

# RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

## 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 STIPSPOT 7.0
- Data Collection
- Project Development
- RPO Admin
- 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 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.***

#### **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.***