



Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee
Virtual Meeting via the Zoom Platform
Minutes – June 25, 2020

Attendees:

Chair Matt Wechtel (Madison County)
Zia Rifkin (Staff to the RPO)
Jason Chappell (Transylvania County)
Stephen Sparks (NCDOT Division 13)
Kevin Ensley (Haywood County)
Brownie Newman (Buncombe County)
Chris Medlin (NCDOT District 2)
Allen McNeill (Transylvania County)

Vicki Eastland (RPO Coordinator)
Troy Wilson (NCDOT Division 14)
Maureen Copelof (City of Brevard)
Steve Williams (NCDOT Division 14)
Jack Debnam (NCBOT-Rural Transit)
Erica Anderson (Land of Sky)
Allen McNeil
Brian Burch (NCDOT Division 14)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Matt Wechtel called the meeting to order at approximately 11:30am and welcomed attendees. He read the Ethics Statement, inquired if there were any conflicts, which would preclude TAC members from voting on business items, for members to state such for the record, and to refrain from participation in the matter.

Vicki Eastland called the roll and quorum was established. Chair Wechtel requested approval of the agenda, which was modified to move the P6.0 Update to the end of the business items, before the regular updates.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments received.

APPROVAL OF TAC MINUTES

Jason Chappell moved to approve the minutes from the March 26, LOSRPO TAC meeting. Brownie Newman seconded, and the motion carried upon a roll call vote, and without further discussion.

APPROVAL OF MODIFIED AGENDA

Maureen Copelof moved to approve the agenda as modified. Jason Chappell seconded, and the motion carried upon a roll call vote, and without further discussion.

BUSINESS

LOSRPO Planning Work Program (PWP) Amendment

The Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization (LOSRPO) is seeking Transportation Planning Branch approval for the amended FY 2020 Planning Work Program. RPO staff, who reviewed the current fiscal year planning work program and budget, identified shifts of

funding necessary to reflect actual work demands through the last three months of the fiscal year, deemed this amendment necessary. The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) recommended the changes on June 11, 2020. There is no change to the RPO's overall budget and RPO members will not be requested to provide money.

The following changes are recommended for approval:

IV-3 Lodging, Meals, Incidentals

- Due to the impacts of COVID-19, LOSRPO staff did not undertake the types of travel as staff would normally. For this reason, LOSRPO staff requests to shift funding to programs with ongoing work tasks. There are no changes to the specified deliverables, but the amount of money allocated for Lodging, Meals, and Incidentals is **reduced** by (\$1,744.68).

IV-5 Registration / Training

- Due to the impacts of COVID-19, LOSRPO staff did not attend anticipated Conferences. For this reason, LOSRPO staff requests to shift funding to programs with ongoing work tasks. There are no changes to the specified deliverables, but the level of funding allocated for Registration/Training is **reduced** by (\$735.00),

IV-6 Travel

- Due to the impacts of COVID-19, LOSRPO staff did not undertake the types of travel that staff normally would have undertaken. For this reason, LOSRPO staff requests to shift funding to programs with ongoing work tasks. There are no changes to the specified deliverables, but the amount of money allocated for Travel is **reduced** by (\$3,591.28).

II-4 General Transportation Planning

- Additional work for NCARPO items and Western RPO Meetings – **increased** by \$1,163.07.

II-2 Prioritization and Program Development

- Additional work demands for SPOT6.0 – **increased** by \$4,907.89.

Maureen Copelof moved to approve the PWP amendment. Jason Chappell seconded and the motion carried upon a roll call vote, and without further discussion.

Resolution of Support: City of Brevard Bike/Ped Planning Grant

City of Brevard staff are submitting for an NCDOT Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning Grant. A resolution of support is required from the RTAC. The deadline for application is June 30, 2020.

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE APPLICATION FOR PEDESTRIAN PLAN FUNDS BY THE CITY OF BREVARDY, NC

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statutes 136-211 enacted July 6, 2000, provides for the establishment of Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RPOs) to provide rural entities a cooperative and unified voice in project selection and funding, and enhance their involvement in integrated multi-modal transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Advisory Committee is the duly recognized transportation decision-making body of the Land-of-Sky Rural Planning Organization; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation has established a Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Grant which provides funding to projects that will result in comprehensive local bicycle and pedestrian transportation plans; and

WHEREAS, the City of Brevard, North Carolina has decided to apply for funding from the Department of Transportation for a comprehensive bicycle and pedestrian plan for the application cycle that ends June 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Advisory Committee finds it in the best interest of the Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization to endorse the City of Brevard's application.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee hereby endorses the application by the City of Brevard and, if the project is selected, will provide technical assistance for the duration of the project.

ADOPTED: This the 25th Day of June 2020.

Vicki Eastland clarified that this NCDOT grant requires a 20% local match and the City of Brevard would provide the 20% local match funding to the planning grant, should the application gain approval.

Jason Chappell moved to adopt the LOSRPO Resolution of Support for the City of Brevard's Bike and Pedestrian Planning Grant. Kevin Ensley seconded, and the motion carried upon a roll call vote, and without further discussion.

P6.0 Update

The Schedule has changed:

Prioritization Task	Estimated Date
Final Project List Approved by LOS TAC	March 2020
SPOT Online Closes for submitting projects	July 31st
DRAFT Identified Needs Due for Hwy Projects	September 11, 2020
Area Specific Weights due	October 23rd
Final Identified Needs and Complete Streets Project sheets due for all projects (Hwy and Non-Hwy)	April 23 rd , 2021
DRAFT Programmed Statewide Mobility Projects and Quantitative Scores for all projects released	End of May, 2021
Local Input Point Assignment Methodologies Due	June 1, 2021
Local Input Points for Regional Impact Projects Due	August 27 th , 2021
DRAFT list of Programmed Regional Impact Projects	End of October, 2021
Local Input Points for Division Needs Projects Due	January 28 th , 2022
DRAFT 2023 – 2032 STIP Released	May 2022

Project List

Both the TCC and TAC approved the final project list at their March meetings. 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.

<http://landofskyrpo.org/prioritization/>

Steve Williams shared about HB 77, which is transportation related and going to referendum. If HB 77 passes, without change from the last version, it would provide \$107M for NCDOT's General Maintenance Reserve. Brian Burch shared that the Bill also provides the governor the authority to sell NC Build Bonds. He noted that the State elected not to put the NC Build Bonds up for sale back in May due to the virus. He also communicated that NCDOT is above the cash floor; how funding might be utilized has not been determined yet.

Information item only. No action requested

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments received.

REGULAR UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

NCDOT Division 13 & 14 Updates
Staff Updates (Vicki Eastland)

ADJOURNMENT

Kevin Ensley moved to adjourn the meeting. Jason Chappell seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 12:12pm.