

LAND OF SKY

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

RPO Technical Coordinating Committee

September 09th, 2021 – 10:00 A.M., Zoom Platform.

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

Agenda

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome and Introductions

William High

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the RPO TCC June 10, 2021, Meeting
- B. Agenda Approval/Modifications

William High

4. RPO BUSINESS

- A. Rural FTA 5310 Letters of Support
- B. NCDOT STIP Program Update
- C. NCDOT Value Assessment/Cost Containment Initiative

Vicki Eastland
Wanda Austin, PE
Hannah Cook, PE

5. REGULAR UPDATES

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

Division Staff
Daniel Sellers
Vicki Eastland

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

7. ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings

Land of Sky RPO TAC – Thursday September 23rd, 2021 - 11:30 AM TBD

Land of Sky RPO TCC- Thursday October 14th, 2021 – 10:00 AM TBD

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS TCC MEETING MINUTES

A. Minutes from the RPO TCC June 10, 2021, TCC Meeting

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:

LAND OF SKY

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

- 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)

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.

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

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
#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											
Total	100											
Division Needs Scoring												
Criteria	Max. Score Possible	Scoring Methodology										
SPOT Quantitative Score	50	Actual SPOT quantitative score from NCDOT										
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
#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											
Total	100											

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.

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

Traffic Services and Engineering sub-unit, which fulfills 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.

LAND OF SKY

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

ADJOURNMENT-

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

Staff Recommendation:

Review and adopt the minutes.

4. RPO Business

Item 4A: Rural Transit Providers FTA 5310 Elderly and Persons Living w/ Disabilities Application & RPO Letters of Support

NCDOT Public Transit Division (PTD) requires public transit providers to reach out to their MPO/RPO planning partners for letters of support for their applications for Federal Transit Agency (FTA) Section 5310 funds. The (FTA) **Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility for seniors and Individuals with Disabilities** provides funds for programs and projects that aim to improve mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities by removing barriers to transportation services and expanding mobility options.

There is no action required today, this is just a reminder that LOSRPO will provide the transit systems and any other eligible applicant, i.e., the Land of Sky Senior Companion Program, with letters of support.

Information only no action requested

Item 4B NCDOT STIP Program Update

Prioritization or SPOT is the process used to determine what projects from long-range plans will be moved to the State Transportation Improvement Program, the STIP. The process is governed by the Strategic Transportation Investments Act of 2012 (STI).

The State Prioritization workgroup at their July meeting reached a consensus that new projects would not be programmed through the current ongoing round of Prioritization SPOT 6.0 or P6.0 due to limited funding projected to be available in the 2024-2033 timeframe. The lack of projected available funding is largely due to cost increases of transportation projects committed in the STIP.

Basically, this means that P6.0 is being halted. The SPOT office will release the Quantitative Scores of projects submitted in P6.0 to help evaluate criteria and weights but no Local Input Points will be applied.

While there will be no new projects programmed from P6.0, the state is required to develop a new STIP. The State Prioritization workgroup will continue to meet and help to determine the process used to develop the STIP. These could include changes in schedule or phasing of committed projects, as well as other considerations.

Wanda Austin, PE, NCDOT Division 14 Division Engineer will provide an update on the NCDOT STIP Program.

LAND OF SKY

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY

August 18, 2021

MEMO TO: MPOs, RPOs, NCDOT Division Planning staff

FROM: Van Argabright, PE
Director, Division of Planning & Programming *Van*

SUBJECT: Prioritization 6.0 (P6) Schedule Halted

The P6 Workgroup met in July 2021 to review the latest update on funding availability for new projects resulting from P6 scoring. Bottom line is that low initial cost estimates coupled with rising right of way, utilities, and construction costs have caused the outlook for programming the future 2024-2033 STIP to be a major concern. When considering just currently committed projects, little to no funding will be available for programming of new P6 project submittals. The Workgroup reached consensus that moving forward with P6 local input points does not seem appropriate and recommended to the NC Board of Transportation that the remainder of P6 be halted. **SPOT shared this recommendation with the NCDOT BOT on August 4th and the Board Members concurred.**

The SPOT Office continues to finalize quantitative scores for P6 project submittals and intend to release this information in September 2021. The Workgroup continues to meet with NCDOT STIP staff on determining a solution to balance and schedule the future 2024-2033 STIP using a subset of existing projects from the currently adopted 2020-2029 STIP. The plan will be to present the draft 2024-2033 STIP to the Board of Transportation in the Fall of 2022.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Jason Schronce (SPOT Manager) via email to discuss. Thank you.

cc: Ronnie Keeter, Chief Engineer
Chris Peoples, Deputy Chief Engineer
Greg Burns, Eastern Deputy Chief Engineer
Brian Burch, Western Deputy Chief Engineer
Joey Hopkins, Planning Deputy Chief Engineer
Division Engineers
Lamar Sylvester, Director of Field Support
Christopher Werner, Director of Technical Services
Edward Parker, Assistant Division Administrator, FHWA – NC Division
George Hoops, Planning & Program Development Leader, FHWA – NC Division

Mailing Address:
NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF PLANNING AND
PROGRAMMING
1534 MAIL SERVICE CENTER
RALEIGH, NC 27699-1534

Telephone: (919) 707-4610
Fax: (919) 733-3585
Customer Service: 1-877-368-4968

Website: www.ncdot.gov

Location:
1 SOUTH WILMINGTON STREET
RALEIGH, NC 27601

Information only, no action requested.

Item 4C NCDOT Value Assessment/Cost Containment Initiative

With cost estimates and project costs continuing to increase, NCDOT has implemented a Value Assessment Initiative to reduce project costs by 10%. Each Project Team will consider Cost Containment measures to reduce the Construction and long-term Maintenance costs for a project in Development. These costs may include direct Construction costs, Right of Way costs, and Utility relocation costs. Cost Containment is important to ensure NCDOT is fiscally responsible and better meet programming goals for the benefit of North Carolina.

Hannah Cook, PE, Division 13 Planning Engineer will provide an overview of the Value Assessment/Cost Containment Initiative.

Information only, no action requested.

5. REGULAR UPDATES

- D. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates
- E. Transportation Planning Division Updates
- F. Staff Updates

Division Staff
Daniel Sellers
Vicki Eastland

ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings

Land of Sky RPO TAC – Thursday September 23rd, 2021 - 11:30 AM TBD

Land of Sky RPO TCC- Thursday October 14th, 2021 – 10:00 AM TBD