

Meeting Agenda

RPO Technical Advisory Committee

August 17th, 2023 – 11:30 – Land of Sky Regional Council and Zoom Platform

[Join LOSRPO TAC Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 893 8799 5811 Passcode: 102289

or call in: (646) 558-8656

1. WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

- A. Welcome and Introductions
- B. Ethics Statement

Matt Wechtel
Matt Wechtel

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. Consent Agenda

- A. Minutes from the RPO TAC May 18, 2023, Meeting Agenda Approval/Modifications
- B. Letter of Support for NCDOT Div. 13 Protect Grant

Matt Wechtel

4. LAND OF SKY RPO TAC BUSINESS Items

- A. LOSRPO FY 2024 PWP Amendment
- B. LOSRPO P 7.0 DRAFT Submittal list and updates
- C. Travel Demand TDM Update Presentation
Jon Barsanti

Vicki Eastland
Vicki Eastland

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

6. REGULAR UPDATES

- A. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates
Most Recent Updates <http://landofskyrpo.org/>
- B. NCDOT Transportation Planning Division
- C. NCDOT Integrated mobility Division
- D. Staff Updates and Housekeeping

Tim Anderson/Wanda Austin
(or designee)
Daniel Sellers, PE
Alexius Farris
Vicki Eastland

7. ADJOURN LOSRPO MEETING

Matt Wechtel

Upcoming Meeting

Land of Sky RPO TCC – Meeting on **September 14, 2023 – 10:00 AM Land of Sky Regional Council and Zoom**

Land of Sky RPO TAC – Meeting on **September 21, 2023 – 11:30 AM Land of Sky Regional Council and Zoom**

Meeting Agenda

Item 1B: Ethics Statement

ETHICS AWARENESS & CONFLICT OF INTEREST REMINDER

(To be read by the Chair or his or her designee at the beginning of each meeting)

In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every Board member to avoid conflicts of interest. Does any Board member have any known conflict of interest with respect to any matters coming before the Board today? If so, please identify the conflict and refrain from any participation in the particular matter involved.

Consent Agenda

Technical Advisory Committee

Hybrid Meeting with the Zoom Platform
May 18, 2023 – 11:30 A.M.

Attendance:

Chair Matt Wechtel (Madison Commission)
Tristan Winkler (FBRMPO)
Steve Williams (NCDOT Division 14)
Stephan Sparks (NCDOT Division 13)

Vicki Eastland (RPO Coordinator)
Troy Wilson (NCDOT Division 14)
Hannah Cook (NCDOT Division 13)

Remote Attendance

Mac Morrow (Brevard Council)
Larry Chapman (Transylvania Commission)
Darby Terrell (Transylvania County)
Kevin Ensley (Haywood Commission)

Chuck McGrady (NCBOT)
Jane Pies (Minutes)
Daniel Sellers (NCDOT, TPD)
Alexius Farris (NCDOT, IMD)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair, Matt Wechtel called the meeting to order at 11:30AM and welcomed attendees. He read the Ethics Statement, and inquired if there were any conflicts, which could preclude TAC members from participating in and voting on any business items, to state such for the record, and to refrain from participation in the matter. No conflicts were heard from the TAC members.

Vicki Eastland called the roll and quorum was announced.

Meeting Agenda

PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt Wechtel opened the floor for public comment. No public comments were received.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Matt Wechtel requested approval of the agenda and the consent agenda, which included the March 2023 minutes, and the TAC agenda. **Mac Morrow moved to approve the agenda. Larry Chapman seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.**

LAND OF SKY RPO TAC BUSINESS

LOSRPO FY 2024 PWP Approval

LOSRPO staff has developed the DRAFT LOSRPO Planning Work Program, (PWP) and submitted the FY 2024 Draft PWP to NCDOT TPD for review. The DRAFT PWP was shared with LOSRPO TCC and TAC members at the March 2023 meetings. There have been no changes to the DRAFT PWP. The DRAFT PWP can be viewed on the RPO web site.

[LOSRPO DRAFT 2024 PWP](#)

Funding is distributed across the following categories.

- Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)
- General Transportation category, which includes special studies both statewide and regional, such as the upcoming Safe Streets 4 All Regional Action Plan, this category also includes statewide subcommittees RPO staff serves on
- Prioritization 7.0 SPOT 7.0 will
- Data Collection
- Project Development
- Admin
- RPO Direct charges, Travel, and indirect funds.

Mac Morrow moved to approve the Land of Sky RPO FY 2024 Draft PWP. Larry Chapman seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

Meeting Agenda

LOSRPO Public Involvement Plan (PIP) Edits

The Land of Sky RPO maintains a Public Involvement Plan PIP that guides public involvement of LOSRPO Rural Transportation planning activities.

The LOSRPO PIP was last updated in May of 2015. The PIP was recently reviewed and there are a few minor edits. These edits do not impact the length of public comment windows or the means that comment will be collected. The changes include removing a planning document that the RPO does not maintain, removing some confusing language, and removing language stating that the RPO will put copies of CTPs in local libraries. The changes can be reviewed in the marked-up PIP.

Any changes to the PIP must be advertised and require a 28-day comment period. This will be presented to the TAC at the August 17th meeting for adoption.

Vicki Eastland presented.

Review and discuss planned edits. No action until August 2023 meeting.

Prioritization 7.0 Presentation

NCDOT Divisions 13 and 14 Division Planning Engineers, Hannah Cook and Steve Williams presented on the Prioritization Process.

Information only. No action required.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt Wechtel opened the floor for public comment. No public comments were received.

REGULAR UPDATES

NCDOT Divisions 13 and 14 updates were presented and at www.landofskyrpo.org

NCDOT Transportation Planning Division updates given;
NCDOT Integrated Mobility Division updates given;
LOSRPO Staff provided updates

ADJOURNMENT

Matt Wechtel called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:32PM. **Mac Morrow moved to adjourn. Chuck McGrady seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

Meeting Agenda

Letter of Support for NCDOT Div. 13 Protect Grant Application

The Protect Program was established in 2021 by the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act, IIJA. IIJA established the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) It is a Formula Program to help make surface transportation more resilient to natural hazards, including climate change, sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events, and other natural disasters through support of planning activities, resilience improvements, community resilience and evacuation routes, and at-risk costal infrastructure.

NCDOT Division 13 proposed project is BLUE RIDGE (Bridge Longevity Upgrades to Enhance Resiliency, Increase Dependability, and Grow Equity). BLUE RIDGE Proposes replacement of (3) bridges in Buncombe County, replacement of (1) bridge in Madison County, and lining (3) culverts in Madison County. Details are provided in the included materials.



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY

DATE: July 25, 2023

TO: Gretchen Vetter, NCDOT Program Manager

FROM: Steve Cannon, PE, Division 13 Project Development Engineer

SUBJECT: PROTECT info Bridge 100078

- Bridge #100078 is a hybrid structure that combines a 4-barrel box culvert with a 2-span bridge. The initial structure was constructed in 1950. The hybrid design results in woody debris and bed load collecting at the inlet and under the structure. Estimated annual cost to remove this material is approximately \$40,000. The back water of Big Ivy Creek plays a role in the bed load deposit, much of the woody debris and bed load deposit would wash out from under an open throat structure like a bridge.

Meeting Agenda

The structure is immediately adjacent to bridge #100154, also being considered in the PROTECT Grant application. Coordination of these two projects would increase efficiency of design options.

Preliminary engineering, row, and construction costs are estimated to be \$4.5 million.

- **Project Location:** on NC 197 in the Town of Barnardsville at the intersection with SR 1003, Paint Fork Rd. [35.777843, -82.458569 Google Maps](#)
- **Project Description:** Replace Buncombe Bridge 100078 on NC 197
- **Past Issues:** Significant amount of drift/debris caught at center pier during high flow events.
- **How the project creates resiliency:** Reduces sediment/debris accumulation, back water flooding.
- **Any Community Involvement:** None at this point
- **Connections:** Serves Barnardsville community, Barnardsville Elementary School, and Ohio Electric Company
- **Match Funding:** Division HFB
- **Environmental Justice:** EJ Index Score of 5
- **Bike Ped:** No identified plans

DocuSigned by:

Steve Cannon

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Mailing Address:

NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION THIRTEEN
55 ORANGE STREET
ASHEVILLE, NC 28801-2340

Telephone: (828) 250-3000
Fax: (828) 251-6394
Customer Service: 1-877-
368-4968
Website: www.ncdot.gov

Location: 55 ORANGE STREET ASHEVILLE, NC 28801-2340

Meeting Agenda



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY

DATE: June 12, 2023

TO: Gretchen Vetter, NCDOT Program Manager

FROM: Steve Cannon, PE, Division 13 Project Development Engineer

SUBJECT: PROTECT info Bridge 100154

Built in 1951, Bridge #100154 serves the Paint Fork Community. This bridge serves residents of the area, Barnardsville Elementary School, Ohio Electric Motors, etc. The existing bridge is narrow and there are debris/flooding issues in the area. Replacement will improve the reliability of access to this community. Today's estimated cost to replace this bridge is \$3.4 million.

- **Project Location:** Buncombe County. Bridge is located on SR 1003 Paint Fork Rd. approximately 0.028 miles from intersection with NC 197 [35°46'38.6"N 82°27'31.5"W - Google Maps](#)
- **Project Description:** Replace Buncombe Bridge 100154 on SR 1003 Paint Fork Rd.
- **Past Issues:** Significant amount of drift/debris caught at center pier during high flow events.
- **How the project creates resiliency:** Reduces sediment/debris accumulation. Buncombe County will be removing debris and restoring the riverbank in this area. The restoration work does not align well with the existing bridge structure. The bridge replacement would allow the bridge design to be coordinated with the restoration project.
- **Any Community Involvement:** No community involvement has been conducted by NCDOT. However, Buncombe County has an active RFQ posted (<https://www.buncombecounty.org/common/purchasing/Barnardsville%20Stream%20Restoration%20RFQ.pdf>) for the Stream Restoration project and has approached NCDOT regarding coordinating this work with replacement of the bridge.

Meeting Agenda

- **Connections:** The bridge is the only viable route for truck traffic to access Ohio Electric Company and Barnardsville Elementary School from NC-197. Detour route is 22 miles and not suitable for truck traffic.
- **Match Funding:** Undetermined
- **Environmental Justice:** EJ Index Score of 5
- **Bike Ped:** No identified plans

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY

DATE: June 12, 2023

TO: Gretchen Vetter, NCDOT Program Manager

FROM: Steve Cannon, PE, Division 13 Project Development Engineer

SUBJECT: PROTECT info Bridge 100203

Bridge #100203 serves the Swannanoa community and is a main access for Warren Wilson college, Charles D. Owen park, and several industries. The current bridge is a narrow bridge that has repeated scour issues at End Bent #2. This End Bent has been repaired multiple times following major rain events.

- **Project Location:** 0.17 miles west on SR 2416 Warren Wilson Rd. from intersection of SR 2427 Bee Tree Rd. [35°36'45.5"N 82°25'37.2"W - Google Maps](https://www.google.com/maps/place/35°36'45.5\)
- **Project Description:** Replace Buncombe Bridge 100203 on SR 2416 Warren Wilson Rd.
- **Past Issues:** Extensive scour, completely undermining end bent 2. Scour has been repaired multiple times and continues to reoccur every major rain event. These repairs include dewatering during the repair. The bridge is currently structurally deficient because of the significant scour.
- **How the project creates resiliency:** A new structure could move end bent 2 out of the stream and align the skew angle better with the stream to prevent scour.
- **Any Community Involvement:** None at this point
- **Connections:** Serves Powertech, National Wiper, Catalytic Technologies, TDP Electronics, Hearts with Hands, Charles D. Owen Park/ Sports fields, and Warren Wilson College
- **Match Funding:** Undetermined
- **Environmental Justice:** EJ Index Score of 6
- **Bike Ped:** No identified plans

LAND OF SKY



Meeting Agenda

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY

DATE: June 12, 2023

TO: Gretchen Vetter, NCDOT Program Manager

FROM: Steve Cannon, PE, Division 13 Project Development Engineer

SUBJECT: PROTECT info Bridge 560149

Bridge #560149 on Big Laurel Creek Rd serves as an east-west connector in northern Madison County. It connects residents and tourists to US 25/70 on the west end to I-26 on the east end and runs the border of Pisgah National Forest near Shelton Laurel Backcountry Area.

- **Project Location:** SR 1318 at .15 Miles West of Junction with SR 1334 - [560149 - Google Maps](#)
- **Project Description:** Replace Madison bridge 560149 over Big Laurel Creek
- **Past Issues:** The spread footings of both end bents and pier are inside the stream, creating a choke point during flood events, leading to contraction scour at the structure and increased vulnerability during flood events. All concrete substructure elements are deteriorating, and a temporary timber bent has been constructed to support the superstructure. The bridge is a one lane bridge and is functionally obsolete. Both superstructure and substructure are structurally deficient.
- **How the project creates resiliency:** Replacement would increase the waterway opening to better respond to severe weather and add resiliency against scour during flood events. A wider structure would increase the capacity during times of evacuation.
- **Any Community Involvement:** None to date
- **Connections:** SR 1318 is a collector route which connects many rural communities to jobs, school, medical, shopping, etc. If the structure is

Meeting Agenda

rendered out of service, residents would be forced to travel a 29-minute, 11.8-mile detour.

- **Match Funding:** ie Bridge Maintenance Funds
- **Environmental Justice:** EJ index of 6
- **Bike Ped:** Bicycle route in Madison CTP, no pedestrian plan

DocuSigned by:

Steve Cannon

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ASHEVILLE, NC 28801-2340

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ROY COOPER
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J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY

DATE: June 12, 2023

TO: Gretchen Vetter, NCDOT Program Manager

FROM: Steve Cannon, PE, Division 13 Project Development Engineer

SUBJECT: PROTECT info Bridge 560531

Division 13 proposes to line the pipes on Structure 560531. This proactive treatment reduces or eliminates the risk of failure during extreme weather. Pipe lining costs are significantly less than the cost to rebuild this fill section, in the event of a failure or in a replacement project.

- **Project Location:** SR 1135 at 0.1 miles South of Junction with US 25/70 - [560531 - Google Maps](#)
- **Project Description:** Rehab structure 560531 on Little Pine Rd using a pipe liner
- **Past Issues:** The invert of all three barrels (3 lines of 10 ft. Diameter x 245 feet long) have rusted out, increasing the risk of failure during extreme weather events. The pipes sit under 44 feet of roadway fill.
- **How the project creates resiliency:** At its current condition the pipes are rated as structurally deficient and are at an increased risk of structural failure due to the loss of the invert allowing the stream to erode the backfill, particularly during high flow/high stream velocity events. Rehabilitation (pipe lining) would decrease the vulnerability of the structure during extreme weather.
- **Any Community Involvement:** None to date
- **Connections:** SR 1135 serves as a local collector route, serving as the primary access to Madison County Landfill, schools, medical, shopping, etc. for many rural communities. A one lane, functionally obsolete bridge is located on the shortest detour route.
- **Match Funding:** ie Bridge Maintenance Funds

Meeting Agenda

- **Any Environmental Justice:** EJ index of 7
- **Bike Ped:** Bicycle route in Madison CTP, no Pedestrian plan

DocuSigned by:

Steve Cannon

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Meeting Agenda

The Honorable Pete
Buttigieg Secretary

U.S. Department of
Transportation 1200 New
Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Land of Sky RPO would like to express our strong support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT's) Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program Grant application titled BLUE RIDGE (Bridge Longevity Upgrades to Enhance Resiliency, Increase Dependability, and Grow Equity) for the rehabilitation or replacement of five structures in Buncombe and Madison Counties.

These structures serve as critical connections for rural communities and residents to vital services such as employment hubs, educational institutions, and medical centers. Each structure is in critical need of rehabilitation or replacement due to reoccurring natural hazards such as flooding caused by climate change. Major structure improvements are necessary to increase the resiliency of the region, restore the natural environment, and ensure necessary accessibility to vital community services.

Should any bridge need to be closed due to its structural deficiencies or impacts from flood events, there are very few viable detour options to ensure continued access. The detours for these bridges are not all suitable for truck traffic, contain functionally obsolete bridges, and increase travel distance by an average 17 miles. This would significantly impact the nearby communities due to increased travel times and decreased access to vital services.

The mountainous terrain in Western North Carolina and the Land of Sky RPO present many challenges and limitations. The Appalachian Mountains and numerous rivers and streams that make Western North Carolina a unique and desirable location, also constrain the transportation network and limit system redundancy and connectivity. Throughout the region several communities rely on single or limited access points. Due to the increase of extreme weather events impacting our region, communities are at an elevated risk of being isolated due to potential transportation network failures in extreme weather events. Providing more resilient infrastructure is key to adapting our region to increasing natural challenges.

Meeting Agenda

As a statewide transportation priority, the improvements to the five structures will provide reliable connectivity and increase the resiliency of the surrounding communities and the region, while repairing the surrounding natural environments. Thank you for your favorable consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

Mathew Wechtel, Commissioner Madison County, NC, Chair, Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization

Staff Recommendation: Review and approve the Items on the Consent Agenda

4. LAND OF SKY RPO TAC BUSINESS

Item 4A: LOSRPO FY 2024 PWP Approval

NCDOT Transportation Planning Division, the division that administers the Rural Planning Organizations, (RPO's) provided each RPO with a 15% funding increase to take effect July 1, 2023, SFY 2024. This amendment to the PWP reflects this increase in funding.

[LOSRPO FY 2024 PWP Amendment](#)

Staff Recommendations: this will be adopted at the September TAC meeting for approval.

Item 4B: LOSRPO Prioritization 7.0 DRAFT Submittal list

Prioritization the process that NCDOT follows to determine most capital improvement projects utilizing both NCDOT state funds and NCDOT's allotted federal funds in the development of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The prioritization process is governed by the Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) Law of 2013. STI provides the framework for a more transparent data driven process utilizing local input.

from MPO's, RPO's and NCDOT Divisions. Prioritization 7.0, P7.0 (aka SPOT 7.0) indicates it is the seventh iteration of the prioritization process.

Meeting Agenda

RPO staff has met with TCC and TAC reps from each county, along with MPO staff and NCDOT division. Carryover projects were reviewed as were projects lists from previous rounds. Based on input from these meetings, the LOSRPO DRAFT P7.0 Project was developed. There are still a few non-Highway projects to be added to the list, but the list will be complete before it is advertised for public comment.

https://landofskyrpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/LOSRPO_SPOT7.0-DRAFT-Project-List.pdf

Current schedule for P7.0.

Prioritization Task	Estimated Date
Prioritization Workgroup meets Done	October 2022 - June, 2023
NC Board of Transportation Adopts Methodology Done	June, 2023
SPOT Online Go-live Project submittal window opens	July 2023 – September, 2023
NCDOT Data Review and Scoring (Partner Rev. Feb 2024)	October 2023 – March, 2024
Project Prioritization Public Survey	Winter - Spring 2024
Alternate Criteria Deadline/LOSRPO Local Input Point Methodology Due	April, 2024
DRAFT Statewide Programmed Projects and SPOT Scores Released	End of April 2024
Regional Impact Local Input Points Window	May - July, 2024
DRAFT Regional Impact Programmed Projects Released	August, 2024
Division Needs Local Input Points Window	September – November, 2024
Program Division Needs Projects	December 2024 – January, 2025
DRAFT 2026-2035 STIP Released	End of January, 2025

Staff Recommendations:

Review and discuss adoption of FINAL list at the September 21st TAC meeting.

Item 4C Prioritization 7.0 Presentation

NCDOT Divisions 13 and 14 Division Planning Engineers will present on the Prioritization Process.

Staff Recommendations: Educational only, no action required.

Public Comment

Meeting Agenda

6. REGULAR UPDATES

NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates

NCDOT Staff

Most Recent Updates

<https://landofskyrpo.org/division-13-updates/>

<https://landofskyrpo.org/division-14-updates/>

Transportation Planning Division updates

Daniel Sellers

<https://landofskyrpo.org/ncdot-tpd-news/>

NCDOT Integrated mobility Division

Alexius Farris

Staff Updates

Vicki Eastland

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, SPECIAL UPDATES

7. ADJOURN LOSRPO TAC MEETING

Matt Wechtel

Upcoming Meeting

Land of Sky RPO TCC – Meeting on **September 14, 2023 – 10:00 AM Land of Sky Regional Council and Zoom**

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