



New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Local Input Methodology and Ranking Process

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Continuing · Comprehensive · Cooperative · Transportation Planning

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	4
Description of Criteria and Weights	7
Total Score and Project Ranking Approach	7
Point Assignment Process	8
Schedule and Public Outreach	8
Material Sharing	9

Introduction

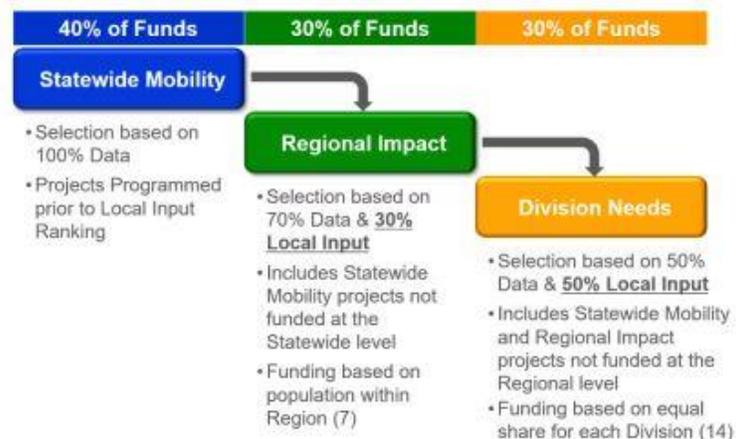
The New Bern Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (NBAMPO) will collaborate with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to submit and rank transportation projects under the NCDOT Prioritization Process. The results of this effort will provide input into the development of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

The Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) law (GS-136-189.10 and .11), enacted in 2013, directs the NCDOT to select and fund major capital improvement projects using a data-driven prioritization process in combination with local input. Under STI, all major capital mobility/expansion and modernization projects across all six modes of transportation compete for funding. Each project is classified into one of three funding categories – Statewide Mobility, Regional Impact, or Division Needs – where it competes for funding with other eligible projects.

This ranking process is the Local Methodology of the MPO used to evaluate and determine assignment of points towards priority projects that will be submitted to the NCDOT. The NCDOT provided guidance for the NBAMPO to follow. This guidance requested that each planning organization and Division develop and implement a local input point methodology that maintains criteria transparency, material availability, and process documentation and maximizes the opportunity for public review and input. This document represents the NBAMPO's efforts to follow the guidance and requirements of the NCDOT.

Statewide Mobility eligible projects compete against all other projects in this category across the state, and project selection is based 100% on the data-driven quantitative score. Regional Impact projects compete against all other projects in this category within the same funding region, and selection is based 70% on the quantitative score and 30% on local input. Division Needs projects compete against all other projects within the same NCDOT Transportation Division, (NBAMPO is in Division 2), and selection is based 50% on quantitative score and 50% local input.

The STI law includes an innovative component known as cascading, where projects not funded in the Statewide Mobility category are eligible for funding in the Regional Impact category. Similarly, projects not funded in the Regional Impact category are eligible for Division Needs funds. Projects that cascade down are then subject to the scoring criteria and local input for the respective funding category.



Project eligibility for each STI category, as defined in law, is shown below.

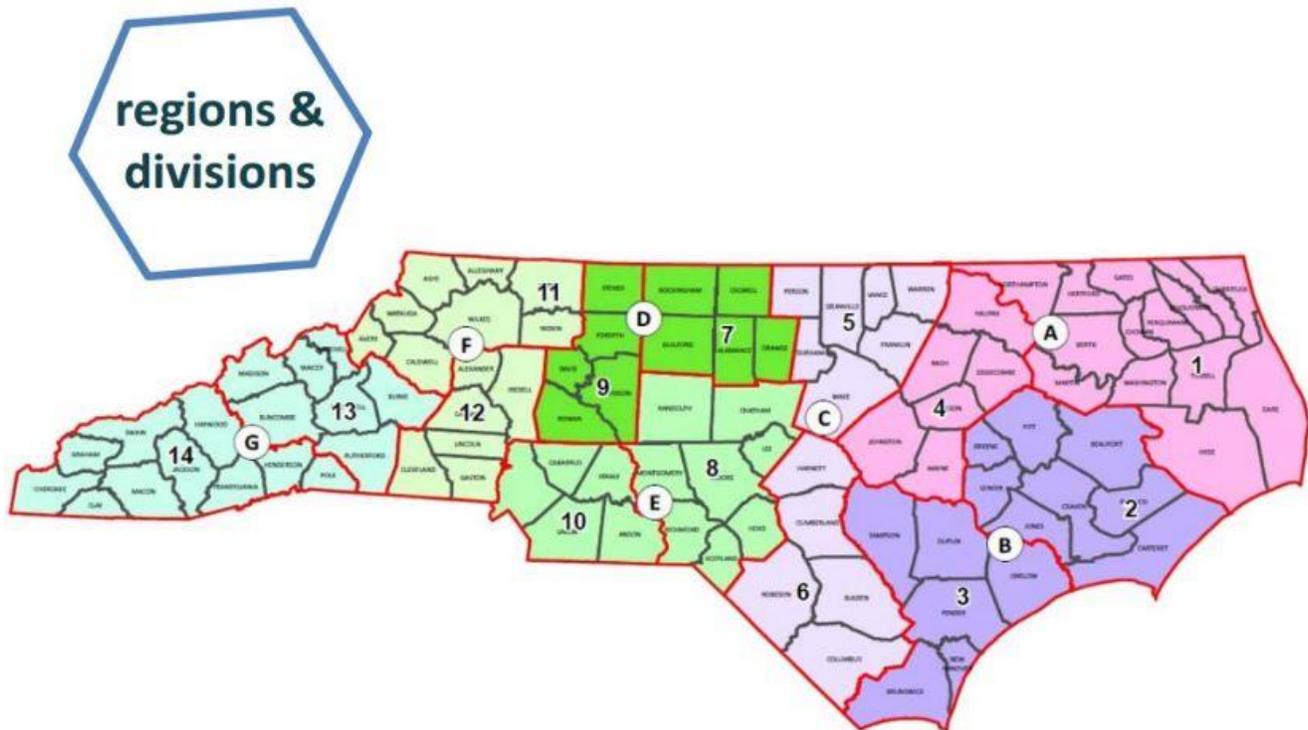
STI Project Eligibility			
Mode	Statewide Mobility	Regional Impact	Division Needs
Highway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interstates (existing & future) NHS routes (as of July 1, 2012) STRAHNET Routes ADHS Routes Uncompleted Intrastate projects Designated Toll Facilities 	Other US and NC Routes	All County (SR) Routes
Aviation	Large Commercial Service Airports (\$500K cap)	Other Commercial Service Airports not in Statewide (\$300K cap)	All Airports without Commercial Service (\$18.5M cap)
Bicycle-Pedestrian	N/A	N/A	All projects (\$0 state funds)
Public Transportation	N/A	Service spanning two or more counties (10% cap)	All other service, including terminals, stations, and facilities
Ferry	N/A	Ferry expansion	Replacement vessels
Rail	Freight Capacity Service on Class I Railroad Corridors	Rail service spanning two or more counties not Statewide	Rail service not included on Statewide or Regional

MPOs/RPOs and Divisions indicate priority by applying local input points to projects. Each organization receives a baseline of 1,000 local input points, with additional points based on population. The NBAMPO has a total of 1,100 points to apply to projects in the Regional Impact category and a total of 1,100 points to apply to projects in the Division Needs Category. State law requires NCDOT to approve how each organization will assign points to projects (maximum number of points assigned to any one project cannot exceed 100 points), in a document known as their Local Input Methodology.

Classification of Transportation Projects: Highway projects associated with US Highway 70 (future I-42), US Highway 17/Business US 17, and NC Hwy 55 in the New Bern Area MPO are classified as Statewide projects. These projects are evaluated and prioritized solely by NCDOT, and are based on quantitative data provided by the MPO and the NCDOT. No local input ranking is applied to Statewide projects, however, the NBAMPO has the option to assign points to Statewide projects that cascade down into the Regional and Division Needs categories.

The New Bern Area MPO, comprised of the City of New Bern, Town of Bridgeton, Town of River Bend, Town of Trent Woods and portions of Craven County, is in Region B, which consists of NCDOT Highway Divisions two (2) and three (3).

Regional funds are distributed by population. The state is divided into seven (7) regions, and 14 Highway Divisions. Each region has two Highway Divisions, as seen below.



The New Bern Area MPO Regional highway projects include NC 43. All Regional projects (all modes of transportation) will receive a quantitative evaluation by NCDOT. In addition to this quantitative score, local input will be added to the project evaluation. For Regional projects, the NCDOT quantitative value will be 70% and the local input will be 30% of the project evaluation.

The New Bern Area MPO is included in NCDOT Highway Division Two (2), which includes the counties of Beaufort, Craven, Carteret, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Pamlico, and Pitt. The 14 Highway Divisions of the state will receive equal funding amounts for Division category projects. Highway projects associated with NC Secondary Routes (SR #'s) will fall into the Division category. The NCDOT quantitative score for Division projects will make up 50% of the project evaluation. The local input value for Division projects (all modes) will be 50% of the project evaluation.

The local input for the New Bern Area MPO Regional and Division projects will come from the MPO and NCDOT Division Two (2) (the NBAMPO Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Division Two (2) Engineer). In both Regional and Division projects, the local input will be equally divided between the MPO and Division Engineer.

The Strategic Prioritization Office of Transportation accepted new projects from July-September 2017 from the MPO to be evaluated within the Prioritization 5.0 process. The list of new projects submitted for Prioritization 5.0 are approved by the MPO's Transportation Advisory Committee.

Under the Strategic Transportation Investments law, limitations on new project submittals have been established by the NCDOT. The NBAMPO is allowed to submit the following number of new projects:

- New Highway Projects 14
- New Aviation Projects 14
- New Bike/Pedestrian Projects 14
- New Public Transportation Projects 14
- New Rail Projects 14

The NBAMPO will evaluate highway projects included in their long-range transportation planning document (Metropolitan Transportation Plan: Destination 2040) as part of their project submissions for each funding tier (Statewide, Regional and Division).

Projects for the Coastal Carolina Regional Airport fall into the Division Needs category.

Bicycle/Pedestrian projects fall into the Division Needs category.

The New Bern Area MPO public transportation projects in the Regional and Division Needs categories are coordinated with the Craven Area Rural Transit System (CARTS).

Description of Criteria and Weights

Project local input scores will be determined based on MTP Consistency and Board Priority.

MTP Consistency will be a yes/no filtering criterion. By default, projects will not be considered for local input point assignment if they are not in NBAMPO's MTP.

The Board Priority criterion results in a project list ranked in priority order. Board members will review all public comments and discuss each project based on need and other local considerations including safety, congestion, accessibility and connectivity. Each board member will have an opportunity to rank each project. The board will then compile their individual priority ranking to determine collectively which projects are the most viable for the area.

Total Score and Project Ranking Approach

By sorting the Priority Ranking numbers in descending order of value, a prioritized order of MPO transportation projects in the Prioritization 5.0 process is established. The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) will approve the Priority Ranking numbers of all projects in the Prioritization 5.0 process.

All projects receiving points will receive the maximum 100 points allowed per project (or the maximum percentage for projects partially within the MPO). The NBAMPO will allocate points based on the Board Priority Ranking.

Point Assignment Process

Regional Projects

The New Bern Area MPO has a total of 1,100 points allocated to projects that meet Regional scoring criteria. The NBAMPO will give the maximum score of 100 points to the top projects in all applicable modes (Highway, Transit, Aviation, Rail, Bike/Ped) until the total allowable points are expended.

Division Projects

The New Bern Area MPO has a total of 1,100 points allocated to projects that meet Division scoring criteria. The NBAMPO will give the maximum score of 100 points to the top projects in all applicable modes (Highway, Transit, Aviation, Rail, Bike/Ped) until the total allowable points are expended.

All projects receiving points will receive the maximum 100 points allowed per project or maximum number of points allowed if projects are shared by both MPO and RPO.

Points not allocated to projects within the New Bern Area MPO can be transferred to another MPO or RPO assuming both organizations agree to point sharing. If the New Bern Area MPO contributes points to another MPO or RPO, a written agreement will be provided to NCDOT.

Deviation Clause: The NBAMPO TCC and TAC boards are free to deviate from the preliminary points assignment when finalizing scores, to compensate for situations where the methodology does not accurately reflect the TAC's priorities, and to ensure points assignment to projects at the relevant category. Any variation in point assignments from the preliminary scores must have justifications documented in the meeting minutes and posted on the NBAMPO website. Anticipated justifications include, but are not limited to: project cost, point sharing arrangements, estimated points required for funding, geographic equity, modal distribution, new information and public comment.

Use of Public Input and Comments in Final Rankings: The TCC and TAC will review all input received through the public input process to confirm the individual candidate project descriptions and details. The TCC and TAC may choose to remove or modify projects before ultimately approving the point's assignments, but no new projects will be added after the NCDOT deadline for submitting candidate projects for evaluation through the SPOT process. Any modifications and rationale for point adjustment will be available for public review on the NBAMPO website when final points per project are posted.

Schedule and Public Outreach

Project Solicitation: The NBAMPO solicited candidate projects for 30 days in July 2017. The results of this process were presented to the TAC at its September 2017 meeting, where the TAC was asked to endorse the project list for submittal to NCDOT. In the event that the number of new projects exceeded the maximum possible, the TAC chose projects to submit based on Division 2 and NBAMPO staff recommendations. NBAMPO staff will subsequently submit the TAC endorsed projects into NCDOT's SPOT Online tool (web based system) for project evaluation and quantitative scoring.

Public Involvement: The NBAMPO will announce the 30-day project solicitation period to all member governments and interested persons. The NBAMPO will also issue press releases in

newspapers of general circulation in Craven County soliciting candidate projects. The NBAMPO held a public input session in July 2017. Information regarding the public input session and this solicitation period was advertised through the NBAMPO website and social media applications. The results of the input sessions and all submitted projects was presented to the TAC for their review, who used the input in determining which projects to submit for technical evaluation by the NCDOT's Strategic Prioritization Office for Transportation (SPOT), who calculates the technical scores for candidate projects.

Project Ranking: Using the methodology described above, the NBAMPO will present the recommended local point assignments for regional projects to the TCC at their May 2018 meeting. Upon the approval of the TAC, the NBAMPO will release the recommended projects, point assignments, and the methodology used to assign the points for a 30-day public comment period. The 30-day period will also be advertised on the NBAMPO website and social media applications. The results of the public comment period will be presented to the TCC and TAC at special called June 2018 meetings. At that time, the TAC will be asked to approve a project list with final point assignment for regional projects. After approval, the project list with assigned points will be available on the NBAMPO website. The TCC and TAC of the NBAMPO will evaluate the full list of new and previously evaluated projects for the New Bern Urbanized Area between April and July 2018, with local points assigned and submitted to the SPOT office by the end of July 2018.

At the end of August 2018, NCDOT will release a draft list of programmed regional impact projects and the NBAMPO will begin to evaluate local input point assignment to division needs projects. Using the methodology described above, the NBAMPO will present the recommended local point assignments for Division projects to the TCC at their September 2018 meeting. Upon the approval of the TAC, the NBAMPO will release the recommended projects, point assignments, and the methodology used to assign the points for a 30-day public comment period. The 30-day comment period will also be advertised on the NBAMPO website and social media applications. The results of the public comment period will be presented to the TCC and TAC at special called October 2018 meetings. At that time, the TAC will be asked to approve the project list with final point assignments for Division projects. After approval, the project list with assigned points will be available on the NBAMPO website. The Draft STIP will be released in January 2019 and will also be available on the NBAMPO website.

Material Sharing

For information on the New Bern Area MPO Local Methodology (as described above), MPO transportation plans and new of STI and Prioritization, visit the NBAMPO website at www.nbampo.org and NCDOT at www.ncdot.gov/strategictransportationinvestments/.