

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

RPO Technical Coordinating Committee

October 13th, 2016 – 10:00 A.M., Land of Sky Regional Council

Minutes

Attendance:

Mark Burrows	Vicki Eastland*	Zia Rifkin*	Pam Cook*
Joel Setzer*	Scott Collier	Kris Boyd	Steve Williams
Sara Nichols	Chris Craig*	Jackie Moore*	Denise Braine
Mary Smith*	Daniel Cobb	Aaron Bland*	Rick Tipton
Erica Anderson*	* indicates non-voting attendees		

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Vice Chairman Burrows called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00am; he welcomed everyone in attendance and introductions followed. He communicated that the Agenda needed to be approved with no modification requested.

Kris Boyd moved to approve the Agenda without modification. Denise Braine seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

CONSENT AGENDA

Denise Braine moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the minutes of the June 9, 2016 meeting. Kris Boyd seconded and as all were in favor the motion carried.

RPO BUSINESS

Review/Discuss Draft Regional Impact Results: Vicki Eastland shared that regional projects were prioritized and submitted. Projects fared better than the last round as more projects were selected for funding this round. She reviewed the projects that were selected. Vicki Eastland stated that new projects will be developed and submitted in the summer of 2017.

No action required at this time.

Adopt Draft Division Needs List: Vicki Eastland shared that the list of projects has been distributed and the projects have been ranked and scored. This includes both Highway projects and bike/ped projects. There are three bike/ped projects on the list. The other projects are all highway projects. Vicki Eastland shared that there were 3 or 4 regional projects that did not get selected for funding in the Regional Impact round. It is hoped that those projects can remain in the database and be fine-tuned- 25 points have been applied to these projects so those will hopefully remain in the database. After discussion with county officials, it has been proposed that (NC 280 from Deavor Road to Hudlin Gap Road for roadway modernization) in Transylvania County, and (NC 25/70 N.

main Street to Lower Brush Creek Road) in Madison County cascade from the Regional Impact tier to Division Needs. In Haywood County, there were no projects in the Division Needs tier that competed, so a decision was made to give 100 points to the MPO to be applied to US19/23 from Chestnut Mtn. Road Rd to Wiggins Rd in Buncombe County. This project is a high priority for Haywood County and is within the MPO boundary. Vicki Eastland communicated that at this time, projects in the database which received minimal points may or may not remain in the database. Projects on this list are already in the public comment process.

Discussion occurred regarding Probart Street in the City of Brevard and it was explained that it is already built with the City's funds so there is no longer a need to pursue funding.

Kris Boyd moved to approve the LOSRPO Draft Division Needs assignment of Local Input Points and to forward that to the TAC for their consideration. Denise Braine seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Review LOSRPO Public Outreach Strategy for Division Needs: Vicki Eastland shared that there was a request at the June meeting to run the public notice in the Transylvania Times and the News Record and Sentinel (Madison Co.). A display ad came out October 6th in Mountain Express and weekly ads were placed in the other newspapers. Overall, this has been a fairly aggressive approach which has also included radio spots in Transylvania County. There is an online survey which is open until October 26, 2016, which is the day of the public hearing, that can be accessed on the RPO website. Vicki Eastland requested that RPO jurisdictions share the online survey widely.

Discussion occurred regarding suggestions for getting the message out to folks about the proposed projects. Vicki Eastland shared that there are even coasters which have been distributed throughout the region. Suggestions for getting the word out included posting to the LOS Facebook page and other social media outlets.

No action required.

Approve DRAFT LOSRPO 2017 Meeting Schedules: Vicki Eastland shared that this is a preliminary schedule for the TCC and TAC. No meetings have been scheduled in January as historically there have been conflicts with jurisdictions that have budget retreats and other meetings. Should there be a need to shift meetings, ample notice will be provided.

No action required.

NCDOT Bike/Ped Planning Grant Resolution: Vicki Eastland shared that Transylvania County is in the application process for an NCDOT Bike/Ped division funded county bike plan. Mark Burrows communicated that the county is currently looking at a \$65,000 grant and the match is being sought from other entities in the county and the county will pitch in as well.

Denise Braine moved to approve resolution for Transylvania County's bike/ped grant application to NCDOT and to forward that to the TAC for consideration for approval. Daniel Cobb seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Active Routes to School- Mary Smith and Jackie Moore with Safe Routes to School shared that the Active Routes to School initiative is a partnership between NCDOT and the NC Division of Public Health and is administered through the public health departments. The benefits of walking and biking to school affect children, schools, the community and the environment. The initiative uses a five-pronged approach to reach

communities including awareness raising events, ongoing programs, training /workshops, built environment changes and policy changes.

Pam Cook shared that the staff for Active Routes to Schools are available to represent stakeholders on transportation committees (including the CTP). Curriculum for Let's Go NC is housed on the NCDOT website

(<https://www.ncdot.gov/bikeped/safetyeducation/letsgonc/>).

Active Routes to School- Mary Smith and Jackie Moore provided a presentation on the **Information only**.

REGULAR UPDATES

NCDOT Division 13 and Division 14 updates

Transportation Planning Branch Updates.

Legislative Updates

Staff Updates and Housekeeping

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Burrows moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded and the meeting was adjourned.