



MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Dean Lookingbill, Transportation Director  
**DATE:** August 27, 2013  
**SUBJECT:** **Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program: 2016-2017 Project Evaluation and Ranking**

---

*AT A GLANCE – DISCUSSION*

*RTC Board action is requested to concur with the ranking of projects as recommended by RTAC. The project evaluation and prioritization process is the basis for project selection and programming in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program for 2016 and 2017 Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. The final selection and programming of projects will be proposed to the Board at their October 1, 2013 meeting.*

**BACKGROUND**

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Clark County region, RTC is required to develop a Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP). The requirements for the MTIP development process are established in federal surface transportation legislation, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). The Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program is a four-year program of regional transportation projects.

The RTC Board is responsible for selecting projects for the federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program (CMAQ) funds for inclusion in the MTIP. RTC is also responsible for selecting projects for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), which occurred at the RTC Board’s July meeting. These project selections are incorporated into the MTIP along with other federally funded or regionally significant projects selected at the state or federal level. Projects are selected by the RTC Board using a competitive process with selection criteria. Evaluation criteria were approved by the RTC Board on September 4, 2012 with approval of the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program call for projects and procedures on July 2, 2013.

Overall the MTIP project selection process includes the following three steps:

Project Screening - Projects are reviewed for consistency with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), land use plans, air quality goals, and regional screening criteria.

Evaluation and Ranking by Selection Criteria - Each project is evaluated and ranked against a set of approved selection criteria.

Project Selection and Programming - Projects are programmed for funding utilizing the project information generated by the project evaluation and ranking.

The purpose of this memorandum is to seek concurrence from the Board on the project evaluation and ranking for the 2016-2017 set of regional projects for programming in the 2014-2017

Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program. RTAC has reviewed the screening and evaluations steps and has recommended that the RTC Board of Directors concur with the ranking of the 2016-2017 regional projects.

At the September RTC Board meeting, RTC staff will provide an overview of the project screening and ranking steps. The individual project applications are provided at <http://www.rtc.wa.gov/board/packets/2013/09/TIP2013Applications>, and copies will be available at the September RTC Board meeting. Attached to this memorandum is a summary of the RTC Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program Process.

## **PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS**

Based on needs identified in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, individual public agencies identify priority projects for consideration in the regional Transportation Improvement Program process. In total there were 19 project applications submitted to RTC from member agencies. The total cost of all the projects submitted was over \$141 million. The regional request was over \$25 million. About \$13 million in STP and CMAQ funding will be available for the 2016 and 2017 years.

The first two years of the MTIP (2014-2015) have previously been programmed. Hence, the current project selection process relating to this memorandum is to add project selection for a third and fourth year of the MTIP (2016-2017).

### Project Screening

The project selection process begins with the completion and submittal of the RTC Federal Project Summary Form. All projects are then screened by regional screening criteria to ensure eligibility and consistency with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. All projects are considered eligible to compete for STP and CMAQ funding.

This year there was one project that is requesting an exemption to the funding limitation guideline. The NE 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Four Seasons to 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue project is requesting \$3 million for construction. RTAC agreed that this project is of critical regional importance and should be permitted to exceed the funding limit. There were also several projects where matching funds are not secured, which create uncertainty regarding project delivery. While RTAC agreed to consider the increase on NE 18<sup>th</sup> Street, they expressed caution. RTAC suggested that conditions would need to be added to ensure project delivery on any project selected for funding with incomplete secured funds.

### Evaluation and Ranking by Selection Criteria

RTC staff evaluated projects per the approved regional selection criteria. It is important to note that 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 up to a possible of 30 points. For the STP-Rural program, RTC uses similar criteria that emphasize road condition and safety. For the STP-Rural process RTC has formed a Rural Committee to advise the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC).

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:

**2016-2017 STP-TMA Projects**

Rank	Agency	Project	Mobility	Mmodal	Safety	ED	Finance	AQ	Total
1	Vancouver	18th Street, Four Season to 136th A	20	13	23	19	2	7	84
2	Clark County	NE 119th St., 72nd to 87th Av.	16	14	19	14	9	10	82
3	Multiple	VAST 14	20	13	14	16	8	10	81
4	Clark County	NE 94th Av., Padden to 99th St.	14	15	19	13	7	10	78
5	Camas	NW 38th Av./SE 20th St., Phase 2	5	12	18	20	7	10	72
6	Clark County	NE 78th St./NE 47th Av. Intersection	11	10	17	11	11	10	70
7	Clark County	NE 119th St., 50th Av. to 72nd Av.	4	10	16	15	1	10	56
8	Washougal	Evergreen Way/32nd St. Intersection	8	8	11	14	7	7	55
9	Camas	NW 6th/Norwood Traffic Signal	8	6	8	13	8	10	53
10	Battle Ground	SR-502/SR-503 Intersection	17	2	9	13	0	9	50
11	Battle Ground	SW 20th Avenue Improvement	4	8	15	13	0	9	49
12	Battle Ground	S. Parkway Avenue Improvements	8	6	16	6	0	9	45

**2016-2017 STP-Rural Projects**

Rank	Agency	Project	Need	Safety	Condition	ED	Financial	Total
1	Port Ridgefield	Pioneer Street Railroad Overpass	11	12	23	10	25	81
2	Clark County	Carty Road Reconstruction	14	22	16	5	19	76
2	La Center	Pacific Hwy./4th St. Roundabout	15	20	12	10	19	76

**2016-2017 CMAQ Projects**

Rank	Agency	Project	Mobility	Mmodal	Safety	ED	Finance	AQ	Total
1	C-TRAN	Fourth Plain BRT	14	14	14	18	4	34	98
2	Multiple	VAST 14	21	13	14	16	8	24	96
3	Vancouver	Vancouver Bicycle Mobility Program	8	6	9	8	3	17	51

**2016-2017 No Capital - Planning Projects**

Agency	Project	Mobility	Mmodal	Safety	ED	Finance	AQ	Total	
RTC	UWPW Support	No Capital - Planning Project							
Vancouver	Destination Downtown Program	No Capital - Planning Project							

Project Selection and Programming

The final step in completing the MTIP project selection process is the selection and programming of projects across the four federal fiscal years, 2014-2017. At their September 20 meeting, RTAC will be asked to make their technical recommendation which will then be brought to the October 1 RTC Board of Directors meeting for the Board's consideration and action. This final step will conclude the development of the 2014-2017 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program and provide for the flow of federal transportation funds toward project implementation.

In summary, action is being requested for RTC Board concurrence on the project ranking to be applied to the programming of 2016-2017 federal STP and CMAQ funds in the 2014-2017 MTIP

**Attachment:** RTC TIP Process



## **SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL**

### *Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Process*

Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) - The MTIP is a four-year program of planned regional transportation projects. It identifies the schedule for obligating federally funded and regionally significant projects. The MTIP represents an agency's intent to construct or implement a specific project, but is not a guarantee of funding.

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Clark County region, RTC is required to develop a Transportation Improvement Program for the metropolitan region. The requirements for the development of the MTIP are established in federal surface transportation legislation, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). Washington State law also requires the development of a MTIP.

RTC is responsible for selecting projects for three federal transportation funding programs: Surface Transportation Program (STP), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program (CMAQ), and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds for inclusion in the MTIP. These project selections are incorporated into the MTIP along with other federally funded or regionally significant projects selected at the state or federal level. Projects are selected by the RTC Board based upon a project selection process based upon approved project evaluation criteria.

MTIP Selection Process - The MTIP project selection process includes the following three steps:

- Projects are reviewed for consistency with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), land use plans, air quality goals, and regional screening criteria.
- Each project is evaluated and ranked against a set of approved selection criteria.
- Projects are programmed for funding utilizing the project evaluation and ranking.

*Project Identification* – Regionally significant projects are drawn from the region's long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The Metropolitan Transportation Plan, required by federal law, is the document that sets the framework for transportation decisions over a 20-year horizon. Based upon the transportation needs identified in the MTP, individual agencies prioritize projects for consideration in the regional selection process. Applications are then completed and submitted to RTC based on agency priorities.

*Project Screening* – Project applications are reviewed for consistency with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, land use plans, air quality goals, and regional screening criteria. This review is used to determine whether to move a project forward in the process.

*Project Evaluation and Ranking* – Each project is evaluated by technical staff and ranked against a set of selection criteria, which have been adopted by the RTC Board. The selection criteria reflect the system performance goals and measures from the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The selection criteria include the following: (Air Quality points are tripled for CMAQ projects).

## *RTC Selection Criteria*

- 1. Mobility (Maximum 20 points)**
  - Existing Peak Hour Condition
  - Peak Hour Condition in six years
  - Congestion Management Process
  - Network Development
  - Truck Route
  - Benefit Weighted by Existing Peak Hour Volume
- 2. Multimodal/Operations (Maximum 15 Points)**
  - Operational Improvements
  - Multimodal
- 3. Safety (Maximum 25 Points)**
  - Correctable Accident History
  - Other Safety Improvement
  - Existing Conditions
  - Provides Access Management
- 4. Economic Development (Maximum 25 Points)**
  - Employment Growth
  - Provides or Improves Access to Existing Employment
  - Freight Generator
  - Private Partner Funds
- 5. Financial/Implementation (Maximum 15 Points)**
  - Lead Agency Funds
  - Overmatch Funding
  - Previously Completed Work
- 6. Sustainability/Air Quality (Maximum 10 Points)**
  - Reduction in Emissions
  - Sustainability Measures

Following RTC Staff evaluation, local agency staffs are provided an opportunity to review and concur with the evaluation. Based on the final technical evaluation, RTAC recommends endorsement of the evaluation and ranking of projects to the RTC Board. This step is completed when the RTC Board endorses the evaluation and ranking of projects.

*Project Selection and Program* – The final step in the project development process is project selection and programming. Project selection is the final MTIP step toward project implementation and funding. Based on the technical evaluation, project readiness, funding availability, and other factors the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee reviews and recommends projects to be funded. This is followed by the RTC Board making a final selection of projects for funding. Once projects are selected for funding by the RTC Board, projects are programmed in the MTIP.