

# BUNCOMBE COUNTY CURRENT POLICY PROFILE

# **MARCH 2022**

Equitable Communities • Growth and Infrastructure
• Sustainability and Resiliency • Economic Development,
Education, and Upward Mobility • Open Space, Parks, and
Recreation • Farmland Preservation and Rural Protection
• Transportation and Mobility

# **Buncombe County Current Policy Profile**

### Introduction

The Buncombe 2043 comprehensive planning process will result in a new, long-range policy guide for the County that will guide growth, investment, and operational initiatives for years to come. In preparation for creating a new comprehensive plan, an assessment of the current policies in established County plans was conducted. This Current Policy Profile was developed to provide a "snapshot" of policy direction provided in established plans, and serve as a baseline for creating new policy direction.



**policy**: a definite course of action selected from alternatives to guide and determine present and future decisions

Policy statements describe specific approaches that Buncombe County will undertake to achieve the plan's vision and goals. They are used to guide decision-making about growth and development, public services, capital investments, community programs, and other planning topics.

This Current Policy Profile provides a synthesized listing of existing policy direction organized into several major topic areas:

### • Equitable Communities

- o Housing Affordability, Diversity, and Accessibility
- Equitable Provision of Public Services and Facilities
- o Access to Healthy Lifestyles (Recreation and Healthy Foods)
- o Transparency and Accessibility of Government
- Public Safety
- Complete Communities (Support for Vulnerable Populations)

### • Growth and Infrastructure

- Future Land Use and Community Character
- Provision of Utilities
- o Redevelopment

### • Sustainability and Resiliency

- o Environmental Stewardship and Green Infrastructure
- o Reducing Carbon Footprint and Energy Use
- Habitat Conservation, Tree Canopy, and Native Plant Species
- Water Quality Protection and Water Conservation
- Reducing Waste and Increasing Reuse and Recycle
- o Resiliency from Flooding and Watershed Management

### • Economic Development, Education, and Upward Mobility

- o Education, Childcare, and Job Training for Local Workforce
- o Economic Diversification
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation (Small Business)
- o Fiscal Health

### • Open Space, Parks, and Recreation

- o Preservation
- Facility Diversity and Accessibility

### • Farmland Preservation and Rural Protection

- Outreach and Education
- Support for Rural Enterprises

- o Local, Regional, and State Collaboration
- Funding
- Transportation and Mobility
  - Safety
  - Multimodal Network
  - Connectivity and Circulation
  - o Travel Demand Management

This policy profile was developed through a review of the following policy documents and technical documents. Only formal policies that provide direction for decision-making were included in this Current Policy Profile.

### **Policy Documents Reviewed**

- Buncombe Madison Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (2021)
- Racial Equity Action Plan (2021)
  - https://www.buncombecounty.org/common/Commissioners/20210615/Racial%20Equity%20Action%20Plan.pdf
- Ferry Road Land Use Plan (2021)
  - o <a href="https://www.buncombecounty.org/common/Commissioners/20210907/Pre%20Ferry%20Road%20Land%20Use%20Plan%20Equinox%20ppt.pdf">https://www.buncombecounty.org/common/Commissioners/20210907/Pre%20Ferry%20Road%20Land%20Use%20Plan%20Equinox%20ppt.pdf</a>
- French Broad River Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2020)
  - o <a href="http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/MTP">http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/MTP</a> 2045 Web.pdf
- Buncombe County Strategic Plan (2020)
  - o <a href="https://www.buncombecounty.org/common/commissioners/strategic-plan/strategic-plan-2025.pdf">https://www.buncombecounty.org/common/commissioners/strategic-plan/strategic-plan-2025.pdf</a>
- Farmland Protection Plan (2020)
  - https://www.buncombecounty.org/common/soil/ag-development-protection-planbuncombe-county.pdf
- Land of Sky Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (2020)
  - o <a href="https://losrc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=3db8474da7e24f36b5">https://losrc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=3db8474da7e24f36b5</a> 9ea25af4b6916e
- Buncombe County Sustainability Plan (2017)
  - https://www.buncombecounty.org/common/planning/sustainability-plan-update-2017.pdf
- Land of Sky Area Plan on Aging (2016)
  - o http://www.landofsky.org/pdf/Aging/LOS\_AreaPlan\_FY16\_20\_Final.pdf
- Buncombe County Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2013)
  - https://www.buncombecounty.org/common/planning/land-use-plan-update-2013.pdf
- French Broad River Basin Restoration Priorities (2009)
  - o <a href="https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Mitigation%20Services/Watershed Planning/French Broad RBRP 15july09.pdf">https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/Mitigation%20Services/Watershed Planning/French Broad RBRP 15july09.pdf</a>

### **Technical Reports**

The following technical reports were reviewed for general information but do not contain policy guidance.

- Mountain Area Workforce Development Local Area Plan
- French Broad River Regional Transit Feasibility Study (2021)
  - o <a href="http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/FBRMPO-Regional-Transit-Plan-Final-Report-August-2021.pdf">http://frenchbroadrivermpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/FBRMPO-Regional-Transit-Plan-Final-Report-August-2021.pdf</a>

- Asheville Region Housing Needs Assessment (2020)
  - o <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yD7VyC7828cqBtt2oHcWjxPOs2HBo30n/view">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yD7VyC7828cqBtt2oHcWjxPOs2HBo30n/view</a>
- Buncombe County Broadband Community Profile (2019)
  - o <a href="http://www.landofsky.org/pdf/LGS/Broadband/BuncombeCounty">http://www.landofsky.org/pdf/LGS/Broadband/BuncombeCounty</a> CommunityProfile 2019.pdf
- Asheville Greater (2019)
  - o <a href="https://www.ashevillechamber.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/avlgreater2019">https://www.ashevillechamber.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/avlgreater2019</a> fullreport.pdf
- Buncombe County Community Transportation Service Plan (2015)
  - o <a href="https://www.buncombecounty.org/common/transportation/ctsp-service-plan.pdf">https://www.buncombecounty.org/common/transportation/ctsp-service-plan.pdf</a>
- Consolidated Strategic Housing and Community Development Plan (2015)
  - o <a href="https://www.buncombecounty.org/common/planning/strategic-housing-community-development-plan.pdf">https://www.buncombecounty.org/common/planning/strategic-housing-community-development-plan.pdf</a>
- Buncombe County Housing Needs Assessment (2014)
  - o <a href="https://www.buncombecounty.org/common/planning/buncombe-housing-needs-assessment-study.pdf">https://www.buncombecounty.org/common/planning/buncombe-housing-needs-assessment-study.pdf</a>
- Regional Airport Master Plan (2013)
  - o <a href="https://flyavl.com/wp-content/uploads/PDFs/MasterPlan.pdf">https://flyavl.com/wp-content/uploads/PDFs/MasterPlan.pdf</a>

### **Current Policy Profile**

The tables listed on the following pages are organized by the policy subtopics. For each subtopic, there is a list of related plans and studies, general direction and synopsis of existing policies, and potential policy gaps for exploration. This information can be used to identify current policies that are important to carry forward, existing policy direction that should be amended, and new policy topics to be addressed.

### **Equitable Communities**

### Housing Affordability, Diversity, and Accessibility

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

- Racial Equity Action Plan (2021)
- Buncombe County Strategic Plan (2020)
- Buncombe County Sustainability Plan (2017)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

- Addresses access to affordable housing and housing services for BIPOC, homeless, and those experiencing mental health conditions (Racial Equity Action Plan)
- Supports regional affordable housing development through a revised county affordable housing strategy and local, state, and federal collaboration (Racial Equity Plan)
- Identifies programs to provide funding, construction, and home repair services for affordable housing projects (Sustainability Plan pg. 20)
- Encourages affordable housing near transit and jobs (Strategic Plan pg. 29)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

 Explore connections to land use and new development and approaches for facilitating production of affordable units

### **Equitable Provision of Public Services and Facilities**

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

- French Broad River Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2020)
- Buncombe County Sustainability Plan (2017)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

 Aims to expand provision of a more equitable public transportation system (Metropolitan Transportation Plan pg. 29) (Sustainability Plan pg. 24)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

Explore opportunities to provide better access to various public assets, programs, and services

### Access to Healthy Lifestyles (Recreation and Healthy Foods)

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

- Racial Equity Action Plan (2021)
- Buncombe County Strategic Plan (2020)
- Land of Sky Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (2020)
- Buncombe County Sustainability Plan (2017)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

- Addresses equitable access to wellness and recreation for most impacted communities (Racial Equity Plan pg. 12)
- Aims to increase access to recreation spaces, programs, and facilities (Sustainability Plan pg. 18) (Strategic Plan ppg. 22)
- Promotes access to healthy foods within the region and addresses food insecurity (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy pg. 29)
- Expands mental and physical health programs including Health & Human Services Pop-up Markets (Sustainability Plan pg. 18, 38)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

- Consideration of these assets as part of new development
- Public-private partnerships to provide these assets

### **Transparency and Accessibility of Government**

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

- Racial Equity Action Plan (2021)
- Buncombe County Strategic Plan (2020)
- Buncombe County Sustainability Plan (2017)
- Buncombe County Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2013)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

- Improves public transit access to government facilities (Racial Equity Plan pg. 13)
- Aims to increase citizen involvement through increasing voter registration, use of government social media and website, and volunteering and participation in County programs (Sustainability Plan pg. 22)
- Supports government organization and processes including increasing staff resources, appointing task forces, and
  establishing intergovernmental coordination and communication (Strategic Plan pg. 32) (Comprehensive Land Use
  Plan pg. 39, 40)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

 Increase efforts to promote community engagement in County decision-making, and support capacity building and leadership training for residents

### **Public Safety**

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

- French Broad River Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2020)
- Buncombe County Sustainability Plan (2017)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

- Improves the safety of travelers and residents and increases system resilience to incidents (Metropolitan Transportation Plan pg. 23)
- Promotes community health, safety, and resiliency through crime prevention, emergency preparedness, incarceration alternatives, and access to affordable health services (Sustainability Plan pg. 18, 26)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

• Address crime prevention and measuring community perceptions of safety

### **Complete Communities (Support for Vulnerable Populations)**

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

- Land of Sky Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (2020)
- Buncombe County Sustainability Plan (2017)
- Land of Sky Area Plan on Aging (2016)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

- Encourages involvement in community programs of all residents, including elderly (Area Plan on Aging)
   (Comprehensive Economic Development Plan pg. 29)
- Promotes the development of affordable housing near jobs and public transit (Strategic Plan pg. 29)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

· Address potential displacement of vulnerable communities and businesses in wake of future development

### **Growth and Infrastructure**

### **Future Land Use and Community Character**

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

- Buncombe County Strategic Plan (2020)
- Farmland Protection Plan (2020)
- Land of Sky Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (2020)
- Buncombe County Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2013)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

- Emphasizes the use of outreach in urban areas to educate about the importance of rural and agricultural lands as it relates to the county's identity and culture (Farmland Protection Plan pg. 56)
- Encourages the County to develop a new Comprehensive Plan to support the County's vision for the future (Strategic Plan pg. 29)
- Supports adopting zoning that better coincides with proposed land use areas (Comprehensive Land Use Plan pg. 33)
- Promotes historic preservation through the development of county-wide historic preservation plans (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy pg. 31)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

- Develop county-wide vision and goal statements for growth and conservation
- Further define County character areas and establish related policies through Future Land Use map and categories

### **Provision of Utilities**

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

Buncombe County Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2013)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

- Aims to prepare for future sewer service expansions through extension policies that support the direction and pattern of development recommended in the Land Use Plan (Comprehensive Land Use Plan pg. 33)
- Encourages locating community facilities such as parks, schools, and libraries within identified "hubs" to attract development within them (Comprehensive Land Use Plan pg. 34)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

Identify targeted growth areas within the County and coordinate with water providers and Buncombe County MSD

### Redevelopment

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

Buncombe County Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2013)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

• Utilizes incentives to encourage industrial and other major employers to locate within the County, targeting existing industrial and brownfield sites for redevelopment (Comprehensive Land Use Plan pg. 37)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

- Identify potential redevelopment and brownfield sites throughout the county
- Encourage redevelopment, infill, and adaptive reuse in existing areas of development (remove barriers and potentially create incentives)

### **Sustainability & Resiliency**

### **Environmental Stewardship and Green Infrastructure**

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

- French Broad River Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2020)
- Buncombe County Sustainability Plan (2017)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

Extends greenways and enhance connection between transportation and land use planning (Sustainability Plan pg. 34)
 (Metropolitan Transportation Plan pg. 26)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

• Create collaborative opportunities for implementing greenway master plan, leveraging partnerships with private developers, land trusts, and other community organizations

### **Reducing Carbon Footprint and Energy Use**

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

- Buncombe County Strategic Plan (2020)
- French Broad River Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2020)
- Buncombe County Sustainability Plan (2017)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

- Promotes efforts to reduce emissions such as identifying capital improvement projects, conducting assessments promoting education on carbon footprints, and reducing vehicle miles traveled (Sustainability Plan pg. 30, 32) (Strategic Plan pg. 19) (Metropolitan Transportation Plan pg. 26)
- Encourages the development of a county-level energy conservation initiatives (Sustainability Pan pg. 30)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

Address energy sources, consumption, and efficiency

### Habitat Conservation, Tree Canopy, and Native Plant Species

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

- Buncombe County Sustainability Plan (2017)
- Buncombe County Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2013)
- French Broad River Basin Restoration Priorities (2009)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

- Encourages the development of plans to restore and protect wildlife habitats (Restoration Priorities pg. 5, 6)
   (Sustainability Plan pg. 30)
- Implement hillside development standards to preserve tree canopy and vegetation (Comprehensive Land Use Plan pg. 34)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

Assess existing wildlife and vegetation conditions, patterns, and gaps in the ecological system

### **Water Quality Protection and Water Conservation**

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

- Buncombe Madison Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (2021)
- Buncombe County Sustainability Plan (2017)
- Buncombe County Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2013)
- French Broad River Basin Restoration Priorities (2009)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

• Identifies various methods for educating the public about recycling options (Sustainability Plan pg. 32)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

· Assess county operations and private development water conservation measures and identify areas of improvement

### **Reducing Waste and Increasing Reuse and Recycle**

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

• Buncombe County Sustainability Plan (2017)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

• Identifies various methods for educating the public about recycling options (Sustainability Plan pg. 32)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

Assess county waste and recycling and identify areas of improvement and tools for waste reduction and management

### **Resiliency from Flooding and Watershed Management**

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

- Buncombe Madison Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (2021)
- Land of Sky Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (2020)
- Buncombe County Sustainability Plan (2017)
- French Broad River Basin Restoration Priorities (2009)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

- Supports management of floodplains and wetlands and the restoration of stream banks and riparian areas (Hazard Mitigation Plan pg. 8:5) (Sustainability Plan pg. 30) (Restoration Priorities pg. 5, 6)
- Encourages continued participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (Hazard Mitigation Plan pg. 8:5)
- Promotes water resource protection through the development and implementation of watershed plans within the region (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy pg. 31)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

Consider new development standards for properties in flood prone areas

### **Economic Development, Education, and Upward Mobility**

### Education, Childcare, and Job Training of Local Workforce

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

- Buncombe County Strategic Plan (2020)
- Land of Sky Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (2020)
- Buncombe County Sustainability Plan (2017)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

- Increases training/education programs and participation for workforce development, agriculture, and businesses (Sustainability Plan pg. 16, 20, 38, 42) (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy pg. 27, 29)
- Aims to improve elementary, college, career, and elderly education (Strategic Plan 14-17) (Sustainability Plan pg. 16)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

• Identify areas and strategies to improve education for all age levels

### **Economic Diversification**

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

- Buncombe County Strategic Plan (2020)
- Buncombe County Sustainability Plan (2017)
- Buncombe County Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2013)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

• Identifies Project Development Financing and other economic development incentives to increase job opportunities and employment in target industries (Sustainability Plan pg. 40) (Strategic Plan pg. 28) (Comprehensive Land Use Plan pf 36, 37)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

Identify land planning and infrastructure needs to support business diversification

### **Entrepreneurship and Innovation (Small Business)**

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

- Land of Sky Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (2020)
- Buncombe County Sustainability Plan (2017)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

- Increases the number of specialized training courses and the number of companies participating
- Aims to promote the region as a hub for entrepreneurship (Sustainability Plan pg. 40)
- Promotes regional collaboration to strengthen urban-rural markets and to increase access to capital for all communities (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy pg. 27)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

• Identify small business needs and strategic partnerships to advance support

### **Fiscal Health**

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

• Buncombe County Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2013)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

• Evaluates options to shift economic burden of providing infrastructure and services to developers (Comprehensive Land Use Plan pg. 36)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

• Identify projected fiscal trends related to development / redevelopment and prepare for any fiscal shifts

### Open Space, Parks, and Recreation

### **Preservation**

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

Buncombe County Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2013)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

• Promotes the preservation of viewsheds critical for maintaining the economic health of the region (Comprehensive Land Use Plan pg. 34)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

• Evaluate existing open spaces, parks, and recreation facilities and identify new priorities for implementation

### **Facility Diversity and Accessibility**

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

- Racial Equity Action Plan (2021)
- Buncombe County Strategic Plan (2020)
- Buncombe County Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2013)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

- Encourages partnerships with local outdoor industry partners to expand and diversify outdoor recreation (Racial Equity Plan pg. 12)
- Supports the development of a parks and recreation master plan to identify county-wide needs, priority projects, and funding mechanisms (Comprehensive Land Use Plan pg. 37)
- Implements regulatory tools such as open space requirements and cluster development to promote compact development and preserve existing open spaces (Comprehensive Land Use Plan pg. 37)
- Supports increased access, safety, and proximity to recreation spaces within neighborhoods (Strategic Plan pg. 22)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

• New approaches and funding sources for advancing diversity and accessibility

### **Farmland Preservation and Rural Protection**

### **Outreach and Education**

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

- Farmland Protection Plan (2020)
- Buncombe County Strategic Plan (2020)
- Buncombe County Sustainability Plan (2017)
- Buncombe County Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2013)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

- Increases education and public awareness on the importance of agriculture and farmland to the region's identity (Farmland Protection Plan pg. 56) (Sustainability Plan pg. 38)
- Identifies opportunities and improvements for new and existing outreach and training programs for local farmland owners (Farmland Protection Plan pg. 55) (Sustainability Plan pg. 38) (Strategic Plan pg. 20) (Comprehensive Land Use Plan pg. 38, 39)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

• Research methods used by other communities to promote and implement outreach and education on land taxation, estate planning, farm-transition planning, conservation easements, and development planning

### **Support for Rural Enterprises**

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

- Farmland Protection Plan (2020)
- Buncombe County Strategic Plan (2020)
- Buncombe County Sustainability Plan (2017)
- Buncombe County Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2013)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

- Supports agricultural economic development and training to facilitate greater industry diversity (Farmland Protection Plan pg. 57)
- Expands market opportunities for farms, such as a short-term tax deferral program (Strategic Plan pg. 20) (Comprehensive Land Use Plan pg. 38) (Sustainability Plan pg. 38)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

• Determine land use needs and zoning changes to support rural enterprises

### Local, Regional, and State Collaboration

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

- Farmland Protection Plan (2020)
- Buncombe County Strategic Plan (2020)
- Buncombe County Sustainability Plan (2017)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

- Identifies various tools and policies to promote farmland protection and rural conservation (Farmland Protection Plan pg. 54, 57) (Sustainability Plan pg. 30)
- Encourages growth and development in areas where appropriate infrastructure is available (Strategic Plan pg. 20)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

Support expanding toolbox for agricultural preservation, including VAD, EVAD, conservation easements, transfer
of development rights, purchase of development rights, and others

### **Funding**

### Related Plans and Studies:

• Farmland Protection Plan (2020)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

• Supports public and private funding opportunities and partnerships for conservation easements (Farmland Protection Plan pg. 55, 56)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

 Leverage county funding for conservation easements and other projects in partnership with state, federal, and private resources

### **Transportation and Mobility**

### **Transportation Safety**

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

- French Broad River Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2020)
- Buncombe County Sustainability Plan (2017)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

- Aims to improve bike and pedestrian, traveler, and resident safety through the increase of bicycle infrastructure, sidewalks, and multi-use paths (Metropolitan Transportation Plan pg. 22, 23)
- Improves safety education through the Watch For Me safety campaign (Sustainability Plan pg. 18)
- Improves transportation system resilience to incidents, including on roadways and bridges (Metropolitan Transportation Plan pg. 23, 28)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

Develop more specific safety best practices and designs for bike and pedestrian pathways

### **Multimodal Network**

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

- French Broad River Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2020)
- Buncombe County Strategic Plan (2020)
- Buncombe County Sustainability Plan (2017)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

- Increases multimodal transportation accessibility and efficiency by extending greenways for pedestrians and cyclists (Sustainability Plan pg. 34)
- Increases accessibility, efficiency, and utilization of public transit and other modes of transportation (Metropolitan Transportation Plan pg. 22) (Strategic Plan pg. 23)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

• Consider multimodal transportation impacts in the development approval process, particularly in areas targeted for development

### **Connectivity and Circulation**

### **Related Plans and Studies:**

- French Broad River Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2020)
- Buncombe County Sustainability Plan (2017)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

- Addresses recurring congestion by improving reliability and performance of major roadways and fixed-route transit systems (Metropolitan Transportation Pan pg. 24)
- Encourages land development connected to existing transportation corridors (Sustainability Plan pg. 34)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

Incorporate plans for improved connectivity

### **Travel Demand Management**

### Related Plans and Studies:

Buncombe County Sustainability Plan (2017)

### **General Direction and Synopsis of Existing Policies:**

 Promotes participation in various commuting options such as Park-and Ride, carpools, vanpools, and transit (Sustainability Plan pg. 34)

### **Potential Gaps for Exploration:**

• Engage in regional partnerships to support commuting workers