



MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director *MR*
DATE: August 29, 2017
SUBJECT: **2021 Regional Grant Program - 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 2021 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. The final action on the selection and programming of projects will occur at the October 3, 2017 RTC Board meeting.

INTRODUCTION

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Clark County region, RTC is responsible for selecting projects for the regional allocation of federal highway funds. This includes the regional allocation of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. Federal regulations require that a competitive project selection process be conducted for the distribution of regional federal funds. Federal regulations specifically exclude the allocation funds by jurisdictions or by mode.

The overall goal of the Regional Grant Program is to assist local agencies in implementing the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) by providing funding for regional transportation improvements. The RTC Board approved the current Regional Grant Program procedures on October 4, 2016 as part of the Transportation Programming Guidebook.

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 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The RTC Board of Directors is scheduled to adopt the 2017-2020 TIP at their October 3rd meeting.

This memorandum will describe RTC's Regional Grant Program, and seeking acceptance of the current evaluation results. The current project ranking will become the basis for awarding of 2021 regional allocated federal highway funds. The attached evaluation results were endorsed by the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) at their August 18, 2017 meeting.

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMMING GUIDEBOOK

In 2016, the RTC Board adopted the Transportation Programming Guidebook. The Guidebook is intended to be a resource document for RTC's member agencies and their staff. The Guidebook brings the overall regional Transportation Improvement Program and regional grant process into one document.

As outlined in the Transportation Programming Guidebook the Region Grant Program includes the following three steps:

1. Project Screening
2. Evaluation and Ranking by Selection Criteria
3. Project Selection and Programming

2021 REGIONAL GRANT REQUEST

Based on needs identified in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), individual public agencies choose priority projects for consideration in the Regional Grant Program. In total, there were 15 projects submitted to RTC from member agencies. The current project proposals are seeking funding in year 2021. The following are proposed project descriptions:

Battle Ground - SW 20th Avenue Phase 1 (*SW 6th St. to SW Scotton Way*): Widen urban collector to 3-lane urban standards with bike lanes and sidewalks.

Battle Ground - SW 20th Avenue Phase 2 (*Scotton Way to SW Eaton Blvd*): Widen urban collector to 3-lane urban standards with bike lanes and sidewalks.

Battle Ground - SW Eaton Boulevard Improvements (*SW 20th Av. to SR-503*): Widen minor arterial to 3-lane urban standards with bike lanes and sidewalk. Project includes intersection improvements at both SW 20th Av. and SR-503.

C-TRAN - 40' Battery-Electric Bus Purchase: Purchase (4) 40' battery-electric buses to replace 2003 diesel buses.

Clark County - NE 10th Avenue (*NE 149th St. to NE 154th St.*): Reconstruct collector to 3-lane urban standards with bike lanes and sidewalk. Replace stormwater facility.

Clark County - NE 134th Corridor Adaptive Traffic Signals (*Tenney to Salmon Creek Av.*): This project will install adaptive modules and video system to improve system performance.

Clark County – NE 99th Street (*NE 94th Av. to NE 117th Av.*): Construct new principal arterial to 3-lane urban standards with bike lanes and sidewalk.

Clark County – NE Highway 99 at NE 99th Street Intersection: Widen lanes, install median, and close driveway to improve congestion and safety.

Clark County – System-Wide Signal Enhancement: Integrate existing Clark County and WSDOT data streams into a dashboard view of transportation system performance measures. This dashboard will allow technicians to quickly spot traffic issues and improve traffic flow.

RTC - 2020 Regional Household Travel Behavior Survey: Conduct travel behavior survey to understand where, when, why, how, and with whom trips are made. Survey results will be used to update existing travel modeling tools.

RTC – Unified Planning Work Program and Congestion Management Process: Provide financial support for federally-required planning activities documented in RTC's UPWP.

RTC – Vancouver Area Smart Trek (VAST) Program Coordination and Management: Provide support to partner agencies on transportation operations and ITS projects.

Vancouver – Jefferson-Kauffman Realignment Project (*Evergreen to Mill Plain*): Widen minor arterial to 3-lane urban standards and realign Jefferson-Kauffman intersection at 13th Street.

Vancouver – SE 1st Street, 164th Av. to 177 Av.: Widen principal arterial to 3-lane urban standards with bike lanes and sidewalks.

WSDOT – I-205 NB @ Mill Plain Ramp Meter: Install adaptive ramp meters on the I-205 northbound on-ramp from Mill Plain Blvd.

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 Block Grant (STBG) 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 2021 STBG Projects

| Rank | Agency | Project | Score |
|------|---------------|--|-------|
| 1 | RTC | 2020 Regional Household Travel Survey | N/A |
| 1 | RTC | UPWP & CMP Support | N/A |
| 1 | RTC | VAST Coordination | N/A |
| 4 | Clark County | Highway 99/NE 99 th Street Intersection | 84 |
| 5 | Vancouver | SE 1 st Street, 164 th Av. to 177 th Av. | 83 |
| 6 | Battle Ground | Eaton Boulevard, SW 20 th Av. to SR-503 | 69 |
| 7 | Clark County | NE 99 th Street, 94 th Av. to 117 th Av. | 64 |
| 8 | Vancouver | Jefferson-Kauffman Realignment | 59 |
| 9 | Clark County | NE 10 th Avenue, 149 th St. to 154 th St. | 57 |
| 10 | Battle Ground | SW 20 th Avenue, SW 6 th St. to Scotton Way | 49 |
| 11 | Battle Ground | SW 20 th Avenue, Eaton Blvd. to Scotton Way | 49 |

Proposed 2021 CMAQ Projects

| Rank | Agency | Project | Score |
|------|--------------|---|-------|
| 1 | Clark County | NE 134 th Corridor Adaptive Traffic Signal | 98 |
| 2 | WSDOT | I-205 NB @ Mill Plain Ramp Meter | 76 |
| 3 | Clark County | System-Wide Signal Enhancement | 76 |
| 4 | C-TRAN | (4) 40' Battery-Electric Replacement Buses | 60 |

PROJECT SELECTION AND PROGRAMMING

The final step for completing the Regional Grant Program 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 2017 Board meeting.