

# RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

## RPO Technical Coordinating Committee

February 8, 2018 – 10:00 A.M., Land of Sky Regional Council

### Minutes

#### **Attendance:**

Mark Burrows	Vicki Eastland	Zia Rifkin	Sara Nichols
Matt Cable	Jodie Ferguson	Daniel Cobb	Brendan Merithew
Steve Williams	Steve Cannon	Lyuba Zuyeva	Erica Anderson
Ritchie Rozzelle	Kenny Armstrong	Tristan Winkler	
Troy Wilson	Daniel Sellers		

#### **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 was presented with no modifications.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one made any public comments.

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

***Matt Cable moved to approve the September 14, 2017 TCC minutes as presented. Daniel Cobb seconded and as all were in favor, the motion carried.***

#### **RPO BUSINESS**

Recommend Draft FBRMPO/LOSRPO LCP for Adoption: Vicki Eastland shared that the RPO and the MPO elected to do a combined Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan or Locally Coordinated Plan (LCP) as it will serve as the region-wide plan. The draft plan has been advertised and posted on the MPO and RPO websites. Vicki Eastland shared that the recommendation is to send this on to the RTAC to adopt at the end of the month. The FTA requires that projects to be funded with FTA Section 5310 funds (enhanced mobility for seniors and disabled individuals) must be identified in a Locally Adopted Plan. The LCP is a non-binding, not fiscally constrained plan that identifies gaps in public transit and community transportation and develops strategies to help address these gaps. She shared with the TCC that 5310 funding has been used by Mountain Mobility and Asheville Redefines Transit (Art) for route 170 (Swannanoa and Black Mountain) and both Haywood and Madison County has used 5310 funding to enhance senior transportation in the past.

Vicki Eastland shared that overall, the recommendations in the plan are for the entire region. Chairman Burrows wondered if there would be any benefit to identifying "service across multiple regions" as that could add services for folks who need to cross county lines to receive services?

**Steve Williams moved to send the draft LCP on the to RTAC for adoption at the end of the month. Matt Cable seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.**

LOSRPO Title VI Plan Update– Vicki Eastland shared that Title VI is the federal law regarding non-discrimination in federally funded transportation programs. She communicated that additional focus needs to be placed on Title VI plans used by local jurisdictions. Currently, the Civil Rights Unit at NCDOT are working with FHWA to develop a template for all NC MPO and RPOs to use to update their Title VI plans. She reviewed the Title VI documents (Standard Title VI/Nondiscrimination Assurances, Title VI Nondiscrimination Policy Statement, Demographic Request and Demographic Request Table) provided to TCC members and explained that the documents have to be posted at each local government office. She noted that the plan would not be completed until later this year. As part of submitted the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), at the end of May, the Title VI plan must be under development.

**No action required at this time.**

Draft LOSRPO SPOT 5.0 Local Input Methodology: Vicki Eastland shared that NCDOT has made some changes to the methodology to include two criteria with at least one being qualitative; to have public involvement (on the proposed methodology) and the preliminary assignment of local input points to projects based on the approved methodology; and, dissemination of the methodology, local points and public input on LOSRPO's website ([www.landofskyrpo.org](http://www.landofskyrpo.org))

Vicki Eastland shared that the RPO and the Divisions each have 15% input at the Regional Impact tier and 25% at the Division Needs tier. Land of Sky RPO's Draft Local Input Point Assignment Methodology was sent to NCDOT SPOT office for review on January 31, 2018. Staff also shared the draft with TCC members. As of the drafting of this agenda, staff is still awaiting comments from the SPOT office. Required edits will be made and shared with TCC members before the final draft goes before the RPO TAC for approval.

Discussion occurred regarding giving such weight to the quantitative score coming out of the SPOT office and Vicki Eastland shared that we still have geographic equity in the scoring process. She noted that jurisdictions put their points on those projects that they want to be funded.

**Matt Cable moved to send the draft methodology on to the RTAC for approval. Daniel Cobb seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.**

Changes to 2018 meeting schedule – Vicki Eastland shared that the April meeting cycle is being moved to March and the October RTAC meeting will be moved up a week to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month (instead of the fourth-does not affect the TCC).

No action – informational only.

NCDOT I-26 Project Coordination Discussion-Vicki Eastland shared that this is a good time to talk about options. Brendan Merrithew shared that the I-26 projects and peripheral projects would be hitting at the same time. The bigger question is what can

we do together? Brendan Merithew shared that he would like to make a formal presentation in the coming months that could include transportation options (Park/Ride, etc.).

Discussion occurred about how to make the public aware of alternatives when projects are underway. Steve Williams shared that conversations are underway about using public outreach about options such as Share the Ride NC, which could increase carpooling/ridesharing. Reaching out to industries to make them aware of traffic plans, etc. it is a little pre-mature at this point, but as we move forward with projects, it's important to get the word out about options to help folks travel more safely. Brendan Merithew noted that we need to look at the capacity available in our region to offer transportation alternatives. Daniel Sellers shared that the goal is to remove cars from the roads using ridesharing, carpooling, additional transit services, etc. Steve Williams noted that this is a great opportunity to show the advantage of having a coordinated transportation plan. Chairman Burrows shared that resources (LOSRPO, LOSRC, local governments, the media) to push the messages about transportation projects and the alternative that would be available to help move traffic more smoothly during construction of projects. NCDOT staff noted that it is the consultants, primarily, that are responsible for coordinating alternatives. The goal is to mitigate impacts to travel when projects get underway. The I-26 projects are scheduled to begin in 2019. Consensus was reached that September of this year would be a good time to bring a plan back to the RPO.

### **REGULAR UPDATES**

NCDOT Division 13 and Division 14 updates  
TPB Updates  
Legislative Updates  
Staff Updates and Housekeeping

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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