



MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Transportation Advisory Committee
FROM: Dale Robins
DATE: June 14, 2013
SUBJECT: **2014-2017 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)
Call For Projects**

INTRODUCTION

At the April RTAC meeting, the 2014-2017 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program Process (MTIP) was reviewed. At the May RTAC meeting, RTAC revised Transportation Improvement Program Policies and Procedures were recommended for adoption by the RTC Board. The purpose of this memorandum is to issue the call for projects based on the MTIP process, policies, and procedures.

The goal is to build upon the MTIP process utilized in previous years and adopt a Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program that helps the region meet transportation needs. The three step MTIP development process will continue to be used. Projects will be screened for consistency with local and regional policies; projects are then evaluated and ranked based on adopted selection criteria, and projects are then selected and programmed based on the evaluation and ranking step. The region will be selecting and programming STP, CMAQ, and transit dollars for year 2017, with years 2014-2016 having already been selected and programmed.

Projects programmed in the MTIP are drawn either directly from specific project recommendations made in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) or are developed from a more general series of MTP recommendations (e.g. preservation, maintenance, safety, etc.). Projects that add capacity must be drawn from the needs identified in the Congestion Management Process.

CALL FOR PROJECTS

The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC) invites public agencies in the Clark County region to submit applications for available 2017 federal Surface Transportation Program and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds.

The STP and CMAQ funds are allocated to the Clark County MPO area through RTC. The STP funds can be used for a wide range of transportation purposes. The CMAQ funds can be used for transportation projects that will contribute to meeting the attainment of national air quality standards within the Clark County Vancouver Air Quality maintenance Area (basically the Vancouver, Camas, and Washougal urban areas). For CMAQ funds, emphasis will be given for electric and natural gas vehicle infrastructure, diesel retrofits, and cost effective congestion mitigation activities that provide air quality benefits.

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These federal funds all require a minimum 13.5% local match. In order to receive federal funds, the applicant must have either a "Certification Acceptance" (CA) status or have a CA agency agree to manage their project. Also, projects are required to meet Project Screening Criteria. **Project applications are due to RTC on Friday, July 26, 2013.**

In addition, federal Section 5307, Section 5316, and Section 5317 are allocated to local transit agencies. For these funding sources, C-TRAN selects projects to be added to the MTIP. These funds require 20-50% local match.

CHANGES FROM LAST CALL FOR PROJECTS

With approval from the RTC Board, the following significant changes will occur from last year's call for projects:

- Cost limitations have increased.
- Project Delay policies have been modified.
- All projects require a before and after analysis.

PROJECT SCREENING CRITERIA

All application must meet the following project screening criteria:

- Project is consistent with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Local Comprehensive Plans. All projects that add capacity for single occupancy vehicles must be listed in the MTP.
- Road projects must be on a federally classified facility of an urban collector or a rural major collector; or a higher classification to use STP funds.
- Projects competing for STP and/or CMAQ funds must be an improvement-type project. STP and CMAQ funds are not to be used for maintenance.
- STP and CMAQ funds are limited to \$4 million per mile (PE - \$0.75 M, RW- \$1.25 M, and remaining for CN), \$4 Million for shorter high cost projects, \$1 million per intersection, and \$2 million for high volume intersections (20,000 entering vehicles).
- Submitted projects should be ready to proceed and have a reasonable timeline for implementation.
- All operational improvement projects must follow the Regional Transportation System Management and Operations (TSMO) Plan guidance.

SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROJECT APPLICATION

The region will use the same criteria as approved by the RTC Board in 2012. Criteria, project application, and additional details on the call for projects can be viewed and downloaded from the RTC MTIP webpage at <http://www.rtc.wa.gov/programs/tip/>.

FUNDING LEVELS

The existing federal transportation authorization act MAP-21 is a two year authorization bill. RTC will continue forward based on the assumption that programs and funding levels will

remain constant over four years. For the current selection process, we will add projects up to the following funding levels:

- Urban Surface Transportation Program (STP-TMA) - \$7.3 million
- Rural Surface Transportation Program (STP-R) - \$2.2 million
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) - \$4.7 million
- Section 5307 - \$4.9 million
- Section 5310 - \$290,000
- Section 5337 - \$90,000
- Section 5339 - \$550,000

2014-2017 MTIP DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

Friday, June 14, 2013	Call for Projects
Friday, July 26, 2013	Project Applications Due to RTC
July 29-August 7, 2013	Staff Evaluation of Projects by Selection Criteria
Thursday, August 8, 2013	Agency Review of Evaluations
Friday, August 16, 2013	RTAC Recommendation on Prioritization
August-September 2013	Prepare Draft MTIP/Public Involvement
Tuesday, September 3, 2013	RTC Board Review Prioritization/Draft MTIP
Friday, September 20, 2013	RTAC Recommends Adoption of MTIP
Tuesday, October 1, 2013	RTC Board Adoption of MTIP