LAND OF SKY RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Technical Advisory Committee
Hybrid Meeting with the Zoom Platform
October 15th, 2026 – 11:30 A.M.
Minutes

Attendance in Person:

Kevin Ensley (Haywood Commission)
Beau Waddell (BOT Div 14)
Steve Williams(NCDOT)
Daniel Sellers (TPO)
Matt Wechtel (Madison County)
Vicki Eastland(LOSRPO)
Brenden Merrithew (NCDOT)
John Hunter (TPO)

Attendance Remote via Zoom:

Lauren Wise (City of Brevard)
Drew Ball (Buncombe County)
Troy Wilson (NCDOT)
Stephen Sparks (NCDOT)
Cody Weddle (NCDOT)
Chase McKelvey (Transylvania County)
Chris Medlin(NCDOT)
Kevin Bridges(NCTA)
Tim Anderson (NCDOT)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Kevin Ensley called the meeting to order at 11: 30AM 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

August 2026 Meeting Minutes: https://landofskyrpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/2026_08_20__DRAFT.RPO_.TAC_.Minutes.pdf

Letter of Support for the PROTECT Planning Grant Application
Vicki Eastland presented. (Ask vicki for written description)

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Kevin Ensley requested approval of the agenda and the consent agenda, which included the August 2026 meeting minutes, the TAC agenda and the PROTECT Planning Grant Application Letter of Support

Matthew Wechtel moved to approve the agenda and the consent agenda, which included the August 2026 Meeting Minutes, the TAC agenda and the Letter of Support for the PROTECT Planning Grant Application. Beau Waddell seconded the motion which passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.

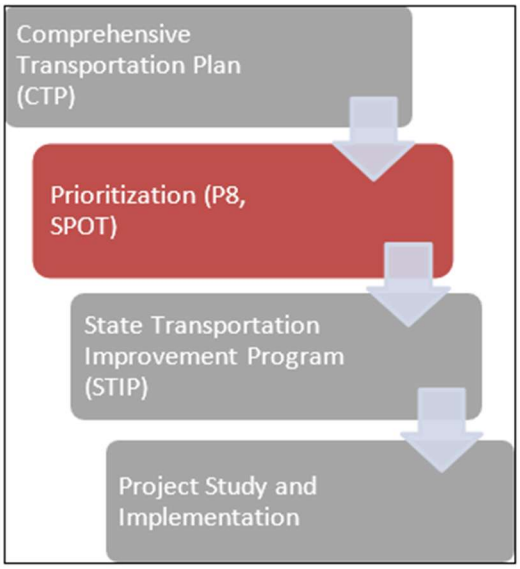
LAND OF SKY RPO TAC BUSINESS

Item 4A: LOSRPO Prioritization 8.0 Division Needs DRAFT 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) and on the assignment of Local Input Points, used to boost the scores of projects in the Regional Impact and Division Needs Tiers, and to reflect local priorities.
The outcome of Prioritization 8.0, P8.0 will be the 2028 – 2037 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Land of Sky RPO receives 1200 Local Input Points for both Regional Impact and Division Needs. This round LOSRPO flexed 500 LIPs from Regional Impact tier to Division Needs. So LOSRPO has 1700 Division Needs LIP's this round. Currently there is more funding available in the Division Needs tier and several lower cost projects at that tier.



Task For Today

- Review of Outcomes of Statewide Mobility and Regional Impact Scores
- Discuss Final 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 Express lanes project is wholly in the FBRMPO, and this project directly benefits LOSRPO as well as WNC as a whole.

Regional Impact Projects
Regional Impact projects are programmed 70% based on quantitative score, 30% on input from planning organizations and NCDOT Divisions. Only one project that LOSRPO supported with Regional Impact Local Input Points was selected for inclusion in the DRAFT 2028 – 2037 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

- NC 191 (Brevard Road), Glenn Bridge Road, Avery Creek Road- Improve Intersection

Local Input Points
The RPO has consulted with local partners. Changes can be made to priorities up until final approval.

Division Needs Projects
Below is a list of all Division Needs Projects in (or partially in) the RPO, sorted based on Quantitative score. This list includes nine Regional Impact Projects considered for cascading.

**** SEE Agenda for charts and details****

Next Steps
After approval of the Draft Local Input Point Assignment, RPO staff will advertise the DRAFT Division Needs Local Input Points Assignment List. It will come back for final approval at the November Joint TCC/TAC meeting.

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	June - August, 2026
DRAFT Regional Impact Programmed Projects Released	Sept, 2026
Division Needs Local Input Points Window	October – November, 2026
Program Division Needs Projects	December 2026 – January 2027
DRAFT 2028-2037 STIP Released	January - February 2027

Recommendations: Staff recommend approval of the LOSRPO DRAFT Division Needs Local Input Points List

Discussion did not occur.

Chase McKelvey moved to approve the LOSRPO DRAFT Division Needs Local Input Points List. Matthew Wechtel seconded the motion and it passed upon a roll call vote.

4B: NCDOT Transportation Planning Office (TPO) Transylvania Co, CTP Presentation and Endorsement:

NCDOT Transportation Planning Office staff, provided an update and overview of the Transylvania County Comprehensive Transportation Plan, CTP, at the August RPO TCC and TAC meetings in advance of endorsement by the RPO TCC/TAC. The Transylvania County CTP has been adopted by the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners and both the City of Brevard Council and the Town of Rosman Board of Aldermen and Alderwomen. LOSRPO staff have advertised Transylvania County CTP in accordance with the RPO Public Involvement Plan. RPO staff have received no comments from the public at the time of drafting this agenda. Today NCDOT TPO staff will present the Final Transylvania County CTP for recommendation for the RPO TAC Endorsement by Resolution.

Recommendations: Recommend RPO TAC Vote to Endorse Transylvania County CTP by Resolution.

Discussion did not occur.

Beau Waddell moved to approve endorsing the Transylvania County CTP. Lauren Wise seconded and it passed upon a roll call vote.

4C. NCDOT I-40 Express Lanes Update:

Kevin Bridges with NCDOT will provide an update on the proposed I-40 Express Lanes project between Exit 7 in Haywood County and Exit 44 in Buncombe County. Previously proposed as a conventional widening project, I-6054 was submitted to Prioritization 8.0 (P8) as an express lane project and scored well enough to be programmed in the Statewide Mobility Tier. The project is expected to advance into engineering, with construction funding still uncertain. Managed lanes have been considered along this corridor for several years, and the FBRMPO Board requested a feasibility study in January 2024. This update will give the Board and TCC an opportunity to discuss NCDOT's approach to project development, tolling, and financing, including how lessons from the I-77 Express Lanes project could inform the process.

Information Only.

Discussion around managed lanes and their scoring. Discussion around when we might actually see progress on process, what is timeframe exactly. Right now there are rough timelines but not ready to share this at this point.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

REGULAR UPDATES

- 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 12:30 PM.

Upcoming Meeting

LOSRPO Joint TCC/TAC Meeting on Thursday November 19th, 2026 11AM at Land of Sky Regional Council Offices and Zoom.