



Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee Minutes – May 24, 2017

Attendees:

Brownie Newman
Vicki Eastland
Zia Rifkin
Cole Hood
Brownie Newman
Ed Green

Matt Wechtel
Brendan Merrithew
Steve Cannon
Daniel Sellers
Steve Williams
Jason Chappell

Mike Sorrells
Rick Tipton
Troy Wilson
Charlie Landreth

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Brownie Newman called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. He read the Ethics Statement, asked if there were any conflicts, and members responded that there were none. He then reviewed the Agenda and no modifications were proposed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Jason Chappell moved to approve the minutes from the February 22, 2017 LOSRPO TAC meeting. Mike Sorrells seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Newman called for any public comments. No one made any and the public comment period closed.

BUSINESS

Approval of LOSRPO FY 2017 PWP Amendment: Vicki Eastland shared that NCDOT TPB has reviewed the proposed amendment and she stated that the reason for the amendment is that the Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) updates have been put on hold, including the CTP for Transylvania County. Vicki Eastland shared that there was a significant amount of funding in the CTP category so these funds have not been spent and this amendment is to re-distribute the funds to ongoing work projects including SPOT, data collection and assessment. General administration is getting a small percentage of the funds as well. She informed the TAC that NCDOT TPB is moving forward to get the CTP's going with the expected rollout of the new process occurring sometime in late summer or early fall.

Mike Sorrells moved to approve the amendment to the LOSRPOFY 2017 PWP as presented. Jason Chappell seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

NC Secretary of Transportation James Trogdon Comments Review – Vicki Eastland shared that Secretary Trogdon spoke at the LOSRPO TCC meeting a couple of weeks ago. The Secretary's comments included NCDOT's initiative to accelerate project delivery to spend down \$1 billion over the next year. The goal is to spend down the

funds and accelerate project delivery, then NCDOT will request the General Assembly to pass a bond to provide additional funding and project delivery long-term.

Charlie Landreth shared that there has been communication that NCDOT is having a difficult time securing contractors. If the legislature perceives that there is a difficult time securing contractors the GA may be reluctant to approve a bond.

Rick Tipton shared that having the bond would provide funds for multi-years. The logic is that the bonds would provide a level of funds that would assure contractors that there would be funds to complete work.

Vicki Eastland shared additional comments by Secretary Trogdon including that NCDOT is looking at additional funding streams to augment transportation funding as the fuel tax is decreasing.

Mike Sorrells shared that electric vehicles may have a surcharge eventually.

Vicki Eastland shared that the Secretary also made remarks about NCDOT researching how to alter driver behavior, as there has been an increase in the state in fatal crashes (5th in fatalities in the nation). Additional remarks made during the TCC meeting included that Secretary Trogdon also encouraged MPO/RPO's and Division to be looking at alternate criteria for projects in the regional and Division needs tiers. A meeting is set for this in early June and a report can be provided at the next TAC meeting. Secretary Trogdon hopes to consolidate some existing funding to make available to all divisions a pot of money to be used to deliver "High Impact Low Cost Projects" under \$2 million that would be completed outside of the Prioritization process. The Secretary also made remarks at the TCC meeting about drones and autonomous vehicles and how those may greatly change the transportation landscape in the state.

Steve Williams shared the talking points from the Secretary's visit, which are more comprehensive and Vicki Eastland communicated that she will send those to TAC members.

Information only.

Prioritization Update SPOT 5.0 -- Vicki Eastland informed the TAC that she has been out to all of the counties to meet with local partners to develop LOSRPO DRAFT PROJECT LIST. Other key dates and details were reviewed;

- LOSRPO will receive 1100 points for each tier, Regional and Division, like previous rounds.
- Modifications and deletions of Carryover projects must be submitted to SPOT by August 25.
- New project submissions are due Sep. 29th. LOSRPO has 15 submissions in each mode

information only.

Calendar Changes: Vicki Eastland shared that the LOSRC Council meetings for August and September will be held offsite. She proposed that both the August and September LOSRPO TAC meetings be held prior to the MPO Board meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month at 11:30am. The revised dates for the meetings are August 24 and September 28.

TAC members reached consensus that the calendar changes were amenable.

REGULAR UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ricky Tipton provided Division 13 updates and Ed Green provided Division 14 updates.

Daniel Sellers shared TPB updates.

Vicki Eastland provided Legislative updates.

Vicki Eastland provided staff Updates and Housekeeping matters.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned as there was no further business.