

Meeting Agenda

LAND OF SKY

**RURAL PLANNING
ORGANIZATION****LOSRPO Combined TCC and TAC Meeting**

Hybrid Meeting with the Zoom Platform

November 20th, 2025**Minutes****Attendance in Person for the Board and TCC:**

Kevin Ensley (Haywood Commission)
Aaron Bland (Brevard)
Vicki Eastland (LOSRPO)
Steve Williams (NCDOT Div 14)
Lauren Wise (Brevard)
Abigail Incze(LOSRC)
Doug Phillips (NCDOT Div 13)
Colton Hires (NCDOT Div 14)
John Hunter (NCDOT)

Matt Wechtel (Madison County)
Jeff Adams (Transylvania County)
William High (Buncombe County)
Chuck McGrady (NCDOT)
Mac Morrow (City of Brevard)
Daniel Sellers (NCDOT TPD)
Stephen Sparks (NCDOT)
Cody Weddle (NCDOT)

Attendance Remote via Zoom:

David Roy (NC Turnpike Authority)
Kate Trimble (NC Turnpike Authority)
Troy Wilson (NCDOT Div 14)

Carly Swanson (NC Turnpike Authority)
Jodie Ferguson (Haywood County)
Rose Bauguess (Southwestern Commission)

1A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Board Chair Kevin Ensley called the meeting to order at 11:00AM and welcomed attendees

Roll was called and quorum was announced.

Meeting Agenda

1B. Board Ethics Statement.

Chair Kevin Ensley 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

3. Approval of LOSRPO TCC September 2025 Minutes, and Agenda Modifications

September 2025 TCC Minutes : https://landofskyrpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/2025-09_11_RPOTCC_Draft-Minutes.pdf

William High moved to approve the September 2025 meeting minutes and the agenda modifications. Jeff Adams seconded the motion and it passed upon a roll call vote.

4. Approval of September 2025 Board Meeting Minutes and Agenda Modifications:

September 2025 Board Meeting Minutes: https://landofskyrpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/2025_09_18_DRAFT.RPO_.TAC_.Minutes.pdf

Mac Morrow moved to approve the modified agenda and the September 2025 meeting minutes. Matt Wechtel seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

Meeting Agenda

LAND OF SKY RPO TAC BUSINESS

Item 5A. I-40 Widening Express Lanes Informational

I-40 Managed Lanes Background

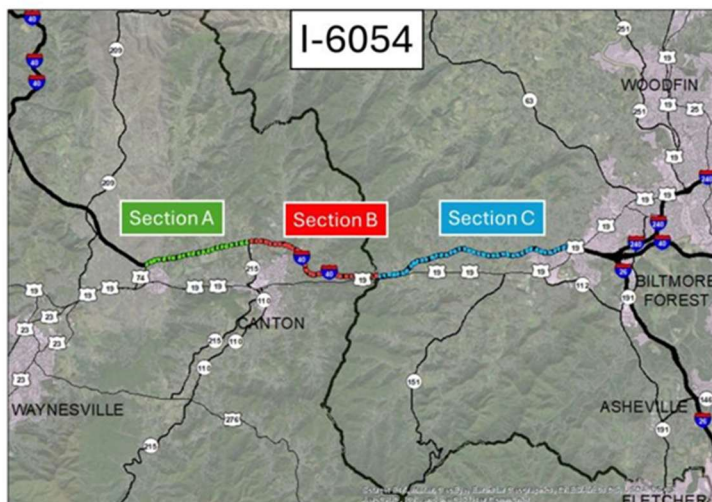
What is the Project Under Consideration?

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

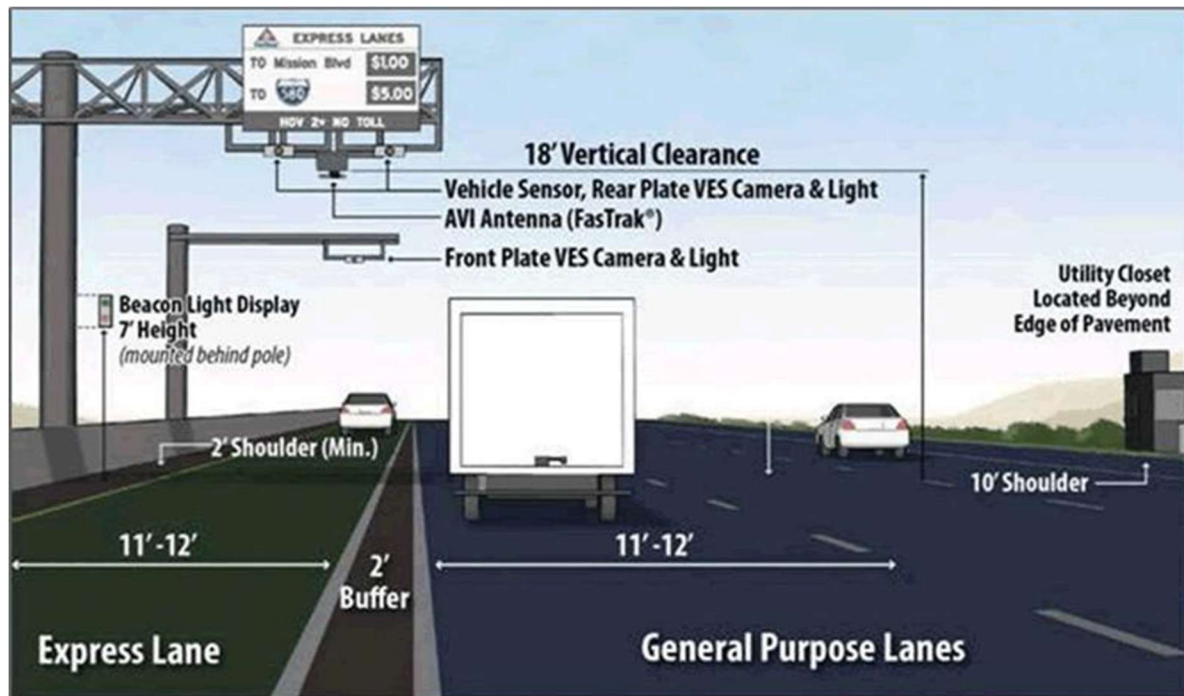


What are Managed Lanes?

Meeting Agenda

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.



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.

Meeting Agenda

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.

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 their views on the proposed Express Lane project.

Information only

Discussion occurred around incentives with the funding, how is that final amount assessed. The bonus allocation is determined by the amount of alternative funding. Discussion on timeline clarification occurred. Discussion on how they calculate the toll on specific sections of road. Discussion around how much it would cost to run these lanes. Discussion around what happens if we don't do this. Discussion occurred on park and ride, carpooling and that there will still be free lanes in addition to the tolled lane.

Item 5B. 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.

Meeting Agenda

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

Meeting Agenda

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

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 (<u>Ecusta Road</u>) 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 (<u>Ecusta Road</u>)	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 <u>identified in locally adopted plans.</u>	Transylvania	YES

Meeting Agenda

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

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. US 276 from Wilson Drive to SR 1536 (Cascade Lake Road) Upgrade roadway, improve intersections, include complete streets

Meeting Agenda

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.

Discussion occurred around why we are submitting them now and not later.

Steve Williams moved to recommend approval of the express design list to the TAC. William High seconded the motion and it passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

Matt Wechtel moved to approve the express design list. Mac Morrow seconded the motion and it passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

5C. 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>

Information only.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

6A: JOINT LOSRPO FBRMPO UPDATES

- A. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates designee
- B. Transportation Planning Division
- C. Staff Updates

Tim Anderson/Wesley Gridstaff or

Daniel Sellers

Vicki Eastland

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kevin Ensley moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 PM.

Upcoming Meetings

Land of Sky RPO TCC – Meeting on Thursday January 15th, 2026 – 10:00AM

LOSRC Offices and Zoom

Land of Sky RPO TAC – Meeting on Thursday January 22nd, 2026 – 11:30 AM

Land of Sky Regional Council and Zoom