NCDOT Board of Transportation approved the 2024-2033 STIP and reviewed projects that will begin construction soon.

Division Engineers' Report

Michael Poe, Brendan Spencer, and Samuel Henson gave updates for Division 11 and McCray Coates gave updates for Division 13.

Transportation Planning Division Update

James Upchurch, Engineering Manager introduced Reuben Crummy, the new TPD Coordinator. Mr. Crummy gave a brief overview of the TPD Newsletter including Ashe Count CTP work, an IMD quarterly update, and much more.

Committee Member Comments/Other Business

Committee members asked questions to NCDOT officials and thanked them for all they do.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

With there being no other business or comments, Todd McNeill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Stoney Greene seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Woodie Young, Chair

David Graham, Secretary

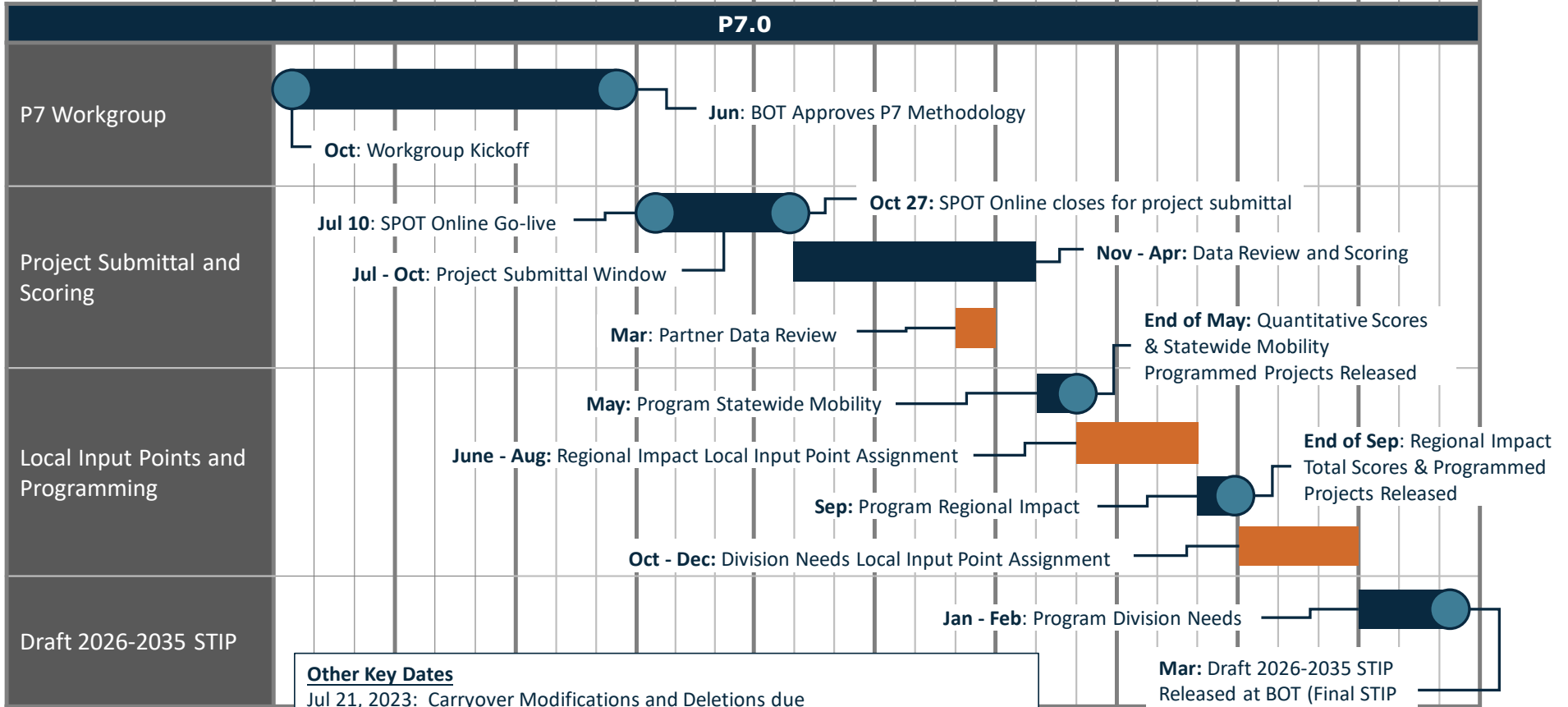
P7 Schedule

Schedule Revision – September 8, 2023

Dates set per P7 Workgroup in October 2022

- Fixed Dates
- Partner Input

2022	2023												2024												2025				
O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M



Other Key Dates

- Jul 21, 2023: Carryover Modifications and Deletions due
- Oct. 27, 2023: Area-Specific Weights due
- May 1, 2024: Deadline for SPOT Office approval of LIP Assignment Methodologies

NOVEMBER 2023 PROJECT UPDATE

(NCDOT BOT Approved 2024-2033 STIP)

HIGHWAY PROJECTS

NC 88, NC 88 to NC 194 (R-5832) – Ashe County

Description: *Upgrade roadway.*

Right-of-Way	2024
Construction	2025

American Emergency Vehicles Lane, Northwest Drive (HA-0006): NC 88 to Benfield Drive and American Emergency Vehicles Lane from Northwest Drive to American Emergency Vehicles Facility – Ashe County

Description: *Widen roadway and install signal at NC 88 and Northwest Drive.*

Right-of-way	2024
Construction:	2025

NC 194/US 19E Intersection (R-5911) – Avery County

Description: *Construct right turn lane from US 19E northbound to NC 194 eastbound.*

Right-of-Way	2022
Construction	2023

NC 105 (R-2566B): NC 105, Clarks Creek Road to NC 105 Bypass (Boone) – Watauga County

Description: *NC 105, Old Shulls Mill (SR 1568) to SR NC 105 Bypass (SR1107) in Boone. Widen to multi-lanes (includes R-2566BA - Bridge over Watauga River at Broadstone Road and R-2566BB – Realignment with Old Shulls Mill Road).*

Section B:	Right-of-Way	2022
	Construction	2025
Section BA:	Construction	In progress
Section BB	Construction	2023

US 421 (Daniel Boone Parkway) (R-5915B): NC 105 to US 221/321 South of Boone – Watauga County

Description: Construct freeway on new location south of Boone.

Right-of-way 2028
Construction: 2031

US 421/US 321 (R-2615): US 321/US421 Junction Near Vilas to 105 Bypass – Watauga County

Description: *Widen to Multi-Lanes*

Right-of-Way 2027
Construction 2030

SR 1522 (Deerfield Road), State Farm Road to SR 1523 (Wilson Ridge Road) (R-5830) – Watauga County

Description: *Upgrade Roadway.*

Right-of-Way 2024
Construction 2025

Bamboo Road (SR 1514); Wilson Ridge Road (SR 1523), US 421/US221 to Deerfield Road (SR 1522) (U-5810) – Watauga County

Description: *Widen Roadway to 12 foot lanes with 4 foot paved shoulders.*

Right-of-Way 2022
Construction 2024

NC 115, From US 421 to 2nd Street (R-5759) – Wilkes County

Description: *Widen Existing Roadway.*

Right-of-Way 2022
Construction 2024

SR 1001 (Oakwoods Road), From US 421 to NC268 (East Main St.) (R-5772) – Wilkes County

Description: *Upgrade Existing Roadway.*

Right-of-Way 2025
Construction 2027

US 421 (U-5312): Yadkin River Bridge to Westgate Drive – Wilkes County

Description: *US 421, NC 16 to US 421 Business. Convert existing roadway to superstreet and add service roads.*

Construction 2023

NC 268 (R-5906), From SR 1966 (Airport Road) to Four Lanes West of SR 2026 Austin Traphill Road – Wilkes County

Description: *Modernize Roadway*

Right-of-Way 2028
Construction 2031

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Yancey County Transit Facility (TA-6723)

Description: *Construct office, training, maintenance facility.*

Construction 2024

BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS

Middle Fork Greenway Section I From Blowing Rock along US 321 to the Blue Ridge Parkway (EB-5924)

Description: *Construct Greenway along US 321*

Right-of-Way 2023
Construction 2024

US 421 Multi-Use Path from Grove Street to Brookshire Road (EB-5983)

Description: *Construct multi-use path.*

Right-of-Way	2024
Construction	2025

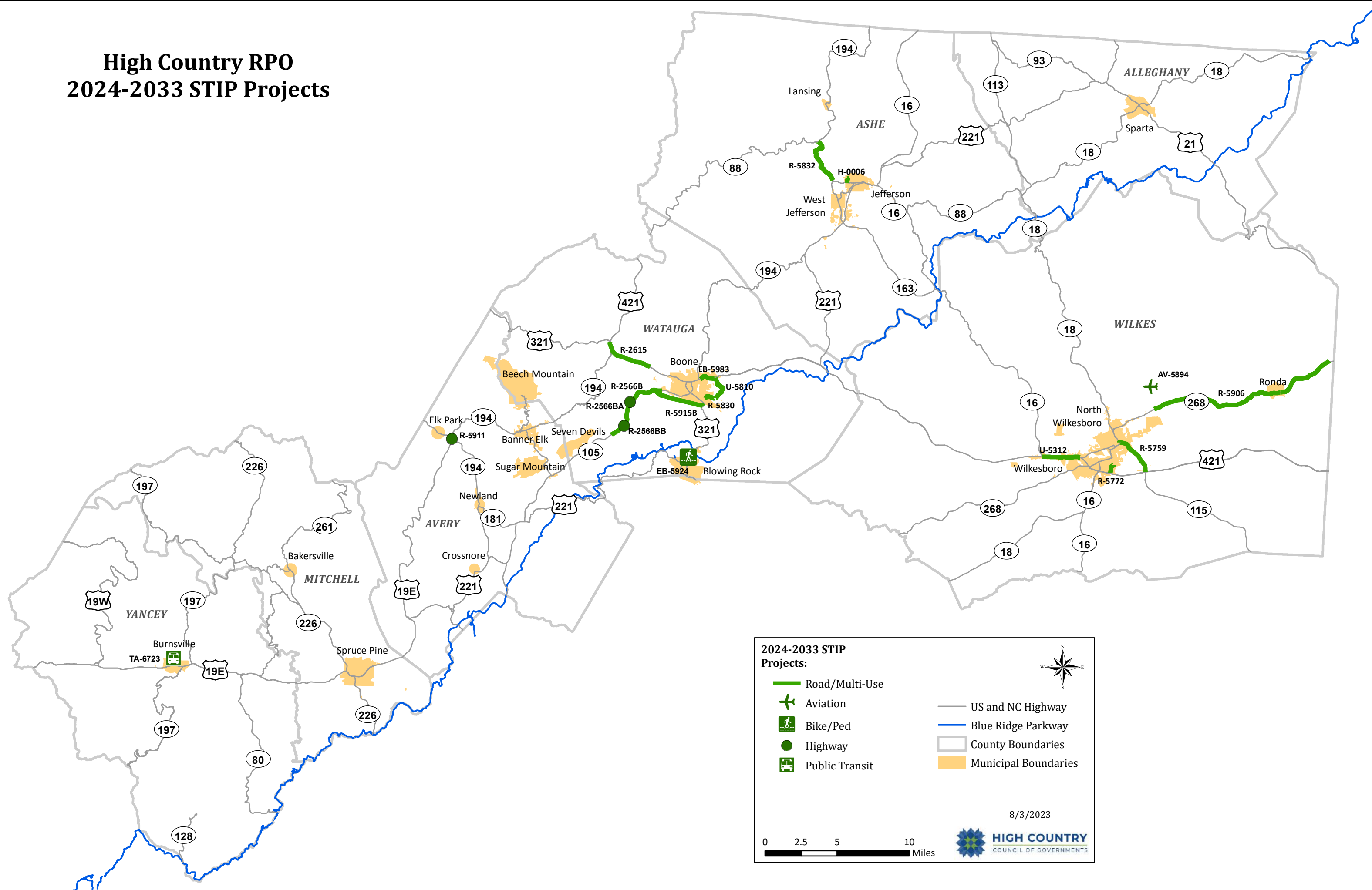
AVIATION PROJECTS

Wilkes County Airport (AV-5894)

Description: *Extend runway to 7,000 feet*

Right-of-Way	2024
Construction	2024

High Country RPO 2024-2033 STIP Projects



2024-2033 STIP Projects:

- Road/Multi-Use
- Aviation
- Bike/Ped
- Highway
- Public Transit
- US and NC Highway
- Blue Ridge Parkway
- County Boundaries
- Municipal Boundaries

8/3/2023

0 2.5 5 10 Miles