

# RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

## RPO Technical Coordinating Committee

August 10, 2017 – 10:00 A.M., Land of Sky Regional Council

### Minutes

#### **Attendance:**

Mark Burrows	Vicki Eastland	Zia Rifkin	Karen Kiehna
Daniel Sellers	Denise Braine	Sara Nichols	Erica Anderson
Brendan Merithew	Jodie Ferguson	Steve Williams	Steve Cannon
Daniel Cobb			

#### **WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING**

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 approval with no modification requested.

***Denise Braine moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Sara Nichols seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.***

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one made any public comments.

#### **ADOPTION OF THE PREVIOUS TCC MINUTES**

***Steve Williams moved to approve the May 11<sup>th</sup> TCC minutes as presented. Sara Nichols seconded and as all were in favor, the motion carried.***

#### **RPO BUSINESS**

Review LOSRPO 2018-2027 State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP): Vicki Eastland shared that TCC members should have received an emailed link to the STIP ([http://www.landofsky.org/pdf/LGS/RPO/RPO\\_STIP\\_2018.pdf](http://www.landofsky.org/pdf/LGS/RPO/RPO_STIP_2018.pdf)). She communicated that additional LOSRPO projects entered into the STIP include FLAP-funded projects in Haywood County (R-5764, Cove Creek Road Slide Area Repair) and Transylvania County (R-5765, US 276 improvements) and an additional project added in Madison County (EB-5918), which would provide pedestrian improvements at Student Drop-off Way and Derringer Drive. Vicki Eastland communicated that these are important projects for the region. She shared that the entire list is on the RPO's website and other projects, including transit and bridges are included in the updated STIP.

***No action required at this time.***

SPOT 5.0 Presentation - Brendan Merithew (Division 13) and Steve Williams (Division 14), Division Planning Engineers (DPE) shared a presentation about the Strategic Transportation Investments (STI), Prioritization and Programming Process. The presentation is available on the RPO's website

[http://www.landofsky.org/pdf/LGS/RPO/STI\\_Prioritization\\_Programming\\_Process\\_LOSRPO.pptx](http://www.landofsky.org/pdf/LGS/RPO/STI_Prioritization_Programming_Process_LOSRPO.pptx)).

Vicki Eastland shared who the planning organization members are on the SPOT Workgroup for the western region of the state. She communicated that the important thing to understand is that projects can cascade from one level to another (if a project is important to a planning area) and she shared that LOSRPO Statewide projects include those regarding I-26 West and I-40 West. Another thing to keep in mind is that Division Needs projects are funded only in that tier; projects cascaded from higher tiers could bump out projects more local in nature. Under the Strategic Transportation Investment (STI) law, eligibility definitions determine which projects are available in which tier. For example, bike/ped projects are available at the Division Needs level only. Under SPOT 5.0 Highway Criteria and Weights, at the Statewide Mobility level, there are no local input points.

The presentation described how the STIP is developed through prioritization ranking and normalization. Committed projects are those that are in the first five years of the STIP. Committed projects are not subject to re-prioritization and have right-of-way acquisition or the construction date in the first five years of STIP 2018-2027. A basic timeline for SPOT 5.0 was provided. Carryover projects are automatically rescored in SPOT 5.0 and must go through prioritization again, may be modified, etc. Splitting carryover projects makes new projects that count as a new submittal. The LOSRPO has 15 submittals for each transportation mode. For SPOT 5.0, projects can be submitted until September 29.

Steve Williams informed the TCC that Divisions 13 and 14 and the planning organizations in the western region of the state have discussed the use of alternative criteria and weights. In order for those to be used, the Divisions and the planning organizations have to agree on the specifics of the alternate criteria and weights to be used. The final decision on the use of alternate criteria and weights lies with the planning boards of the planning regions.

Vicki Eastland clarified the number of points that are available in each tier to be applied by the RPO and NCDOT.

The presentation is available on the website.

**No action required at this time.**

LOSRPO DRAFT Project List for Submission to SPOT 5.0: Vicki Eastland shared that copies of the draft project list have been shared with LOSRPO TCC members. She communicated that modifications have been requested to the project in Madison County (one of three carryover projects). She communicated that projects in the draft STIP for the RPO region include new projects in Haywood, Madison and Buncombe Counties. Local meetings have been held with the jurisdictions. The deadline for submitting projects is September 29. The deadline to delete carryover projects is August 25.

**Daniel Cobb moved to recommend the draft SPOT 5.0 project list to the LOSRPO TAC for consideration Sara Nichols seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.**

Alternate Criteria: Vicki Eastland shared that on June 12th, the planning organizations and NCDOT Divisions in the western region of the state got together. The following Default Criteria changes were agreed upon:

- SPOT5.0 Regional Impact Default Criteria (no change).
- SPOT5.0 Division Needs **Division 13** Alternate Criteria (change), move 5% from Accessibility/Connectivity, to Safety. Result, Accessibility/Connectivity = 0% Safety = 15%.
- SPOT5.0 Division Needs **Division 14** Alternate Criteria (change), move 5% from Accessibility/Connectivity and Freight. Apply this to Pavement Condition. Result, Accessibility/Connectivity = 0%, Freight = 0%, Pavement Condition = 10%.

For alternate criteria to be used, each NCDOT Division and each MPO/RPO in the region or division must unanimously agree to use it and must send a memo from their TAC or Board Chair to the SPOT office by September 29. If a Division/MPO/RPO does not wish to participate this also must be communicated to NCDOT SPOT office.

***Sara Nichols moved to approve the Alternative Criteria and forward those to the TAC for consideration of approval. Daniel Cobb seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.***

#### **REGULAR UPDATES**

NCDOT Division 13 and Division 14 updates  
Transportation Planning Branch Updates.  
Legislative Updates  
Staff Updates and Housekeeping

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Burrows adjourned the meeting, as there was no further business.