

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

Technical Advisory Committee
Hybrid Meeting with the Zoom Platform
September 19th, 2025 – 11:30 A.M.
Minutes

Attendance in Person:

Kevin Ensley (Haywood Commission)	Matt Wechtel (Madison County)
Chuck McGrady(NCBOT)	Vicki Eastland(LOSRPO)
Asha Rado (LOSRC-Minutes)	Steve Williams(NCDOT)
Daniel Sellers(NCDOT TPD)	Chris Lee(NCDOT)
John Hunter (NCDOT TPD)	Stephen Sparks (NCDOT)
Doug Phillips (NCDOT)	

Attendance Remote via Zoom:

Mac Morrow (City of Brevard)	Chase McKelvey(Transylvania County)
Wesley Grindstaff(NCDOT)	Chris Medlin (NCDOT)
Hasan Obias (NCDOT TPD)	Troy Wilson (NCDOT)
Tim Anderson (NCDOT)	Cody Weddle (NCDOT)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Kevin Ensley called the meeting to order at 11: 34AM 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

August 2025 Meeting Minutes:

https://landofskyrpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/2025_08_21_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.

Mac Morrow moved to approve the agenda and the consent agenda, which included the August 2025 Meeting Minutes and the TAC agenda. Chuck McGrady seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

LAND OF SKY RPO TAC BUSINESS

Item 4A: Adoption of the LOSRPO Prioritization 8.0 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**.

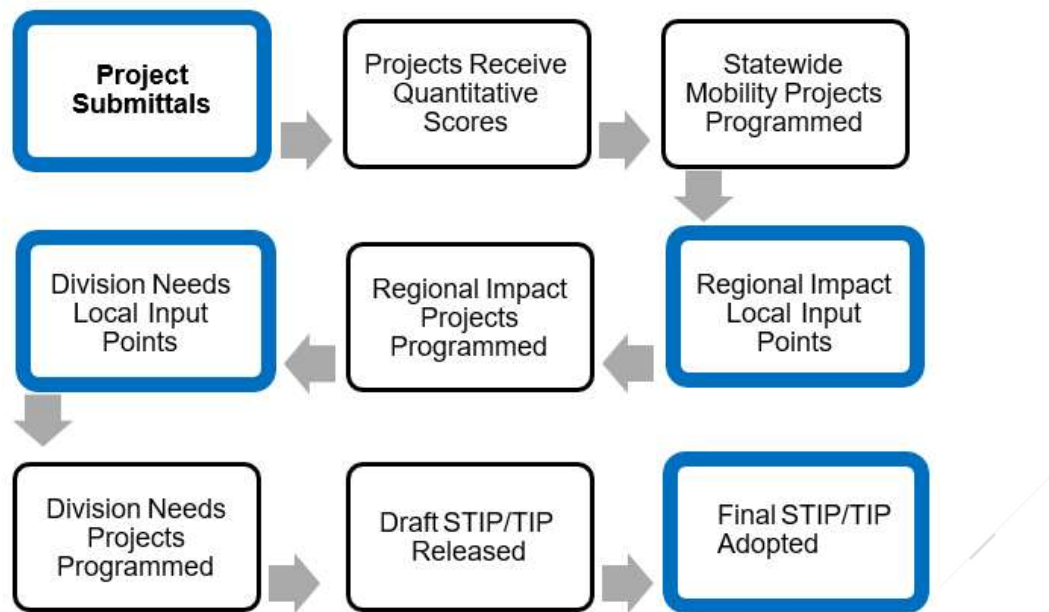
RPO's, MPO's and NCDOT Divisions work with local partners to select projects to be submitted for consideration for funding, (inclusion in the next STIP). Projects from all modes are submitted and will be scored based on the mode, facility type, proposed improvements, and compete for any available funding.

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 for the public to review at [LOSRPO-DRAFT-P8.0-Project-List-09122025.pdf](#)



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 occurred that every project on US 25/US 70 would benefit the area.

Mac Morrow moved to adopt the LOSRPO Prioritization 8.0 with expectation there might be some small changes. Matt Wechel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

Item 4B: NCDOT Functional Classification Change Request form post 2020 Census:
Statewide Functional Reclassification Updates

Functional classification is the process of grouping streets and highways into classes according to the character of service they are intended to provide and include evaluation of annual average daily traffic (AADT) data, speed limit, length, and other roadway characteristics. Accurate roadway functional classification ensures that federal aid funds are allocated where they are needed most. The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Transportation Planning Division (TPD) is responsible for

processing updates to the Federal Functional Classification System in North Carolina every 10 years in partnership with planning organizations (MPO's & RPO's) for submission to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for approval. Functional classification for roadways is categorized into the 7 classifications noted below:

- 1 – Interstate
- 2 – Freeway
- 3 – Other Principal Arterial
- 4 - Minor Arterial
- 5 – Major Collector
- 6 – Minor Collector
- 7 – Local

For the Land of Sky RPO, an internal NCDOT committee identified the roadways. Then TPD worked with RPO, MPO and Division staff to refine the attached list for functional classification updates placed in front of you today.

[LOSRPO-NCDOTFunctionalClassificationChangeRequestFormPostCensus 2025Aug28](#)

NCDOT TPD is requesting approval of the updates for submittal to FHWA.

Discussion did not occur.

Matt Wechtel moved to approve the updates for the submittal to FHWA. Chase McKelvey 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 12:25PM.