

# RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

**RPO Technical Coordinating Committee**

March 12, 2020 – 10:00 A.M., Land of Sky Regional Council

**Minutes**

**Attendance:**

William High	Vicki Eastland	Zia Rifkin	Daniel Sellers
Stephen Sparks	Steve Williams	Hannah Cook	Troy Wilson
Steve Cannon	Jodie Ferguson	Aaron Bland	Leigh Huffman
Scott Collier	Mark Pulliam	April Alm	Chris Lee

**WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING**

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

***Steve Williams moved to approve the agenda as presented. April Alm seconded, and the motion carried without further discussion.***

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were made.

**ADOPTION OF THE PREVIOUS TCC MINUTES**

***Jodie Ferguson moved to approve the February 13, 2020 TCC minutes as presented. Steve Williams seconded and as all were in favor, the motion carried.***

**RPO BUSINESS**

**P6.0 Update:** Vicki Eastland shared the following updated P6.0 schedule:

Prioritization Task	Estimated Date
Local Meetings to select project submittals	September 2019- January 2020
DRAFT Projects Submittal list	February, 2020
<b>Final Project List Approved by LOS TAC</b>	<b>March 2020</b>
<b>Alternate Criteria Deadline</b>	<b>May 1<sup>st</sup> 2020</b>
Project Prioritization Public Survey	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

She noted there were still some slots for alternate-mode projects if anyone has anything to submit. She also shared about alternate criteria, noting that at the Regional Impact tier, there would be no change to the criteria. For the Division Needs criteria, the following changes would be made: to allow 15% of the score determined by lane width. The deadline has been extended until August for submission of alternate criteria.

**Information only. No action requested.**

LOSRPO P6.0 Project List:

Vicki Eastland communicated that 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 carryover highway projects: two in Transylvania Co. and two in Madison Co.

Vicki Eastland shared about the Sharp Hollow Road project in Madison Co. that would be added to the draft project submittal list in the Division Needs Tier.

Vicki Eastland shared a brief overview of the prioritization process in the LOSRPO region. She noted that RPOs, MPOs and the Divisions work together to submit projects in the SPOT Online Tool. Projects come from comprehensive transportation plans, which include all modes of transportation. Projects are selected from CTPs; but could also be submitted from other sources if there is an extenuating reason. LOSRPO receives 16 submittals for each transportation mode. This round LOSRPO will have 1200 points at the Regional Impact tier and another 1200 points at the Division Needs tier. Once projects are submitted those are scored through the SPOT Office in Raleigh based on established criteria.

Both the TCC and TAC approved the DRAFT Highway Projects list during the February meeting cycle. There was an ad in the March 4 Mountain Express announcing the public comment period. RPO staff continues to enter projects into the SPOT Online tool working with NCDOT Division 13/14 staff as well as SPOT office staff to improve submitted projects. View the project list at <http://landofskyrpo.org/prioritization/>

**Steve Williams moved to recommend the Draft Project list submittal to the LOSRPO TAC for consideration of approval. Mark Pullium seconded, and the motion carried without further discussion.**

Traffic Safety Presentation: Scott Collier provided a Traffic Safety presentation on NCDOT safety and mobility funding programs and the roles of the regional traffic office. Three Regional Traffic Offices exist, which work with the divisions in the state. Roles include speed ordinances, school zones, work zones, they also review plans.

Discussion occurred regarding bundling of funds, known as companion funding, which could help a project get funded.

The development of safety projects begins with an initial request or a traffic/collision notice from an HSIP office. Three funding sources are utilized to fund projects and there are various levels of SPOT safety costs. HSIP (federal funds), SPOT Safety funds, SPOT Mobility funds. Projects are chosen and funded based on a benefit to cost ratio.

Scott Collier shared about the SPOT Mobility Program, which is a way of treating locations that have congestion and delay. A new part of this mobility program allows migration to congestion from school ingress/egress traffic flow. These projects do not have to go through the same evaluation process as other projects. Typical mobility projects include traffic signals, roundabouts, auxiliary turn lanes, directional crossovers/superstreet designs, multilane short segments and implement or improve signal systems.

Vicki Eastland noted that these are projects that come in from the divisions.

***Information item. No action requested.***

**REGULAR UPDATES**

NCDOT Division 13 and Division 14 Updates  
TPB Updates  
Legislative Updates  
Staff Updates

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT-**

***William High adjourned the meeting, as there was no further business.***