

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Technical Committee DCHC MPO

**From:** DCHC MPO Lead Planning Agency

**Date:** October 28, 2015

**Subject:** **NCDOT SPOT P4.0 New Project Submittals**

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The DCHC MPO is limited to submitting 14 new projects in each mode for the NCDOT SPOT P4.0 prioritization process. The modes include highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian, and rail. The DCHC MPO subcommittee for the SPOT P4.0 agreed on an MPO internal methodology in which:

- the DCHC MPO project submittals must be in the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) or an adopted local plan;
- the DCHC MPO's jurisdictions and counties can each submit four new projects for each mode, except the City of Durham and Durham County can submit eight new projects;
- the transit operators can submit 10 new transit projects, except Orange Public Transit can submit 5 new transit projects; and
- there is no limit on the number of new rail project submittals by a jurisdiction because there are not more than 14 potential rail projects in the DCHC MPO.

This method yielded the following new project submittals: 32 highway; 31 bicycle and pedestrian; 21 transit; and 10 rail projects.

As directed by the DCHC MPO Board and Technical Committee (TC), the MPO LPA staff invested considerable time in July, August, and September to mimic the SPOT P4.0 scoring process and to provide potential scoring for all the new projects that the DCHC MPO jurisdictions, counties, and transit operators submitted. The objective of the LPA staff scoring exercise was to provide preliminary guidance on how well a new project might rank based on the SPOT P4.0 methodology. The scores from the LPA staff process will not precisely match the final SPOT P4.0 scores because some project data are not yet available to the MPO or internally at NCDOT. The project lists for the new highway, transit, bicycle and pedestrian, and rail projects are attached. The DCHC MPO will not need to rank new transit projects because the LPA staff have been coordinating with Divisions 5 and 7 and hopes that all 21 transit projects will be submitted using the submittal limits of the DCHC MPO and the two NCDOT Division offices. The new rail projects will also not need to be ranked because there are not more than 14 projects.

On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the DCHC MPO TC recommended the use of P4.0 SPOT On!ine raw scores (if available) for project selection guidance. The SPOT On!ine tool becomes available on Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. The MPO LPA staff was directed to enter as many of the new highway and bicycle/pedestrian projects into the SPOT On!ine tool as possible between October 21<sup>st</sup> and the October 28<sup>th</sup> DCHC MPO TC meeting and provide any available raw scores to the TC.

Following the September 23<sup>rd</sup> TC meeting, the MPO received the guidance (below) from the NCDOT SPOT office. With this guidance in mind, the MPO scheduled a subcommittee meeting for Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> to review the lists of new highway, bicycle/pedestrian, and transit projects and determine the top 14 priority projects for each mode because the SPOT On!line tool will not produce the raw scores for projects, as expected by the MPO TC.

*"SPOT On!line will not calculate any quantitative scores (preliminary or final) for P4.0. This is primarily due to the incorporation of scaling and the use of the Statewide Model. Scaling of projects for P4.0 cannot be performed until the raw calculations for every project have been completed (this will occur in February 2016). For P5.0, we hope to incorporate scaling into SPOT On!line, using the P4.0 scales to provide a preliminary score.*

*While quantitative scores won't be available until March 2016, SPOT On!line will provide some of the raw data for each project, such as the volume (PADT), truck volumes, capacity, crash data (corridor projects only), distances to freight and multimodal terminals. The following data are calculated outside of SPOT On!line for P4.0 and will not be available until March 2016:*

- Crash data for intersection projects*
- Economic competitiveness data (% change in economy and long-term jobs)*
- Travel time savings*
- Safety benefits*
- Updated costs (for projects with more detailed costs such as verified TIP estimates and feasibility studies)"*

The DCHC MPO LPA staff will summarize the outcome of the DCHC MPO subcommittee meeting and present the recommendations from the subcommittee to the TC during the TC's October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.