

Prioritization Subcommittee Meeting Minutes May 26, 2016

Land of Sky Regional Council Offices

ATTENDING

Josh O'Conner, Buncombe County
Julie Mayfield, City of Asheville
Josh Harrold, Town of Black Mountain
John Dockendorf, Village of Flat Rock
Matt Champion, Henderson County
Jerry Vehaun, Town of Woodfin
Elizabeth Teague, Town of Waynesville

Non-Voting

Tristan Winkler, FBRMPO
Lyuba Zuyeva, FBRMPO
Brendan Merrithew, NCDOT TPB
Vicki Eastland, LOSRPO
Mariate Echeverry, City of Asheville
Kristina Solberg, NCDOT Division 13
Ed Greene, NCDOT Division 14
Autumn Radcliff, Henderson County
LeRoy Roberson, Town of Waynesville
Ritchie Rozzelle, Land of Sky
Ricky Tipton, NCDOT Division 13

I. Welcome and Housekeeping

I-A // Welcome and Introductions, Approval of Agenda

Voting Members and returning non-voting members gave their introduction. The Agenda was approved.

I-B // April 28, 2016 Minutes

Minutes from April 28, 2016 were approved.

II. Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

III. Business

III-A // Preliminary Local Input Point Assignment Discussion

Tristan Winkler brought the Subcommittee up to date on Local Input Point allocation.

- The work done to assign points at the Local Priority level.
- Tristan referenced a spreadsheet with local priority points allocated.

Tristan Winkler moved discussion to projects that could potentially be cascaded to the Regional Impact level

- Blue Ridge Rd.
- I-26 Section A
- I-26 Section B-A

Tristan Winkler noted the implications of cascading projects. Haywood County projects would be bumped from the project list. He noted that the points in question play a 15% role on total point calculation. Ricky Tipton noted that the overall cost of a project comes into play with a project's scheduling. LeRoy Roberson asked that cascading be clarified, particularly in reference to I-26 sections. Ricky Tipton noted that Interstate projects can be considered to be moved from the Statewide Mobility into the Regional Impact tier for SPOT prioritization and MPO points assignment. Lyuba Zuyeva noted that the ultimate decision for cascading will be up to the MPO Board. Elizabeth Teague and Julie Mayfield asked what the ultimate output of the subcommittee should be, relative to whether and what projects be cascaded. The general reply was that staff were looking to the Subcommittee to make recommendations as to which projects should come off the Regional Impact tier list to the MPO Board, if any of the three projects cascade.

Lyuba Zuyeva noted that Blue Ridge Road is listed in the developmental (non-committed) portion of the TIP/STIP and is likely to come out of the 2018-2027 TIP if not scored as a Regional Tier project. LeRoy Roberson asked for clarification on the Town of Black Mountain's current support of the Blue Ridge Rd interchange. Josh Harold and Ricky Tipton stated that Black Mountain is currently in support of this project. Elizabeth Teague asked whether cascading to the Division Level will leave points available at the Regional Level.

Discussion followed about the pros and cons of cascading the Blue Ridge interchange project. Julie Mayfield pointed out that these decisions can be revisited with successive Prioritization processes, every two years. Ricky Tipton noted that other North Carolina MPOs and RPOs are taking an approach of putting their strongest projects forward, to which Tristan Winkler added that we are in competition among 17 counties in this region.

Tristan Winkler noted that one project would need to be removed from the Regional Impact tier list, if it was a priority to get Blue Ridge Road on the list. He pointed out that US-19/23 in Canton is a low scoring but popular project, which has support of Division 14. Discussion followed about removing the Long Shoals Rd project in order to bring Blue Ridge Rd interchange onto the list. Tristan Winkler noted that this project will remain in the running for future Prioritization Julie Mayfield asked whether a motion is needed to cascade the Long Shoals project. The group consensus is that no motion is needed.

Discussion followed regarding which project would be removed if two projects were cascaded. Elizabeth Teague noted that in the Town of Waynesville's discussion of prioritization, they recognized that Dellwood Rd is tied for least points with South Main Street project. Dellwood Road appeared to be a lower priority for Haywood County. Tristan Winkler noted that the division does not intent to put points on Dellwood Rd. LeRoy and Elizabeth Teague discussed the particulars of the roadways in question. Ricky Tipton and John Dockendorf noted that there is strong public support and a need for the Sardis Rd project. Consensus was that this project should not be removed if multiple projects are cascaded.

Discussion of local priority point allocation in Haywood Co continued, and Elizabeth Teague noted that if one of the Haywood projects were to be cascaded, Dellwood Rd should be the one. Autumn Radcliff asked whether any of our lower-scoring higher-cost projects will compete strongly on a regional level. Tristan and Ricky answered that there is value to simply being on the list.

Julie Mayfield noted a growing consensus around cascading the Dellwood Rd project. Tristan Winkler summarized the group's recommendation as follows: if one project is cascaded, Long Shoals Rd would be the first to be removed. If two projects are cascaded, Dellwood Rd would be the second project to be

removed. If three projects are cascaded, South Main Street in Waynesville would be the third project to come off the Regional Impact list.

Julie Mayfield questioned how bike/ped plan points are allocated under the MPO methodology, noting that for the future there should be some nuance in how these points are assigned beyond a city or an area having a plan in place that may or may not cover the project location in question. The Patton Ave/New Leicester Hwy intersection was referenced as an example of a project area that poses a particular hazard to cyclists and pedestrians, but which receives the same number of Bike/Ped Plan points as many other projects spanning less hazardous roadways.

III-B // MPO Public Outreach for SPOT Prioritization

Ritchie Rozzelle presented the Subcommittee with a proposed Public Outreach plan. The plan consisted of 2000 drink coasters distributed to 20 regional restaurants. The coasters are to be printed with a call to action, asking for citizen's opinions of transportation projects. The opinions will be collected through an online survey, and expressed project-by-project using a Likert Scale (Love it, Like it, Neutral, Dislike It, Hate It). Further outreach efforts directing citizens to the survey included: Print Ads in regional papers, MPO/RPO websites, word of mouth and email lists through TCC affiliated groups and influencers, and a \$200 paid Facebook Promotion targeting 15,000 impressions within the region. It was noted that an effort will be made to translate surveys into Spanish and reach Hispanic and underserved communities.

Mariate Echeverry expressed a desire that posters advertising the survey be distributed to Hispanic Tienda markets. She also asked the MPO/RPO to explore translating the survey into Ukrainian. Julie Mayfield asked whether there is a price break for printing 4000 coasters, to allow for further distribution. The MPO will explore. Kristina Solberg asked that an effort be made to reach citizens groups, suggesting the Rotary Club.

Additional suggestions included placing a message in the email lists of Area Chambers and outreach to Neighborhood Associations.

III-C // Metropolitan Transportation Plan Amendments Revisited

Tristan Winkler walked the group through a chart depicting funds programed vs funds forecast by year. The analogy was made to a succession of coin tosses, wherein the odds for landing on heads does not change based on previous results. The implication being that the past over-performance may not have bearing on future allocations.

Tristan noted that division funding is split up equally between divisions. The French Broad River MPO is over-performing in the state-wide tier during horizons 1 and 2.

Tristan noted that the MPO and RPO will propose a process for basic needs assessment.

General consensus was expressed to move forward with MTP Amendments.

IV. Announcement, News, Special Updates

None were offered.

V. Topics for Next Meeting

- Regional Tier Outcomes.
- Public input results.
- MTP amendment update.

VI. Public Comment 2

STPDA funding applications are due June 1.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.