# Prioritization 101

AN OVERVIEW OF NCDOT'S PRIORITIZATION PROCESS WITH A LOOK TOWARDS P7.0

## **Prioritization 101**

- O What is Prioritization?
- O How does it work?
- What is the RPO's role in Prioritization?

6/7/2023

# Project Life Cycle

**Observations / Needs** 

**Transportation Planning** 

MPO / RPO / Division coordination

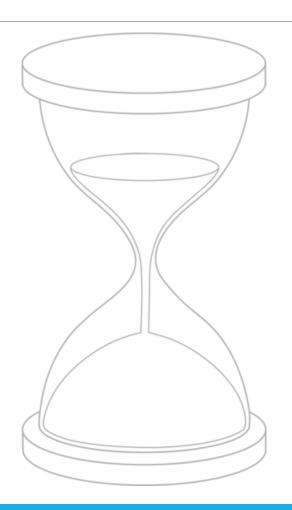
Prioritization (SPOT) /

**State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)** 

**Project Design / NEPA** 

**LET Process / Construction** 

**Operations & Maintenance** 



# **Terminology**

**Prioritization** = assigning data and scores to projects

**STIP** = State Transportation Improvement Program

= 10-year document of project funding and schedules

**Programming** = process of assigning funding and schedule to projects

## Prioritization Process is Law

"The Department shall develop and utilize a <u>process for selection of transportation projects</u> 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 <u>systematic, data-driven process</u> that includes a <u>combination of</u> 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." - S.L. 2012-84

Attempting to remove politics from the decision-making process.

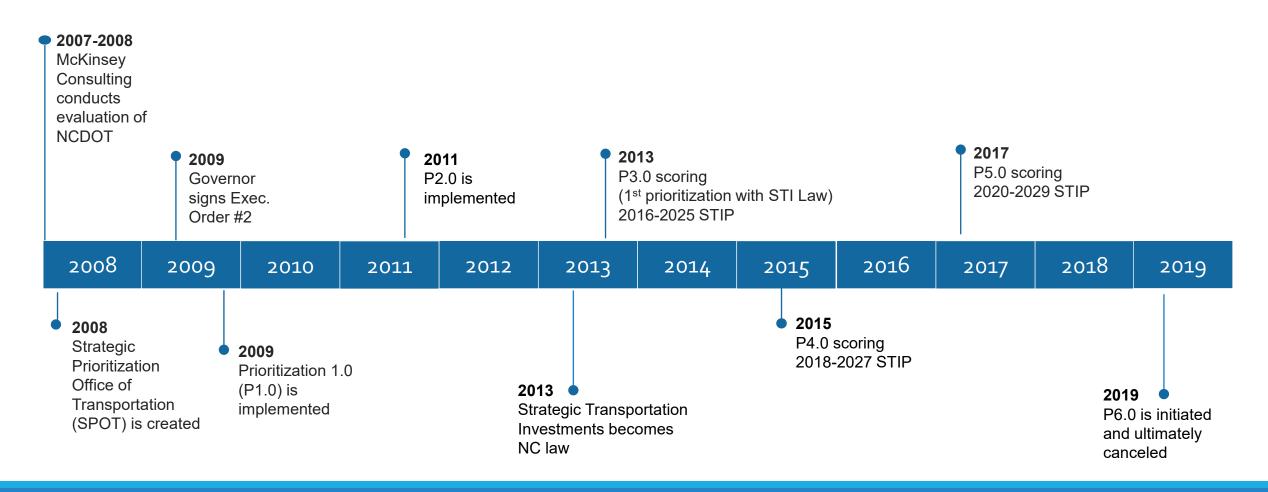
Making the project selection process more transparent.



## STRATEGIC TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS

Smart decisions to keep North Carolina moving.

# History of Prioritization



## **How the STI Law Works**

- Prioritizes Capital Expenditures across all modes
  - Modes: Aviation, Bicycle/Pedestrian, Ferry, Highway, Rail, Transit
- Needs-based, data-driven
- Directly ties funding to Prioritization Results
- Funding comes from Highway Trust Fund and Federal Aid Program
- Workgroup used every cycle for improvement

## STI Law: Legislation vs. Workgroup

#### **STI Law defines:**

- Funding Categories and Percentages
- Project Eligibility
- Highway Scoring Criteria
   Names
- Funding Constraints

## Workgroup recommends for BOT approval

- Scoring Process (timeframe, submittals, carryovers, etc.)
- Highway Measures and Weights
- Non-Highway Criteria, Measures, and Weights
- Modal Allocation (funding allocation between modes)
- Local Input Points

## STI Law: Funding Categories & Percentages

40% of Funds

30% of Funds

30% of Funds

### **Statewide Mobility**

Focus = Addressing significant congestion and bottlenecks

Score = 100% Quantitative Data

## **Regional Impact**

Focus = Improving connectivity within Regions

Score = 70% Quantitative Data + 30% Local Input

Funding based on population within each Region (7)

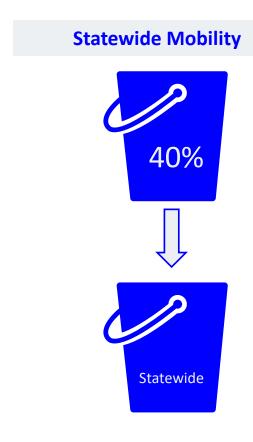
#### **Division Needs**

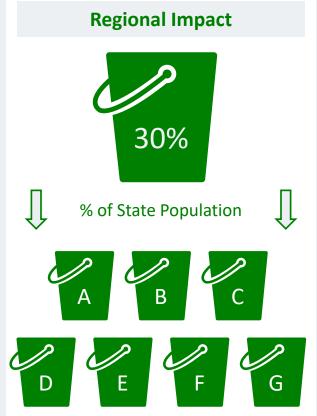
Focus = Addressing local needs

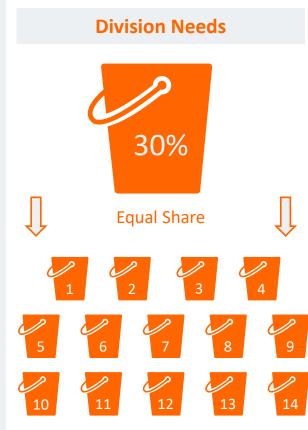
Score = 50% Quantitative Data + 50% Local Input

Funding based on equal share for each Division (14)

## STI Law: Funding Categories & Percentages







# STI Law: Project Scoring

- Criteria:
  - Quantitative criteria (data-driven) all 3 categories
  - Qualitative criteria (Local Input Points) Regional Impact and Division Needs categories
- 0 to 100 scale
- Selection of projects in ranked order
- Legislation provides the names of Highway Quantitative Criteria:

Congestion	Benefit/Cost	Safety	Freight	Economic Competitiveness <sup>1</sup>
Accessibility/ Connectivity <sup>2</sup>	Multimodal	Lane Width	Shoulder Width	Pavement Score

- Workgroup flexibility in determining the methodology used to calculate criteria
- Non-Highway Modes must have a minimum of 4 quantitative criteria

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Statewide Mobility only;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Regional Impact & Division Needs only

## State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

### STIP identifies funding and scheduling of projects in NCDOT's capital program

~55% of NCDOT's Budget

### 10 Year Program (currently 2020-2029)

- First half is "**Delivery STIP**" projects scheduled for delivery
- Second half is "Developmental STIP" projects in early scoping and environmental development stage

## **Updated** *approximately* every 2 years

### **STIP** contains different project types:

- Highway & Non-Highway (<u>Prioritization</u>)
- Bridges, Safety, Interstate Maintenance, CMAQ, Carbon Reduction Program, and others.

### **Projects Submitted** by MPOs, RPOs, & Divisions



- 1. Reviewed for eligibility
- 2. Data screened & developed
- Quantitative scores calculated

## Statewide Mobility 40% of Funds

- 1. Projects programmed
- Projects not programmed cascaded to next category

## Regional Impact 30% of Funds

- 1. Local input points assigned
- Total scores calculated
- 3. Projects programmed
- 4. Projects not programmed cascaded to next category

Regional Impact Score = 70% Quantitative + 30% Local Input

**CAPE FEAR RPO RTCC** 

## Division Needs 30% of Funds

- 1. Local input points assigned
- 2. Total scores calculated
- 3. Projects programmed

Division Needs Score = 50% Quantitative + 50% Local Input

Statewide Mobility Score = 100% Quantitative

6/7/2023

# "Projects Scheduled for Delivery"

#### 10 Year Program (currently 2020-2029)

- First half is "**Delivery STIP**" projects scheduled for delivery
- Second half is "Developmental STIP" projects in early scoping and environmental development stage

#### Formerly known as "Committed Projects"

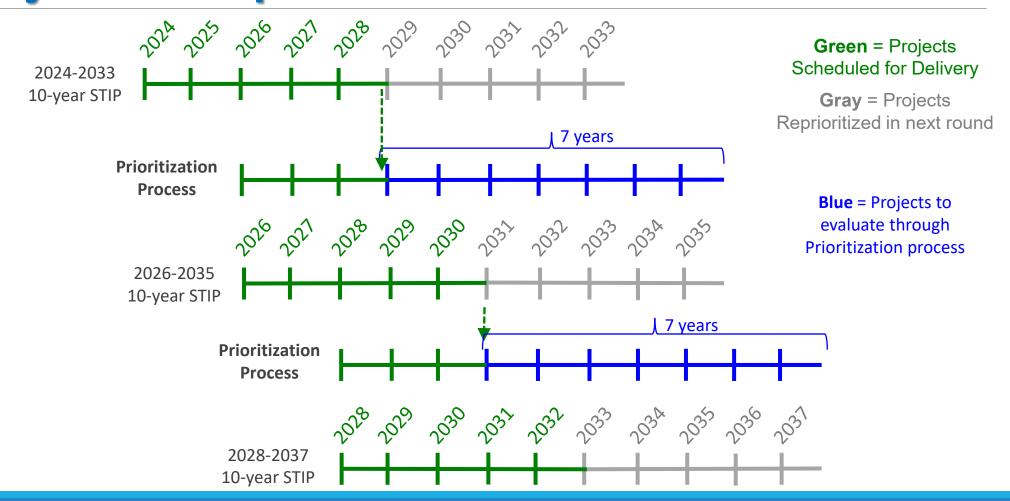
**<u>Definition</u>**: Projects **NOT** subject to re-evaluation in next round of Prioritization

#### **Applies to 2024-2033 STIP** (scheduled for adoption)

- Applies to ALL modes
- Applies to first year of programming (ROW or CON)
- Future dollars tied up

#### >> Programmed for ROW or CON between 2024 and 2028 <<

# Projects Scheduled for Delivery <u>vs.</u> Years Subject to Reprioritization



# **Carryover Projects**

"Carryover Projects" are automatically evaluated in the next round of Prioritization

#### P7.0 Workgroup recommended Carryover Projects to be defined as

- In the adopted 2024-2033 STIP and not scheduled for delivery (2<sup>nd</sup> half)
- Have completed environmental documents
- Sibling of programmed projects
- Two P6.0 New Submittals (per partner discretion)

#### **Modifications:**

- Segmenting counts as additional submittal slot
- Scope changes do not count as additional submittal slot
- 1 out / 1 in allowed with partner agreement

All other projects "removed" and available for resubmittal → "Holding Tank" Projects

# Project Submittals

P7.0 Workgroup recommended the number of project submittals to be calculated using the same formula as in P6.0:

#### **MPOs and RPOs**

- Base of 12 submittals, plus:
  - +1 submittal for every 50,000 in population
  - +1 submittal for every 500 centerline miles

(No maximum number of submittals)

#### **Divisions**

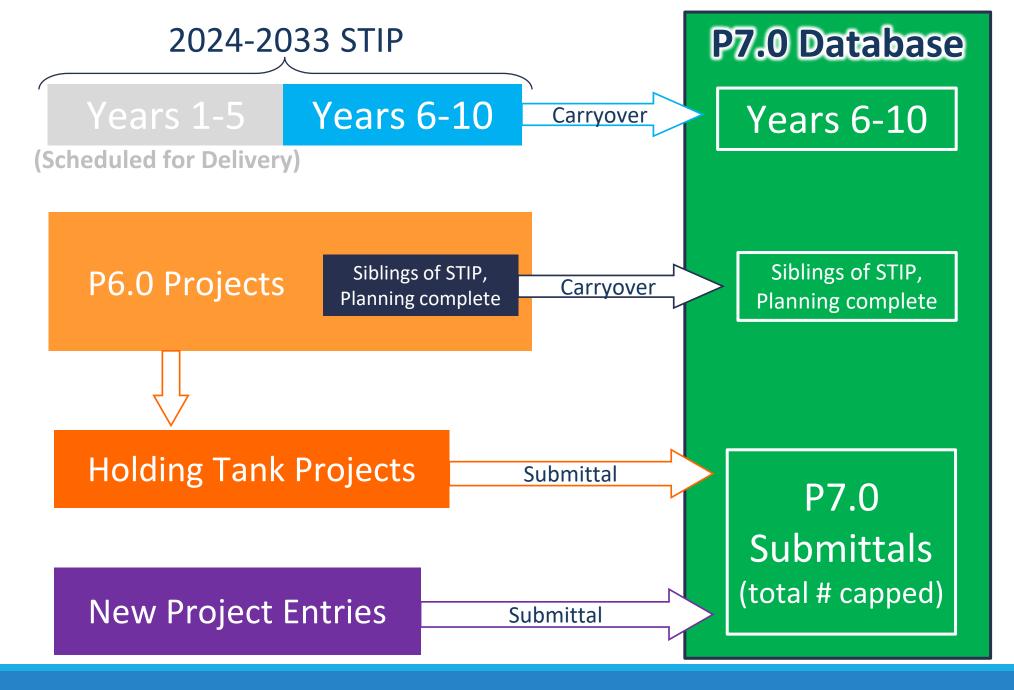
- 14 submittals
- Formula applies to <u>each mode</u>
- 1 out / 1 in (with Carryover projects) allowed with partner agreement

## **Recommended P7 Number of Submittals**

MPO/RPO Name	2020 Census Population	Population rounded to nearest 50,000	P7 Add'l Projects Based on Population	2023 Centerline Miles	Centerline Miles rounded to nearest 500	P7 Add'l Projects based on Centerline Miles	P7 Maximum Submittals for Each Mode
Albemarle RPO	174,219	150,000	3	2,937	3,000	6	21
Burlington-Graham MPO	176,195	200,000	4	1,036	1,000	2	18
Cabarrus-Rowan MPO	352,583	350,000	7	1,996	2,000	4	23
Cape Fear RPO	140,902	150,000	3	2,238	2,000	4	19
Capital Area MPO	1,304,889	1,300,000	26	4,158	4,000	8	46
Charlotte Regional Transportation PO	1,494,627	1,500,000	30	3,677	3,500	7	49
Down East RPO	139,417	150,000	3	1,905	2,000	4	19
Durham-Chapel Hill-Carrboro MPO	462,954	450,000	9	1,337	1,500	3	24
Eastern Carolina RPO	169,863	150,000	3	2,960	3,000	6	21
Fayetteville Area MPO	404,905	400,000	8	1,358	1,500	3	23
Foothills RPO	132,825	150,000	3	2,077	2,000	4	19
French Broad River MPO	426,274	450,000	9	2,561	2,500	5	26
Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO	404,464	400,000	8	2,998	3,000	6	26
Goldsboro Urban Area MPO	90,276	100,000	2	597	500	1	15
Grand Strand Area Transportation Study	47,909	50,000	1	271	500	1	14
Greater Hickory MPO	367,982	350,000	7	3,168	3,000	6	25
Greensboro Urban Area MPO	406,916	400,000	8	1,589	1,500	3	23
Greenville Urban Area MPO	140,982	150,000	3	465	500	1	16
High Country RPO	212,443	200,000	4	4,158	4,000	8	24

## **Recommended P7 Number of Submittals**

MPO/RPO Name	2020 Census Population	Population rounded to nearest 50,000	P7 Add'l Projects Based on Population	2023 Centerline Miles	Centerline Miles rounded to nearest 500	P7 Add'l Projects based on Centerline Miles	P7 Maximum Submittals for Each Mode
High Point Urban Area MPO	291,390	300,000	6	1,837	2,000	4	22
Jacksonville Urban Area MPO	198,407	200,000	4	569	500	1	17
Kerr-Tar RPO	165,829	150,000	3	2,837	3,000	6	21
Land-of-Sky RPO	68,364	50,000	1	1,196	1,000	2	15
Lumber River RPO	222,064	200,000	4	3,363	3,500	7	23
Mid-Carolina RPO	182,912	200,000	4	3,479	3,500	7	23
Mid-East RPO	110,738	100,000	2	2,143	2,000	4	18
New Bern Area MPO	54,294	50,000	1	254	500	1	14
Northwest Piedmont RPO	166,565	150,000	3	2,989	3,000	6	21
Peanut Belt RPO	113,183	100,000	2	2,628	2,500	5	19
Piedmont Triad RPO	260,674	250,000	5	3,970	4,000	8	25
Rocky Mount Urban Area MPO	77,662	100,000	2	487	500	1	15
Rocky River RPO	103,648	100,000	2	2,109	2,000	4	18
Southwestern RPO	143,270	150,000	3	2,618	2,500	5	20
Triangle Area RPO	230,432	250,000	5	2,931	3,000	6	23
Upper Coastal Plain RPO	232,705	250,000	5	3,089	3,000	6	23
Wilmington Urban Area MPO	296,302	300,000	6	827	1,000	2	20
Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO	449,926	450,000	9	1,479	1,500	3	24



Funding	QUANTITATIVE	LOCAL	INPUT
Category	Data	Division	MPO/RPO
Statewide Mobility	Criteria 1 = 30%  Criteria 2 = 25%  Criteria 3 = 15%  Criteria 4 = 10%  Criteria 5 = 15%  Criteria 6 = 5%	<del></del>	
Regional Impact	Criteria 1 = 20%  Criteria 2 = 20%  Criteria 3 = 10%  Criteria 4 = 10%  Criteria 5 = 10%	15%	15%
Division Needs	Criteria 1 = 15%  Criteria 2 = 15%  Criteria 3 = 10%  Criteria 4 = 5%  Criteria 5 = 5%	25%	25%

# **Local Input Points**

P7.0 Workgroup recommended the number of local input points to be calculated using the same formula as in P6.0:

- Number of Points per Area:
  - Base of 1,000 points
  - +100 additional points for every 50,000 in population (rounding up)

#### Max 2,500 points per area

Same allocation for **Regional Impact** and **Division Needs** 

100 points max per project per category

## Recommended P7 Number of Local Input Points

MPO/RPO Name	2020 Census Population	Population rounded to next 50,000	P7 Local Input Points
Albemarle RPO	174,219	200,000	1,400
Burlington-Graham MPO	176,195	200,000	1,400
Cabarrus-Rowan MPO	352,583	400,000	1,800
Cape Fear RPO	140,902	150,000	1,300
Capital Area MPO	1,304,889	1,350,000	2,500
Charlotte Regional Transportation PO	1,494,627	1,500,000	2,500
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Greater Hickory MPO	367,982	400,000	1,800
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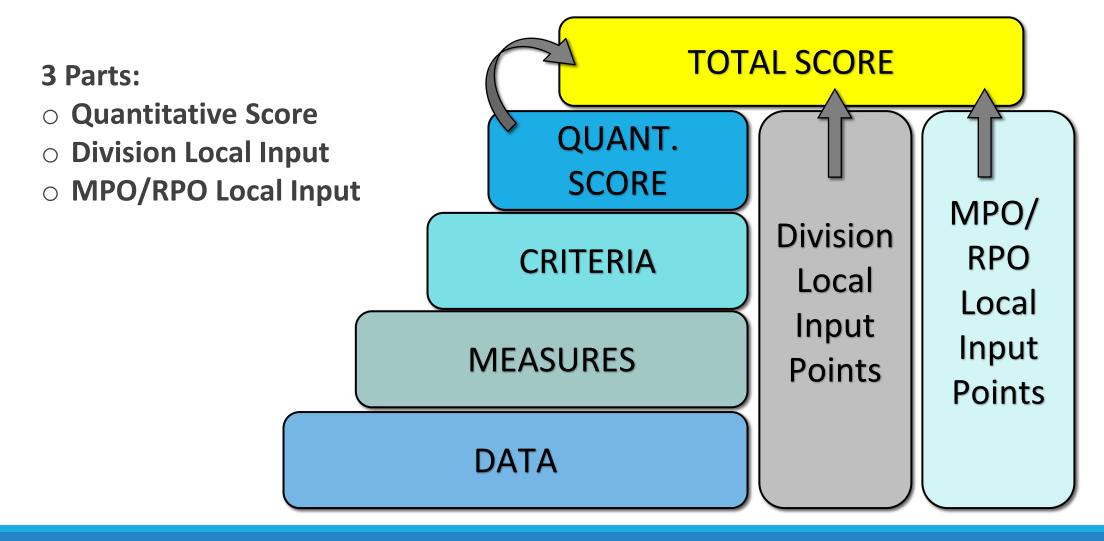
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Winston-Salem Urban Area MPO	449,926	450,000	1,900

## Recommended P7 Number of Local Input Points

Division	2020 Census Population	Population rounded to next 50,000	P7 Local Input Points
01	259,368	300,000	1,600
02	498,175	500,000	2,000
03	751,268	800,000	2,500
04	605,706	650,000	2,300
05	1,642,369	1,650,000	2,500
06	689,414	700,000	2,400
07	959,124	1,000,000	2,500
08	538,152	550,000	2,100
09	774,545	800,000	2,500
10	1,629,022	1,650,000	2,500
11	371,163	400,000	1,800
12	779,095	800,000	2,500
13	516,304	550,000	2,100
14	373,793	400,000	1,800

# **Building a Project Score**



# **Additional Topics to Cover**

**Project Eligibility** 

**Project Scoring Overview (by mode)** 

- Will be sent via email for RPO member to use for reference when brainstorming projects
- Can be the subject of future RPO meeting presentations

Reminder: RPO Staff always available for questions.