

Prioritization Subcommittee Meeting Minutes February 6, 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
- Elizabeth Teague, Town of Waynesville

Non-Voting

- Tristan Winkler, FBRMPO
- Lyuba Zuyeva, FBRMPO
- Nick Kroncke, FBRMPO
- Ritchie Rozzelle, FBRMPO
- Brian Burgess, Henderson County
- Daniel Sellers, NCDOT TPD
- Steve Williams, NCDOT Division 14
- Autumn Radcliff, Henderson County

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 // January 9, 2018 Minutes

The minutes from January 9th meeting were reviewed. Jerry Vehaun made a motion to pass the minutes as presented. Julie Mayfield seconded. All approved.

II. Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

III. Business

III-A // Draft SPOT Methodology

Tristan Winkler introduced the methodology writeup in the packet regarding SPOT 5.0. Tristan gave an overview of how the points are given for both bicycle/pedestrian projects and roadway projects. Fiscal realism was mentioned as an important component of the process, to allow cushion for funding to be allocated.

Tristan covered Local Priorities and the reduction in the number of points each county can get as compared to previous rounds. As presented, counties receive points apportioned by population. Tristan asked for concerns. Vaidila Satvika asked that if Buncombe and Asheville have different priorities, how would the process play out. Tristan answered that the points could be split between each municipality (for example 25 points to Asheville, 75 to Buncombe) and worked out on a case by case basis. Julie asked about the point reduction overall since the last round. Tristan and Lyuba mentioned they did reduce points based on feedback from the last round of prioritization.

John Dockendorf asked if this process was fair to the City of Asheville. Julie reminded the group that Asheville is in Buncombe County so they would get those points as well. Tristan summarized that the quantitative scores should show the important projects but the Local Priority projects show the ones that didn't show up in current data but are still important to the community. A discussion followed between how the points should be split given the population of each community. John Dockendorf proposed to increase the points for Buncombe (to allocate a set aside for Asheville) to 125. All agreed.

Tristan showed the edited section titles to comply with NCDOT requirements.

Julie asked about the public input section. Tristan clarified that the methodology will follow the public involvement plan. The survey running from March to April will get up front public input before the meetings. Julie asked if this can be explained at the Board meeting to let them know of the new public process. A discussion followed about keeping the survey succinct and how to make it most approachable for the public.

Tristan mentioned that the methodology was submitted to NCDOT last week.

III-B // CMP Updates

Tristan gave a presentation on the approach for congestion management. Six node/"walkUPs" areas in the MPO region were identified, in addition to some in rural/suburban areas. Strategies of road diets, traffic calming, increased fixed routes etc can be implemented at these areas. Tristan noted that the MPO has limited influence on land use so roadway connectivity is important.

Vaidila asked if targeted language can be given in the CMP to promote level of service for non-motorized vehicles. Julie followed up asking how binding this CMP can be at the state level. Tristan and Lyuba stated that it is only a set of recommendations as required by FHWA. Daniel commented regarding the FHWA approach and encouragement of having the CMP plan in writing.

Elizabeth asked about the origin of "walkUPs" and stated her concern for using that term in public settings.

Lyuba mentioned the MPO desire to have a workshop on a Friday in March with speakers talking about CMP and break-outs into small group discussions. No date has been set.

III-C // Regional Transit Discussion

Tristan discussed connecting low income individuals to employment centers by looking at job growth areas. We are seeing low income individuals move out of urban areas.

Lyuba went over data regarding where residents live versus where they work. A short discussion regarding telecommuting followed.

Lyuba started discussion of regional transit by looking at background factors regarding getting around the region during on-going roadway projects. Express buses were discussed among the group. Regional commute patterns and population growth were looked at among MPO counties.

Lyuba mentioned the lack of structure and solutions such as developing a regional transit authority and funding that would allow for an option such as express bus routes.

Lyuba gave a historical overview of how PART (Piedmont Authority for Regional Transit) developed their program. She gave an estimate of using this model what would it take to run from Hendersonville to Asheville for an express bus route. It would take about \$870,000 in operating cost per year plus admin and cost of

vehicles to run this route. Elizabeth asked if NCDOT would consider this approach without all the region being urbanized. Tristan and Lyuba responded that setting up the transit authority/agency would do this.

Elizabeth mentioned a regional study looking at increasing integration of MPO counties transit. A discussion followed looking at the ways the express bus route could be administered and funded. Lyuba mentioned looking more into the overhead cost of this program and ways taxes could be levied for this program. Julie mentioned the quarter-cent sales tax that could provide funding.

The group agreed that broad support across county lines is needed and next steps were discussed. Autumn mentioned that presentation of this to the board is important and should be approached with both MPO staff and elected officials in mind. The group identified the next steps of taking it to the Board and then moving forward with other elected officials as appropriate.

IV. Announcement, News, Special Updates

Lyuba announced that March 16th will be the new board orientation. Autumn mentioned inviting at large members as well.

V. Topics for Next Meeting

Next Meeting: March 6th at 9am.

No topics identified.

VI. Public Comment 2

No public comment at this time.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.