

RURAL PLANNING RURAL ORGANIZATION

RPO Technical Coordinating Committee

June 14, 2018 – 10:00 A.M., Land of Sky Regional Council

Minutes

Attendance:

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Mark Burrows | Vicki Eastland | Nick Kroncke | Zia Rifkin |
| Daniel Sellers | Jodie Ferguson | Forrest Gilliam | Matt Cable |
| Nancy Allen | Daniel Cobb | Steve Williams | Brendan Merithew |
| Stephan Sparks | Daniel Bolden | Russ Davis | Kenny Armstrong |
| Anna Sexton | Tristan Winkler | Ritchie Rozzelle | Steve Cannon |

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Chairman Mark 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 requested.

Forrest Gilliam moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Steve Williams seconded and the motion carried as all were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

ADOPTION OF THE PREVIOUS TCC MINUTES

Nancy Allen moved to approve the March 8, 2018 TCC minutes as presented. Matt Cable seconded and as all were in favor, the motion carried.

RPO BUSINESS

LOSRPO Prioritization 5.0 Public Outreach/Survey Results: Vicki Eastland shared about the public survey for all highway, bike/ped, and transit projects in the RPO and MPO planning area under consideration for funding in SPOT 5.0. She noted that results of the survey were used during consideration of point's assignment for SPOT 5.0. The TCC will receive survey results. Tristan Winkler, MPO staff, concurred that the survey received more responses than previous surveys.

Discussion occurred regarding what percentage of the population responding to the survey results would be adequate and Tristan Winkler shared that about 1% of the population responded to the survey (much higher rate than previously); however, the goal would be to have at least 5% of the population respond to the survey. He noted that the key thing with this very complicated process was to have the survey ask "What projects are most important to you?" In that sense, the survey was a success.

No action required at this time- informational only.

LOSRPO SPOT5.0 Local Input Points Regional Impact Tier: Vicki Eastland shared that staff has held staff level meetings in all counties with representatives from all LOSRPO member governments, NCDOT staff and FBRMPO staff. LOSRPO staff have completed scoring of all Regional Impact Projects and applied Local Input Points based on Local Priority Rank and the RPO's approved methodology. She noted that LOSRPO TAC/TCC members have been provided with the draft local input points assignment list via email and advertised the LOSRPO these for public comment and public hearing in the June 13th edition of Mountain Express. The list is also available on the RPO's website:

http://www.landofsky.org/pdf/LGS/RPO/LOSRPO_P5_SCORE_DOC.pdf. She next reviewed the list with the TCC. She noted that in the Regional Impact Tier 17 counties compete for funding (representing Divisions 13 and 14).

Vicki Eastland communicated that TCC members were provided with a copy of the memo about the US 25/70 Superstreet project, which is 64% in the MPO region and 36% in the RPO region. The project's score in Regional Impact Tier is 30.79 out of 70 with a \$35 million cost to NCDOT. She noted that the MPO is not planning to put points on the project based on their scoring methodology. The project is receiving Regional Impact points for LOSRPO based on the RPO's scoring methodology. She also noted that the project is the number two priority in Madison County after local meetings. In NCDOT Division 13 preliminary Regional Impact point assignment, the project is receiving 100 points. The RPO would like to request the MPO to apply 64 Regional Impact points to the US 25/70 Superstreet project to bring the total points assigned up to 100 RPO/MPO points and give the project its best opportunity to be funded.

Discussion occurred regarding whether all of the counties have provided resolutions and Vicki Eastland shared that those have not all been received. Steve Williams shared that the process will proceed; however, resolutions are requested.

Forrest Gilliam moved to approve the Regional Impact Local Input Points assignment and send it to the RPO TAC for approval. Jodie Ferguson seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Vicki Eastland shared that Regional Impact Tier results should be available by the end of August.

Resolutions to Remove or Reduce Bike/Ped Local Match: Vicki Eastland shared that LOSRPO staff at the March TAC meeting supported the idea of a resolution of support from the RPO TAC to be sent to Julie White, NCDOT Deputy Secretary for Multi-Modal Transportation, in support of removal or reduction of local match for Bike/Pedestrian Projects. This has been a point of discussion at NCARPO Association meetings. She noted that this may or may not go anywhere, but RPOs across the state are being asked to submit resolutions in support of reducing the bike/ped local match. The resolution is only for stand-alone bike/ped projects.

Discussion occurred about stand-alone bike/ped projects, which are 80% federally funded. Tristan Winkler shared that the state has had federal funds rescinded such as transportation alternative funds (TAP) have not been spent. The goal is to reduce the local match burden on municipalities and counties. The state is looking at a way to leave funds on the table. (TAP funds). Daniel Sellers shared that this issue is a priority for Julie White, Deputy Secretary and there is a very aggressive timeline to issue a new policy. Vicki Eastland shared that many folks view bike/ped projects as a luxury; however, in some of the smaller, rural communities, bike/ped can be very important

and may be an economic driver. The local match is a hindrance to small communities wanting to develop stand-alone bike/ped projects. Daniel Cobb wondered if the intent with this effort was to use TAP funds. Chairman Burrows shared that he saw no downside to the resolution and many benefits. Tristan Winkler shared that TAP funds were specifically for bike/ped (and other alternate travel modes) and some environmental mitigation. The required 20% non-federal match could prohibit local jurisdictions from getting the projects they need for alternative modes of transportation. Vicki Eastland shared that the TAC was in favor of the resolution and sees this as a win-win for everyone. Daniel Sellers shared that such a resolution could help undo the rule passed in 2013.

Daniel Cobb moved to recommend the LOSRPO TAC to approve the letter of support to reduce the required Bicycle/Pedestrian local match funds. Steve Williams seconded and the motion carried as all were in favor.

City of Brevard BUILD Letter of Support: Vicki Eastland shared about Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD), which are the new TIGER funds, for jurisdictions to apply directly to the feds to get important projects funded.

Daniel Cobb shared that the City of Brevard began a master plan for its downtown. This opportunity came to the City in April and the municipality is requesting the RPO support this process. Vicki Eastland shared that a minimum BUILD application is \$1 million and the City of Brevard's project is estimated to cost over \$12 million. Vicki Eastland communicated that example letters of support are being gathered and a letter of support would be developed for the RPO.

Forrest Gilliam moved to approve the BUILD letter of support and to send that to the TAC for consideration of approval. Daniel Sellers seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

REGULAR UPDATES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Forrest Gilliam moved to adjourn the meeting. Daniel Cobb seconded and the meeting adjourned.