

LAND OF SKY

# RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

## RPO Technical Coordinating Committee

Hybrid Meeting with the Zoom Platform

August 11, 2022 – 10:00 A.M.

### Minutes

#### **Remote Attendance:**

Chair William High	Vicki Eastland	Stephen Sparks
Jodi Ferguson	Chris Lee	Brendan Merithew
Forrest Gilliam	Kate Hayes	Allen McNeill
Jane Pies (minutes)	Daniel Sellers	Erica Anderson
Steve Williams	Troy Wilson	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**

***Jodi Ferguson moved to approve the consent agenda, consisting of the agenda and the March 10, 2022, TCC minutes. Forrest Gilliam seconded, and the motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote, and without further discussion.***

#### **RPO BUSINESS**

##### **Item 4A: NC Clean Transportation Plan**

Jen Weiss with NCDOT will present on the NC Clean Transportation Plan at the October 2022 meeting. The NC Clean Transportation Plan 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.

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.

**Information only. No action required. Presentation will occur at the October meeting.**

### **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

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.

Tristan Winkler presented on Safe Streets for All. A joint application is recommended across the region. Safety trends in our area are trending in the wrong direction, with too many motorcycle, bike and truck involved crashes. This puts an additional burden on local hospitals. An Action Plan is required to pursue the funds. NCDOT Safety Unit and a local non-profit are potential funders for the local match for the plan. Applications are due September 15, 2022.

***Jodi Ferguson moved to recommend approval for an RPO/MPO Action Plan Grant Application. Allen McNeill seconded, and the vote carried unanimously.***

### **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**

**Information only. No action required.**

**REGULAR UPDATES**

NCDOT Division 13 &14 construction and project updates given	Division Staff
NCDOT Transportation Planning Division updates given	Daniel Sellers, PE
NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division updates given	Alexius Farris
Staff Updates given	Vicki Eastland

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were received.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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