

### Explanation of MPO's placement of project points (November, 2016)

On November 19, 2015, the MPO adopted a prioritization process that details how the MPO will place points on transportation projects. As a part of the prioritization process, the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) has the discretion to modify the point assignments, as long as the reasons for the modifications are disclosed. This document is to inform the public of those reasons for those instances where a project received a different point value than that determined by the MPO's prioritization process.

For Regional points: the MPO did not modify the points from the prioritization process.

For Division points: the MPO did modify the points from the prioritization process.

### Background

The MPO's point distribution will be used by NCDOT in their calculations that are used to prioritize eligible projects that could be programmed in fiscal years 2021-2027.

For Region B (Division 2 and 3), there is approximately \$274M available for programming Regional Impact projects, while there is about \$136M available for Division Needs projects within Division 2.

When assigning points to candidate projects submitted for NCDOT's funding consideration, the MPO uses a NCDOT-approved process for assigning local input points based on a combination of quantitative and qualitative data in accordance with the Strategic Transportation Investment State Law (Session Law 2013-183/House Bill 817). The MPO adopted a NCDOT-approved prioritization process on November 19, 2015.

For the Greenville Urban Area MPO, there will be:

- a total of 1300 points that can be distributed over all modes for regional projects, and
- a total of 1300 points that can be distributed over all modes for division-level projects.

The MPO's scoring methodology for each mode of transportation (roadway, bike/ped, rail, transit, and aviation) is explained in the adopted prioritization process.

### MPO strategy for point modification

The MPO strategy for modifying the Division point assignment is as follows:

- a) Minimize points on projects that have very little chance of funding.
- b) Maximize points on projects that have a better chance of funding.
- c) Keep some points on all desired projects, as there is a possibility that it would help with carry-over to the next prioritization cycle.

#### 1) (B150577) – Mill Street sidewalk

- To maximize the amount of funds that could potentially go towards projects within the MPO, TAC chooses to place 97 points on the Mill St sidewalk project (B150577) (about \$208k), and place the 3 points that were removed to a different project. Doing this prioritizes the greenway project B150863 (Town Common to River Park North connector estimated at \$2.2M) over the Mill St sidewalk project. This ranking order would bring in an order of magnitude more funding to the MPO compared to not modifying the point assignment. This is the reason for the modification. There is a possibility that both projects may be funded, depending upon what projects other MPO/RPO's place points on.

TAC decided to place no points on the following project with the reason detailed below:

- 2) (H141637) NC903 from NC11 to Greene County Line – resurface and widen road to 26'
  - Road is currently under construction (resurfacing and widen to 22 ft.), which preclude the necessity of this project at this time. The MPO feels this project is no longer a priority at this time, due to the aforementioned work, and feels it's their best interest to not assign points on this project and use the points for a different project.

Non-Highway projects: NCDOT's Division 2 strategy is to award their points to the top 4-ranked non-highway projects (that also receive points from their respective RPO/MPO's). The top 5 non-highway projects include the Town Common-River Park North connector trail and the Mill St sidewalk project. Division-wide, there are 2 more bike/ped projects that are ranked higher than those from this MPO. The non-highway projects noted below did not receive a quantitative score high enough to receive Division 2 points. Thus, the following bike/ped projects within the MPO have no chance of receiving points from the Division. TAC has decided to place points from these projects on lower-cost highway projects that at least have a better chance of funding, in hopes that their low cost might give the project a competitive edge.

Thus, for the following non-highway projects, the reason for modifications (awarding 2 points each) are as follows:

- 3) (B150334) S. Tar River Greenway Ph3B
- 4) (B140603) Ange St sidewalk
- 5) (B150736) NC102 from NC11 to Lee St sidewalk project
- 6) (A130268) PGV Airport -- airfield drainage improvements
- 7) (A130267) PGV Airport – airfield emergency access road improvements
- 8) (A130271) PGV Airport – Visual Nav aids project
  - Project's ranking is lower than the top 4 or 5 non-highway projects, division-wide. The (NCDOT's) Division's strategy is to place points only on the 4-highest ranked non-highway projects, and these projects rank well below the top 4, providing no opportunity for the project to receive Division points. Without receiving NCDOT Division points, these projects' total point score wouldn't be high enough to receive funding. Thus, the MPO decided to not place points on these projects, and use the points for different projects.

The following project was awarded 2 points to indicate to NCDOT that this is a priority project to the MPO, and to possibly aid in preventing its removal from NCDOT's database due to not receiving any points.

- 9) (H111004) Boyd Street improvements

The following projects were awarded 100 points. The MPO decided to place points on the lowest cost intersection and/or turn-lane projects in hopes they may be able to be funded.

- 10) (H150722) Frog Level/Davenport Rd Roundabout
- 11) (H141074) Portertown Rd/Eastern Pines Rd roundabout
- 12) (H150417) NC43/Edwards Farm Road turn lane
- 13) (H140563) Jolly Road modernization

The MPO awarded the following project 36 points to make the best use of any remaining points not already allocated and to ensure all available points were used.

- 14) (H090510) Firetower Road extension