

Prioritization Subcommittee Meeting Minutes January 9, 2018 Land of Sky Regional Council Offices

ATTENDING

Voting Members

-Josh O'Conner, Buncombe County
-Matt Champion, City of Hendersonville
-Julie Mayfield, City of Asheville
-Vaidila Satvika, City of Asheville
-John Dockendorf, Village of Flat Rock
-Jerry Vehaun, Town of Woodfin

Non-Voting

-Tristan Winkler, FBRMPO
-Lyuba Zuyeva, FBRMPO
-Nick Kronke, FBRMPO
-LeRoy Roberson, Town of Waynesville
-Brendan Merithew, NCDOT Division 13
-Brian Burgess, Henderson County

I. Welcome and Housekeeping

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

Julie Mayfield sat-in as temporary chair. Voting members and non-voting members gave their introduction.

I-B // November and December Minutes

The minutes from November 14th and December 12th meeting were reviewed. Jerry Vehaun made a motion to pass the minutes as presented. John Dockendorf seconded. All approved.

II. Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

III. Business

III-A // Safety Performance Measures

Lyuba Zuyeva continued the discussion safety performance measures from the December meeting. Lyuba reviewed additional data requested from the last meeting and illustrated how safety targets proposed by the state would look compared to regional safety measures and trends. The safety targets proposed by the State are likely going to be difficult to achieve.

John Dockendorf asked if the safety data is available by County. Lyuba confirmed that it is and also noted that one of the problems that MPO staff hopes will be addressed is a problem getting data from NCDOT that can be applied to something other than the county or city level.



Vaidila noted that regardless of the target chosen, policies that are already in-place to improve safety shouldn't be effected. Lyuba noted that the repercussions of being unable to meet targets repeatedly are more focused at the State than the MPO.

Julie suggested that the Prioritization Subcommittee look at how prioritization methodologies can be altered to better achieve targets as we continue to track these measures.

Vaidila motioned that the MPO adopt the State's safety performance measure targets for the first year. John Dockendorf seconded. Motion passed- all approved.

III-B // Call for Planning Projects

Tristan Winkler gave a recap of the Call for Planning Projects. Three applications were received by MPO staff. One from the City of Asheville for Bike/Ped counting equipment, one from the Town of Black Mountain for a Downtown Parking Study, and one from Henderson County for a feasibility study on the Mud Creek Greenway. Tristan noted that the total requested exceeds the amount allocated for this call by \$26,000.

Vaidila asked if the MPO could increase the amount of funding available in order to fund all the projects. Tristan and Lyuba confirmed that the MPO could, but it may require more work to change that amount and that amount would come out of the STBGDA available for construction, right-of-way, and engineering.

Vaidila motioned that the amount of planning funds be increased so all requested projects could be funded. Jerry Vehaun seconded. Motion passed- all approved.

III-C // SPOT Methodology

Tristan started the discussion on the SPOT Methodology by going over three options for modifying the primary methodology mainly focusing on whether or not to change the data used for safety, congestion, and freight, and whether or not to include public input as part of the methodology. The group agreed to the data changes as recommended and discussed the merits of adding public input to the methodology. Julie noted that having public input as part of the methodology ensures that the input is meaningful. Others brought-up concerns that it would be likely to cater more to special interests and could be very different from the input received when the project goes to design. Julie offered a compromise that if public input is not part of the methodology, it should be done on the front-end so the public input is part of the analysis when decisions are being made. All agreed.

Tristan continued and brought-up the idea of fiscal realism- i.e., that points be applied to projects only as long as the projects have the potential to fit with the estimated funding available. This could make for a more efficient use of MPO points but may be politically



problematic if more projects are cut while points are still available. Lyuba noted this approach may be tough because funding levels often change after the fact. Julie recommended that if applied the funding be inflated to 20-25% beyond what's estimated to be available. All agreed to the change.

Tristan then ran through the idea of changing how "local priority" points could be changed. Josh recommended that the same general approach be applied but that jurisdictions be forced to apply the full amount of points if the project is a priority. Lyuba noted this would mean rounding points to 25 for each jurisdiction. Josh also requested that the points available be cut in order to frame a tougher, more realistic discussion. Tristan asked if points should still be distributed proportionately based on population. John Dockendorf replied in the affirmative. All agreed to keeping the same general process but with changes to point distribution and application.

Tristan finally brought up the MPO points reserved for bike/ped and transit. Currently bike/ped gets 200 MPO points reserved and 100 for transit. Julie requested that number be increased. Josh asked if there could be a way to ensure a bike/ped project gets ranked in the top-10 of the MPO's overall list. Tristan replied that it would be more simple to continue reserving points for bike/ped and transit. A discussion on SPOT non-highway funding ensued. Julie recommended that 500 points be set-aside at the Division Needs level for bike/ped and transit. The group agreed. Tristan noted that he would present a draft of the methodology to the Prioritization Subcommittee at the next meeting.

IV. Announcement, News, Special Updates

Tristan noted that the MPO is currently holding a call for STBGDA and TAPDA projects with about \$22 million available.

V. Topics for Next Meeting

Next Meeting: February 6th at 9am.

No topics identified

VI. Public Comment 2

No public comment at this time.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

