

# RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

## RPO Technical Coordinating Committee

Virtual Meeting via the Zoom Platform

June 10, 2021 – 10:00 A.M.

### Minutes

#### **Remote Attendance:**

Chair William High	Vicki Eastland	Wesley Grindstaff	Aaron Bland
Troy Wilson	Stephen Sparks	Daniel Metcalf	Jodie Ferguson
Steve Williams	April Alm	Daniel Sellers	Forrest Gilliam
Chris Medlin	Lonnie Watkins	Hannah Cook	

#### **In-Person Attendance at Land of Sky Office:**

Zia Rifkin

#### **WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING**

Chair High called the meeting to order at approximately 10:01 am, welcomed everyone attending remotely and in-person, and roll was called. A quorum was announced to conduct business.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

***Forrest Gilliam moved to approve the consent agenda, consisting of the agenda and the May 13, 2021 TCC minutes. Jodie Ferguson seconded, and the motion passed upon a roll call vote, and without further discussion.***

#### **RPO BUSINESS**

##### **LOSRPO Draft P6.0 Local Input Point (LIP) Methodology:**

The NCDOT Strategic Planning Office of Transportation (SPOT) has been tasked with evaluating and programming transportation projects as stipulated in the Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) legislation, enacted on June 26, 2013. As part of STI, each MPO/RPO and NCDOT Division Office may assign local points to projects in the Regional Impact and Division Needs categories, but not the Statewide Mobility category.

NCDOT requires that the methodology include the following components:

- At least two criteria (with at least one being qualitative)
- Public involvement (on the proposed methodology, and the preliminary assignment of local input points to projects based on the approved methodology)

- Dissemination of methodology, local points, and public input on LOSRPO's website ([www.landofskyrpo.org](http://www.landofskyrpo.org))

Land of Sky RPO's Draft Local Input Point Assignment Methodology was sent to NCDOT SPOT office for review, and they returned minor edit requests, which have been incorporated in the DRAFT document. The requests were for spacing and removal of an extra parenthesis, an extra # symbol and 'to' on page 5, and in the FLEX policy to change 'RPO's' to organizations. The DRAFT Methodology has been advertised in the

Mountain Express for public comment. No comments have been received upon the drafting of this agenda. After review of any public comments the TCC may then recommend the draft methodology to the TAC for final approval at their June 24, 2021, meeting.

The tables below demonstrate the criteria that Land of Sky RPO plans to use to assign Local Input Points in SPOT 6.0.

Regional Impact Scoring												
Criteria	Max. Score Possible	Scoring Methodology										
SPOT Quantitative Score	50	Actual SPOT quantitative score from NCDOT (P6.0 regional scores on a 70-point scale, final results multiplied by 0.7143 to convert them to a 50-point scale)										
County Ranking	50	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>#1 Priority = 50 points</td> <td>#2 Priority = 45 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>#3 Priority = 40 points</td> <td>#4 Priority = 35 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>#5 Priority = 30 points</td> <td>#6 Priority = 25 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>#7 Priority = 20 points</td> <td>#8 Priority = 15 points</td> </tr> <tr> <td>#9 Priority = 10 points</td> <td>#10 Priority = 5 points</td> </tr> </table>	#1 Priority = 50 points	#2 Priority = 45 points	#3 Priority = 40 points	#4 Priority = 35 points	#5 Priority = 30 points	#6 Priority = 25 points	#7 Priority = 20 points	#8 Priority = 15 points	#9 Priority = 10 points	#10 Priority = 5 points
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Total	100											
Division Needs Scoring												
Criteria	Max. Score Possible	Scoring Methodology										
SPOT Quantitative Score	50	Actual SPOT quantitative score from NCDOT										
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The entire document can be viewed on the LOSRPO website.

[LOSRPO DRAFT P6.0 Local input Methodology](#)

***Aaron Bland moved to recommend the draft P6.0 Local Input Point (LIP) Methodology to the LOSRPO TAC for adoption, after the Public Hearing on June 24, at the LOSRPO TAC meeting. Forrest Gilliam seconded, and the motion carried upon a roll call vote and without further discussion.***

#### **Overview of NCDOT Division 14 Maintenance:**

Wesley Grindstaff, PE, NCDOT Division 14 Maintenance Engineer provided an overview of Division 14 Maintenance Division and operations.

Explanation was provided regarding NCDOT sub-units including the Bridge Maintenance Unit, which is responsible for the many aspects of bridge maintenance. Traffic Services and Engineering sub-unit fulfill some maintenance functions including traffic signal installation and maintenance, sign installation and maintenance, pavement markings and markers, specialty marking, IMAP, capacity and Impact analysis, speed limit and crash analysis, among other duties.

The Roadside Environmental Unit provide roadside shoulder mowing, contour slope mowing, herbicide applications, rest area operations, contract litter removal, wildflower and daylily programs and selective vegetation removal permits. Many of the roadside maintenance operations are performed by contractors. NCDOT provides the herbicide applications in-house.

The Bituminous Unit provides chip-seal operations, fog seals, the resurfacing program and pavement design throughout the State. This unit provides in-house services in the far western-most counties. In other areas, contractors are used to provide these services.

The final Division 14 maintenance operation unit reviewed was the Equipment Unit, which provides equipment support, fleet purchasing and repairs/upkeep. Wesley Grindstaff provided a listing of the maintenance contacts throughout the Division.

Discussion occurred regarding the number of mowing cycles, which was reduced last year due to budget issues. Wesley Grindstaff shared that normal mowing cycles, which is four to five per year have resumed. The cycle one mowing cycle has just concluded and cycle two is preparing to begin shortly.

Discussion occurred regarding the selection of the types of wildflowers and Wesley Grindstaff shared that there is a state-approved list of wildflowers. Native plants, which will grow in a specific region are preferred. It is also wildly dependent on the availability of seeds. Wildflower types are rotated among flower beds in order to give beds a rest. It was noted that the wildflower program is 100% funded through revenues from the wildflower specialty license plate. Grindstaff also shared that the daylilies are perennials and many of the wildflowers are annuals. Most wildflower beds contain a mixture of annual and perennial varieties.

***Information only, no action requested.***

**REGULAR UPDATES**

NCDOT Divisions 13 and 14 provided construction and project development updates.  
The Transportation Planning Division (TPD) provided an update.  
LOSRPO Staff provided an update.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were received.

**ADJOURNMENT-**

***Chair High adjourned the meeting at 10:53am as there was no further business.***