

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

RPO Technical Coordinating Committee

September 12th, 2019 – 10:00 A.M., Land of Sky Regional Council

Agenda

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome and Introductions
Agenda Approval/Modifications

Forrest Gilliam
Forrest Gilliam

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS TCC MEETING MINUTES

A. Minutes from the RPO TCC May 9, 2019 Meeting

4. RPO BUSINESS

- A. LOSRPO Letters of Support for Rural Transit Providers FTA
5310 Elderly and Persons Living w/ Disabilities Applications
NCDOT PTD
- B. Regional Trail Work Group Update
- C. NCDOT I-26 Communications Plan
- D. Complete Streets Policy Update
- E. 2020 – 2029 STIP and SPOT6.0 Timeline updates
- F. Elect New TCC Chair and Vice Chair
- G. NCDOT Preliminary Engineering Project Suspension List

Vicki Eastland
Tristan Winkler
Wanda Austin
Vicki Eastland
Vicki Eastland
Vicki Eastland
Steve Williams

5. REGULAR UPDATES

- A. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates
- B. Transportation Planning Branch Updates
- C. Staff Updates

Division Staff
Daniel Sellers
Vicki Eastland

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

7. ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings

Land of Sky RPO TAC – Combined TAC & TCC Meeting on November 21, 2019 – LOSRC
French Broad (Large) Conference Room



3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS TCC MEETING MINUTES

A. Minutes from the RPO TCC May 9, 2019 TCC Meeting

RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
May 9, 2019 – 10:00 A.M., Land of Sky Regional Council
Minutes

Attendance:

Daniel Cobb	Vicki Eastland	Nick Kroncke	Zia Rifkin
Troy Wilson	Jodie Ferguson	Joy Fields	William High
Wanda Austin	Steve Williams	Stephen Sparks	Matt Cable
Chris Lee	Lonnie Watkins	Chris Medlin	Jeff Moon

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Chair Daniel Cobb called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00am; he welcomed everyone in attendance and requested introductions. He communicated that the agenda was presented for approval with no modifications requested.

Matt Cable moved to approve the agenda as presented. Jodie Ferguson seconded and the motion carried as all were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

ADOPTION OF THE PREVIOUS TCC MINUTES

Matt Cable moved to approve the February 14, 2019 TCC minutes as presented. Steve Williams seconded and as all were in favor, the motion carried.

RPO BUSINESS

State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) Presentation: Stephen Sparks shared a presentation on NCDOT's State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). He communicated that when the STI was signed into law in 2013, it designated three funding streams. Funds utilized by NCDOT come from the gas tax, DMV fees and highway use tax. These funds are distributed among the funding streams. He explained

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the funding for the highway use tax comes from vehicle taxes (3% on the purchase of a vehicle). The highway fund holds funds for highway maintenance, among other uses. The highway trust fund contains the funds that are utilized to fund the STIP, among other things. Funding is received from the federal government and an annual appropriation is made by the General Assembly (GA), as well. Vicki Eastland explained that the GA set a floor that the funding would not go below a certain level a couple of years ago. Stephen Sparks shared that the FAST Act stipulated a flat amount of funding and gas tax revenue is added to that to make the annual appropriation in the federal budget. STIP expenditures include administrative costs, and funding for the RPOs and MPOs. Other items are funded STIP monies, as well. Funding for the STIP covers cost increases and overruns for projects that are currently under construction. Statewide Mobility projects is funded first including bridges. The funding for Division Needs projects is divided evenly among all NCDOT divisions. The new STIP is then funded after all ongoing Division Needs obligations have been met. Stephen Sparks reviewed the timeline for funding as projects are scored and approved for inclusion in the STIP. The draft 2020-2029 STIP was released in January 2019 and \$27.8 billion dollars is planned for the 2020-2029 STIP. Projects in draft 2020-2029 STIP (selected through STI-p.3, p.4, and p.5.0). All roadway projects in the state, programmed through prioritization, are funded through the STIP. Per capita funding for divisions in the STIP show that divisions 13 and 14 fare better due to the I-26 projects. The draft 2020-2029 STIP also schedules adjustments to projects (scope changes, etc.). NCDOT is working to improve cost estimations in the STIP by conducting express designs, utilizing corridor development engineers, and improved project scopes when submitting projects, and includes an NCDOT policy for reprioritization of committed projects when cost estimations rise greatly. He noted that the committed window in the STIP has been increased to the first 6 years for projects, which are committed.

Informational item only. No action required.

"So, Your Project is Funded, Now What?" Steve Williams shared a presentation on the process that happens once a transportation project is funded by NCDOT. He noted that it takes a long period of time from project prioritization to it being funded. He shared about the project life cycle, noting that all projects are "stored" in plans developed by RPO member governments in the transportation planning region. Steve shared about project planning, which is either done by the divisions or overseen out of Raleigh. He noted that over time, more and more projects are being handled by the divisions. A project kickoff meeting is the start of project development. In the RPO region, project development begins with a stakeholders meeting. At this point in the process, available traffic information is utilized as are environmental reports. The purpose and need statement is also developed for projects, which utilizes information collected from stakeholders and public input. Moving into the design phase, technical services include noise analysis, among other analyses. Plans proceed until projects are "let". Public workshops are included in the planning and analysis phase. Along the way,

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designs are submitted for review as part of the continuous process of project development. Traffic management determines how traffic would be moved around construction zones. The mountainous region allows for variances to normal construction zones. The design exceptions checklist protects the engineer(s) when designs vary from accepted norms. When consultants submit the 25% plans, things heat up, including another level of review by NCDOT divisions. At this point, plans are good enough to start working hydraulic plans, which includes another round of reviews and geo-technical recommendations. Very preliminary quantities are beginning to be firmed up, including structure plans, utility plans, etc. combined field inspection is when all entities provide feedback to consultants to address concerns about projects. When plans are complete, ROW acquisition occurs. Utility relocation occurs at this point. Ninety-100% plans are very similar and include structure plans, pavement marking plans, and other plan elements that are submitted for review. Final plans are submitted when all reviews are completed and adjustments to plans are made. Permits are given once a project lets. The goal is to deliver quality plans and receive accurate bids from potential contractors. Other goals include reducing cost overruns and bringing projects in on time. Having a good set of plans also increases construction zone safety. Community involvement is important throughout the process, and, ultimately, the process is supposed to be transparent. Integrated Project Delivery (IPD) does a lot of the environmental work up front, before the design process begins.

Discussion occurred about the environmental process, including the NEPA merger process and concurrence. Vicki shared that the presentations would be provided to LOSRPO members.

Informational only- no action required.

LOSRPO FY 2020 Planning Work Program (PWP) Approval: Vicki Eastland reviewed the FY 2019/2020 PWP with the TCC. She explained that the PWP is very similar to last year's work program. She shared that the RPO would be working with the MPO on the CTP for the rural areas of Buncombe and Haywood County as well as the CTP for Transylvania County. The total for the PWP for FY 19/20 is \$132,969, which includes 80% federal funds and 20% match from member governments.

Stephen Sparks moved to recommend that the LOSRPO TAC approve the FY 2019/2020 Planning Work Program. Matt Cable seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

SPOT5.0 and SPOT 6.0 Updates: Vicki Eastland shared an update on the upcoming schedule for Prioritization 6.0 timeline and the next steps for LOSRPO. She noted that the workgroup has wrapped up and recommendations have been sent to the Board of Transportation for SPOT6.0. The workgroup has recommended that projects in the first six



years of the STIP are considered committed not the first five as in previous rounds. This could change going forward. Vicki Eastland noted that local meetings would begin in June and the draft list must be completed by August. Projects would be entered into the SPOT tool in September and final projects are approved in October.

Vicki Eastland also reviewed when local input points are due for Division Needs and Regional Impact. The schedule is included in the methodology. She explained about flexing points from one tier to another, which would be the only change to the scoring methodology.

Information item only- no action required.

REGULAR UPDATES

NCDOT Division 13 and Division 14 Updates
Legislative Updates
Staff Updates

Chair Cobb introduced Brian Brighthill, a new employee with the City of Brevard

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Joy Fields moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Williams seconded and the meeting adjourned.



4. RPO Business

Item 4A LOSRPO Letters of Support for Rural Transit Providers FTA 5310 Elderly and Persons Living w/ Disabilities Applications NCDOT PTD

NCDOT Public Transit Division (PTD) requires public transit providers to reach out to their MPO/RPO planning partners for letters of support for their applications for Federal Transit Agency (FTA) Section 5310 funds. The (FTA) **Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for seniors and Individuals with Disabilities** provides funds for programs and projects aiming to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation service and expanding mobility options.

Staff Recommendations:

Review the DRAFT Resolutions of Support, vote to recommend those go to the RPO TAC for approval.

Item 4B Regional Trail Update

Tristan Winkler, FRBMPO Director will provide a brief presentation to the group on a regional trail concept being developed by a Regional Trail Workgroup made up of representatives from local governments and non-profits from across the state. The Regional Trail Plan is anticipated to document a vision of a connected trail system, based on local plans, as well as a brand.

Staff Recommendations:

No action required Information only.

Item 4C: NCDOT I 26 Communication Plan

There is currently several projects programmed to widen I-26 from Hendersonville to Weaverville. Disruptions from construction are expected as with any major transportation improvement project. NCDOT staff will explain the plan to communicate upcoming construction activities on the I-26 corridor and efforts to mitigate traffic disruptions.

Staff Recommendations:

No action required Information only.



Item 4D: NCDOT Complete Streets Policy Update

The NC Board of Transportation recently passed an update to its Complete Streets Policy. The complete policy documentation is available. One of the most exciting aspects of the new policy is the inclusion of alternate modes with the construction of highway projects and the updated cost share.

6.1 Complete Street Cost Share

The table below illustrates the funding responsibilities for Complete Streets incorporating bicycle and pedestrian and roadway public transportation facilities.

Complete Streets Cost Share			
Facility Type	In Plan	Not in Plan, but Need Identified	Betterment
Pedestrian Facility	NCDOT pays full	Cost Share	Local
Bicycle Facility	NCDOT pays full	NCDOT pays full	Local
Side Path	NCDOT pays full	Cost Share	Local
Greenway Crossing	NCDOT pays full	Cost Share	Local
Bus Pull Out	NCDOT pays full	Cost Share	Local
Bus Stop (pad only)	NCDOT pays full	Cost Share	Local

Bicycle and pedestrian and public transportation facilities that appear in a state, regional or locally adopted transportation plan will be included as part of the proposed roadway project. NCDOT will fully fund the cost of designing, acquiring right of way, and constructing the identified facilities.

Item 4E: 2020 – 2029 STIP and SPOT6.0 Timeline updates

The **2020-2029 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)** was developed between 2017-2019 through NCDOT's prioritization process, SPOT 5 or P5.0. The STIP is made up of highway and non-highway projects that use state or federal transportation funds. Some projects are carried over from the previous STIP and others are a result of P5.0. The entire LOSRPO STIP can be viewed here http://www.landofsky.org/pdf/LGS/RPO/LOSRPO_2019STIP.pdf

The full statewide document can be viewed on the NCDOT website <https://www.ncdot.gov/initiatives-policies/Transportation/stip/Documents/2020-2029-final-stip.pdf>



SPOT6.0 Updates

NCDOT has released an updated schedule for P 6.0 that moves several key dates for the process. Here is a table of Key Dates in the process:

Prioritization Task	Estimated Date
Local Meetings to select project submittals	September 2019- January 2020
DRAFT Projects Submittal list	February, 2020
Final Project List Approved by LOS TAC	March 2020
Project Prioritization Public Survey	Winter-Spring 2019/2020
DRAFT Statewide Programmed Projects and SPOT Scores Released	End of February 2021
LOSRPO Local Input Point Methodology Due	March 1st, 2021
Local Input Points for Regional Input Projects Due	May 28th, 2021
Local Input Points for Division Needs Projects Due	October 29th 2021
DRAFT 2023-2032 STIP Released	February 2022

Staff Recommendations:

No action required Informational only.

Item 4F: Elect new TCC Chair and Vice Chair

LOSRPO TCC Chair Daniel Cobb is no longer with the City of Brevard. He is now the Town Manager of Mills River. The TCC needs to hold an election of officers. At their last election of officers the TCC elected Daniel Cobb, City of Brevard, as Chair and Forrest Gilliam, Madison County as Vice-Chair. The term is two years with the ability to serve two consecutive terms.

Staff Recommendations:

Nominate individuals and vote for new officers

Item 4G: NCDOT Preliminary Engineering Project Suspension List

NCDOT Cash Balance Updates: NCDOT has suspended work on a number of projects due to concerns of maintaining a minimum cash balance. More than 900 projects across the state are impacted. Projects impacted in our region include (incomplete sentences are from the NCDOT memo):

Div	County	Project ID	Description
13	BUNCOMBE	A-0010AA	I-26 (US 19-23)FROM SR 1781 (BROADWAY STREET) - EXIT 25
13	BUNCOMBE	A-0010AB	I-26 (US 19/23)FROM US 25 TO SR 2007 (MARS HILL HIGHWAY)
13	BUNCOMBE	A-0010AC	I-26(US 19/23)FROM SR 2207 (MARS HILL HIGHWAY) TO SOUTH OF S
13	BUNCOMBE	U-6173	US 25/US 70 FROM NORTH OF SR 1584 (TILLERY BRANCH ROAD) TO S
13	BUNCOMBE	I-4759	Convert grade separation to an interchange and construct two lane roadway on I-40 at SR 1228 (Liberty Road) from US 19-23/NC 151 to SR 1224 with part on new location
13	BUNCOMBE	I-6054A	I-40 BUNCOMBE & HAYWOOD COUNTIES FROM US 74(SMOKY MOUNTAIN E
13	BUNCOMBE	I-6054B	I-40 BUNCOMBE & HAYWOOD COUNTIES FROM NC 215 (CHAMPION DRIVE
13	BUNCOMBE	I-5889B	I-40 BUNCOMBE COUNTY Roadway Rehabilitation I-40 from MP 46
13	BUNCOMBE	U-5973	US 19 BUSINES AND SR 1740 (NEWSTOCK ROAD) CONSTRUCT INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS
13	BUNCOMBE	U-5972	NC 63 (NEW LEICESTER HWY)NC 63 (NEW LEICESTER HIGHWAY) FRM N
13	MADISON	B-5895	REPLACE BRIDGE 67 OVER FRENCH BROAD RIVER ON US 25/US 70
13	MADISON	BR-0089	Replace Bridge 560015 on NC212 over Shelton Laurel Creek
13	MADISON	R-5837	US 25, FROM US 25/70 BUSINESS (NORTH MAIN STREET) TO SR 1143
13	MADISON	R-5924	US 25/ 70 FROM EAST OF SR 1392 (SKYWAY DRIVE) TO US 25/70 BU
14	HAYWOOD	B-3186	REPLACE BRIDGE 155 & 158 OVER RICHLAND CREEK ON US 23-74 NBL
14	HAYWOOD	B-5541	REPLACE BRIDGE 236 OVER SR 1513 ON I-40
14	HAYWOOD	B-5898	REPLACE BRIDGE 168 OVER US 19 AND US 23 ON US 23/US 74
14	HAYWOOD	B-5982	US 74 REPLACE BRIDGE 430095 OVER SOUTHERN RAILROAD.
14	HAYWOOD	BR-0022	Bridge 430122 on US 19,23,74 SBL over NC 209

14	HAYWOOD	I-5834	I-40 FROM MILE MARKER 27 TO MILE MARKER 34. PAVEMENT REHABIL
14	HAYWOOD	I-5924	I-40 - HAYWOOD COUNTY FROM MILEMARKER 15 TO MILEMARKER 20.5.
14	HAYWOOD	I-5928	I-40 - HAYWOOD COUNTY FROM MILEMARKER 34 TO BUNCOMBE COUNTY
14	HAYWOOD	I-6051	I-40 HAYWOOD COUNTY FROM MILEMARKER 20 TO MILEMARKER 27. PAV
14	HAYWOOD	R-5921	RUS 276 (JONATHAN CREEK) FROM US 19 TO I-40 UPGRADE. MODERNI
14	HAYWOOD	U-6159	US 276 (RUSS AVENUE) FROM US 23-74 (GREAT SMOKEY MOUNTAIN EX
14	HAYWOOD	U-6160	US 19 (SOCO ROAD) FROM SR 1304 (FIE TOP ROAD AT GHOST TOWN I
14	HAYWOOD	U-6172	US 23/US 74 GREAT SMOKEY MOUNTAINS EXPRESSWAY FROM SR 1777 (
14	TRANSYLVANIA	R-2409D	US 64 FROM NC 107 AT CASHIERS TO US 178 AT ROSMAN
14	TRANSYLVANIA	R-5763	SR 1540 (WILSON ROAD) FROM SR 1504 (OLD US 64) TO US 276 UPGRADE
14	TRANSYLVANIA	R-5799	INTERSECTIONS OF US 64, US 276 and NC 280 CONSTRUCT
14	TRANSYLVANIA	R-5800	US 64 FROM US 276, FORTUNE COVE ROAD TO US 64 BUSINESS
14	TRANSYLVANIA	R-5882	US 64 (SOUTH BROAD STREET) TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY AT US 64 BUSINESS
14	TRANSYLVANIA	R-5919	US 178 (EAST MAIN STREET) AT SR 1156 (MAIN STREET) IN ROSMAN

Staff Recommendations:

No action required- informational only.

5. REGULAR UPDATES

- D. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates
- E. Transportation Planning Branch Updates
- F. Staff Updates

Division Staff
Daniel Sellers
Vicki Eastland

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings

Land of Sky RPO TAC – Combined TCC & TAC Meeting on November 21, 2019 – LOSRC
French Broad (Large) Conference Room