



Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee
Minutes – February 27, 2020

Attendees:

Vicki Eastland
 Zia Rifkin
 Matt Wechtel
 Maureen Copelof
 Bucky Galloway
 Jack Debnam

Stephen Sparks
 Steve Williams
 Kevin Ensley
 Troy Wilson
 Brian Burch
 Hannah Cook

Jason Chappell
 Aaron Bland
 Daniel Sellers
 Mark Gibbs
 Tyler Shelton

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Matt Wechtel called the meeting to order, welcomed attendees and requested introductions. He read the Ethics Statement, and inquired if there were any conflicts, which would preclude TAC members from voting on business items, to state such for the record, and to refrain from participating in the matter.

Kevin Ensley moved to approve the agenda as presented. Maureen Copelof seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

APPROVAL OF TAC MINUTES

Kevin Ensley moved to approve the minutes from the January 23 LOSRPO TAC meeting. Maureen Copelof seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

BUSINESS

P6.0 Update, DRAFT LOSRPO Highway Project List: Vicki Eastland shared that NCDOT has released an updated schedule for P6.0 that moves several key dates for the process. Vicki Eastland shared a list 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	Summer – Fall 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

In this round of prioritization, Land of Sky RPO has 16 new Project submittals for each mode of transportation. In addition to new submittals, Land of Sky RPO has five carryover highway projects, three in Transylvania Co. and two in Madison Co. 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 6.0 Project Submittal list. The list presented today represents the Highway Projects; there are bicycle and pedestrian projects in Transylvania County/City of Brevard and remaining Bike/Ped slots. There are Public Transit Projects in Transylvania County and potentially Madison County. 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 March meetings. The DRAFT LOSRPO P6.0 Highway Project list can be viewed here <http://landofskyrepo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/LOSRPO-DRAFT-Submittal-List.pdf>

Vicki Eastland shared that after the draft project list is approved, it would go out for public comment until next month. Projects on the draft list today would be under consideration for funding as part of the RPO's 2023-2032 TIP.

Jason Chappell moved to approve the Draft Project List for public comment. Jack Debnam seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Draft LOSRPO PWP – Vicki Eastland shared that the FY 2020-2021 Draft PWP has been submitted to NCDOT TPD for review. The Draft was approved by NCDOT and the LOSRPO TCC at their February 13 meeting. The format, which shows the breakout of direct charges to the RPO, travel and indirect to more accurately reflect the funding spent on specific tasks. For the most part the PWP is set up as a continuation of ongoing work RPO staff performs each year. Ongoing work includes continuation of the CTP process in Transylvania County and the possibility of beginning the CTP process in Madison County. Additionally, costs for website update/maintenance, quarterly reporting and invoicing are also included in the ongoing work.

Jack Debnam moved to approve the LOSRPO FY 2020-2021 Planning Work Program and the narrative. Jason Chappell seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

LOSRPO 2020 Meeting Schedule: Vicki Eastland shared the 2020 LOSRPO meeting schedule. She noted that TCC meetings would be held the second Thursday of the following months: February, March, June, August and a joint meeting in November.

The LOSRPO TAC meetings are planned for the fourth Thursday of the following months for 2020: February, March, June, August, and a joint meeting in November. Additional notice would be provided for all LOSRPO meetings.

No meeting cycles are planned for April, May, July, September or October. The meeting schedule is set up in order to meet specific SPOT and RPO reporting requirements.

Informational only – no action needed.

Elect New TAC Chair and Vice Chair: Vicki Eastland shared that because LOSRPO TAC Chair Charlie Landreth is no longer with the City of Brevard, the TAC needs to hold an election of officers. At the last TAC officer election Matt Wechtel, Madison County was elected as Vice Chair. The term for Chair and Vice Chair is two years with the ability to serve two consecutive terms.

Vice Chair Wechtel opened the floor for nominations. Consensus was reached for Vice Chair Wechtel to assume the Chairmanship. Vice Chair Wechtel accepted the nomination.

Maureen Copelof moved to approve Matt Wechtel as the new LOSRPO TAC Chair. Kevin Ensley seconded and the motion carried as all were in favor.

Nominations were opened for the Vice Chair slot. Kevin Ensley was nominated as the Vice Chair. He accepted the nomination.

Matt Wechtel moved to approve Kevin Ensley as the new LOSRPO TAC Vice Chair. Jason Chappell seconded and the motion carried as all were in favor.

Traffic Safety Presentation: Bucky Galloway, Western Regional Field Operations Engineer provided a presentation on Safety and Mobility Funding Programs and the roles of the Regional Traffic Staff. He explained the roles of regional traffic staff, noting that they get involved with TIP reviews, traffic control, etc. He focused on mobility project development and mentioned the Highway Safety Improvement Programs that attempt to mitigate hazards on roadways. These regional staff also review data on accidents and receive complaints from the public regarding hazards on the roadways.

Discussion occurred regarding the complaint process for hazards that affect safety on the roadways. NCDOT staff shared that a municipality and/or county may or may not be notified of safety complaints made about roadways in their jurisdictions.

Bucky Galloway shared about systemic efforts, which work to identify safety improvements for roadways throughout the state. Three programs are administered through NCDOT: Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) - federally funded, SPOT Safety (SS) Program and SPOT Mobility Program, which are both funded by the state.

Bucky Galloway reviewed typical safety (HSIP and SS) projects, which includes intersection improvements, corridor improvements and vulnerable user type projects. He shared a list of safety projects, which have been funded in the LOSRPO region since the beginning of 2018, and which cost nearly \$6 million in total. He noted that over the past ten years, NCDOT has realized a \$14 return on every \$1 spent, in terms of lives saved and reduced property damage. Due to limited resources, safety projects are prioritized. He also reviewed the SPOT Mobility program for those intersections and sections of roadway that experience significant, reoccurring congestion/delay. These projects are evaluated by the Congestion Management Group. In addition, school projects to alleviate congestion and delays do not have to go through the same evaluation process as other projects. Typical mobility projects include intersection and corridor improvements and school improvements. He noted that the first mobility

project funded in the state was Sweeten Creek Road at Mills Gap Road to construct a right-turn lane in the westbound approach.

Bucky Galloway shared his experience on how safety could be improved on NC roadways including reducing conflicts, particularly at intersections. He also reviewed a study regarding NCDOT synchronized streets (RCI/Superstreet). Another way to increase safety is by providing forgiving roadways and roadsides that have wide, paved shoulders. To increase safety on existing roads, upgraded design standards could be used. Another method to improve safety is to increase pedestrian infrastructure (sidewalks, pedestrian signals, etc.).

Vicki Eastland shared that when discussing projects for prioritization during the SPOT process, it is often necessary to consider safety improvements, like a Superstreet.

Discussion occurred regarding speed limits and safety. Bucky Galloway, shared that while speed limits are posted, people drive at the speed they feel comfortable with. There is a direct correlation between lower speed limits and increased safety.

Informational only, no action required.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.

REGULAR UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hannah Cook provided Division 13 updates.

Steve Williams provided Division 14 updates.

Daniel Sellers provided TPD updates.

Vicki Eastland provided staff and housekeeping updates.

ADJOURNMENT

Vicki Eastland adjourned the meeting, as there was no further business.