

# MPO announces grant for Mills River multiuse path

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The French Broad River Metropolitan Planning Organization recently authorized more than \$25 million for regional active transportation projects, including funds for Mills River's planned multi-use path along Highway 280.

In a news release Tuesday, the FBRMPO said it selected sidewalk, greenway and bus purchase projects for Buncombe County, Asheville, Black Mountain, Canton and Mills River. The projects

include funds to cover 80 percent of a \$300,000 engineering study for Mills River's multi-use path, set to run from the town limits on the French Broad River to the intersection of N.C. 280 and N.C. 191.

The MPO ranks projects based on expected impacts to safety, connectivity and congestion while working to be sensitive to the needs of smaller towns and jurisdictions, the release says.

"Funding bicycle, pedestrian, greenway and transit projects supports goals identified

in the regional transportation plan, MTP 2040," FBRMPO Director Lyuba Zuyeva said in the release. "And from national research we know that improving active transportation and transit options can improve safety and reduce congestion for all travelers, contribute to better public health outcomes and help create more livable communities."

Mills River is accepting public input at [millsriver.org/280survey](http://millsriver.org/280survey) to help the town decide on a name for the path. Paper copies of the survey can

be obtained and dropped off at the Mills River Town Hall, at 124 Town Center Drive.

Other projects include \$17.7 million in federal transportation funds to projects in Asheville, including 10 new buses for the city's new Transit Master Plan, two shovel-ready greenways in Asheville, sidewalks in Asheville, a greenway in Buncombe County slated to begin construction in 2020, additional funding for the Riverwalk Greenway in Black Mountain, and funds for engineering and right-of-way for sidewalks in Canton.