

LAND OF SKY

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

RPO Technical Coordinating Committee

August 11th, 2022 – 10:00 A.M., Land of Sky Regional Council and Zoom Platform.

[Join LOSRPO TCC Meeting](#) or call in: (301) 715-8592

Meeting Id: 843 0428 9469

Passcode: 482513

Agenda

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome and Introductions

William High

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. Consent Agenda

A. Minutes from the RPO TCC March 10, 2022, Meeting

William High

B. Agenda Approval/Modifications

William High

4. RPO BUSINESS

A. NC Clean Transportation Plan

Jen Weiss, NCDOT

B. Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Action Plan

Vicki Eastland

C. DRAFT 2023-2034 STIP Update

Vicki Eastland

5. REGULAR UPDATES

A. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates

Division Staff

B. Transportation Planning Division Updates

Daniel Sellers

C. NCDOT Integrated Mobility Updates

Alexius Farris

D. Staff Updates

Vicki Eastland

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

7. ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings

Land of Sky RPO TAC – Thursday August 25th, 2022 - 11:30 AM LOSRC Offices and Zoom

Land of Sky RPO TCC- Thursday October 13th, 2022 – 10:00AM LOSRC Offices and Zoom

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS TCC MEETING MINUTES

A. Minutes from the RPO TCC March 10, 2022, TCC Meeting

RPO Technical Coordinating Committee

Hybrid Meeting with the Zoom Platform

March 10, 2022 – 10:00 A.M.

Minutes

Remote Attendance:

Chair William High	Vicki Eastland	Stephen Sparks	Paul Justus
Jane Pies (minutes)	Chris Lee	Marshall Williams	Steve Cannon
Aaron Bland	Chris Medlin	Lonnie Watkins	Allen McNeill
Jodi Ferguson	Daniel Sellers	Daniel Metcalf	Erica Anderson
Steve Williams	Troy Wilson	Hannah Cook	Alexius Farris

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Chair High called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00am, welcomed everyone, and roll was called. A quorum was announced to conduct business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.

CONSENT AGENDA

Hannah Cook moved to approve the consent agenda, consisting of the agenda and the February 10, 2022, TCC minutes, with the modification of the date of last month's minutes being changed to February 10, 2022. Jodi Ferguson seconded, and the motion passed upon a roll call vote, and without further discussion.

RPO BUSINESS

LOSRPO PWP

LOSRPO staff shared the DRAFT 2023 LOSRPO Planning Work Program, (PWP) with the TCC and TAC at their February meetings. There have been no changes made. The PWP is a continuation of ongoing RPO projects. The funding is divided across the following categories.

- Transylvania County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)
- General Transportation category,
- Development of the 2024 – 2033 STIP
- SPOT 7.0
- Data Collection,
- Project Development and
- RPO Admin

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

RPO Direct charges, Travel, and indirect funds.

RPO Direct charges, Travel, and indirect funds

William High moved to recommend the Draft FY 2023 Planning Work Program (PWP) for approval by the Board. Aaron Bland seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

Elect New TCC Chair and Vice Chair

Because LOSRPO TCC Chair William High and Vice Chair Jodie Ferguson have served their two-year terms, the TCC needs to hold an election of officers. The RPO Bylaws state that officers can serve consecutive terms if they wish.

By consensus, all approved for William High to remain Chair, and Jodi Ferguson to remain Vice Chair.

NCDOT Complete Streets Update

Over the past few months, NCDOT staff have been working internally on updates to NCDOT's Complete Streets implementation approach. The Complete Streets Policy, originally adopted by NCDOT in 2012 and updated in 2019, is not changing, but NCDOT is proposing changes to how the policy is implemented. A new project evaluation methodology and flowchart were recently developed. Information provided in the pages linked below show a summary of the changes and next steps. This information was shared with LOSRPO staff as well as the North Carolina Association of RPOs in the past few months.

Joseph Furstenberg, NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division provided an update on the Complete Streets Implementation Policy.

Updated NCDOT Documents:

[-NCDOT's Complete Streets Implementation Guide](#)

[-NCDOT's Complete Streets Project Evaluation Methodology](#)

Joseph Furstenberg went over Complete Street's goals, the evolution of Complete Streets in NC, implementation challenges and offered a summary of new implementation guidance for project development. He also discussed next steps and resources.

Vicki Eastland asked if Title 6 and Environmental Justice were taken into consideration under the Complete Streets goals. Joseph Furstenberg confirmed that they are.

Complete Streets goals include reducing pedestrian crashes and unsafe conditions, improving access and mobility for those without a vehicle, enhancing quality of life by

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

providing transportation choices, and ensuring that NCDOT has an equitable transportation system that works for everyone. Complete Streets are important in NC as over 600,000 people are in households without a vehicle and about a million more have limited access to a vehicle.

Joseph Furstenberg shared that key challenges to implementation of the Complete Streets Policy include inconsistent implementation across divisions, lack of standard and a need to streamline, policy gaps in key areas, limited metrics, data and tracking and a need for enhanced training. These challenges led to a coordinated effort in 2021 to update the implementation guidelines. Proposed implementation improvements include a new project evaluation methodology to identify multimodal needs, selecting the appropriate facility type and assess impacts, and making modifications to the Implementation Guide to integrate new evaluation methodology to clarify key guidance areas.

The Complete Streets Project Evaluation Methodology process serves as guidance to aid in the evaluation of highway projects for Complete Streets elements. The five steps of this process include initial screening and data input, transportation need determination, facility type selection and final analysis. Several items for ongoing discussions on key issues were shared, to include:

1. Maintenance of separated multimodal facilities, particularly outside municipal boundaries
2. Inclusion of complete streets elements on maintenance projects
3. Harmonization of complete streets processes with the Project Delivery Network (PDN) including Planning and Express Design
4. Alignment of pedestrian/bike need determination between CTP and Complete Streets methodologies
5. Local coordination when determining bike/ped needs and choosing facility
6. Determining costs and benefits of complete streets elements
7. Incorporating complete streets elements in projects prior to programming

Three work groups have been set up by NCDOT to help address these key issues. Representatives from Divisions, other units and MPO/RPOs are included. Discussions are anticipated to occur between the end of March and July of this year.

Vicki Eastland asked if consideration through the identification process for economic impact on certain facilities, specifically in areas of active tourism. Joseph Furstenberg stated that this information is intended to be captured in local government and MPO/RPO coordination, but improvements will be made in the future.

Information only. No action requested.

LAND OF SKY

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

REGULAR UPDATES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.

ADJOURNMENT-

Chair High adjourned the meeting at 11 AM as there was no further business.

4. RPO Business

A. Item 4A: NC Clean Transportation Plan

Jen Weiss with NCDOT will present on the NC Clean Transportation Plan, which is currently in progress.

From the [project website](#):

In January 2022, Gov. Roy Cooper signed [Executive Order 246 \(EO 246\)](#), “North Carolina’s Transformation to a Clean, Equitable Economy,” setting the course for North Carolina’s continued work to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions, advance environmental justice and create good paying jobs throughout the state. This executive order builds upon 2018’s [Executive Order 80](#), which established a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent and increase zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) adoption to 80,000 vehicles by 2025.

EO 246 Goals

- Reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions to at least 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions no later than 2050.
- Increase the total number of registered, zero-emission vehicles to at least 1,250,000 by 2030 and increase the sale of ZEVs so that 50 percent of in-state sales of new vehicles are zero-emission by 2030.

Clean Transportation Plan

As part of EO 246, the N.C. Department of Transportation is tasked with developing a Clean Transportation Plan (NCCTP) within 15 months of the order. The NCCTP will recommend actionable strategies for decarbonizing the transportation sector and shall address:

1. Availability, sales, and usage of zero-emission vehicles to levels beyond current market projections, including a focus on medium- and heavy-duty ZEVs.
2. Reductions in vehicle miles traveled.
3. Investment in clean transportation infrastructure.
4. Equitable access to clean mobility options.
5. Increased availability of non-vehicle transportation modes.
6. A transition to zero- and low-emission fuels.
7. Other relevant topics.

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

To create the NCCTP, NCDOT will be collaborating with stakeholders to create plans for the rapid decarbonization of North Carolina's transportation sector. This process will take into consideration the diverse viewpoints of all stakeholders and the potential impacts of each recommendation.

Staff Recommendations: No action required information only

Item 4B Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Action Plan

What is Safe Streets for All?

Safe Streets for All (SS4A) is a new grant program offered through USDOT that was created as part of the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law aiming at achieving zero roadway death and serious injuries. It is a discretionary grant, meaning eligible entities may apply directly to USDOT for funding and USDOT makes awards based on the merits of proposals and other factors to ensure some level of geographic equity. \$5 billion is expected to be made available over the next five years for this program.

The Safe Streets for All program makes different types of funding available to help improve safety.

- Develop or update a comprehensive safety action plan (Action Plan).
- Conduct planning, design, and development activities in support of an Action Plan.
- Carry out projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan.

However, jurisdictions may not apply for implementation funding unless there is an Action Plan in place. A couple of jurisdictions have plans that have some parts of an Action Plan, but as of this writing, none have enough to be eligible to apply for implementation funds.

Proposed Application for the Region

The Land of Sky RPO staff recommends submitting a joint application for an Action Plan with the French Broad River MPO. This would create a five-county Action Plan for Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania counties, enabling jurisdictions in those areas to apply for implementation funds. This plan would include the following general elements:

- Community & Stakeholder Engagement
- Crash and Risk-Based Analysis
- Safety Hot-Spot Identification
- Project Recommendations
- Programmatic Recommendations

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

The current draft budget is for \$400,000 total. \$320,000 would be covered by the federal share (if successful) and \$80,000 would be required to come from non-federal sources. The NCDOT Safety Unit plans to make some State funding available for local match and MPO staff has been in discussions with other organizations to potentially alleviate or fully provide the local match as well.

Staff Recommendations: Recommend Approval of an RPO/MPO Action Plan Grant Application

Item 4C DRAFT 2023-2034 STIP Update

The Prioritization process for the development of the 2024-2033 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) has had a number of changes take place over the last month.

Financial Changes: The State budget includes a provision to begin transferring a percentage of State sales tax revenues to transportation funds. This is projected to generate \$4-6 billion over the next ten years. This additional funding has resulted in some projects being put back into the 2024-2033 STIP that were initially removed but not all the removed projects, and some project schedules have been adjusted.

Schedule Changes: due to the new funds being made available, the Prioritization Workgroup has recommended the deadline for proposing swaps be delayed until March 17, 2023.

General Schedule Moving Forward:

Revised Draft 2024-2033 STIP Released: Press release sent **August 8, 2022**

Project Swaps Due: **March 17, 2023**

State BOT Considers 2024-2033 STIP for Adoption: **May 2023**

Staff Recommendations: No action required information only

LAND OF SKY

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

5. REGULAR UPDATES

- A. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates
- B. NCDOT Transportation Planning Division Updates
- C. NCDOT Integrated mobility Division
- D. Staff Updates

Division Staff
Daniel Sellers, PE
Alexius Farris
Vicki Eastland

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings

Land of Sky RPO TAC – Thursday August 25th, 2022 - 11:30 AM LOSRC Offices and Zoom

Land of Sky RPO TCC- Thursday October 13th, 2022 – 10:00AM LOSRC Offices and Zoom

LAND OF SKY

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION