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**One of the duties of the MPO is the development of a list of the top transportation priorities for the Asheville area, known as the Priority Needs List. The list is then submitted to the North Carolina Department of Transportation for their consideration as they develop the draft Transportation Improvement program (TIP) for North Carolina.**

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The Transportation Advisory Committee will be asked to approve this list at their regularly scheduled meeting on December 20, 2001. It is important that the list is adopted on this date in order to meet the deadlines set by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NC DOT). Listed below are the key dates associated with the development of the Priority Needs List (PNL).

#### **Priority Needs List Key Dates**

November 18, 2001 Technical Coordinating Committee develops draft PNL

November 19, 2001 Beginning of 30-day public comment period for PNL

December 17, 2001 End of public comment period

December 20, 2001 Transportation Advisory Committee adopts PNL

January 1, 2001 Deadline to submit the PNL to NCDOT

June, 2002 NCDOT produces draft Transportation Improvement Program

The Technical Coordinating Committee for the MPO developed the Draft Priority Needs List that is now in the public comment period. Copies are available at all Buncombe County libraries, the Asheville City Building, and the town hall buildings at each of the other municipalities. In addition, the document can be viewed on the City's web site.

The Priority Needs List outlines transportation needs in several categories including roadway improvements,

pedestrian and bicycle projects, and public transit. The document includes a balance of transportation needs from Asheville, Biltmore Forest, Black Mountain, Fletcher, Weaverville, Woodfin, and unincorporated Buncombe County. Listed below are the top transportation priorities in the City of Asheville's jurisdiction:

### **Existing Project Priorities**

I-26 Connector

Sweeten Creek Road Improvements

Traffic Signal System Upgrade

### **New Project Priorities**

Merrimon Avenue

Mill's Gap Road

Riverside Parkway (entire river corridor)

I-240/Merrimon Avenue Interchange

New Haw Creek Road (upgrade only)

Overlook Road (upgrade only)

Beaverdam Road (upgrade only)

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