



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PAT MCCRORY
GOVERNOR

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ANTHONY J. TATA
SECRETARY

October 15, 2013

MPO/RPO
Address
City, State Zip

ATTENTION: TAC Chair
Subject: Guidance For Implementation of Strategic Prioritization - Session Law 2012-84

Session Law 2012-84 amended Section 2 of the General Statutes 136-18 by adding a new subdivision to read:

"The Department shall develop and utilize a process for selection of transportation projects that is based on professional standards in order to most efficiently use limited resources to benefit all citizens of the State. The strategic prioritization process should be a systematic, data-driven process that includes a combination of quantitative data, qualitative input, and multimodal characteristics, and should include local input. The Department shall develop a process for standardizing or approving local methodology used in Metropolitan Planning Organization and Rural Transportation Planning Organization prioritization."

The Department engaged the P3.0 Workgroup to assist in developing guidance on how to implement S.L. 2012-84. The emphasis is on an open and transparent process. On September 30th the Workgroup reached agreement on recommended guidance. The Department agrees.

Outlined below is the guidance each MPO and RPO needs to follow in developing their local methodology. This methodology will be used to assign MPO/RPO local input points under the new Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) law. The Department requests you submit your local methodology for approval and address each of the following items:

- Describe the MPO/RPO ranking process for all modes of transportation that identifies at least one quantitative and one qualitative criteria to be used in the scoring process. These criteria should be understandable to the public. In other words, the measures and the percentages assigned to each measure should be defined, described, and outlined in such a way that the public can follow how project points will be assigned.
- Describe how your organization intends to engage and solicit public input on your methodology: i.e., the rationale behind the preliminary assignment of points; posting of this approach on a public website; holding a public hearing to receive comments on the preliminary assignment and/or how your organization followed its public input policies to adhere to this requirement. At least one public review period and public meeting/hearing should be included in the process. This review period needs to allow sufficient time for consideration of any public comments prior to the TCC/TAC making the final point assignment.
- Describe how your Technical Coordinating and Transportation Advisory Committees (TCC/TAC) will consider the input of public comments on the preliminary assignment of points as they develop and ultimately approve the final point assignment.

- Describe how the final local point assignment (approved by your TAC) will be disseminated and shared with the public. Include dates on your schedule you are targeting to achieve this.
- The methodology needs to be approved by the TAC.

Please develop and submit a proposed methodology, a contact person and/or narrative to Don Voelker, Director, Strategic Prioritization Office of Transportation, as soon as you believe your methodology follows the above guidance. The Department will review each submission and provide a response on its acceptability. We look forward to working with each MPO and RPO to ensure an acceptable methodology is in place before local input points are assigned beginning May 1, 2014; otherwise, the Department will not accept local input points from the MPO/RPO for that area. This lead time should be sufficient for each MPO/RPO to ensure their local methodologies will meet this guidance.

Sincerely,

Jim Trogdon, P.E.
Chief Deputy for Operations

cc: Don Voelker
cc: MPO/RPO Staff Point of Contact