



Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee Minutes – February 22, 2017

Attendees:

Brownie Newman
Vicki Eastland
Ed Green
Mike Sorrells

Daniel Sellers
Zia Rifkin
Jason Chappell
Rick Tipton

Matt Wechtel
Cole Hood
Charlie Landreth
Brian Burch

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mike Sorrells, Vice Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees as Chairman Newman was out of town on business and had phoned into the meeting. He read the Ethics Statement, asked if there were any conflicts, and members responded that there were none. He then reviewed the Agenda and no modifications were proposed.

Matt Wechtel moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Charlie Landreth seconded and the motion carried as all were in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

Jason Chappell moved to approve the minutes from October 26, 2016, Matt Wechtel seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment period opened, and as there was none at this time, nor through Facebook or email, the public comment period closed.

BUSINESS

Review/Discuss Draft LOSRPO Draft STIP: Vicki Eastland shared that NCDOT released the Draft 2018-2027 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The full document including the LOSRPO specific pages is available at www.landofskyrpo.org. The Draft STIP will be out for Public Comment in the spring (dates to be determined). The Final NCDOT 2018-2027 STIP is scheduled to be adopted by the NCDOT Board of Transportation (BOT) in June 2017. Projects that are scheduled for funding in the first five years of the STIP through 2022 (committed STIP) do not have to go back into the next prioritization cycle, SPOT 5.0, as these projects are in the deliverable portion of the STIP. Projects scheduled for funding in the second five years of the STIP (developmental STIP) will be carried over to SPOT 5.0 and have to compete again for funding in that round.

No action required at this time.

Review of Draft LOSRPO FY 2018 PWP: Vicki Eastland shared that the Draft LOSRPO FY 2018 Planning Work Program (PWP) is developed. In many ways, this document is a continuation of ongoing RPO projects. As the FBRMPO Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) update is delayed, as well as the Transylvania County CTP, there is a large percentage of the planning funds in the CTP category. Other funding commitments

include SPOT 5.0, which is already gearing up leading to a significant amount of funding in Prioritization. General Transportation and Administration make up the bulk of the remaining funding. Vicki Eastland mentioned that there are ongoing discussions between NCDOT TPB and NCARPO organization, there will most likely be a slight increase in funding to the LOSRPO which will result in a slight increase to the local dues contribution. More information will be provided on the increase after final approval by NCDOT. Vicki Eastland shared that budget increases will be made incrementally across the PWP categories.

Brownie Newman moved to approve the LOSRPO Draft FY2018 PWP for submittal to NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch (TPB) as presented. Charlie Landreth seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Continuation of LOSRC Project for CMAQ Funds – Vicki Eastland shared there is \$100,000 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds available from the NCDOT to the Land of Sky and Southwestern RPOs combines for FY 18 and 19 (\$50,000 each year). Land of Sky staff has consulted with staff of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and Southwestern Commission (Southwestern RPO) about the availability and potential uses of these funds. The National Park is requesting \$20,000 to continue its air quality education and outreach work within the Park for two years. Land of Sky Regional Council is requesting \$80,000 to continue the work of its Regional Clean Air Campaign and Land of Sky Clean Vehicles Coalition for two years. Land of Sky's work includes public education and outreach on reducing emissions from mobile sources, technical assistance to fleets in the region on alternative fueled and advanced technology vehicle options, and assistance securing grant funding for green fleet projects. Applications to NCDOT are due March 15, 2017. A resolution is required from the LOSRPO TAC regarding the CMAQ funds request.

Matt Wechtel moved to approve adoption of the LOSRPO Resolution for the continuation of CMAQ funds to support the Regional Clean Air Campaign and Land of Sky Clean Vehicles Coalition and the Smoky Mountain National Park's air quality education and outreach work. Charlie Landreth seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

NCDOT Division 14 STIP Delivery Process Presentation – Brian Burch shared about how Division 14 manages its projects and he shared a brief overview of the LOSRPO projects in the STIP at this time and the estimated costs of those projects. He shared that as a Division Project Delivery Engineer, he is one of a group of transportation folks that have familiarity with the projects. The Division holds meetings with governmental staff throughout the LOSRPO region and it is important for staff to review and ensure that the projects that will be prioritized are the ones that are needed by the local jurisdictions. He shared that authorization has been provided from the state to move projects along as quickly as possible as NCDOT has a \$2.1 Billion cash balance and needs to spend \$900 Million this year through acceleration of projects into construction. Rick Tipton added that Division 13's process is not significantly different from that of Division 14. As projects are developed, outreach and work is done with the local stakeholders. Discussion occurred about how projects are scored and if there would be any revision to the SPOT scoring process as the rural areas have a difficult time getting their projects into the STIP-while urban projects tend to score much higher. Brian Burch shared that there is currently a working group tasked with looking at this issue among others. Rick

Tipton noted that public input could be very important to projects. Another important factor is working with the RPOs and MPOs.

Information only.

REGULAR UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ricky Tipton provided Division 13 updates and Ed Green provided Division 14 updates. Daniel Sellers shared TPB updates.

Vicki Eastland provided Legislative updates.

Vicki Eastland provided staff Updates and Housekeeping matters.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Jason Chappell to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded and the meeting adjourned.