

LAND OF SKY

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

Technical Advisory Committee
Hybrid Meeting with the Zoom Platform
June 18th, 2026 – 11:30 A.M.
Minutes

Attendance in Person:

Kevin Ensley (Haywood Commission)	Matt Wechtel (Madison County)
Chuck McGrady (BOT Div 14)	Vicki Eastland(LOSRPO)
Steve Williams(NCDOT)	Doug Phillips (NCDOT)
Wesley Grindstaff (NCDOT)	

Attendance Remote via Zoom:

Lauren Wise (City of Brevard)	Chase McKelvey(Transylvania County)
Daniel Sellers (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

March 2026 Meeting Minutes: https://landofskyrpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/2026_03_19_DRAFT.RPO_TAC_Minutes.pdf

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Kevin Ensley requested approval of the agenda and the consent agenda, which included the March 2026 meeting minutes, and the TAC agenda.

Matt Wechtel moved to approve the agenda and the consent agenda, which included the March 2026 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

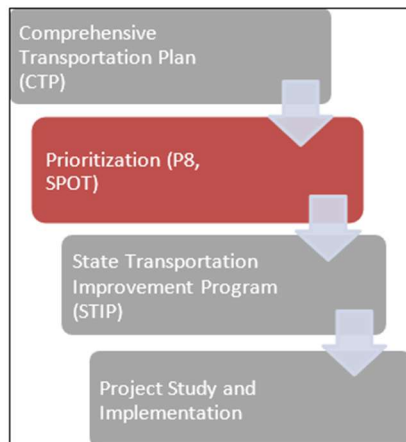
Item 4A: LOSRPO Prioritization 8.0 Draft Regional Impact Local Input Points (LIP) List

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.

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.



Task For Today

- [Review](#) Outcomes of Statewide Mobility and Regional Impact Scores
- Discuss DRAFT local input points for Regional Impact projects

Statewide Mobility Projects

Statewide Mobility projects are programmed solely based on the quantitative score. Only one project in the LOSRPO/FBRMPO region that scored well enough for programming with available funding in P8- the **I-40 Managed Lanes project from Exit 44 to Exit 27**. The I-40 Managed lanes project is wholly in the FBRMPO, and this project directly benefits LOSRPO as well as WNC as a whole. The scores for that project and the only other Statewide Mobility projects in the RPO are available below.

Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improvement Type	Cost to NCDOT	Statewide Mobility Quantitative Score (Out of 100)
I-40	Exit 44 (Smokey Park Highway)	Exit 27 (US 23/74)	Construct managed lanes. [TOLL PROJECT]	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	\$ 513,200,000	88.47
I-40	US 276 (Jonathan Creek Road)	N/A	Improve interchange/ intersection of US 276 and SR 1395 (Cove Creek Rd)	8 - Improve Interchange	\$ 95,200,000	45.33

Regional Impact Projects

Regional Impact projects are programmed 70% based on quantitative score, 30% on input from planning organizations and NCDOT Divisions. The quantitative scores for eligible Regional Impact projects are below. Including Statewide Mobility Projects that are eligible for cascading.

Route / Facility / Project Name	From / Cross Street / Location	To / Cross Street	Description	Specific Improvement Type	Cost to NCDOT	Regional Impact Quantitative Score (Out of 70)
US 64 (Rosman Highway, S Broad Street)	US 64BUS (S Caldwell St)	N. Country Club Rd	RAB at US 64 BUS (S Caldwell St) and N. Country Club Rd	25 - Improve Multiple Intersections along Corridor	\$ 11,300,000	100 37.90
US 25, US 70	US 25, US 70 BUS	SR 1143 (Upper Brush Creek Road)	Upgrade multiple intersections US 25-70 from US 25/70Bus to SR 1143.	25 - Improve Multiple Intersections along Corridor	\$ 12,600,000	100 34.86
US 64 (Rosman Highway)	SR 1346 (Nicholson Creek Road) /SR 1121 (Glazener Road)	SR (Carolina Ave)/SR 1123 (Forest Hill Rd)	Realign Glazener Road to tie into Nicholson Creek Rd. and Improve intersection at Carolina Avenue.	25 - Improve Multiple Intersections along Corridor	\$ 22,800,000	100 25.88
I-40	US 276 (Jonathan Creek Road)	N/A	Improve interchange and intersection of US 276 and SR 1395 (Cove Creek Rd)	8 - Improve Interchange	\$ 95,200,000	25.25
US 276 (Greenville Highway)	SR 1543 (Elm Bend Rd)/ SR 1612 (Parkview Dr)	N/A	Improve intersection of US 276/SR 1543 and SR 1612 with a one lane roundabout.	10 - Improve Intersection	\$ 5,800,000	25.00

25, US 70	SR 1143 (Upper Brush Creek Road, Lower Brush Creek Road)	N/A	Construct Intersection improvements. Potentially consider RAB	10 - Improve Intersection	\$ 11,500,000	100 19.52
US 64 (Rosman Highway)	SR 1337 (Clement Road)	SR 1338 (Old Rosman Highway) / SR 1331 (Morgan Mill Road)	Widen existing roadway to a 4-Lane divided facility with access management. Include MUP. Evaluate all intersections to improve safety (RCIs, turn lanes, etc.)	1 - Widen Existing Roadway	\$ 118,700,000	19.41
US 70, US 25	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).	10 - Improve Intersection	\$ 12,200,000	19.09
US 276 (Jonathon Creek Road)	SR 1395 (Cove Creek Road)	N/A	Improve Intersection, consider one lane roundabout.	10 - Improve Intersection	\$ 5,800,000	18.72
NS AS Line	MP 142.3 to 185.5 between	N/A	Modernization of corridor (replace dark territory with signalized territory) between MP	7 - Corridor <u>modernization</u> (line)	\$ 53,187,517	2.27

	Murphy Junction and the NC/TN Border		142.3 (Murphy Junction) and 185.5 (NC/TN Border) on the NS AS Line to increase the overall train capacity of the corridor.			
US 276 (Russ Avenue) FBRMPO	US 23-74 (Great Smoky Mountain Expressway)	US 19 (Dellwood Road)	US 23-74 (Great Smoky Mountain Expressway) to US 19 (Dellwood Road). Access management.	11 - Access Management	\$ 42,500,000	100 28.22
US 276 FBRMPO	SR 1134 (Crymes Cove Rd), Raccoon Rd	N/A	SR 1134 (Crymes Cove Road) and Raccoon Road. Intersection realignment.	21 - Realign Multiple Intersections	\$ 6,500,000	100 19.89
NC 191 (Brevard Road) FBRMPO	SR 3486 (Glenn Bridge Rd SE, Avery Creek Road), Southwicke Drive	N/A	Realign Glenn Bridge Rd to Laurel Park Dr. to convert to 4-leg intersections. Add exclusive left turn lanes on NC 191 at both intersections. Cul-de-sac Glenn Bridge Rd SE to maintain access to parcels near existing 5- leg intersection.	10 - Improve Intersection	\$ 8,600,000	100 42.29

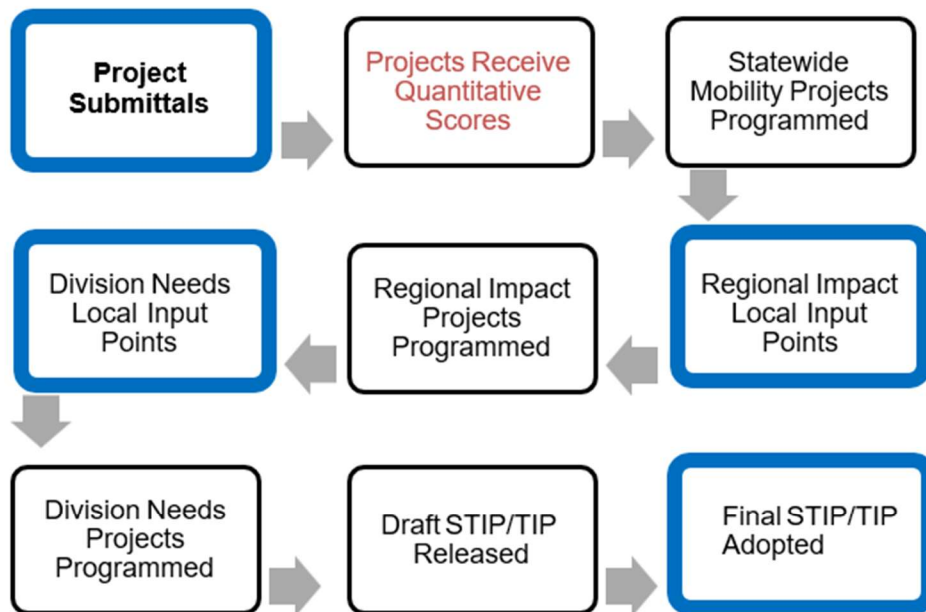
Local Input Points

The RPO is currently holding local priority meetings. This section will be updated with information as that information is developed.

Next Steps

After the RPO TAC approves the Draft Local Input Point Assignment, it will go out for public comment. The final assignment will come back through TCC and TAC in August.

There are several steps in the prioritization process. See the illustration below with RPO tasks circled in **BLUE**: We are currently in **Step 4**, NCDOT SPOT Office is reviewing and preparing to score projects.



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 ***CURRENTLY HERE***	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
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Staff Recommendations: Staff recommends approval of the LOSRPO DRAFT Regional Impact Local Input Points List.

Discussion occurred around cost inflation. Discussion around resiliency issues. Discussion on putting NC 213 on list utilizing flex pts. Discussion around Madison County government center property. Discussion occurred from DOT giving a better division 14 methodology.

Matt Wecthel moved to approve the LOSRPO DRAFT Regional Impact Local Input Points List with the approval of flexing the 500 pts to go towards projects amended in discussion. Chase McKelvey seconded the motion and it passed upon a roll call vote.

4B: NCDOT Division 140 repair and Helene Bridge Replacement Presentation

Wesley Grindstaff, NCDOT Div 14 Division Engineer Will provide an update to the TAC an update on I-40 gorge repairs post Helene. Zach Shuler, Div 14 Bridge Program Manager, will update the TAC on post Helene bridge repair/replacement.

Staff Recommendations:

No action required, information only.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

REGULAR UPDATES

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| • NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates | NCDOT Staff |
| Most Recent Updates | |
| https://landofskyrpo.org/division-13-updates/ | |
| https://landofskyrpo.org/division-14-updates/ | |
| • Transportation Planning Division updates | Daniel Sellers |
| • Staff Updates | Vicki Eastland |

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kevin Ensley moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:30PM.

Upcoming Meeting

Land of Sky RPO TCC – Meeting on Thursday August 13th, 2026 – 10:00AM

LOSRC Offices and Zoom

Land of Sky RPO TAC – Meeting on Thursday August 20th, 2026 – 11:30 AM Land of Sky Regional Council and Zoom