

Project Evaluation: 10-Year Transportation Project Priorities Report, (Nov. 2012)

10-Year Priority Projects

Both RTAC and the RTC Board agreed the first priority is to preserve and maintain the existing transportation system. However, there remains a need for capital projects to improve the safety and mobility of Clark County residents and to support employment development. Therefore, a list of highest priority transportation projects was compiled. The list was drafted with RTAC's help and reflects the transportation projects already established in jurisdictions' 6-year Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs), WSDOT's Highway System Plan and C-TRAN's Transit Development Program.

Data Available to Aid Decision-Making

For each of the highway/street projects, data and information available for the decision-making process includes: federal functional classification, WSDOT's Freight and Goods Transportation System classification, whether or not it serves fixed route transit service, Safety Assessment data and existing traffic counts, and 2022 regional travel forecast model traffic volumes and volume to capacity ratios.

Criteria for Decision-Making

To evaluate the regional projects RTAC recommended using a simplified version of the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Selection Criteria which align well with the transportation system investment goals discussed by the RTC Board at the previous Board meetings. The investment goals and evaluation criteria are outlined in the table below.

Transportation Investment Goals/Categories	Project Evaluation Criteria
<p>Preservation and Maintenance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect investment in current network by system preservation and maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A first priority
<p>Capital Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve safety by reducing crashes and maintaining emergency response Improve reliability through operational improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety (max 28 points) Mobility (max 22 points)
<p>Improve mobility (reliability) through system completion, upgrading to urban standards, grade separation and/or adding lanes</p> <p>Improve accessibility</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase proportionate use of alternative modes Support economic development/jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multimodal (max 22 points) Economic Development (max 28 points)

Regional and Local projects

All regional projects evaluated are from existing state and local plans and are consistent with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). Also, all projects are supportive of the adopted Clark County Comprehensive Plan with its future population and employment growth forecast and its land uses.

Project Priorities: Regional Project Evaluations

The list of evaluated regional priority projects addressed in the 10-year planning process follows together with a map showing the location of the regional projects. Projects considered in the 10-Year Project Prioritization Process are, to varying degrees, already in the programming process. Regional projects are part of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan's (MTP's) Designated Regional Transportation System. The listed regional projects stratified into shorter term (0-6 years) and longer term (7-10 years) implementation. Projects are, of course, dependent on funding becoming available. The projects are also tiered showing: (1) interstate/state/expressway projects, (2) arterial projects and (3) modal projects.

Evaluation and Prioritization of Regional Projects

In reviewing the regional project evaluations the following points were noted:

- All projects evaluated are priority projects for the region and merit full support in trying to secure funding for their implementation.
- There is a wide range of regional project types evaluated as part of the 10-Year Priority Project process. Many of the arterial projects are upgrades to meet urban design standards which might include appropriate lane widths, shoulders, turn lanes, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Other project types include demand management, system management/intelligent transportation system and modal projects.
- Advanced Traveler Information System (ATIS) projects do not score well given the selected evaluation criteria but would be a first priority for WSDOT using the investment principles of Moving Washington, "to operate efficiently, manage demand and add capacity strategically."
- Projects that score well in the economic development category carry high volumes of commercial traffic as well as high volumes of people to and from work locations and to and from services and retail opportunities.
- Very few of the Interstate/State/Expressway projects score well in the Multimodal category because few of the project segments carry transit vehicles and many do not include sidewalks and bicycle facilities.