

LAND OF SKY

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

Technical Advisory Committee
Hybrid Meeting with the Zoom Platform
August 21st, 2025 – 11:30 A.M.
Minutes

Attendance in Person:

Kevin Ensley (Haywood Commission)	Tristan Winkler (FBRMPO)
Steve Williams (NCDOT Div 14)	Hannah Bagli (FBRMPO)
Matt Wechtel (Madison County)	Daniel Sellers (NCDOT TPD)
Lauren Blackburn (VHB)	Troy Wilson (NCDOT Div 13)
Rose Bauguess (Southwestern Commission)	

Attendance Remote via Zoom:

Lauren Wise (City of Brevard)	John Hunter (NCDOT TPD)
Stephen Sparks (NCDOT)	Cody Weddle (NCDOT)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Kevin Ensley called the meeting to order at 11:43 AM 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.

Chair Kevin Ensley called the roll and quorum was announced.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Kevin Ensley opened the floor for public comment. No public comments were received.

Consent Agenda

May 2025 Meeting Minutes:

https://landofskyrpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/2025_05_15_DRAFT.RPO_.TAC_.Minutes.pdf

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Kevin Ensley requested approval of the agenda and the consent agenda, which included the May 2025 meeting minutes, and the TAC agenda.

Matt Wechtel moved to approve the agenda and the consent agenda, which included the May 2025 Meeting Minutes and the TAC agenda. Kevin Ensley seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

LAND OF SKY RPO TAC BUSINESS

Item 4A: 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 did not occur.

Matt Wechtel moved to adopt the Safe Streets for WNC Plan. Lauren Wise seconded the motion and it passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

Item 4B: LOSRPO's Prioritization 8.0 DRAFT Project List:

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**.

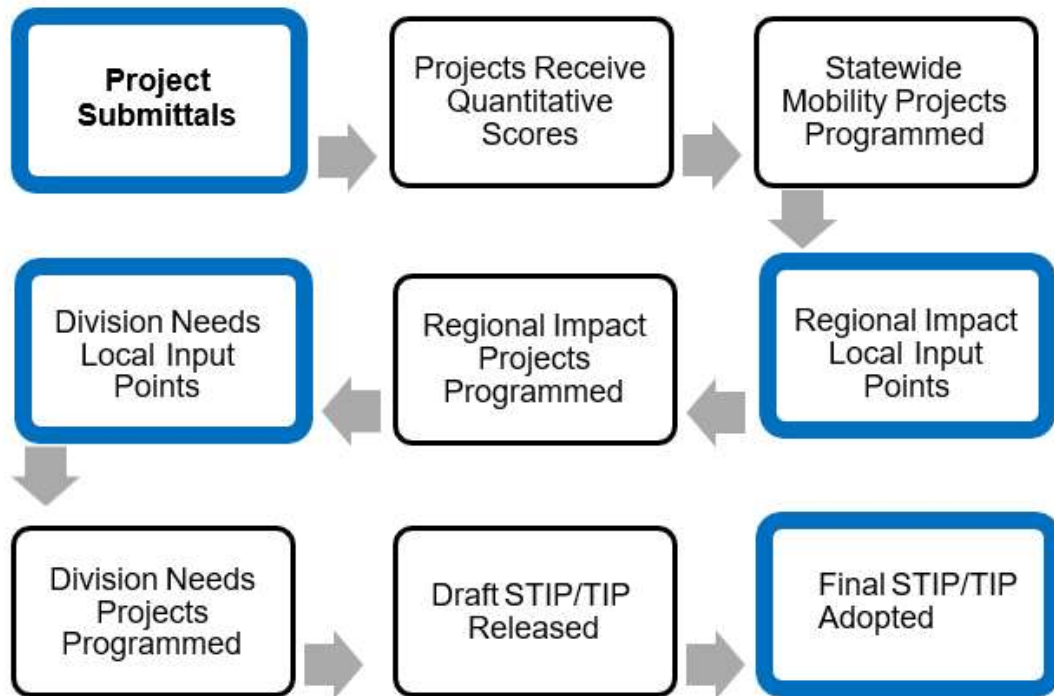
RPO's, MPO's and NCDOT Divisions work with local partners to select projects to be submitted for consideration for funding, (inclusion in the next STIP). Projects from all modes are submitted and will be scored based on the mode, facility type, proposed improvements, and compete for any available funding.

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 for the public to review at <https://landofskyrpo.org/>



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.

Matt Wechtel moved to approve the DRAFT List of P8.0 Project Submittals. Lauren Wise seconded and it passed upon a roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Kevin Ensley opened the floor for public comment. No public comments were received.

REGULAR UPDATES

- NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates
Most Recent Updates
<https://landofskyrpo.org/division-13-updates/>
<https://landofskyrpo.org/division-14-updates/>
- Transportation Planning Division updates
- Staff Updates

NCDOT Staff

Daniel Sellers
Vicki Eastland

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kevin Ensley moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:35PM.

Upcoming Meeting

Land of Sky RPO TCC – Meeting on Thursday September 11th, 2025 – 10:00AM
LOSRC Offices and Zoom

Land of Sky RPO TAC – Meeting on Thursday September 18th, 2025– 11:30 AM
Land of Sky Regional Council and Zoom