

**Prioritization Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
October 11, 2016
Land of Sky Regional Council Offices**

ATTENDING

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

Non-Voting

Tristan Winkler, FBRMPO
Lyuba Zuyeva, FBRMPO
Vicki Eastland, LOSRPO
Ritchie Rozzelle, LOSRC
Mariate Echeverry, City of Asheville
Kristina Solberg, NCDOT Division 13
Ed Greene, NCDOT Division 14
LeRoy Roberson, Town of Waynesville
Ricky Tipton, NCDOT Division 13

I. Welcome and Housekeeping

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

Josh O'Conner, Subcommittee Chair, presided. Voting members and returning non-voting members gave their introduction. The Agenda was approved.

I-B // September Minutes

Minutes from September 22, 2016 were approved.

II. Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

III. Business

III-A // SPOT Prioritization – Division Needs

Tristan Winkler updated the Subcommittee on the SPOT Division Needs Prioritization process, noting that the list of Prioritized projects will go to the TCC on 10/13/16 for review and the MPO Board for approval of local input points on 10/22/16.

Tristan reviewed the strategy for collecting public input, going on at the time of this meeting. The list of projects was available as part of an online survey, shared with the Subcommittee, advertised on coasters distributed to low and mid-priced restaurants popular with locals throughout the region, and promoted through paid social media advertising on Facebook. The survey assessed the public's opinion of each project through a Likert Scale – a simple scale that offers the options: hate it, dislike it, N/A, like it, love it. Tristan noted that early these efforts were successful to date.

Tristan reviewed the input from the public that was received thus far. There were no projects with overwhelming negative opinions. Highlights include: Blithe Street was favorable with some small negative input. Choctaw is highly favorable. Mountain Mobility expansion vehicle, very favorable. Balfour Parkway section B, overwhelmingly favorable. Amboy Rd/Meadow, favorable. Kanooga Rd Modernization, no negative comments. Riverside Dr. widening, very favorable. Tunnel Rd. access management, favorable. Swannanoa River Rd., very favorable. Hwy 191 widening, one person hates it but 8 others like/love it. S. Main St. bridge widening in Hendersonville, favorable. Fairview Rd. access management, favorable. Dellwood Rd, favorable. 23 Bus. In Waynesville, favorable. Hwy 19/23 modernization, East of Canton into Buncombe Co., technically is favorable but there is noted dislike.

Ritchie Rozzelle noted that the survey presents the list of projects in random order for each survey taker, so that if takers quit before reviewing all projects, the list of projects seen first varies. Julie Mayfield asked whether there is a space for long-form replies, to which Tristan noted that an email address is provided for further comments.

Tristan Winkler noted that the survey includes a list of other projects that could be considered for points or future prioritization. Among these the most popular projects to date was Bent Creek Greenway Phase 1, and all listed greenways in general. Also ranking high was Balfour Parkway Section C.

Julie Mayfield asked how many projects the region can likely expect to be funded. Tristan Winkler noted that more funding is available in this Division Needs Tier, meaning it is likely for more projects to be funded in this round than in Regional Impact. But as to how many projects will be funded, that is dependent on too many variables to predict, noting that projects like Blythe Street Sidewalks and Hazelwood are highly likely.

LeRoy Roberson asked how much weight this public input carries, noting that some projects have low response rates. Tristan replied that the main value of the input would be to note projects with overwhelmingly negative favorability. Rick Tipton notes that the nature of survey takers is to favor projects that will impact their local needs, and perhaps the negative opinions of projects may actually be those same people subverting projects outside of their immediate area, noting that it would be helpful to know why people dislike specific projects.

Julie Mayfield made a motion to send the recommended list of projects to the TCC.

Jerry Vebaun seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

III-B // STBG Projects- Coxe Avenue and Lexington Avenue

Tristan Winkler introduced the topic of the Coxe Ave. and Lexington Ave. projects, originally included in the Complete Streets Corridor Project of the City of Asheville. That project also originally included Biltmore ave. The City of Asheville requested that Coxe Ave. and Lexington Ave. be considered separately, due to the need for further consideration of the Biltmore Ave. corridor. Cost estimates for preliminary engineering on these two projects for FY18 were sent, which came in at a lower cost than expected, totaling a little over \$1 Million.

Tristan showed the group a proposed cross-section for Coxe and Lexington Aves. Found in the Asheville In Motion Multi-Modal plan, available on the city website. John Dockendorf, Julie Mayfield, and Rick Tipton voice support for separating the Biltmore Ave. project out from Coxe and Lexington.

Julie Mayfield makes a motion to approve separating out Coxe and Lexington Ave. projects from the Biltmore Ave. project and submit to the TCC for approval.

John Dockendorf seconds the motion. The motion carries unanimously.

The group opts to meet next on the third Tuesday of November.

IV. Announcement, News, Special Updates

None were offered.

V. Topics for Next Meeting

MPT Amendments and CMP.

VI. Public Comment 2

None

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.