P6 Local Input Point Webinars – 2/4/21 & 2/9/21

Follow-up Questions and Answers

Q: Are we required to include the Flex Policy in our Methodology?

A: No, the Flex Policy is optional and not required to include in your Methodology if your organization has no interest in having the option to flex Local Input Points.

Q: If the Flex Policy language is included in our Methodology, does that mean we have to use it?

A: No, the Flex Policy is optional, and you do not have to flex Local Input Points just because you include the language in your Methodology. However, in order to flex Local Input Points if your organization chooses to, you must have the language included in your Methodology.

Q: Do we have to use the exact Flex Policy standard language provided by the SPOT Office?

A: No. You are welcome to use it verbatim, but this language is intended as guidance for the minimum content that should be included in your Methodology if you choose to include the optional policy. You may also expand with more details if you prefer.

Q: Is flexing points the same as donating points?

A: No, they are not the same and not related. Donating points deals with one organization donating points to another organization for the purpose of assigning points to a specific project. Flexing points deals with a single organization transferring points between its own Regional Impact and Division Needs point allocations.

Q: Who can flex Local Input Points?

A: Any organization can flex points between its own Regional Impact and Division Needs point allocations once the policy language has been included in your Methodology.

Q: Who can donate Local Input Points?

A: Planning Organizations can donate to other Planning Organizations, and Divisions can donate to other Divisions. Local Input Points cannot be donated between Planning Organizations and Divisions.

Q: If we choose to flex Local Input Points, do we have to specify which projects the transferred points will be used for?

A: No. Your Methodology only needs to allow for the option of using the Flex Policy, and it does not need to specify how many points will be flexed or which projects they will be used for.

Q: If we include the option of using the Flex Policy in our Methodology, when do we have to decide about flexing points and contact the SPOT Office with our decision?

A: If your organization chooses to flex any points, email the SPOT Office (spot@ncdot.gov) with your decision before the start of the Regional Impact local input point assignment window (currently September 1, 2021).

Q: If we choose to flex points and transfer (for example) 500 points from Division Needs to Regional Impact, then do not assign all of our Regional Impact points, can we transfer some points back to Division Needs? Or, can we wait to make our decision about flexing points until after Regional Impact point assignment to see if we needed all of our Regional Impact points?

A: No. Once the Regional Impact point assignment window has opened and the flex transfer of points has taken place, the new point totals are final and will not be changed.

Q: What is the best order of actions – should my TAC approve my updated Methodology before it is sent to the SPOT Office for review, or the other way around?

A: Each organization operates differently, so it is up to you to decide which should happen first. Either option still has the possibility of a circular review loop if significant changes are incorporated in the Methodology. But SPOT will be as accommodating as possible. If you choose to send to SPOT first for review and have a specific TAC schedule you need to work with, please tell us your plan up front when the Methodology is sent for review, so that SPOT can do its best to help you meet your TAC deadline.

Q1: The current P6 schedule (dated October 2020) shows a large red box and still says “TBD” for the portion of the Prioritization cycle after quantitative scoring is complete. Why are we talking about LIP Methodologies if the timeline is uncertain?

Q2: How do we know what dates to include in our Methodology for the P6 schedule?

A1: The Workgroup will be meeting after quantitative scoring is complete to determine how to move forward with the P6 cycle. However, if the Workgroup chooses to move forward with the schedule as shown, then the Regional Impact local input point assignment window will open soon thereafter. So, we must prepare now to have LIP Methodologies updated and reviewed before that time.

A2: Please use the current P6 schedule as shown (referenced on the Prioritization Resources website) to update the dates in your Methodologies.

Q: How are the NCDOT Division Engineer Methodologies developed and different from those created for the Planning Organizations?

A: The NCDOT Chief Engineer’s Office works with a team of Division Engineers to develop a menu of choices of criteria that each Division can select from to be part of their specific Division’s Methodology. All these selections are then combined into one master NCDOT Methodology document for review.

Q: When can we start sending our updated Methodologies to the SPOT Office?

A: Anytime!