

Meeting Agenda

RPO TCC and Board Joint Meeting
November 20th, 2025 – 11:00 French Broad Room (Large) Conference Room
Land of Sky Regional Council or Zoom

[Join Joint RPO TCC and TAC Meeting, Nov 2025](#)

Meeting ID: 897 2656 3300 Passcode: 560172
Call-In: (312)626-6799

1. **WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING**

- A. Welcome and Introductions, Approval of Agenda (Joint Action) Aaron Bland & Kevin Ensley
- B. Ethics Statement for RPO Board Members Kevin Ensley

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kevin Ensley

3. **Approval of LOSRPO TCC Previous Meeting Minutes and Agenda Modifications**

- Minutes from the RPO TCC September 11th, 2025, Meeting Aaron Bland
- And Approval of the Agenda
- [2025-09_11_RPOTCC_Draft-Minutes.pdf](#)

4. **Approval of LOSRPO TAC Previous Meeting Minutes and Agenda Modifications**

- Minutes from the RPO TAC September 18th, 2025, Meeting Kevin Ensley
- And Approval of the Agenda
- [2025_09_18_RPOTAC_Draft-Minutes.pdf](#)

5. **LAND OF SKY RPO TAC BUSINESS Items**

- A. I-40 Widening Express Lanes Informational Presentation and Discussion David Roy or Carly Swanson, NC Turnpike Authority
- B. LOSRPO P9.0 Express Design Priorities List Vicki Eastland
- C. LOSRPO 2026 Meeting Schedule Vicki Eastland

6. **JOINT LOSRPO UPDATES**

- A. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates Tim Anderson/Wesley Grindstaff or designee
- B. Transportation Planning Division Daniel Sellers
- C. Staff Updates Vicki Eastland

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kevin Ensley

8. **ADJOURN LOSRPO MEETING**

Kevin Ensley

Upcoming Meeting
Land of Sky RPO TCC – January 8, 2026
Land of Sky RPO TAC – January 15, 2026

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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.

6. LAND OF SKY RPO TAC BUSINESS Items

A. I-40 Widening Express Lanes Informational Presentation and Discussion

I-40 Managed Lanes

Background

What is the Project Under Consideration?

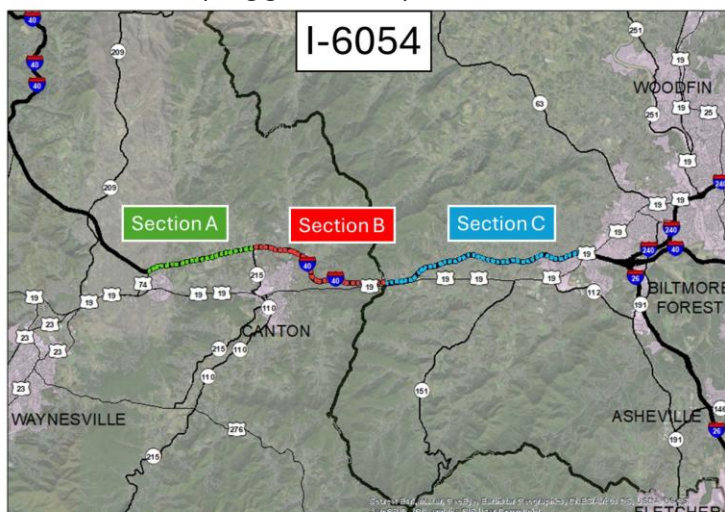
I-40 from roughly Exit 44 near Monte Vista Road in Buncombe County to Exit 27 (US 23/74) in Haywood County. The project has been submitted as a widening since P 5 and was an uncommitted project in the STIP (I-6054.)

In the past, I-6054 has been submitted in three sections:

Section A: US 23/74 (Smokey Mountain Expressway) to NC 215 (Champion Drive)

Section B: NC 215 (Champion Drive) to Exit 37 (Wiggins Road)

Section C: Exit 37 (Wiggins Road) to Monte Vista Road

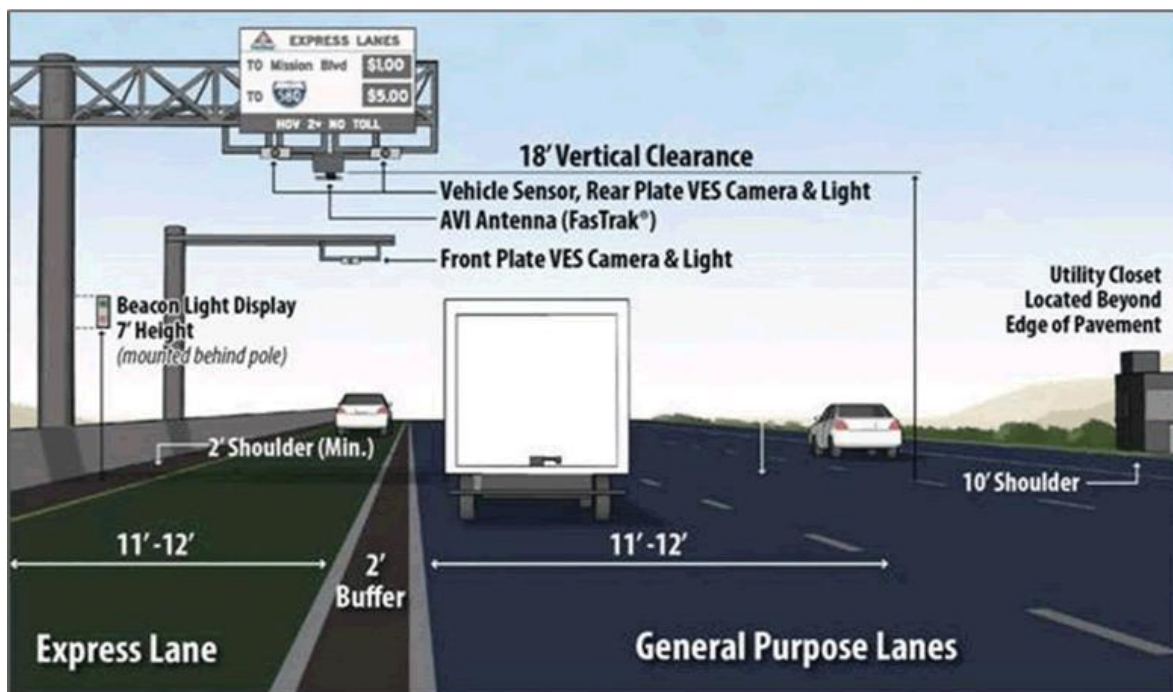


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What are Managed Lanes?

Managed lanes are special highway lanes where traffic flow is actively controlled, often using tolls, to keep vehicles moving reliably. They give drivers the option to pay for a faster trip, while carpoolers and buses may use them for free, helping reduce congestion in the regular lanes.

The potential application in I-6054's case would most likely be with High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes. This would leave the existing lanes on I-40 as free-flow lanes, while additional lanes would be managed and tolled.



1- Example Cross-Section of Express Lanes from the "Priced Managed Lane Guide" by FHWA

Past Discussion

In 2018, the MPO adopted the [Congestion Management Process](#), a federally-required plan that sets congestion targets and recommends strategies for addressing congestion. In the plan, "Managed Lanes" are identified as a potential application to address congestion on I-40 in West Buncombe and Haywood counties.

In January 2024 the RPO TAC and MPO Board voted to support a study led by NCDOT to look at the feasibility of managed lanes on the I-6054 project. The study's findings were presented to MPO staff on September 6, 2025.

In September 2025, the MPO Board and TCC voted to submit I-40 as a widening from Exit 44 to Exit 27, with the intent to consider changing the project from a "conventional" widening to a managed lanes widening in P8 by no later than the January meeting.

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Discussion at the Meeting

David Roy or Carly Swanson, NC Turnpike Authority will provide an update on the financial analysis for managed lanes on I-40 as well as a general background on the turnpike authority and toll facilities.

The FBRMPO TCC and Board will take joint action at their meeting today. There is no RPO action required, this is an update and an opportunity for RPO members to ask questions and express your views on the proposed Express Lane project.

Staff Recommendation: Information only

B. LOSRPO P9.0 Express Design Priorities List

Express designs are “quick” designs of a potential transportation project, developed in collaboration between NCDOT, the RPO, and local government staff. These designs serve as a tool to get an idea of potential costs of a project and can serve as a high-level look at issues projects may encounter.

The Prioritization Workgroup recommended express designs to be required for projects in the next round of Prioritization, P9 (expected to begin in 2027). To work towards that requirement, express designs are starting in early 2026

There are exceptions to the requirement.

- lower-cost projects (projects expected to cost <\$10,000,000) are exempt
- POs are allowed to have one project per round that does not have an express design.

NCDOT said their capacity for express designs is roughly 200/year or 400/prioritization cycle. Split between RPOs, MPOs, and Divisions, the Land of Sky RPO is allotted 6 express designs over the P9 cycle.

Due Dates for Express Design Selection:

November 30th – 1/3rd of Express Design Assignments Due

May 31st- 1/3rd of Express Design Assignments Due

September 30th- 1/3rd of Express Design Assignments Due

However, RPO staff plan to submit all the 6 allotted Express Designs upon approval of this list.

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Prioritization 8.0 RPO Submitted Highway with Express Design Status

Project Facility	From Cross Street	To Cross Street	Description	County	Express Design Status
US 19, US 23	NC 151 (Pisgah Highway)	SR 1200 (Wiggins Road)	Upgrade Roadway Include complete streets elements.	Buncombe	NO Will be included w/ FBRMPO submittal
I 40	Exit 20 US 276 Jonathon Creek Road	SR 1395 (Cove Creek Road)	Improve Interchange and US 276 corridor to SR 1395 (Cove Creek Road) consider one lane roundabout at SR 1395	Haywood	NO Will be submitted by Div. 14
US 25, US 70	US 25, US 70 Business	SR 1143 (Upper Brush Creek Road)	Upgrade multiple intersections along US 25-70 from US 25/70Bus to SR 1143.	Madison	YES As part of a corridor design. Also exempt
US 25, US 70	SR 1143 (Upper Brush Creek Rd, Lower Brush Creek Rd)	N/A	Construct intersection improvements.	Madison	YES As part of a corridor design. Also exempt
US 25, US 70	NC 213	N/A	Convert intersection of US 25/70 and NC 213 ramps to a roundabout OR convert interchange to a quadrant with grade separation (eliminating the ramp(s) south of US 25/70).	Madison	YES
US 64 (South Broad Street)	US 64 Business (South Caldwell Street), SR 1116 (North Country Club Road)	N/A	Improve Intersect alignment	Transylvania	YES

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Project Facility	From Cross Street	To Cross Street	Description	County	Express Design Status
US 64/US 276 (Asheville Highway), and SR 1512	at SR 1512 (Ecusta Road) and at Morris Road	N/A	Upgrade Multiple intersections One at US 276/64/Morris Road one at SR 1512/Morris Road	Transylvania	NO Exempt based on Express Design Requirement Guidelines
SR 1528 (Crab Creek Road)	SR 1533 (Everett Rd)	N/A	Upgrade intersection to a 1 lane roundabout.	Transylvania	NO Exempt based on Express Design Requirement Guidelines
US 276 (East Main Street/Greenville Hwy)	SR 1546 Parkview Drive, Elm Bend Road	SR 1546 Parkview Drive, Elm Bend Road	Upgrade intersections, consider roundabout.	Transylvania	NO Exempt based on Express Design Requirement Guidelines
SR 1512 (Ecusta Road)	US 64	SR 1504 (Old NC 64)	Upgrade Roadway, improve intersections, include curb/gutter, bike-lanes, sidewalk and or SUP.	Transylvania	YES
SR 1504 (Old Hendersonville Hwy)	US 64/US 276 (Asheville Hwy)	SR 1533 (Everett Road)	Upgrade Roadway Include complete streets elements identified in locally adopted plans.	Transylvania	YES

RPO staff suggested List of Express Designs:

- US 64 (Rosman Hwy) From S. Caldwell St to NC 215. Access Management in 5 lane section, widening/RCI intersections south of SR 1337 (Clement Road). Phase at logical termini for Prioritization submittal.
- US 64/276 (Asheville Hwy) From SR 1512 (Ecusta Rd) to Northern termini of R-5800, Fortune Cove Road. Upgrade roadway, improve intersections, include complete streets elements as identified in locally adopted plans.

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- US 276 from Wilson Drive to SR 1536 (Cascade Lake Road) Upgrade roadway, improve intersections, include complete streets elements as identified in locally adopted plans. Phase at logical termini for Prioritization submittal.
- SR 1388 (Old Rosman Hwy) Upgrade roadway include complete streets elements as identified in locally adopted plans.
- NC 209 from SR 1501 (Silvers Cove Rd) to SR 1364 (Iron Duff Rd) Upgrade roadway including I-40 Exit 24 Interchange.
- US 276 from SR 1812 (Raccoon Rd) to Chinguapin Rd, modernize roadway, include complete streets elements as identified in locally adopted plans. Phase at logical termini for Prioritization submittal.

Staff Recommendation: LOSRPO TCC and TAC Approve Express Design Priorities List.

C. LOSRPO 2026 Meeting Schedule

The Land of Sky RPO 2026 meeting schedule will be available on the LOSRPO website. The meeting days and times will not change, second Thursday at 10AM for TCC and third Thursday at 11:30 for TAC. If there is no pressing business for any scheduled meeting date, RPO staff will contact RPO leadership to discuss potentially skipping a meeting cycle if RPO business can meet deadlines and requirements or if necessary, adding additional meetings.

<https://landofskyrpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/2026-RPO-Schedule.pdf>

Staff Recommendation: Information only

Public Comment

7. JOINT LOSRPO FBRMPO UPDATES

D. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates	Tim Anderson/Wesley Grindstaff or designee
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