

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

Technical Advisory Committee
Hybrid Meeting with the Zoom Platform
February 19th, 2026 – 11:30 A.M.
Minutes

Attendance in Person:

Kevin Ensley (Haywood Commission)	Matt Wechtel (Madison County)
Vicki Eastland(LOSRPO)	Asha Rado (LOSRC-Minutes)
Steve Williams(NCDOT)	Doug Phillips (NCDOT)
Thomas Smith(NCDOT)	

Attendance Remote via Zoom:

Lauren Wise (City of Brevard)	Chase McKelvey(Transylvania County)
Aaron Baker (City of Brevard)	Drew Ball (Buncombe County)
Troy Wilson (NCDOT)	Stephen Sparks (NCDOT)
John Hunter (TPD)	

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Kevin Ensley called the meeting to order at 11: 31AM 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

November 2025 Joint TCC/TAC Meeting Minutes

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Kevin Ensley requested approval of the agenda and the consent agenda, which included the November 2025 Joint TAC/TCC meeting minutes, and the TAC agenda.

Matt Wechtel moved to approve the agenda and the consent agenda, which included the November 2025 Joint TCC/TAC Meeting Minutes and the TAC agenda. Chase McKelvey seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

LAND OF SKY RPO TAC BUSINESS

Item 4A: LOSRPO Draft FY 2027 PWP

LOSRPO staff has developed the DRAFT LOSRPO Planning Work Program, (PWP) The PWP is a continuation of ongoing RPO projects. The Transylvania County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) has been drafted and RPO staff, along with county City of Brevard and Division 14 staff are reviewing the final DRAFT of the CTP

currently. Once that review is complete the CTP will be reviewed by Transylvania Co. CTP committee and TAC and will then go to adoption. There is funding in the PWP to accommodate the adoption process and to potentially kick off the Madison County CTP update. There is a sizable percentage of the planning funds in the General Transportation category, LOSRPO staff serve on a few statewide work groups and committees, as well as ones with more regional significance; this is also the category that special studies such as the Household Survey to update the FBRMPO/LOSRPO Travel Demand Model, the Downtown Brevard Circulation study funded with SPR funds, and other general planning activities fall into. SPOT 8.0 will account for much funding this calendar year and requires a significant amount of funding. Data Collection, Project Development and Admin make up the bulk of the remaining funding except for RPO Direct charges, Travel, and indirect funds. The PWP will come back to the TCC in March for recommendation to the TAC for adoption. The DRAFT FY 2027 PWP is linked below.

[LOSRPO-DRAFT-FY-2027-PWP](#)

Discussion did not occur.

Matt Wechtel moved to approve the Draft FY 2027 PWP. Chase McKelvey seconded and it passed upon a roll call vote.

4B: LOSRPO Prioritization 8.0 Draft LIP

Local Input Point Methodology

What a Local Input Point Methodology Does

The Local Input Point (LIP) Methodology establishes how the RPO assigns its local priority points as part of North Carolina's Transportation Prioritization (STI/SPOT) process. The purpose of the LIP is to ensure that:

- Local priorities are reflected in a data-driven, transparent, and defensible way
- Projects are evaluated consistently across jurisdictions and modes
- The RPO meets NCDOT requirements for public involvement and objective and decision-making

The methodology does not replace SPOT scoring; it is a component of the scoring process. The LIP governs how the RPO applies its discretionary points.

The State requirement is that every local input point methodology is required to have at least one quantitative criteria and one qualitative criteria.

What Local Input Points Do

Local Input Points:

Allow RPOs and MPOs to reflect regional and community priorities; provide a mechanism to recognize: Multimodal connectivity and Local safety concerns.

In practice, Local Input Points serve as a policy balancing tool, not a technical rescoring tool of projects.

In the prioritization process, funding is split into three different tiers. Local Input Points play a different role in generating a total score for projects evaluated in each tier:

	Quantitative Score	RPO LIPs	Division LIPs
Statewide Mobility	100%	0%	0%
Regional Impact	70%	15%	15%
Division Needs	50%	25%	25%

RPO staff are recommending a small to the local input point methodology.

Currently the Prioritization Score accounts for 50% of the total score and Local Input makes up the remaining 50%. The proposed change would be to incorporate the High Injury Network from the Safe Streets for WNC Plan to Highway and Bike/Ped Projects.

Make Local Input 40% of total Score and if a project is on the HIN, it receives 5 points, If the proposed project addresses the safety problem or crash risk it will receive 5 points.

Final RPO Local Input Point Methodologies are due to NCDOT's SPOT office by the end of March.

The Draft RPO LIP can be viewed here: [DRAFT_SPOT-8.0-LOSRPO_1132026](#) It is a marked-up version of the P7.0 methodology.

Discussion did not occur.

Drew Ball moved to approve the proposed changes to the LIP. Matt Wechtel seconded and it passed upon a roll call vote.

4C. Prioritization 8.0 Update:

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**.

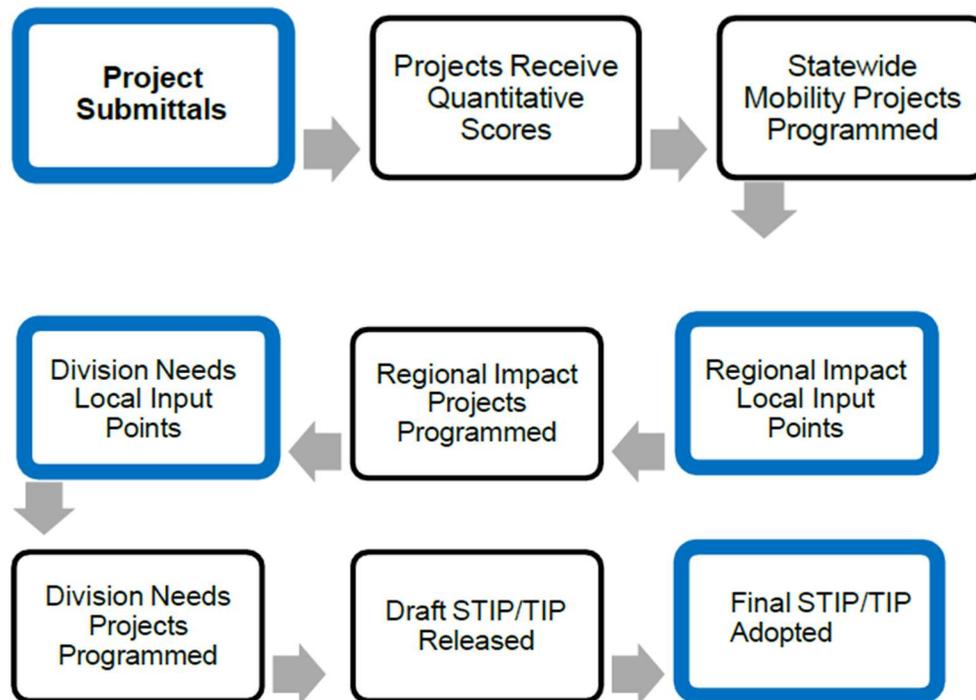
RPO's, MPO's and NCDOT Divisions work with local partners to select projects to be submitted for consideration for funding, (inclusion in the next STIP). Projects from all modes are submitted and will be scored based on the mode, facility type, proposed improvements, and compete for any available funding.

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 CURRENTLY HERE	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

Information Only.

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 12:30PM.