

LAND OF SKY

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

RPO Technical Coordinating Committee

March 12, 2026 – 10:00 A.M., Land of Sky Regional Council and Zoom Platform.

[Join LOSRPO TCC meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 863 7878 3932

Passcode: 291448

Agenda

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome and Introductions,

Vicki Eastland

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda

Aaron Bland

A. TCC January 15, 2026, TCC meeting Minutes

[2026-01_15 RPOTCC Draft-Minutes](#)

4. RPO BUSINESS

A. Confident Scope and Cost Estimate Milestone (CSCE)

Melissa Hyland, NCDOT

B. LOSRPO Draft FY 2027 PWP

Vicki Eastland

C. LOSRPO Prioritization 8.0 Draft LIP

Vicki Eastland

D. Prioritization 8.0 Update

Vicki Eastland

5. REGULAR UPDATES

A. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates

Division Staff

B. Transportation Planning Division Updates

Daniel Sellers

C. NCDOT IMD Updates

Nikki Abija

D. Staff Updates

Vicki Eastland

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

7. ADJOURNMENT

Upcoming Meetings

Land of Sky RPO TAC – Thursday March 19th, 2026 - 11:30 AM LOSRC Offices and Zoom

Land of Sky RPO TCC - Thursday May 14th, 2026 – 10:00 AM LOSRC Offices and Zoom

3. Consent Agenda

**LOSRPO TCC Meeting
Hybrid Meeting with the Zoom Platform
January 15, 2026
Minutes**

Minutes from the RPO TCC January 15th, 2026, Meeting

Remote and in Person Attendance:

Vicki Eastland	Aaron Bland
Steve Williams	Cole Sutton
Jeremy Chapman	Daniel Sellers
William High	Jacob Compher (on behalf of Transylvania County)
Doug Phillips	John Hunter
Stephen Sparks	Troy Wilson
Wesley Grindstaff	Nikki Abija
Erica Anderson	Asha Rado (minutes)
Chris Lee	Chloe Donohoe
Brendan Merithew	Chris Medlin
Sarah Tolman	

RPO TCC January 15, 2026, Meeting Minutes can be viewed at the link below:

[2026-01 15 RPOTCC Draft-Minutes](#)

Staff Recommendations:

Recommend approve Meeting agenda and January 2026 RPO TCC Meeting minutes

RPO BUSINESS

Item 4A: Confident Scope and Cost Estimate Milestone (CSCE) Presentation

NCDOT recently introduced a new milestone in project development known as the Certified Scope & Cost Estimate (CSCE). This milestone is documented by what is being called the Project Definition Document (PDD). This step is being introduced to develop clear expectations for each project and enable more trustworthy cost estimates. This milestone is also important because it sets some parameters on what will be part of the project and what will not be part of the project.

Melissa Hyland, NCDOT STIP Western Region Senior Project Engineer will present on this new milestone in project development.

Staff Recommendations:

No action required, information only.

Item 4B: LOSRPO Draft FY 2027 PWP

LOSRPO staff has developed the DRAFT LOSRPO Planning Work Program, (PWP). The LOSRPO TCC reviewed the DRAFT PWP at the January meeting and the LOSRPO TAC reviewed and approved the DRAFT PWP at the February TAC meeting. I have received no public comments and no comments from NCDOT TPD. There have been no changes made to the DRAFT PWP. Once approved by the TCC the RPO TAC will officially adopt the FY 2027 PWP at their meeting March 19th. The DRAFT LOSRPO FY 2027 PWP can be reviewed at the link below.

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

Staff Recommendations:

Recommend Draft LOSRPO FY 2027 PWP to the RPO TAC for final approval.

Item 4C: 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 methodology 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 rescore tool of projects.

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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 is 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: [LOS RPO DRAFT SPOT 8.0 Local Input Point Methodology](#). NCDOT SPOT office has reviewed and approved the changes pending RPO TAC Adoption.

Staff Recommendations:

Recommend LOSRPO TAC approve proposed changes.

Item 4D: 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**.

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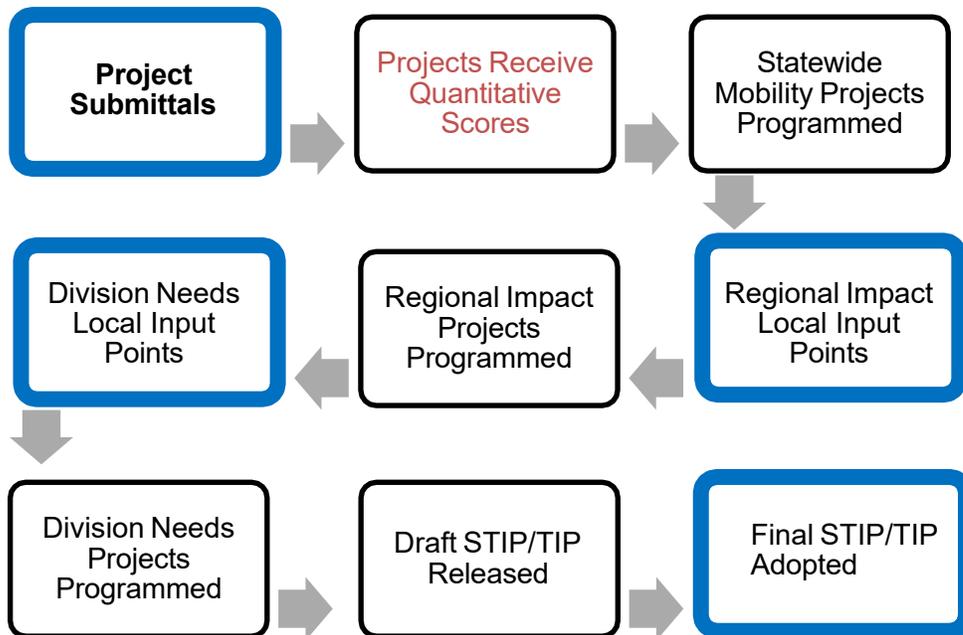
RPO's, MPO's and NCDOT Divisions work with local partners to select projects to be submitted for consideration for funding, (inclusion in the next STIP). Projects from all modes are submitted and will be scored based on the mode, facility type, proposed improvements, and compete for any available funding.

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 in Step 2, NCDOT SPOT Office is reviewing and preparing to score projects.

The LOSRPO P8.0 Submitted Project list is available at [LOSRPO Prioritization 8.0 Project List-9-12-25](#)



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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 November, 2026
Program Division Needs Projects	January 2027 – March 2027 December 2026 – January 2027
DRAFT 2028-2037 STIP Released	March 2027 January - February 2027

Staff Recommendations:

No action required, information only.

5. REGULAR UPDATES

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|---|--------------------|
| A. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates
https://landofskyrpo.org/division-13-updates/
https://landofskyrpo.org/division-14-updates/ | Division Staff |
| B. NCDOT Transportation Planning Division Updates | Daniel Sellers, PE |
| C. NCDOT IMD Updates | Nikki Abija |
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ADJOURNMENT

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