

SOUTHWESTERN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

125 Bonnie Lane Sylva, NC 28713

TELEPHONE: (828) 586-1962 x213
E-MAIL: rose@regiona.org

FAX: (828) 524-1968
WEBSITE: www.regiona.org



Cherokee County

Andrews
Murphy

Clay County

Hayesville

Graham County

Fontana Dam
Robbinsville
Lake Santeetlah

Jackson County

Dillsboro
Forest Hills
Sylva
Webster

Macon County

Franklin
Highlands

Swain County

Bryson City

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

January 25, 2016 at 1:00 PM
Cecil Groves Center, SCC Macon Campus
Franklin, NC

AGENDA

Welcome and Housekeeping

1. Call to Order (Paige Dowling, TCC Chair)
2. Introductions and Quorum check (Dowling)
3. Reading of Ethics Statement (Dowling)
4. Agenda Approval/Modifications (Dowling)
5. Public Comment

Action Items

6. Minutes from September 28, 2015 RPO TCC meeting (Rose Bauguess)
7. TCC Bylaws update (Bauguess)
8. Draft SWRPO Local Methodology (Bauguess)

Informational Items

9. NCDOT Division 14 Updates (Joel Setzer)
10. 2016-2017 Work Program Request for Tasks (Bauguess)
11. 2016 TCC Meeting Schedule and Locations (Bauguess)
12. NCDOT Watch for Me NC Campaign (Bauguess)

Other Items

13. TCC Member Updates (All)
14. Adjournment



Southwestern Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting

Agenda item 6.

Meeting Date: September 28, 2015

Location: Groves Center, Southwestern Community College, Franklin, NC

Attendees:

Jurisdiction	Representative	Title	Present
Cherokee County	Josh Carpenter	Economic Dev. Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andrews	Ed Burchins	Town Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Murphy	Anne Payne	Town Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clay County	Aaron Patton	Economic Development Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Graham County	Andy Cable	Economic Development Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fontana Dam	Jessica Cooper	Town Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lake Santeetlah	Peggy Carver	Administrator	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jackson County	Chuck Wooten	County Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dillsboro	Debbie Coffey	Town Clerk	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sylva	Paige R. Dowling, Chair	Town Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Macon County	Jack Morgan	Planning & Development Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Franklin	Justin Setser	Town Planner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Highlands	(vacant)	Planning & Development Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swain County	Ken Mills	Economic Development Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Kevin King	County Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bryson City	Josh Ward	Town Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Transit	Kim Angel	Macon Co. Transit Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
EBCI	Josh Parker	Cherokee DOT Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT Division 14	Joel Setzer	Division Operations Engineer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT TPB	Catherine Bryant	RPO Coordinator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:			10

Representing	Name	Title	Present
Southwestern RPO	Rose Bauguess	RPO Coordinator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Southwestern Commission	Sarah Thompson	Planning and Development Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
Southwestern Commission	Ryan Sherby	Executive Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
Western Carolina Univ.	Joe Walker	Assoc. Director of Facilities Mgmt	<input type="checkbox"/>
NCDOT	Nick Scheuer	Mobility Specialist	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL NON-VOTERS PRESENT:			1



Southwestern Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting

Welcome and Housekeeping:

1. Paige Dowling called the meeting to order.
2. Introductions were made. Dowling determined a quorum was present.
3. Dowling read the ethics statement.
4. Dowling reviewed the agenda and asked if there were any proposed modifications to the agenda. Hearing none, Joel Setzer motioned to approve the agenda, with a second by Chuck Wooten.
5. Dowling offered the opportunity for public comment; no members of the public were in attendance.

Action Items:

6. Bauguess called for approval of the minutes from the May 19, 2015 RPO TCC meeting. Motion by Jack Morgan, seconded by Kevin King; motion carried unanimously.
7. Bauguess called for approval of amendments to the SWRPO Public Involvement Policy. Setzer offered a motion to approve the amendments, with a second by Morgan; the motion carried unanimously.
8. Bauguess called for approval of the Prioritization 4.0 Project Lists. These lists were broken out by mode and were the result of individual county meetings where local stakeholders selected which projects would be included in the database for Prioritization 4.0. The Southwestern RPO was permitted 11 new projects for each mode. All projects not added will be dropped from the database for P4.0 and will not be available for point assignments. After some discussion about the process, Andy Cable made a motion to approve the Projects Lists; Josh Ward seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Informational Items:

9. Bauguess reviewed the overall schedule for Prioritization 4.0.
10. Setzer gave the NCDOT Division 14 update on major projects in the Southwestern RPO. He also announced an upcoming public workshop to review Division 14's project submissions for P4.0. The meeting will be held in Franklin on October 13.

Informational Items:

11. TCC Members provided updates from their respective jurisdictions:
 - a. Swain County – Kevin King reported that the helipad was under construction. Swain is also interested in doing a minor update to their CTP in the coming year.
 - b. Jackson County – Chuck Wooten gave an update on the Jackson County Comprehensive Plan and CTP Update; the County is close to hiring a new Planning Director.



Southwestern Rural Planning Organization (RPO) Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) Meeting

- c. WCU – Joe Walker reported on the construction of the new mixed use facility on campus. He also stated that enrollment was flat, but the retention rate has increased to 80%, resulting in an overall increase in the population.
 - d. Clay County – Aaron Patton was attending his first TCC meeting for Clay County.
 - e. Bryson City – Josh Ward is the new Town Manager of Bryson City, replacing Larry Callicut on the TCC. His replacement from the Town of Highlands has not yet been filled.
 - f. Franklin – Justin Setzer reported that the town is starting on its Bicycle and Pedestrian plan.
 - g. Macon County – Jack Morgan reported that they had completed the Parker Meadows complex and it had been an immediate success. Over 35 teams competed, maxing out the area hotels and restaurants.
12. Setzer moved to adjourn, seconded by Cable.

**Southwestern ~~North Carolina Planning and Economic Development~~
Commission Rural Planning Organization
Technical Coordinating Committee
Bylaws**

ARTICLE I-NAME

The name of this committee shall be the Southwestern ~~Commission~~ Rural Planning Organization (hereinafter, "RPO") Technical Coordinating Committee, hereinafter referred to as the TCC.

ARTICLE II-PURPOSE

The purpose and goals of the TCC as outlined in the memorandum of understanding (MOU) shall be to:

1. ~~—~~ Develop long-range local and regional multi-modal transportation plans in cooperation with the area Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and the NCDOT.
2. ~~—~~ Provide a forum for public participation in the rural transportation planning process.
3. ~~—~~ Develop and prioritize suggestions for transportation projects that the RPO believes should be included in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).
4. ~~—~~ Provide transportation-related information to local governments and other interested organizations and persons.

ARTICLE III-MEMBERS

Section 1-Membership:

As specified in the MOU, the TCC shall consist of officials from local and federal governmental agencies directly related to and concerned with the transportation planning process for the Southwestern ~~North Carolina Planning and Economic Development Commission~~ RPO planning area, which includes **Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, and Swain** Counties, as well as the participating incorporated municipalities within each County, and the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians (EBCI). Membership is defined in the MOU and subsequent bylaws with specific attendees and alternates for each member government listed in the Southwestern ~~North Carolina Planning and Economic Development Commission~~ RPO membership roster, to be updated no less than on an annual basis. The initial membership shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- **Cherokee** County Manager or his/her designated representative
- **Clay** County Manager or his/her designated representative
- **Graham** County Manager or his/her designated representative
- **Jackson** County Manager or his/her designated representative
- **Macon** County Manager or his/her designated representative
- **Swain** County Manager or his/her designated representative

- The City Manager, Town Manager or Administrator, or Clerk or his/her designated representative from each member municipality
- The NCDOT Division 14 Engineer or his/her designated representative
- The NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch Engineer assigned to the Southwestern ~~North Carolina Planning and Economic Development Commission~~-RPO or his/her designated representative
- A representative from the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians

Each of the entities listed above has ONE vote.

In addition, the TCC membership may vote to add additional voting members to represent the interests of various modes of transportation including:

- Public Transit
- Aviation
- Rail
- Bicycles and Pedestrians

Other local agencies, upon filing a request, will be informed of all meetings of the TCC and may attend meetings. Membership to the TCC may be altered on the basis of a majority vote of its membership.

Section 2-Alternates:

Each member may appoint an alternate to its representative as reflected in the membership roster. That alternate may serve as a full voting member during any meeting where that board's primary representative is not in attendance. Absentee voting will not be permitted.

Section 3-Term of Membership:

Term of office for all seats on the TCC is ~~2~~(two) years. Re-appointment is possible.

ARTICLE IV-OFFICERS

Section 1-Officers Defined:

The TCC shall by majority vote of the membership elect one member to serve as a Chairman and one member to serve as Vice-Chairman with the responsibility for coordinating the committee's activities. The officers of the TCC will ~~consist of a Chairman and a Vice-chairman serving~~ annual terms, but be limited to ~~2~~(two) consecutive terms. ~~They will be elected by majority vote of the eligible members.~~ The staff of the RPO, or their appointee, shall serve as secretary to the TCC.

Section 2-Duties of Officers:

The Chairman shall call meetings of the TCC to order and shall act as Chairman of such meetings. The Chairman shall see that all orders and action items, including amendments, are carried into effect. The Chairman will:

- Sign all official documents of the TCC.
- Preside at all meetings of the TCC.
- Decide all points of order or procedure.

- Transmit all recommendations of the TCC to the TAC.
- ~~Draft the agenda and make said available to the Secretary in a timely manner.~~

The Vice-chairman shall conduct the duties of the Chairman in the event of the Chairman's absence.

The staff of the RPO, or their appointee, shall perform the administrative coordination for the TCC. Staff shall serve as Secretary of the TCC and, report to the Chairman of the TCC. The Secretary shall:

- Keep minutes of the TCC meetings in proper form for the approval of the TCC at its next regular meeting.
- Mail notices of regular meetings of the TCC, with a copy of the agenda, in accordance with Article V of these rules.
- Give notice of regular and special meetings called in accordance with North Carolina Open Meetings Law.
- Maintain all files, records, and correspondence of the TCC.

Should neither the Chairman nor Vice-chairman be able to preside at a meeting, the Chairman shall appoint an acting Chairman for that meeting only or until such time the Chairman or Vice-chairman can resume their responsibilities. Should the Secretary be unable to attend a meeting, the Chairman of the TCC shall appoint an acting secretary to record and prepare the minutes.

ARTICLE V-MEETINGS

Section 1-Regular Meetings:

~~The TCC shall meet when it is deemed necessary, appropriate and advisable. Meetings will be held approximately quarterly on the Wednesday prior to the TAC as needed. Exact meeting (the fourth Monday) of every March, May, September, times and November. location will be established at the discretion of the current committee members. Meeting notices and agendas are to be mailed in sufficient time for them to have been received by each committee member, no later than seven (7) days prior to the meeting date. Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will begin at 10:30 a.m.~~ The Chairman may cancel regular meetings should there be insufficient items on the TCC's tentative agenda.

Section 2-Special Meetings:

Special meetings may be called by the Chairman or at the request of a majority of members petitioning the Chairman. Whenever possible, at least ~~seven (7) days notice shall be given~~ seven days' notice shall be given. Occasionally it may be necessary to conduct a meeting by phone conference or other electronic means. Under these circumstances, a location and means whereby members of the public may listen to the meeting will be provided. The meeting notice shall indicate where the public may listen.

Section 3-Workshops:

The TCC may choose to hold workshops from time to time. Notice for all workshops shall be provided in the same manner as regular meetings of the TCC.

Section 4-Attendance:

Membership of the TCC may be altered on the basis of a majority vote of its membership and approval of the TAC of the RPO. One alternate may be designated for each member providing they meet the same criteria as the original appointee. ~~Membership may be further defined in the duly adopted bylaws.~~—An RPO TCC membership roster will be compiled and updated at least annually, listing each attendee and alternate, if applicable, for each member county or ~~municipality jurisdiction~~. The membership of a county or ~~municipality member~~ other jurisdiction who fails to send the appointee or alternate to two consecutive RPO meetings will be designated as a vacant seat and will not count towards quorum. Attendance at future meetings will reinstate the member. Members may attend meetings via conference call on occasion; however, in-person attendance is preferred.

Section 5-Quorum:

A quorum is required for the transaction of all business, including conducting meetings or hearings, participating in deliberations, or voting upon or otherwise transacting the public business. A quorum consists of 51% of the members of the TCC, with no less than six members. ~~The TCC shall meet when it is deemed necessary, appropriate and advisable. The TCC will be staffed by the RPO Planner or his/her designated staff representative. The TCC shall by majority vote of the membership elect one member to serve as a Chairman with the responsibility for coordinating the committee's activities. Membership of the TCC may be altered on the basis of a majority vote of its membership and approval of the TAC of the RPO. If a quorum does not exist, no action shall be taken on any agenda item by the TCC.~~

Section 6-Agenda:

The agenda is a list of considerations for discussion at a meeting. Any member of the TCC can place items on the agenda prior to its distribution. Additional items may be placed on the regular agenda following discussion of the last item on the regular agenda, as long as a majority concurrence of the present and eligible voting members is received.

Section 7-Voting Procedures:

The Chairman may call for a vote on any issue, provided that it is seconded and within the purposes set forth in Article II and provided the issue is on the agenda as outlined in Section 5 of this article. A simple majority of members shall constitute a quorum. A simple majority vote of the members (or their authorized alternates) present and eligible to vote per the MOU shall be sufficient for approval of matters coming before the TCC. The Chairman is permitted to vote. Ad-hoc, proxy, and absentee voting are not permitted. Occasional attendance and voting via phone conference is permitted. Abstentions shall be considered affirmative votes. By approval of the TCC, a member may withdraw from voting on an issue without the vote considered affirmative. As stated in Article III, Section 1 each member has one vote.

ARTICLE VI – ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER

In the absence of any direction from these Bylaws or other duly adopted voting procedures pursuant to certain approval actions, Robert’s Rules of Order will designate procedures governing voting.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

Amendments to these Bylaws of the TCC shall require the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the TCC's eligible voting members, provided that written notice of the proposed amendment has been received by each member at least ~~seven (7)~~ days prior to the meeting at which the amendment is to be considered and provided that such amendment does not conflict with the letter or fundamental intent of the MOU governing this document. In the event of any conflict, the MOU shall carry precedence over these Bylaws.

The Southwestern ~~North Carolina Planning and Economic Development Commission~~ RPO Technical Coordinating Committee ~~and Transportation Advisory Committee~~ approved these Bylaws on May ~~29~~19, 2003. Amended this day the ~~14th day~~18th of ~~August 2006~~. ~~March 2009~~. Amended this day the ~~23rd~~25th of ~~March 2009~~January, 2016.

Mike Fitzgerald, TAC Chair

Paige Dowling, TCC Chair

Rose Bauguess, Secretary

Ryan Sherby RPO Coordinator

SOUTHWESTERN RURAL PLANNING ORGANIZATION

125 Bonnie Lane Sylva, NC 28779

TELEPHONE: (828) 586-1962, Extension 213
E-MAIL: rose@regiona.org

FAX: (828) 524-1968
WEBSITE: www.regiona.org



Agenda Item 8.

Cherokee County

Andrews
Murphy

Clay County

Hayesville

Graham County

Fontana Dam
Robbinsville
Lake Santeetlah

Jackson County

Dillsboro
Forest Hills
Sylva
Webster

Macon County

Franklin
Highlands

Swain County

Bryson City

PRIORITIZATION 4.0 LOCAL METHODOLOGY - DRAFT

INTRODUCTION

The North Carolina legislature and North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) require all rural and metropolitan planning organizations (RPOs and MPOs) to develop a local ranking methodology for projects across all modes of transportation (highway, bicycle/pedestrian, public transit, aviation, rail, and ferry). This methodology will need to be approved by the NCDOT's Strategic Prioritization Office of Transportation (SPOT), and adopted by the Southwestern RPO (SWRPO) Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), to ensure compliance with the legislative mandate.

This process applies to all projects ranked by the SWRPO in Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, or Swain counties that are "Regional" or "Division" funding level projects. Funding levels (or tiers) are as defined in the 2013 Strategic Transportation Investments law.

SCHEDULE

Timeframe	Activity
July-August 2015	County stakeholder meetings to review the status of Prioritization 3.0 projects and select new or existing projects to be added to the Prioritization 4.0 database
September 2015	TAC approves the final project submittal lists for each mode
December 2015	Methodology Committee develops the SWRPO Prioritization 4.0 Local Methodology
January 25, 2016	Draft Methodology is distributed to TCC and TAC for preliminary approval
February 2016	Draft Methodology is submitted to NCDOT for conditional approval
March 14, 2016	Conditionally-approved Methodology is released for public comment period
March 28, 2016	TCC recommends approval and TAC approves final Methodology
March 31, 2016	Final approved Local Methodology due to NCDOT
March-April 2016	TCC/TAC members and other stakeholders develop their Local Priority rankings to apply to be used in applying the Local Methodology
April 1, 2016	NCDOT quantitative scores released
April 2016	SWRPO staff applies Methodology and ranks projects by score
April 2016	Local stakeholder meetings with NCDOT to discuss point assignments
May 9, 2016	Draft local point assignments released for public comment period
May 23, 2016	TCC recommends approval and TAC approves final Local Point Assignments for Regional Projects
Late May 2016	RPO Staff enters local points for Regional Projects into SPOT database
July-August 2016	RPO Staff reviews projects funded at Statewide and Regional tier; evaluates remaining projects eligible for Division points.
September 26, 2016	TCC and TAC recommends final Local Point Assignments for Division Projects
Late Sept. 2016	RPO Staff enters local points for Division Projects into SPOT database
December 2016	Draft STIP released by NCDOT

PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Local Methodology:

Upon approval by NCDOT, the SWRPO will release the draft methodology for a 14-day public comment period, in accordance with the SWRPO Public Involvement Plan. The Draft Methodology will be posted on the SWRPO website, and the comment period will be advertised on the SWRPO website, social media page, and local media outlets. The results of the public comment period will be presented to the TCC and TAC at their March 2016 meeting, during which the public will also be permitted to submit comments. All public comment will be documented and reasonable edits to the methodology may be made prior to final approval by the TAC.

Local Point Assignments:

The draft point assignments for both Regional and Division projects will be released for a 14-day public comment period, in accordance with the SWRPO Public Involvement Plan. The draft point assignments will be posted on the SWRPO website, and the comment period will be advertised on the SWRPO website, social media page, and local media outlets. Public comments will be documented, filed by the RPO, and distributed to appropriate local entities to inform future Prioritization processes and transportation plans. No new projects will be added to the current Prioritization 4.0 list, however, as the NCDOT deadline for submitting new projects has passed. The results of the public comment period will be presented to the TCC and TAC at their May 2016 meeting, during which the public will also be permitted to submit comments. All public comment will be documented and considered prior to final approval by the TAC. The final, approved Local Point Assignments for Regional projects will be sent to SPOT by May 31, 2016. The TAC will approve the final local point assignments for Division projects at the September meeting, at which time the public will also be permitted to submit comments. The final, approved Local Point Assignments for Division Projects will be sent to SPOT by September 30, 2016.

RANKING PROCESS

Scoring Criteria:

Projects in the Prioritization 4.0 database will be scored using the following four criteria. These criteria will be used to score projects for all modes of transportation and for all funding tiers.

SPOT Score: The quantitative score generated by the NCDOT Strategic Office of Prioritization (SPOT) is a composite score that incorporates multiple metrics from a data-driven process including congestion, benefit-cost, safety, accessibility/connectivity, and freight. The SPOT Regional Score will be equal to 70% of the Project Regional Score and the SPOT Division Score will be equal to 50% of the Project Division Score.

Local Priority: Local Priority is a qualitative measure of the highest priority projects within each county. County TCC and TAC representatives are expected to collaborate with other county staff, county elected officials, staff and elected officials of municipalities within their boundaries, and other stakeholders to develop consensus on the ranked priority of projects within each county. Additional stakeholders consulted may include emergency management, law enforcement, economic development directors, tourism authorities, water and sewer authorities, tribal governments, major education or healthcare institutions, major employers, transit directors, airport managers, bicycle/pedestrian advocates, rail officials, etc.

The Local Priority ranking will incorporate the most current local knowledge such as economic development projects, destinations served, citizens' concerns, public safety, access, etc. Local stakeholders will meet to gain consensus on the priorities, and will submit a list of ranked projects in order of priority along with a brief rationale for the ranking. If a project is prioritized by more than one county, it will be assigned the average of

the points received. The Local Priority will be equal to 20% of the Regional Score and 40% of the Division Score.

Plan Consistency: Projects that have been identified in a locally adopted plan with public input will be given additional points. Plan Consistency will comprise 5% of the Regional Score and 5% of the Division score.

Project Development: Projects that have had significant planning or development activities completed will be given points to distinguish them from projects that are simply conceptual. Project Development will comprise 5% of the Regional Score and 5% of the Division Score.

Regional Project Scoring

CRITERIA	MAX SCORE	POINTS ALLOCATED TOWARD REGIONAL SCORE			
SPOT Score	70	SPOT score	SPOT score	SPOT score	SPOT score
Local Priority	20	Priority #4 5 points	Priority #3 10 points	Priority #2 15 points	Priority #1 20 points
Plan Consistency	5	Project is documented in a plan that is not locally adopted 2 points	Project will be incorporated into a current planning process. 3 points		Project is in CTP or other locally adopted plan 5 points
Project Development	5	Feasibility Study or other project-specific plan 2 points	Preliminary design or engineering 3 points	Project in development or Merger process 4 points	Project or Sibling project programmed in current STIP 5 points
Total	100				

Division Project Scoring

CRITERIA	MAX SCORE	POINTS ALLOCATED TOWARD DIVISION SCORE			
SPOT Score	50	SPOT score	SPOT score	SPOT score	SPOT score
Local Priority	40	Priority #4 10 points	Priority #3 20 points	Priority #2 30 points	Priority #1 40 points
Plan Consistency	5	Project is documented in a plan that is not locally adopted 2 points	Project will be incorporated into a current planning process. 3 points		Project is in CTP or other locally adopted plan 5 points
Project Development	5	Feasibility Study or other project-specific plan 2 points	Preliminary design or engineering 3 points	Project in development or Merger process 4 points	Project or Sibling project programmed in current STIP 5 points
Total	100				

LOCAL POINT ASSIGNMENT PROCESS

Once all projects have been scored using the criteria above, SWRPO staff will rank the projects from highest to lowest within each county and within the RPO as a whole. This ranked list will be used to develop the recommended point assignments that are presented to the public for comment and to the TCC and TAC for approval.

The SWRPO has a total of 1300 Local Input Points to assign at the Regional tier and 1300 Local Input Points to assign at the Division tier. The maximum number of points any project can receive is 100.

Statewide Tier:

Statewide projects do not receive local points and are determined entirely by the SPOT quantitative score. Any projects programmed at the statewide tier will be removed from the process before the SWRPO assigns local points.

Regional Point Assignments:

Any projects on the Statewide tier that are not funded at the Statewide tier will cascade down and be available for local point assignments at the Regional tier. Any projects that are programmed at the Regional tier will be removed from the process prior to assigning Division points.

The two top-scoring Regional projects within each county will be initially assigned 100 points each, which will account for 1200 of the 1300 available points. The remaining 100 points will be assigned to the next highest scoring project, regardless of location. In the event that any counties do not have at least two Regional tier projects, then additional projects will be selected from the top of the list of remaining projects within the RPO as a whole.

Division Point Assignments:

All projects not funded at the Statewide and Regional tiers will cascade down and be eligible for Division Local Points along with the Division tier projects. Projects involving public transit, bicycle and pedestrian transportation, aviation, and rail are evaluated at the Division level in addition to highway projects on secondary routes.

The two top-scoring projects within each county will be initially assigned 100 points each, which will account for 1200 of the 1300 available points. If a non-highway project receives points from the initial 1200 allotment, the remaining 100 points will be assigned to the next highest scoring project, regardless of mode and location. However if the initial 1200 points are all assigned to highway projects, the last 100 points will be assigned to the highest scoring non-highway project that is also supported by the local government. No local points will be assigned to any project requiring local match if the local government expresses no commitment to provide the required match. In the event that any counties do not have at least two Division tier projects, then additional projects will be selected from the top of the list of remaining projects within the RPO as a whole.

Tied Scores:

In the event scores are tied, the SWRPO will work with the Division 14 Engineer to align Division priorities with RPO priorities and ensure mutual needs are prioritized appropriately. If only one of the tied projects will also be receiving points from the Division Engineer, that project will be awarded the RPO points. However if both or neither of the projects will be receiving Division points, the project with the highest SPOT score will receive the RPO points.

Deviations from Methodology:

The SWRPO TAC may modify final point assignments to provide local oversight to the data-driven process, to better align county priorities with the priorities of the RPO and Division 14 and to ensure appropriate projects at the relevant funding tier. Any variations in point assignments from the initial point assignments will be justified and documented. Potential justifications may include: project cost, estimated points required for funding, geographic equity, distribution between modes, new information, potential reconsideration of the limits of a programmed project, and public comment. All public comments received, all final point assignments and any justification/rationale for point assignments which deviate from this Local Methodology will be placed on the RPO website at www.regiona.org/transportation-planning-rpo.

This Southwestern RPO Prioritization 4.0 Local Methodology was approved by the Southwestern RPO Transportation Advisory Committee on March 28, 2016.

Mike Fitzgerald, Chair

Rose Bauguess, Secretary