



Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee
Minutes – May 23, 2019

Attendees:

Vicki Eastland
Steve Williams
Troy Wilson
Stephen Sparks
Wanda Austin
Brownie Newman

Matt Wechtel
Charlie Landreth
Erica Anderson
Tristan Winkler
Hannah Cook
Nick Kroncke

Jason Chappell
David Wasserman
Kevin Ensley
Mark Gibbs
Ritchie Rozzelle

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Landreth called the meeting to order, welcomed attendees and requested introductions. He read the Ethics Statement, and requested, 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.

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

APPROVAL OF TAC MINUTES

Matt Wechtel moved to approve the minutes from the February 28, 2019 LOSRPO TAC meeting. Steve Williams seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

BUSINESS

State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Presentation: David Wasserman, PE, NCDOT STIP Western Region Manager, shared with the LOSRPO TAC about the State Transportation Improvement Program. He presented information about the funding distributions in the Draft 2020-2029 STIP. The Draft STIP is scheduled to be adopted by the Board of Transportation at their September 2019 meeting. He shared about the STI law and how it sets the framework for prioritization and project submittal. The funding comes from state dollars, where the legislature appropriates funds for various uses, on an annual basis in the budget. Funds are allocated between highway maintenance, transit and project development, among other uses. A little over \$1 billion is received annually from Federal highways, too.

Developing the STIP means looking into the future: fees are expected to grow slightly as are other funding sources. After 2020, funding scenarios would probably change due to

changes in the funding structure. Expenditures in the STIP include highway funds and preliminary engineering (PE) funding, among other funding categories. Some funds are used for mitigation and transition projects. Funding is also allocated for the three project tiers: Statewide, Regional Impact, and Division Needs. Funding is further defined in the project tiers. After all funding obligations are met, the remaining funds are available for projects submitted by the transportation Planning regions and the NCDOT divisions.

Mr. Wasserman shared that the STIP has many types of projects including Statewide Mobility, Regional Impact, and Division Need, selected through the prioritization process. It is roughly an even split between highway and non-highway projects in the STIP; however, funded highway projects account for approx. 90% in terms of the level of dollars committed. Challenges are being seen across the state with cost increases for committed projects. NCDOT is working on improving cost estimation for projects.

Informational Item. No action required.

So Your Project is Funded, Now What? – Steve Williams shared a presentation on the process that happens once a transportation project is funded by NCDOT. The presentation is available from LOSRPO or Steve can share it with you.

Informational only – no action needed.

LOSRPO FY 2020 Planning Work Program Approval – Vicki Eastland shared that the FY 2019-2020 Draft PWP has been submitted to NCDOT TPD for review. The Draft was approved by NCDOT and then by the LOSRPO TCC at their May 9 meeting. She noted that this is the second year with the format, which shows the breakout of direct charges to the RPO, travel and indirect. The funds shown for each line item of work should 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. The total PWP for FY 19/20 is \$132,969.

Matt Wechtel moved to approve the LOSRPO FY 2019-2020 Planning Work Program (PWP). Jason Chappell seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

SPOT5.0 and SPOT6.0 Update: Vicki Eastland provided an update for the upcoming schedule for Prioritization 6.0 timeline and next steps for LOSRPO. Key dates include local meetings to select project submittal (June-August 2019); Draft projects submittal list (September 2019); project prioritization public survey (winter/spring 2019/2020); draft statewide programmed projects and SPOT scores released (July 2020); LOSRPO local input point methodology due (July 31, 2020); local input points for Regional Impact projects due (October 30, 2020); local input points for Division Needs projects due (January 29, 2021); and, draft 2022-2031 STIP released (April 2021). These changes mean that there could be a joint TCC/TAC meeting in November.

Discussion occurred about the benefits of having a joint meeting. Vicki noted that the RPO now has 16 submittal spots for the STIP due to a slight increase in population in the planning region.

Informational only – no action needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

REGULAR UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hannah Cook provided Division 13 updates.

Steve Williams provided Division 14 updates.

Ritchie Rozzelle provided an update on the Strive initiative during the month of May in the region.

ADJOURNMENT

Brownie Newman moved to adjourn the meeting. Matt Wechtel seconded and the meeting adjourned.