

A. Minutes from the RPO TCC February 14, 2019 TCC Meeting

RPO Technical Coordinating Committee
February 14, 2019 – 10:00 A.M., Land of Sky Regional Council
Minutes

Attendance:

Daniel Cobb	Vicki Eastland	Nick Kroncke	Zia Rifkin
Troy Wilson	Hannah Cook	Forrest Gilliam	Stephen Sparks
Joy Fields	William High	Matt Cable	Erica Anderson
Jodie Ferguson	Nick Kroncke	Pam Cook	Daniel Sellers
Steve Williams	Chris Lee		

WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING

Chair Daniel Cobb called the meeting to order at approximately 10:00am; he welcomed everyone in attendance and introductions followed. He communicated that the agenda was presented for approval with no modifications requested.

Forrest Gilliam moved to approve the agenda as presented Daniel Cobb seconded and the motion carried as all were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

ADOPTION OF THE PREVIOUS TCC MINUTES

Forrest Gilliam moved to approve the June 14, 2018 TCC minutes as presented. Daniel Cobb seconded and as all were in favor, the motion carried.

RPO BUSINESS

NC Moves 2050 Plan Presentation: The NC Department of Transportation is updating its long-range transportation plan to help guide North Carolina's future transportation policies and investments. The plan is called NC Moves 2050 and provides a 30-year transportation blueprint for the state. Pam Cook, NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch presented the plan and opportunities for input.

Pam Cook communicated that the 2050 plan includes a current assessment of the transportation system in North Carolina; it plans for uncertainties and looks at possible futures; and, finally, provides an action plan.

Pam Cook shared about eight areas of concern, which would be considered during the development of the 2050 plan including demographics, the economy, tourism, partnerships, funding, technology, security, and, resiliency. LOSRPO TCC members were requested to write down their thoughts regarding the eight areas for a series of questions that Pam provided.

In thinking about transportation services for your community, which of these are you most concerned about?

Discussion occurred about the impact of tourism on roads and the conflicts that could occur between residents and tourists. It was also shared that residents need to commute for jobs.

Are there changes or uncertainties for your community not already discussed that NCDOT should consider as a part of the NC Moves 2050?

Vicki Eastland shared about the “dig once” initiative, which could include the development of broadband infrastructure when roads are built or upgraded. Erica Anderson shared about having a completely resilient infrastructure. Stephen Sparks shared that when the system breaks down, alternate routes are important, including corridors, which should provide a safety release.

Public input is vital to the development of the 2050 plan and will include input from collaborative partners. More information is available at www.NCDOT.gov/NCMOVES. The website will post updates to the plan and includes a map showing where public comments have come from. Next steps for the plan include public meetings and a survey.

Informational item only. No action required.

LOSRPO Land of Sky RPO Title VI Plan: The Title VI is the federal law that protects individuals and groups from discrimination based on race, color, and national origin in all programs, services, and activities of a Federal-aid recipient. The law specifically states: “No person in the United States shall on the grounds of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits or, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.” Other related laws have expanded the Program to protect against discrimination based on age, sex, limited English proficiency (LEP), income level, and disability; (and creed/religion, where applicable). The intent of the Program is to removed barriers and conditions that prevent minority low-income, LEP, and other disadvantaged persons from accessing, participating in, and benefiting from programs and activities of Federal-aid recipients. NCDOT is a recipient of Federal financial assistance from the US Department of Transportation. As a recipient of these funds, NCDOT must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other nondiscrimination authorities. NCDOT is required to have a comprehensive Title VI Nondiscrimination Program to prevent and eliminate discrimination in programs and activities administered by NCDOT. The Office of Civil Rights (OCR), External Civil Rights (ECR) is the focal point for the implementation of NCDOT's Title VI Nondiscrimination Program. ECR is also responsible for determining if the Department's sub recipients are in compliance with Title VI. Sub recipients may include transit systems, metropolitan and rural planning organizations (MPOs and RPOs), local government agencies (LGAs), airport sponsors, universities, contractors, and other entities receiving funds through NCDOT.

Vicki Eastland shared that the LOSRPO began discussion of the Title VI plan about a year ago. She noted also that the LOSRPO submitted its Draft Title VI Plan to NCDOT TPD in September 2018. After TPD's review, the plan was forwarded on to NCDOT Office of Civil Rights for their internal review. LOSRPO staff received notification on February 4,

2019 that the Draft Plan was acceptable and does not require any edits. She directed everyone's attention to the new signage for the meeting, which includes the non-discrimination statement.

Joy Fields moved to recommend Land of Sky RPO TAC adopt the Title VI Plan with Vicki Eastland's identified amendments at their meeting on February 28, 2019. Forrest Gilliam seconded and the motion carried without further discussion.

Review DRAFT STIP and SPOT6.0 Timeline: Vicki Eastland reviewed the results of SPOT5.0 and provided some highlights from the draft document including, in the Regional Impact Tier, the intersection of South Caldwell, Broad Street and US 64 funded in the Developmental STIP. In the Division Needs Tier, US 276 from Dellwood Road to I 40 is funded in the Deliverable STIP, US 25/70 Modernization Project funded in the Developmental STIP, the US 25/70 Superstreet Project from Tillery Branch to Monticello Road is funded in the Developmental STIP. In addition, in Madison County in the MPO area, Crossroads Parkway is receiving the remaining \$1.3 million needed for construction in FY2020. Vicki also noted that the STIP has been changed to include committed projects in the first six years of the STIP. She noted that with the rising costs of construction for projects, there would probably be less funding available for SPOT6. Many of the projects in the region were funded with bonds from the NC Bonds program.

NCDOT released the DRAFT 2020-2029 STIP in early January. The DRAFT was shared with RPO TCC and TAC members. Vicki noted there would be opportunity for public comments and RPO staff will share the dates of these meetings when they are published.

Vicki next shared that the P6.0 Prioritization process has begun. RPO staff is attending workgroup meetings and sub-committee meetings. Pre-submittal of intersection projects has occurred. Local county meetings will need to be set up in May/June to discuss project submittals. The submittal window would open in July and close the end of September. More information and updates: <http://www.landofsky.org/rpo>.

Informational only. No action required.

LOSRPO State Planning and Research SPR Application: Vicki Eastland shared that staff have submitted a grant application to NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch for State Planning and Research funds to potentially conduct a feasibility study to examine the viability of consolidating Transit administration and scheduling functions for the County Transportation Systems among the five counties in the Land of Sky RPO region. She provided TCC members with additional information on this potential feasibility study including that there is concern about the impact that the changes to the state's Medicaid program could have on transit systems. She also shared about County Tier designations and how those determine the local match required for grants. Vicki shared that the application submitted was for \$80 thousand in federal grant funds with a 20% local match.

Discussion occurred about local interest in the proposed feasibility study. Vicki shared that should the RPO receive the grant, work on the feasibility study would begin in the next fiscal year. A steering committee would also be formed to oversee the work on the study. Vicki shared that the goal of the study is to provide options to consolidate the administrative functions of the rural county systems, and eventually, operations could be consolidated, too.

Information item only- no action required.

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 Sellers seconded and the meeting adjourned.