



MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Transportation Advisory Committee
FROM: Dale Robins
DATE: June 13, 2014
SUBJECT: **2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program: Call For Projects**

INTRODUCTION

Over the last several RTAC meetings, the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Process has been reviewed. At the March meeting, RTAC recommended that the region proceed with the same criteria and process used last year. The purpose of this memorandum is to issue a call for projects based on the recommended TIP process, policies, and procedures. The regional call for projects will be for Federal Highway Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds.

The goal is to continue to build upon the successful TIP process that has been utilized in previous years. The three step TIP development process includes the following steps:

- 1) Projects will be screened for consistency with local and regional policies;
- 2) Projects will be evaluated and ranked based on the adopted selection criteria; and
- 3) Projects will be selected and programmed based on their ranking.

Projects programmed in the TIP must be drawn either directly from specific project recommendations made in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) or are developed from RTP recommendations that address preservation, maintenance, safety, and other factors. Projects that add capacity must be a result of project needs identified by the Congestion Management Process and be listed in the RTP.

CALL FOR PROJECTS

The Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council (RTC) invites public agencies in the Clark County region to submit applications for available 2018 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 and programmed by the RTC Board of Directors. 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.

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 25, 2014.**

In addition, federal Transit Administration funds are allocated to local transit agencies. For these funding sources, C-TRAN selects projects to be added to the TIP. These funds require 20-50% local match. Funds selected at the state and federal level will also be added to the TIP.

PROJECT SCREENING CRITERIA

All applications must meet the following project screening criteria:

- Project is consistent with the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Local Comprehensive Plans. All projects that add capacity for single occupancy vehicles must be listed in the RTP.
- 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 a capital 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

Criteria, project application, and additional details on the call for projects can be viewed and downloaded from the RTC TIP webpage at <http://rtc.wa.gov/programs/tip/>.

FUNDING LEVELS

The existing federal transportation authorization act MAP-21 is a two year authorization bill (2013-2014). RTC will continue to program funding for projects beyond the two-year bill based on the assumption that programs and funding levels are expected to remain constant over the next four years. For the current FY 2018 project selection process, RTC projects the following funding levels:

- Urban Surface Transportation Program (STP-TMA) - \$5.0 million
- Rural Surface Transportation Program (STP-R) - \$1.6 million
- Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) - \$3.1 million
- Transportation Alternatives Program – No Program
- Section 5307 - \$4.6 million
- Section 5310 - \$281,000

- Section 5337 - \$80,000
- Section 5339 - \$560,000

2014-2017 TIP DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE

Friday, June 13, 2014	Call for Projects
Friday, July 25, 2014	Project Applications Due to RTC
July 25-August 7, 2014	Project Evaluations by Selection Criteria
Thursday, August 7, 2014	Agency Review of Evaluations
Friday, August 15, 2014	RTAC Recommendation on Prioritization
August-September 2014	Prepare Draft TIP/Public Involvement
Tuesday, September 2, 2014	RTC Board Review Prioritization
Friday, September 19, 2014	RTAC Recommends Adoption of TIP
Tuesday, October 7, 2014	RTC Board Adoption of TIP