



MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director *MR*
DATE: August 30, 2016
SUBJECT: YR 2020 Regional Grants - Project Evaluation and Prioritization

ATA GLANCE

RTC Board action is requested to accept the evaluation and ranking of federal project grant submittals as recommended by RTAC. The project evaluation and ranking process is the basis for project selection and programming of estimated 2020 Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. The final action on the selection and programming of projects will occur at the October 4, 2016 RTC Board meeting.

INTRODUCTION

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Clark County region, RTC is required to develop a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP programs federal funds over a four-year period to implement the objectives of the long-range regional transportation plan. The TIP must also be financially constrained. The requirements for the TIP are established in federal surface transportation legislation, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21).

The purpose of this memorandum is to present the results of the grant project evaluation and ranking process for regionally allocated federal funds. Staff is seeking acceptance of the evaluation and ranking results in preparation of the final selection and programming recommendations. The attached evaluation results were endorsed by the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) at their August 19, 2016 meeting.

ADOPTED GRANT APPLICATION POLICIES

The RTC Board is responsible for selecting projects within the region for the regionally allocated federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program (CMAQ) funds. Projects are required to be selected by the RTC Board using a competitive process. The RTC Board approved the current TIP Development Procedures on June 7, 2016 as part of the Transportation Programming Guidebook. The current TIP project evaluation and ranking process will be the basis for project selection and programming of estimated 2020 STP and CMAQ funds.

Projects selected by the RTC Board this year will be combined with projects selected in previous years and through other selection processes to form the final TIP. The RTC Board of Directors is scheduled to adopt the 2017-2020 TIP at their October 4th meeting, and projects can then be implemented beginning in January 2017.

PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

Based on needs identified in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), individual public agencies choose priority projects for consideration in the regional project selection process. In total, there were 18 projects submitted to RTC from member agencies. The regional request was roughly \$15.4 million, with approximately \$8.8 million in STP and CMAQ funding available. The first three years of the TIP (2017-2019) have previously been programmed, and the current project selection process relating to this memorandum is to add projects selected for the fourth year of regional federal funds (2020).

The TIP project selection process includes the following three steps: 1) Project Screening, 2) Evaluation and Ranking by Selection Criteria, and 3) Project Selection and Programming.

PROJECT SCREENING

In the Project Screening step, projects are reviewed for consistency with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), land use plans, air quality goals, and regional screening criteria. All submitted projects are considered eligible to compete for federal funding.

EVALUATION AND RANKING BY SELECTION CRITERIA

RTC staff evaluated projects per the approved regional selection criteria. Projects eligible for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding are evaluated by the same criteria as Surface Transportation Program (STP) projects but the air quality points are tripled.

Following RTC Staff evaluation, local agency staffs were provided an opportunity to review the accuracy of evaluation. Based on the final technical evaluation, RTAC has recommended that the following evaluation and ranking of projects, by funding programs, be approved by the RTC Board:

Proposed STP-Urban Projects

Rank	Agency	Project	Total
1	RTC	Urban Freeway Operations Study	N/A
1	RTC	UPWP & CMP	N/A
1	RTC	VAST Coordination	N/A
4	Clark County	NE 119th St. East, 87th Av. to 112th Av.	79
5	Vancouver	NE 137th Av., 49th St. to Fourth Plain	73
6	Camas	Brady Road, NW 16th Av to NW 25th Av	71
7	Clark County	NE 10th Av., 154th St. to 164th St.	63
8	Battle Ground	SW 20th Av., Scotton to Eaton	61
8	Camas	Camas Meadows Drive	61
10	Battle Ground	Grace Av., Main St. to Rasmussen Blvd.	59
11	Battle Ground	SW 20th Av., SW 6th St. to Scotton	50

Proposed STP-Rural Projects

Rank	Agency	Project	Total
1	Clark County	NE Blair Rd., SR-500 to MP 2.47	64

Proposed CMAQ Projects

Rank	Agency	Project	Total
1	Multi-Agency	Small Cities ATMS	N/A
2	Clark County	STEVE 2	82
3	WSDOT	Centralized Signal System Enhancement	82
4	C-TRAN	Hybrid Buses	80
4	Clark County	134th St. Adaptive Traffic Signal	80
6	WSDOT	SR-500/St. John's to I-205 ATIS Infill	70

PROJECT SELECTION AND PROGRAMMING

The final step for completing the regional project selection process is the selection and programming of projects. At their September meeting, RTAC will be asked to make their technical recommendation, based on the evaluation and ranking of projects, which will then be brought to the October RTC Board of Directors meeting for the Board’s consideration and action. This final step will conclude the regional project selection process and provide for the flow of federal transportation funds toward regional project implementation.

ACTION

RTC Board action is requested to accept the evaluation and ranking of federal project grant submittals as recommended by RTAC. Upon acceptance, the results will be applied to the final selection and programming recommendations to be presented at the October 2016 Board meeting.