

LAND OF SKY

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

RPO Technical Coordinating Committee

August 10th, 2017 – 10:00 A.M., Land of Sky Regional Council

Agenda

1. WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Welcome and Introductions
Agenda Approval/Modifications

Mark Burrows
Mark Burrows

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS TCC MEETING MINUTES

A. Minutes from the RPO TCC May 11, 2017th Meeting

4. RPO BUSINESS

A. Review LOSRPO 2018-2027 STIP
B. SPOT 5.0 Presentation NCDOT Div. 13/14 DPE's
C. LOSRPO DRAFT Project List for Submission to SPOT5.0
D. LOSRPO Division Needs Alternate Criteria Memo

Vicki Eastland
Brendan Merithew/
Steve Williams
Vicki Eastland
Vicki Eastland

5. REGULAR UPDATES

A. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates
B. Transportation Planning Branch Updates
C. Legislative Updates
D. Staff Updates and Housekeeping

Division Staff
Daniel Sellers
Vicki Eastland
Vicki Eastland

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings

Land of Sky RPO TAC – Thursday August 24th, 2017- 11:30 AM French Broad (Large)
Conference Room

Land of Sky RPO TCC- September 14th, 2017-10:00 AM LOSRC French Broad (Large)
Conference Room

LAND OF SKY

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS TCC MEETING MINUTES

A. LOSRPO May 11th 2017 TCC meeting minutes

RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
May 11, 2017 – 10:00 A.M., Land of Sky Regional Council
Minutes

Attendance:

Mark Burrows	Vicki Eastland	Zia Rifkin	Forest Gilliam
Sara Nichols	Daniel Sellers	Kris Boyd	Denise Braine
Daniel Cobb	Jay Swain	Brian Burch	Kristina Solberg
Karen Kiehna	Steve Williams	Joel Setzer	Erica Anderson
Jim Trogdon	Cole Hood	Rick Tipton	Steve Cannon
Terry Arellano	Kevin Teater	Lyuba Zuyeva	Jonathon Woodard
David Guchiano	Bucky Galloway	Justin Delancy	Tristan Winkler
Christy Stanat			

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Chairman Burrows called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00am; he welcomed everyone in attendance and introductions followed. He recognized Transportation Secretary, Jim Trogdon, present at today's meeting to provide a presentation on NCDOT matters. He communicated that the Agenda needed approval with no modification requested.

Kris Boyd moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Denise Braine seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one made any public comments.

A Presentation by Secretary of Transportation Jim Trogdon

Jay Swain introduced Transportation Secretary Jim Trogdon, appointed by Governor Cooper in January 2017, and he provided background on Secretary Trogdon's accomplishments.

Secretary Trogdon shared that it is very important to him to see where communities are regarding transportation projects in their jurisdictions. Priorities identified by NCDOT include improving project delivery. Secretary Trogdon shared that his department is working to improve time for project development from the current 10 years to three years and the divisions will be more engaged in the project delivery process. Due to the challenge of slow delivery, NCDOT has been accumulating a cash balance since 2012 that is currently at \$3.3 billion. He communicated that projects in the deliverable part of the STIP will be accelerated, as possible, in order to get the cash balance down to \$1 billion by next summer. That is an important goal since when the General Assembly was considering the Connect NC (infrastructure) bonds, they did not approve transportation bonds in \$1.4 billion due to the cash balance that NCDOT was carrying. Secretary Trogdon shared that NCDOT does not want to create a peak and then another trough. With the state's tremendous growth, NCDOT will need to continue delivering at that higher rate and in order to do that, the General Assembly (GA) will be requested to revisit the bond proposal (range of \$2 to \$3 billion) in order to maintain that higher level of delivery through the next five years.

During the next five years, NCDOT will work with the transportation regions and the GA to determine how to develop transportation in the state as technologies are changing and it is anticipated that revenues from fuel taxes will be declining. This will lead to a need to supplement and then replace the fuel consumption tax. Secretary Trogdon shared that by 2025, fueled vehicles will be required to get 55 miles to the gallon, but most vehicles by that time will be electric. He communicated that NCDOT will be working with local governments to find the funding for transportation projects.

Another important project at NCDOT focuses on how to improve safety on the roads, as the state ranks fifth in the nation for motor vehicle fatalities. Most fatalities are due to driver behavior (distracted, etc.). He shared that NCDOT is looking for new partners and plans to reach out to find partners for its programs. Secretary Trogdon continued that right now, regarding strategic transportation investments, all divisions use the same criteria for Division Tier projects, which is illogical since all transportation regions are different. To compliment that, and by also combining some funds in the Highway Fund and adding some funds to it to merge economic development in order to provide a much faster turnaround on those smaller projects that are important to jurisdictions. He shared that the original intent of STI was not to have jurisdictions wait four or five years for an opportunity for transportation projects to be built. He also shared that he anticipates that the GA will easily pass the bill that will allow projects less than \$2 million in cost to advance through the process more quickly.

Secretary Trogdon shared that the third priority, beyond improving mobility, is to use emerging technologies- especially regarding freight, etc. to provide technological solutions including modeling capabilities for freight and freight movement through the state. Tremendous demand in the urban corridors and in the rural areas to move freight through. Then, NCDOT plans to consider the application of future technologies- the obvious one is un-manned aircraft (20,000 drones are currently registered in the state). Un-manned aircraft have many uses including mapping; assessing traffic conditions, etc. and the technology can be expanded to other industries as well including law enforcement. Trained pilots are available, but not the ideas where this technology can be applied. In addition, the state is expecting tremendous growth for self-driving vehicles, which will change historically used transportation models. Self-driving vehicles

could make transportation a lot cheaper for mobility of passengers and goods. NCDOT's goal is to position the state to take advantage of that and plan for the environment that will create. Secretary Trogdon closed his remarks by reiterating the importance of feedback on how to increase transportation solutions in the regions.

Questions/Answers (on projects/timelines/etc.)

Chairman Burrows commented that NCDOT's process is extremely effective right now. He inquired about assistance for public transportation to move elderly folks about (to nutrition sites and other necessary destinations). Secretary Trogdon shared the importance of access to para-transit services and how those have been underutilized. While the president's proposed budget is not transportation friendly, the recently passed continuing resolution showed that congress does believe transportation projects are important. Right now, NCDOT is glad to collaborate and find solutions. He noted that currently there is an assessment being conducted by David Howard to determine solutions.

Forrest Gilliam thanked Secretary Trogdon and shared that small rural counties have real transportation needs and the county is happy to see those needs being addressed. Discussion occurred regarding the disadvantage that small counties face due to construction costs. Secretary Trogdon clarified that if the GA passes a bond initiative for transportation, the bonds would go to STI at the division and regional tiers. When the process was developed, the statewide tier was for those projects that were of importance to the state as a whole.

Discussion occurred regarding NCDOT establishing an integrated corridor-planning unit. Vicki Eastland shared that the objective was to do additional in-depth corridor studies. Secretary Trogdon commented that those could sometimes span more than one region's CTP.

Chairman Burrows thanked the Secretary for being at today's meeting.

Informational only.

ADOPTION OF THE PREVIOUS TCC MINUTES

Karen Kiehna moved to approve the February 9th TCC minutes as presented. Sara Nichols seconded and as all were in favor, the motion carried.

RPO BUSINESS

Approval of LOSRPO FY 2017 Planning Work Program (PWP) Amendment: Vicki Eastland shared that the amendment is being requested as the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) updates have been delayed necessitating moving funding to Prioritization (for SPOT planning). She noted that the Transportation Planning Branch (TPB) has approved the RPO moving forward with the amendment to the FY17 PWP.

Discussion occurred regarding the delay of the CTP and it was shared that the delay was due to restructuring at NCDOT and also the CTP process update is going on. Terry Arellano shared that the TPB is moving toward getting the CTP's going. Sometime around late summer or fall is the expected rollout of the new process. Vicki Eastland commented that some preliminary work will begin in FY17.

Kris Boyd moved to recommend that the LOSRPO TAC approve the amendment to the FY2017 PWP as presented. Denise Braine seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Prioritization Update: Vicki Eastland shared that as Secretary Trogdon mentioned- RPOs and division staff are being tasked with looking at how RPO projects are scored. Vicki Eastland shared that she will be reaching out to TCC members for direction on what to discuss and how the RPO can benefit from the proposed changes.

No action required at this time.

REGULAR UPDATES

NCDOT Division 13 and Division 14 updates
Transportation Planning Branch Updates.
Legislative Updates
Staff Updates and Housekeeping

ADJOURNMENT

Karen Kiehna moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded and the meeting stood adjourned.

Staff recommended action:

Review meeting minutes and approve

4. RPO Business

Item 4A. Review LOSRPO 2018-2027 STIP

NCDOT initially released Draft 2018 – 2027 State Transportation Improvement Plan STIP in January 2017. Public comment was gathered at regional input sessions and online from March 28th – May 9th.

During the public comment period, changes were implemented to accelerate projects in the STIP. NCDOT also updated the revenue forecast, which allowed an additional 144 projects to be funded.

The 2018-2027 STIP was initially scheduled to be approved at the June 2017 meeting of the N.C. Board of Transportation. Approval was delayed to allow time for the document to be updated and for another public comment period, June 28th – July 12th. At the August 3rd Board of Transportation Meeting the final STIP was approved.

Please Visit http://www.landofsky.org/pdf/LGS/RPO/RPO_STIP_2018.pdf to see Land of SKY RPO's 2018 – 2027 STIP.

Land of Sky RPO additions:

- R-5764, Cove Creek Road Slide area repair, Haywood County, funded with Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) funds.

- R-5765, US 276 improvements from Avery's Creek Trail head to US 64/NC 280 Pisgah Forest intersection. Funded with Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) funds.
- EB-5918, Pedestrian Improvements at Student Drop off Way/Derringer Drive.

Staff recommended action:

No action required informational only.

Item 4B: SPOT5.0 Presentation NCDOT Div 13/14 DPE's

NCDOT Division 13 DPE Brendan Merithew and Division 14 DPE will present to the TCC a review of the STI Law and Prioritization process and an update on SPOT5.0 Changes.

Staff Recommendations:

No action required informational only

Item 4C: LOSRPO DRAFT Project List for submission to SPOT5.0

In this round of prioritization, Land of Sky RPO has 15 new Project submittals for each mode of transportation. In addition to new submittals, Land of Sky RPO has five carryover highway projects. Land of Sky RPO Staff has held meetings with staff and elected officials from each RPO county to gather input on the DRAFT LOSRPO SPOT 5.0 Project Submittal list. This list represents the Highway Projects; there are seven bicycle and pedestrian projects in Transylvania County/City of Brevard and eight remaining Bike/Ped slots. Land of Sky RPO will continue to enter projects into the SPOT Online tool for testing, and work with NCDOT Division 13/14 staff as well as SPOT office staff to improve submitted projects. The final list will come back before the TCC/TAC at the September meetings.

SPOTID	Project Category	Improvement Type	Specific Improvement	Specific Improvement Number	TIP #	Route Number	Route Name	From/Cross Street	To	Description	First County	Highest Division	SPOT 5 Status
H141279	Regional Impact	Modernization	Modernize Roadway	16		US 276	Jonathon Creek Road	US 19	I 40	Install paved shoulders on the median and outside shoulders with rumble strips. Construct or upgrade left turn lanes at various crossovers.	Haywood	14	Resubmit
H090857-A	Regional Impact	Modernization	Modernize Roadway	16		NC209		SR 1501 (Silvers Cove Road)	SR 1334 (Max Patch Road)	Highway 209 - Silvers Cove Road (SR 1501) to SR 1334 (Max Patch Road) (at Ferguson's Store) - Upgrade, Widen, and Guardrails	Haywood	14	Resubmit
	Regional Impact	Realign Multiple Intersections	Realign Multiple Intersections	21		US 276	Pigeon Road	ST 1134 (Crymes Cove Road)	SR 1131 (Raccoon Road)	Realign offset intersection of SR 1134/SR 1131/US 276.	Haywood		New Project
H090092-A	Regional Impact	Modernization	Modernize Roadway	16	R-2426	NC 208		US 25/70	NC212	US 25/70 to NC 212. Upgrade Two Lane Roadway.	Madison	13	Resubmit
H090092-B	Regional Impact	Modernization	Modernize Roadway	16	R-2426	NC 208		NC 212	Tennesseess State Line	NC 212 to Tennessee State Line. Upgrade Two Lane Roadway.	Madison	13	Resubmit
H090317	Division Needs	Capacity	Construct Roadway on New Location	5	R-5117		New Route	Marshall	Spring Creek Community	Construct Facility on New Location	Madison	13	Resubmit
H111159-B	Regional Impact	Capacity	Modernize Roadway	16		US 25		Smith Hollow Rd (SR 1393)	North Main Street (US 25/US70 Bus)	US 25/US 70 - Modernization (Marshall) from Smith Hollow Road (SR 1393) to North Main Street (US 25/US70 Bus) Incorporate Complete Streets Elements	Madison	13	Carryover/Modification
	Regional Impact	Capacity	Convet Existing Roadway to Superstreet			US25		Stanleys Store, just west of NC 251	Monticello Road	US25/70 Superstreet	Madison/Buncombe	13	New Project

SPOTID	Project Category	Improvement Type	Specific Improvement	Specific Improvement Number	TIP #	Route Number	Route Name	From/Cross Street	To	Description	First County	Highest Division	SPOT 5 Status
H129070-D	Regional Impact	Modernization	Modernize Roadway	16	R-2409D	US 64		Indian Creek Road (East end of R-2409C)	East of the east intersection with Flat Creek Valley Road (SR 1147)	Widen, Realign and Climbing Lanes	Transylvania	14	Carryover
H090858	Regional Impact	Modernization	Modernize Roadway	16		US 178		SR 1156 (Main Street) in Rosman	Middlefork Road	Widen, Realign, and Climbing Lanes	Transylvania	14	Resubmit/New Termini
H170251	Regional Impact	Access Management	Modernize Roadway	11		NC 280	Asheville Hwy	Norther Termini of R-5799	North Transylvania Fire Dept	Widen roadway and install median in existing 4 lane roadway and general access management to increase safety. Build to complete streets standards.	Transylvania	14	New Project
H170394	Regional Impact	Intersection Improvements	Realign Multiple Intersections	21		US64		S. Broad/N.Country Club/	S. Caldwell/US 64	Realign Intersections	Transylvania	14	New Project
H170396	Regional Impact	Widen Existing Roadway	Capacity	5		US64	Rosman Hwy	SR 1337 Clement Road	Just past Rosman Park n Ride	Widen existing roadway to 4 lane divided. Consider addition of shared use path within right of way	Transylvania	14	New Project
H090162	Division Needs	Capacity	Construct Roadway on New Location	5	R-2594	NC 215	Balsam Grove Sunburst, FH 32	US 64 at Cherryfield	SR 1326 (Macedonia Church Road) South of Balsam Grove	Construct Two Lanes on New Location	Transylvania	14	Carryover
H150561	Division Needs	Modernization	Modernize Roadway	11		SR 1512	(Ecusta Rd)	US 64	Old US 64 (Old Hendersonville Rd)	Modernize roadway, improve intersections, include curb and gutter, bike lanes and sidewalk.	Transylvania	14	Resubmit
H111128	Division Needs	Modernization	Modernize Roadway	16		SR 1533	Everette Farm Road	SR 1528	SR 1504	Upgrade Roadway. Proposed Typical Is 22' Paved Roadway with 6' Grass Shoulders. Current Typical Is Two Lane 18' Paved Roadway with 3' Grass Shoulders	Transylvania	14	Resubmit
H111133	Division Needs	Modernization	Modernize Roadway	16	R-5764	SR 1546	Neely Road/Chestnut Street	US 64	US 276	Modernize roadway, improve intersections, include curb and gutter, bike lanes and sidewalk.	Transylvania	14	Resubmit/New Termini
H111137	Division Needs	Modernization	Modernize Roadway	16	R-5765	SR 1116	North Country Club Road	Barclay Road	US 64	Upgrade Roadway to NCDOT standards, include curb and gutter, bike and pedestrian accommodations.	Transylvania	14	Resubmit/New Termini

SPOTID	Project Category	Improvement Type	Specific Improvement	Specific Improvement Number	TIP #	Route Number	Route Name	From/Cross Street	To	Description	First County	Highest Division	SPOT 5 Status
H090855	Division Needs	Capacity	Construct Roadway on New Location	5	R-5743		New Route - West Loop Minor Thoroughfare	US 64/276	US 64 (North to Allison Road)	New Route - US 64/276 to Nicholson Creek Road/US 64 - West Loop Minor Thoroughfare (Adjust northern termini to Chestnut Street)	Transylvania	14	Resubmit/New Termini
H170395	Division Needs	Modernization	Modernize Roadway	16		SR 1504	Old US 64	Chestnut	Ecusta Road	Modernize roadway, improve intersections, include curb and gutter, bike lanes and sidewalk.	Transylvania	14	New Project

Staff Recommendations:

Move to recommend this project list to the LOSRPO TAC for consideration and approval at their August 24th meeting.

Item 4D. LOSRPO Division Needs Alternate Criteria Memo

As encouraged by Secretary Trogdon, on June 12th, 2017, Land of Sky RPO staff met with NCDOT Division 13 and 14 staff as well as staff from all PO's within the Region G. High Country RPO, Isothermal RPO, Southwestern RPO, Greater Hickory MPO and French Broad River MPO.

The following Default Criteria changes were agreed upon:

- SPOT5.0 Regional Impact Default Criteria (no change).
- SPOT5.0 Division Needs **Division 13** Alternate Criteria (change), move 5% from Accessibility/Connectivity, to Safety. Result, Accessibility/Connectivity = 0% Safety = 15%.
- SPOT5.0 Division Needs **Division 14** Alternate Criteria (change), move 5% from Accessibility/Connectivity and Freight. Apply this to Pavement Condition. Result, Accessibility/Connectivity = 0%, Freight = 0%, Pavement Condition = 10%.

For alternate criteria to be used, each NCDOT Division and each MPO/RPO in the region or division must unanimously agree to use it and must send a memo from their TAC or Board Chair to the SPOT office by September 29th. If a Division/MPO/RPO does not wish to participate this also must be communicated to NCDOT SPOT office.

P5.0 Highway Criteria & Weights (Default)

Funding Category	<u>QUANTITATIVE</u>		<u>LOCAL INPUT</u>	
	Data		Division	MPO/RPO
Statewide Mobility	Congestion = 30% Benefit-Cost = 25% Freight = 25% Safety = 10% Economic Comp. = 10%	100%	--	--
Regional Impact	Congestion = 20% Benefit-Cost = 20% Safety = 10% Accessibility/Connectivity = 10% Freight = 10%	70%	15%	15%
Division Needs	Congestion = 15% Benefit-Cost = 15% Safety = 10% Accessibility/Connectivity = 5% Freight = 5%	50%	25%	25%

Note: Region(s) _____ and Division(s) _____ use Alternate Criteria & Weights

P5.0 Highway Criteria & Weights (**Division 13**)

Funding Category	<u>QUANTITATIVE</u>		<u>LOCAL INPUT</u>	
	Data		Division	MPO/RPO
Statewide Mobility	Congestion = 30% Benefit-Cost = 25% Freight = 25% Safety = 10% Economic Comp. = 10%	100%	--	--
Regional Impact	Congestion = 20% Benefit-Cost = 20% Safety = 10% Accessibility/Connectivity = 10% Freight = 10%	70%	15%	15%
Division Needs	Congestion = 15% Benefit-Cost = 15% Safety = 15% Accessibility/Connectivity = 0% Freight = 5%	50%	25%	25%

Note: Region(s) _____ and Division(s) _____ use Alternate Criteria & Weights

P5.0 Highway Criteria & Weights (**Division 14**)

Funding Category	<u>QUANTITATIVE</u>		<u>LOCAL INPUT</u>	
	Data		Division	MPO/RPO
Statewide Mobility	Congestion = 30% Benefit-Cost = 25% Freight = 25% Safety = 10% Economic Comp. = 10%	100%	--	--
Regional Impact	Congestion = 20% Benefit-Cost = 20% Safety = 10% Accessibility/Connectivity = 10% Freight = 10%	70%	15%	15%
Division Needs	Congestion = 15% Benefit-Cost = 15% Safety = 10% Accessibility/Connectivity = 0% Freight = 0% Pavement Condition = 10%	50%	25%	25%

Note: Region(s) _____ and Division(s) _____ use Alternate Criteria & Weights

Highway – Accessibility / Connectivity

Funding Category

Criteria Weight

Statewide Mobility	N/A
Regional Impact	10%
Division Needs	5%

Purpose – Improve access to opportunity in rural and less-affluent areas and improve interconnectivity of the transportation network.

50% - County Economic Indicator – Points are based on economic distress indicators:

- property tax base per capita
- population growth
- median household income
- unemployment rate

50% - Improve Mobility – If project upgrades mobility of roadway (e.g. eliminating signals), points based on travel time savings per user

Highway – Accessibility / Connectivity

Improve Mobility (Does project upgrade the roadway facility type?)

- Focus on improving how the roadway functions, with emphasis on enhancing traffic flow, removing/bypassing traffic signals, and increasing access control
- Eligibility based on combination of Existing Facility Type and Project Facility Type (see below)

Existing Facility Type (From)	Project Facility Type (To)
Two Lane Highway	Freeway
Two Lane Highway	Multilane Highway
Two Lane Highway	Superstreet
Multilane Highway	Freeway
Arterial (Signalized Roadway)	Freeway
Arterial (Signalized Roadway)	Multilane Highway
Arterial (Signalized Roadway)	Superstreet
Superstreet	Freeway
Superstreet	Multilane Highway

New Location (Freeway, Multilane Highway, Superstreet) and Upgrade Intersection to Interchange/Grade separation projects also eligible)

- If project is eligible, travel time savings per user is the measure

LAND OF SKY

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

Aug 24th, 2017

David Wasserman
STIP, Feasibility Studies,
and Strategic Prioritization (SPOT)
1534 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1534

Dear Mr. Wasserman:

This letter is to notify you of Land of Sky RPO's (LOSRPO) intent to utilize Alternate Criteria in this round of Prioritization, SPOT5.0. On June 12th, 2017, LOSRPO staff met with NCDOT Division 13 and 14 staff as well as staff from all PO's within the Triangle Area RPO, and High Country RPO, Isothermal RPO, Southwestern RPO, Greater Hickory MPO and French Broad River MPO.

The following Default Criteria were changed:

- SPOT5.0 Regional Impact Default Criteria (no change).
- SPOT5.0 Division Needs **Division 13** Alternate Criteria (change), move 5% from Accessibility/Connectivity, to Safety. Result, Accessibility/Connectivity = 0% Safety = 15%.
- SPOT5.0 Division Needs **Division 14** Alternate Criteria (change), move 5% from Accessibility/Connectivity and Freight. Apply this to Pavement Condition. Result, Accessibility/Connectivity = 0%, Freight = 0%, Pavement Condition = 10%.

Sincerely,

Brownie Newman, TAC Chair
Land of Sky Regional Rural Planning Organization

Staff Recommendations:

Review and discuss if LOSRPO wants to participate, Make recommendation to LOSRPO TAC for consideration at their August 24th meeting.

5. REGULAR UPDATES

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| E. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates | Division Staff |
| F. Transportation Planning Branch Updates | Daniel Sellers |
| G. Legislative Updates | Vicki Eastland |
| H. Staff Updates and Housekeeping | Vicki Eastland |

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings

Land of Sky RPO TAC – Thursday, August 24th 2017-11:30 AM (Prior to the FBRMPO Board Meeting) – LOSRC French Broad (Large) Conference Room

Land of Sky RPO ICC- Thursday, September 14th 2017-10:00 AM LOSRC French Broad (Large) Conference Room