

Meeting Agenda

RPO Technical Advisory Committee

May 24th, 2017 –2:30 Pisgah Room (Medium) Conference Room Land of Sky Regional
Council

1. WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

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|---|----------------|
| A. Welcome and Introductions | Brownie Newman |
| B. Ethics Statement & Agenda Approval/Modifications | Brownie Newman |

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS TCC MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the RPO TAC February 22nd, 2016 Meeting	Brownie Newman
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3. PUBLIC COMMENT

4. Land of Sky RPO TAC BUSINESS Items

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|---|----------------|
| A. Approval of LOSRPO FY 2017 PWP Amendment | Vicki Eastland |
| B. NC Secretary of Transportation James Trogon
Comments Review | Vicki Eastland |
| C. Prioritization Update SPOT5.0 | Vicki Eastland |
| D. LOSROP TAC Meeting Calendar Changes | Vicki Eastland |

5. REGULAR UPDATES

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| A. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates | Jay Swain/Ed Green/Designee |
| B. Transportation Planning Branch Updates | Daniel Sellers |
| C. Legislative Updates | Vicki Eastland |
| D. Staff Updates and Housekeeping | Vicki Eastland |

6. ADJOURN LOSRPO MEETING

Brownie Newman

Next Meeting: August 24th, 2017, 11:30 AM

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Item 1b: Ethics Statement

ETHICS AWARENESS & CONFLICT OF INTEREST REMINDER

(To be read by the Chair or his or her designee at the beginning of each meeting)

In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every Board member to avoid conflicts of interest. Does any Board member have any known conflict of interest with respect to any matters coming before the Board today? If so, please identify the conflict and refrain from any participation in the particular matter involved.

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization
Technical Advisory Committee Minutes – February 22, 2017

Attendees:

Brownie Newman
Vicki Eastland
Ed Green
Mike Sorrells

Daniel Sellers
Zia Rifkin
Jason Chappell
Rick Tipton

Matt Wechtel
Cole Hood
Charlie Landreth
Brian Burch

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mike Sorrells, Vice Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees as Chairman Newman was out of town on business and had phoned into the meeting. 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.

Matt Wechtel moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Charlie Landreth seconded and the motion carried as all were in favor.

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CONSENT AGENDA

Jason Chappell moved to approve the minutes from October 26, 2016, Matt Wechtel seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The public comment period opened, and as there was none at this time, nor through Facebook or email, the public comment period closed.

BUSINESS

Review/Discuss Draft LOSRPO Draft STIP: Vicki Eastland shared that NCDOT released the Draft 2018-2027 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The full document including the LOSRPO specific pages is available at www.landofsky.org. The Draft STIP will be out for Public Comment in the spring (dates to be determined). The Final NCDOT 2018-2027 STIP is scheduled to be adopted by the NCDOT Board of Transportation (BOT) in June 2017. Projects that are scheduled for funding in the first five years of the STIP through 2022 (committed STIP) do not have to go back into the next prioritization cycle, SPOT 5.0, as these projects are in the deliverable portion of the STIP. Projects scheduled for funding in the second five years of the STIP (developmental STIP) will be carried over to SPOT 5.0 and have to compete again for funding in that round.

No action required at this time.

Review of Draft LOSRPO FY 2018 PWP: Vicki Eastland shared that the Draft LOSRPO FY 2018 Planning Work Program (PWP) is developed. In many ways, this document is a continuation of ongoing RPO projects. As the FBRMPO Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) update is delayed, as well as the Transylvania County CTP, there is a large percentage of the planning funds in the CTP category. Other funding commitments include SPOT 5.0, which is already gearing up leading to a significant amount of funding in Prioritization. General Transportation and Administration make up the bulk of the remaining funding. Vicki Eastland mentioned that there are ongoing discussions between NCDOT TPB and NCARPO organization, there will most likely be a slight increase in funding to the LOSRPO which will result in a slight increase to the local dues contribution. More information will be provided on the increase after final approval by NCDOT. Vicki Eastland shared that budget increases will be made incrementally across the PWP categories.

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Brownie Newman moved to approve the LOSRPO Draft FY2018 PWP for submittal to NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch (TPB) as presented. Charlie Landreth seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Continuation of LOSRC Project for CMAQ Funds – Vicki Eastland shared there is \$100,000 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds available from the NCDOT to the Land of Sky and Southwestern RPOs combines for FY 18 and 19 (\$50,000 each year). Land of Sky staff has consulted with staff of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and Southwestern Commission (Southwestern RPO) about the availability and potential uses of these funds. The National Park is requesting \$20,000 to continue its air quality education and outreach work within the Park for two years. Land of Sky Regional Council is requesting \$80,000 to continue the work of its Regional Clean Air Campaign and Land of Sky Clean Vehicles Coalition for two years. Land of Sky's work includes public education and outreach on reducing emissions from mobile sources, technical assistance to fleets in the region on alternative fueled and advanced technology vehicle options, and assistance securing grant funding for green fleet projects. Applications to NCDOT are due March 15, 2017. A resolution is required from the LOSRPO TAC regarding the CMAQ funds request.

Matt Wechtel moved to approve adoption of the LOSRPO Resolution for the continuation of CMAQ funds to support the Regional Clean Air Campaign and Land of Sky Clean Vehicles Coalition and the Smoky Mountain National Park's air quality education and outreach work. Charlie Landreth seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

NCDOT Division 14 STIP Delivery Process Presentation – Brian Burch shared about how Division 14 manages its projects and he shared a brief overview of the LOSRPO projects in the STIP at this time and the estimated costs of those projects. He shared that as a Division Project Delivery Engineer, he is one of a group of transportation folks that have familiarity with the projects. The Division holds meetings with governmental staff throughout the LOSRPO region and it is important for staff to review and ensure that the projects that will be prioritized are the ones that are needed by the local jurisdictions. He shared that authorization has been provided from the state to move projects along as quickly as possible as NCDOT has a \$2.1 Billion cash balance and needs to spend \$900 Million this year through acceleration of projects into construction. Rick Tipton added that Division 13's process is not significantly different from that of Division 14. As projects are developed, outreach and work is done with the local stakeholders.

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Discussion occurred about how projects are scored and if there would be any revision to the SPOT scoring process as the rural areas have a difficult time getting their projects into the STIP-while urban projects tend to score much higher. Brian Burch shared that there is currently a working group tasked with looking at this issue among others. Rick Tipton noted that public input could be very important to projects. Another important factor is working with the RPOs and MPOs.

Information only.

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

A motion was made by Jason Chappell to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded and the meeting adjourned.

Staff recommended action:

Review and Approve Previous meeting minutes.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

4. Land of Sky RPO TAC BUSINESS Items

A. Approval of LOSRPO FY 2017 PWP Amendment

Vicki Eastland

The Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization (LOSRPO) has obtained Transportation Planning Branch approval for an amendment to the FY 16-17 Planning Work Program. RPO staff, reviewed the current fiscal year planning work program and budget, identified shifts of funding that are necessary to reflect actual work demands through the last three months of the fiscal year; deemed this amendment necessary. The Technical Coordinating Committee recommended the changes on **May 11, 2017**. There is no change to the RPO's overall budget and RPO members will not be requested to provide money.

The following changes are recommended:

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II-1 Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) Development

- II-1 Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP): Because FBRMPO CTP and Transylvania County CTP work is delayed, LOSRPO staff requests to shift funding to programs with ongoing work tasks. There are no changes to the specified deliverables, but the amount of money allocated for Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP) is **reduced** by \$12,000.00. RPO staff plans to work on the CTP for Transylvania County this FY 2017 but the bulk of the work on these CTP's will be in FY 2018.
- Total for II-1 (Comprehensive Transportation Plan, CTP) – **reduced** by \$12,000.00.
- Funds shifted will be re-allocated over several funding categories with ongoing work tasks.

I-1 Data Collection and Assessment

- Completion of additional work on NC215 Crash Study and Bike/Ped counter training.
- Total for I-1 (Data Collection and Assessment) – **increased** by \$2,500.00.

II-2 Prioritization and Program Development

- Additional work demands for SPOT5.0.
- Total for II-2 Prioritization and Program Development – **increased** by \$6,000.00.

II-4 General Transportation Planning

- Additional time needed for NCARPO Secretary Duties, Transylvania Co. Transit and NC280 WG tasks.
- Total for II-4 (General Transportation Planning) – **increased** by \$1,750.00.

III-3 Administration on Transportation Planning and Policies

- Additional time needed for Ethics tracking.
- Total for III-3 (Administration on Transportation Planning and Policies) – **increased** by \$1,750.00.

Staff recommended action:

Review and discuss as needed, Move to approve the PWP Amendment as presented.

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B. NC Secretary of Transportation Jim Trogdon Comments Review Vicki Eastland

NC Secretary Jim Trogdon visited the region earlier in May, he was able to attend the Land of Sky RPO TCC meeting. Here is some of his bio.

Jim Trogdon was appointed Secretary of Transportation in January 2017 by Governor Roy Cooper. Secretary Trogdon has more than 30 years of experience as a registered professional engineer. He first joined NCDOT in 1985, and was named Division 4 Engineer in 2000, and later served as NCDOT's Chief Operating Officer from 2009 until he retired in 2013. Secretary Trogdon previously worked as the director of strategic transportation planning for the North Carolina General Assembly. In addition, Secretary Trogdon has more than three decades of military service, and he retired in 2016 as the Deputy Adjutant General for the N.C. National Guard.

- Accelerate project delivery, there is a large transportation funding balance, approximately 2.1 billion dollars, because of this it is difficult to get legislative support for a transportation bond to construct needed projects.
- In SPOT3.0, 393 of the submitted projects were funded in the 2016-2025 STIP. The SPOT4.0 results (2018 – 2027 DRAFT STIP) currently have 441 of the submitted projects funded, with plans to increase this to 520 projects based on updated funding projects.
- Over the next 2 years plan is to accelerate project delivery and get the available funding down to under one billion dollars.
- To extend project the acceleration of project delivery for five years, the plan is to pursue a two to three billion dollar transportation bond. Revenue from the bond will be programmed to projects in the Regional Impact and Division Needs tiers.
- Efforts are also underway to replace or augment the fuel tax as the primary source of transportation funding
- NCDOT working on research for ways to change driver behavior in an attempt to increase safety on roadways. North Carolina ranks as the ninth most populous state, but we recorded the fifth most motor vehicle fatalities in 2016. 1,419 up 11 percent from two years ago according to NCDOT data. (<http://wunc.org/post/traffic-fatalities-inch-again-nc#stream/0>)

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- Secretary Trogdon urges RPO's and MPO's to work within their regions with planning partners to come up with alternative criteria for the Regional Impact and Division Needs tiers.
- The secretary plans to work to consolidate some funding programs to establish a "small projects or construction fund" to allow NCDOT Division to construct small impactful projects outside of the STI process. These will be projects under 2 million dollars.
- Future Technology Drones and autonomous vehicles, NCDOT is working to make sure that these technologies are utilized to their greatest extent. Drones for disaster relief, project development etc... Autonomous vehicles, by 2021 each auto manufacturer will have autonomous cars on the market and the Triangle area in North Carolina is part of a pilot study for autonomous freight study. We want to make sure we are ready for these technologies because they are coming and will change transportation modeling and planning .

Staff recommended action:

Informational only No Action Needed

C. Prioritization Update SPOT5.0

- The SPOT5.0 workgroup is still meeting and working on the final criteria weights for this round of prioritization.
- LOSRPO will have 1100 Local input points in both Regional Impact and Division Needs tiers.
- This round five years of safety data will be used instead of three years like in prior rounds.
- Project database deletions and modifications are due by July 31st.
- Alternate Regional Impact and Division Needs criteria is due by September 15th.

Staff recommended action:

Informational only No Action Needed

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D. LOSROP TAC Meeting Calendar Changes

Because Land of Sky's Regional Council Meetings will be held off site in August and September, the Land of Sky RPO TAC meetings dates and time will be changed for these two meetings. In **August**, the LOSRPO TAC will meet at **11:30 AM** here at **Land of Sky** in the **French Broad (Large) Conference Room** prior to the French Broad River MPO Board meeting scheduled at 12:30. In **September**, the LOSRPO TAC will meet at **11:30 AM** here at **Land of Sky** in the **French Broad (Large) Conference Room** prior to the French Broad River MPO Board meeting scheduled at 12:30.

Staff recommended action:

Informational only No Action Needed

5. REGULAR UPDATES

- A. NCDOT Division 13 and 14 updates
- B. Transportation Planning Branch Updates
- C. Legislative Updates

NCDOT Staff
Daniel Sellers
Vicki Eastland

Announcements, News, Special Updates

Construction reports available from the LOSRPO Website:

Div 13 update

http://www.landofsky.org/pdf/LGS/RPO/FBRMPO_D13%20May17_Update.pdf

Div 14 update

http://www.landofsky.org/pdf/LGS/RPO/LandofSky_May2017.pdf

6. ADJOURN LOSRPO MEETING

Brownie Newman

Next Meeting: May 24th 2017, 11:30 AM