

RPO Technical Coordinating Committee

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Meeting Id: 824 6125 2058

Passcode: 158661 Call in: 646 558 8656 US

Minutes from the RPO TCC August 14th 2025, Meeting

Remote and in Person Attendance:

William High	Vicki Eastland
Aaron Bland	Daniel Sellers
Hannah Smith	Asha Rado (Minutes)
Jodie Ferguson	John Hunter
Troy Wilson	Steve Williams
Lauren Blackburn	Doug Phillips
Stephen Sparks	Jeff Adams
Scott Collier	Jeremy Chapman
Erica Anderson	Rodney Honeycutt
Kaitland Finkle	

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Vicki Eastland called the meeting to order at approximately 10:01am, welcomed everyone, and roll was called. A quorum was announced to conduct business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vicki Eastland opened the floor for public comment. No public comments were received.

CONSENT AGENDA

May 2025 Meeting Minutes:

https://landofskyrpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/2025-05_08_RPOTCC_Draft-Minutes.pdf

William High moved to approve the agenda, consent agenda including the May 2025 TCC Meeting Minutes. Steve Williams seconded and the motion passed upon a unanimous roll call vote.

RPO BUSINESS

4A. LOSRPO TCC Officer Elections

Because LOSRPO TCC Chair Darby Terrell and Vice Chair Forest Gilliam have both taken different positions that take them out of the LOSRPO, the TCC needs to hold an election of officers. The RPO Bylaws state that officers' terms will be two years and that officers can serve consecutive terms if they wish.

Discussion did not occur.

Steve Williams moved to approve the nomination and election of Aaron Bland as the Chair and William High as the Vice Chair of the LOSRPO TCC. Hannah Smith seconded and it passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

Item 4B: Adoption of the “Safe Streets for WNC Plan”

What is the Safe Streets for WNC Plan?

The French Broad River MPO and Land of Sky RPO were awarded funding in 2023 to develop the Safe Streets for WNC (SS4WNC). A safety action plan developed for Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania Counties. The plan kicked off in early 2024. This plan provides the region with detailed information about crashes and safety history and aims to provide strategies and countermeasures to help reduce roadway fatalities and make roadways safer for all users.

How was the Safe Streets for WNC Funded?

The SS4WNC Safety Action Plan was funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) competitive grant program. The FBRMPO and LOSRPO applied for action plan funding in 2022 and were awarded funds in 2023. Dogwood Health Trust provided the local match for the plan.

What was the process for developing the Safe Streets for WNC Plan?

The FBRMPO and LOSRPO hired VHB and McAdams to help develop the SS4WNC Safety Action Plan. Staff and the consultant team began meeting with a diverse group of stakeholders to help establish goals and oversee the plan. Data analysis was then done to identify safety problems and risks based on past crashes and traffic conditions. The data analysis fed into identifying areas and populations most at risk for different crash types and looking at potential preventive measures. This is also where targeted public engagement happened so the project team could hear from a diverse group of community members. This outreach was achieved through focus groups and public meetings. Strategies were then developed to help target specific crash reduction strategies. The team then developed a countermeasure toolbox that gives communities resources on how to reduce and counter specific crash types.

Recommendations were provided for policies, guidelines, and project planning opportunities to support the integration of safety into both short- and long-term improvements.

Public Engagement Summary

Public engagement for the plan included three steering committee meetings with stakeholders from all five counties. Two leadership summits were held, one at the beginning of the plan and one at the end of the planning period. The leadership summits brought together first responders, planners, school staff, elected officials, and other community stakeholders to talk about the plan and get a diverse perspective on safety in the region. Due to Hurricane Helene, the original community outreach events were cancelled but the team was able to combine with community outreach efforts of the FBRMPO's Elevate 2050 MTP plan and the team held joint public meetings in April of 2025. A survey was also conducted at the same time as the public meeting to capture responses from others community members.

Discussion occurred around what interventions in particular that are seen as most beneficial to this region. A primary focus in the near future is the partnership between

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local government and DOT in regards to funding partners and how to align funding to get more projects implemented. Discussion around recommended speed limits and safety features in newer cars. Having good pavement markings on your roads. Preventative measures.

Steve Williams moved to recommend the adoption of the Safe Streets for WNC Plan to the Board. William High seconded and it passed upon a roll call vote.

Item 4C: LOSRPO's Prioritization 8.0 P8.0 DRAFT Project List

The North Carolina Board of Transportation at their July 2025 meeting adopted the 2026

- 2035 The State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The STIP is North Carolina's document that reflects planned transportation investments over a ten-year period. The STIP describes each project, has a schedule for implementation, funding sources, and estimated costs.

NCDOT updates the STIP on a two-year cycle based on projects selected for funding from the NCDOT Prioritization process. This is the process in North Carolina that helps determine the majority of transportation improvements across the State. The process is dictated by the [Strategic Transportation Investments Act \(STI\) 2012](#) and is generally designed to be a data-driven, transparent process to determine what transportation projects are funded or not. The adoption of the new STIP triggers the beginning to the next Prioritization cycle, **P8.0**.

RPO's, MPO's and NCDOT Divisions work with local partners to select projects to be submitted for consideration for funding, (inclusion in the next STIP). Projects from all modes are submitted and will be scored based on the mode, facility type, proposed improvements, and compete for any available funding.

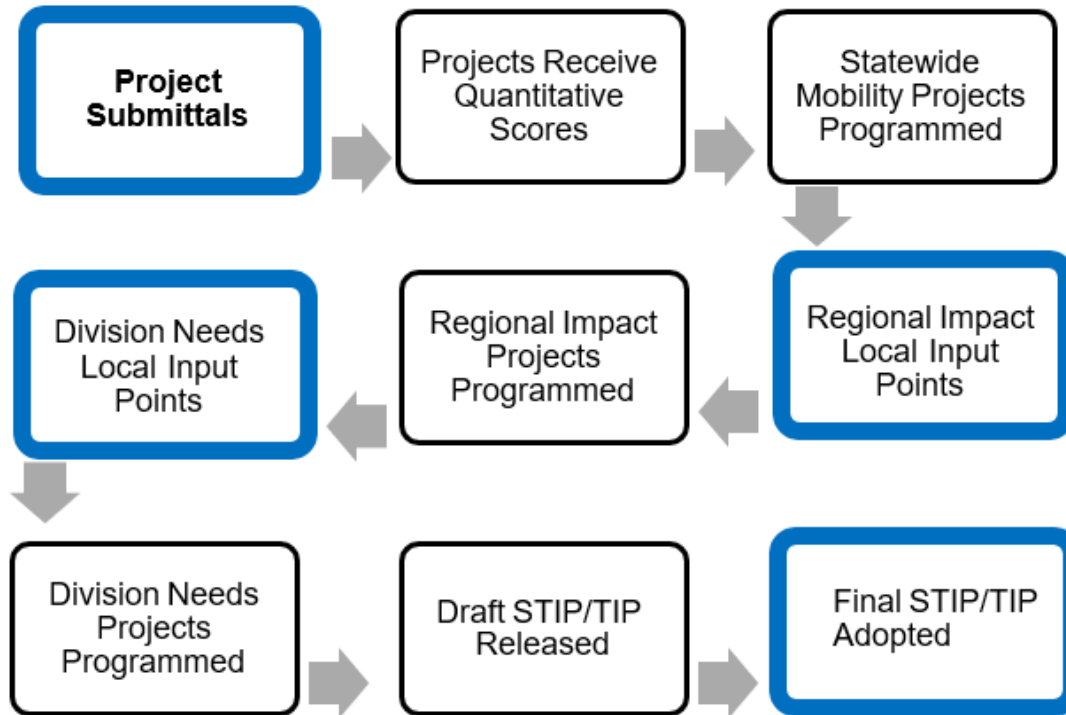
The outcome of Prioritization 8.0, P8.0 will be the 2028 – 2037 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Projects submitted in the Land of Sky RPO planning area can be RPO submittals, LOSRPO has 11 submittal slots for each mode in P 8.0. Division 13 or 14 submittals, each division get 10 submittal slots for each mode in P8.0. And carryover projects, LOSRPO has no carryover projects in P8.0.

There are several steps in the prioritization process. See the illustration below with RPO tasks circled in **BLUE**: We are currently at Step one Project Submittal.

The LOSRPO DRAFT P8.0 Project list will be available at <https://landofskyrpo.org/> once the list is complete and posted.

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Below is the current timeline for P8.0.

Prioritization Task	Estimated Date
Prioritization Workgroup meets	October 2024 - June, 2025
NC Board of Transportation Adopts Methodology	July, 2025
SPOT Online Go-live Project submittal window opens	July 2025 – September, 2025
NCDOT Data Review and Scoring	October 2025 – April, 2026
Project Prioritization Public Survey (TPD)	Winter - Spring 2026
DRAFT Statewide Programmed Projects and SPOT Scores Released	End of May 2026
Regional Impact Local Input Points Window	June - August, 2026
DRAFT Regional Impact Programmed Projects Released	Sept, 2026
Division Needs Local Input Points Window	October – December, 2026
Program Division Needs Projects	January 2027 – March, 2027
DRAFT 2028-2037 STIP Released	March, 2027

Discussion did not occur

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Steve Williams moved to recommend the DRAFT List of P8.0 Project Submittals to the Board. Jodie Ferguson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Aaron Bland opened the floor a second time for public comment. No public comments were received.

5. REGULAR UPDATES

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| A. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates
https://landofskyrpo.org/division-13-updates/
https://landofskyrpo.org/division-14-updates/ | Division Staff |
| B. NCDOT Transportation Planning Division Updates
https://landofskyrpo.org/ncdot-tpd-news/ | Daniel Sellers, PE |
| C. Staff Updates | Vicki Eastland |

ADJOURNMENT

Aaron Bland adjourned the meeting at 11:00AM as there was no further business.