

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director *MR*
DATE: August 26, 2014
SUBJECT: **Transportation Improvement Program-Project Evaluation**

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 in the Transportation Improvement Program for estimated 2018 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 7, 2014 meeting.

INTRODUCTION

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Clark County region, RTC is required to develop a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP programs federal funds over a four-year period to implement the objectives of the long-range regional transportation plan. The TIP must also be financially constrained. The requirements for the TIP are established in federal surface transportation legislation, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21).

The purpose of this memorandum is to present the results of the grant project evaluation and ranking process. Staff seek acceptance of the evaluation and ranking results in preparation of the final selection and programming recommendations. The attached evaluation results were endorsed by the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) at their August 15, 2014 meeting.

ADOPTED GRANT APPLICATION POLICIES

The RTC Board is responsible for selecting projects within the region for the federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program (CMAQ). Projects are required to be selected by the RTC Board using a competitive process. The RTC Board approved the current TIP Development Procedures on July 2, 2013 and evaluation criteria on September 4, 2012. The current TIP project evaluation and ranking process will be the basis for project selection and programming of additional 2018 STP and CMAQ funds.

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 final TIP. The RTC Board of Directors is scheduled to adopt the 2015-2018 TIP at their October meeting, and projects can then be implemented beginning in January 2015. Delay in adoption of the 2015-2018 TIP beyond October 2014, would result in no projects being able to be obligated in the first two months of 2015.

PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS

Based on needs identified in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan, individual public agencies choose priority projects for consideration in the regional project selection process. In total, there were 16 projects submitted to RTC from member agencies, including 5 VAST projects. The total cost of all the projects submitted was approximately \$88 million. The regional request was roughly \$17 million, with approximately \$10 million in STP and CMAQ funding available. The first three years of the TIP (2015-2017) have previously been programmed, and the current project selection process relating to this memorandum is to add projects selected for the fourth year of regional federal funds (2018).

The TIP project selection process includes the following three steps: 1) Project Screening, 2) Evaluation and Ranking by Selection Criteria, and 3) Project Selection and Programming.

PROJECT SCREENING

In the Project Screening step, projects are reviewed for consistency with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), land use plans, air quality goals, and regional screening criteria. All submitted projects are considered eligible to compete for STP and CMAQ funding.

The NE 18th Street, Four Seasons to 136th Avenue project is requesting \$1 million in additional funding for construction. This would require an exemption to the funding limitation guideline. The NE 137th Avenue, 49th Street to Fourth Plain Boulevard project has insufficient local matching funds, and cannot be programmed in the TIP. While RTAC agreed to consider both projects, they expressed caution.

EVALUATION AND RANKING BY SELECTION CRITERIA

RTC staff evaluated projects per the approved regional selection criteria. The evaluation included two No Capital/Planning projects that do not fit into the evaluation process. 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. 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:

Proposed STP-TMA Projects

Rank	Agency	Project	Mobility	Mmodal	Safety	ED	Finance	AQ	Total
1	Vancouver	NE 18th St., Four Season to 136th Av.	18	14	21	22	11	7	93
2	Clark County	NE 94th Av., Padden to 99th St.	15	14	20	13	11	10	83
T3	Vancouver	NE 137th Av., 49th St. to Fourth Plain	11	9	17	17	0	9	63
T3	Camas	Brady Rd., NW 16th to NW 25th Av.	4	10	18	13	9	9	63
5	Clark County	NE 119th St., 50th Av. to 72nd Av.	3	11	13	13	9	9	58
6	Battle Ground	SR-502/SR-503 Intersection	14	4	10	19	0	7	54
T7	Battle Ground	S. Parkway, Rasmussen to Eaton	8	7	14	10	6	7	52
T7	Battle Ground	SE Grace Av., Rasmussen to NE 1st	4	10	15	11	6	6	52
9	Battle Ground	SW 20th Av., Scotton to Eaton	3	8	18	13	3	6	51
10	Battle Ground	SW 20th Av., SW 6th to Scotton	3	9	16	13	3	6	50

Proposed No Capital - Planning Projects

Agency	Project	Mobility	Mmodal	Safety	ED	Finance	AQ	Total
RTC	UPWP	No Capital - Planning Project						
RTC	VAST Coordination and Management	No Capital - Planning Project						

Proposed STP-Rural Projects

Rank	Agency	Project	Need	Safety	RC	ED	Finance	Total
T1	Clark County	Carty Rd., NE 10th Av. to Hillhurst	14	22	16	5	19	76
T1	La Center	Pacific Highway/4th St. Roundabout	15	20	12	10	19	76

Proposed CMAQ Projects

Rank	Agency	Project	Mobility	Mmodal	Safety	ED	Finance	AQ	Total
1	Multiple	VAST 2014	20	13	14	18	6	30	101
2	C-TRAN	(4-5) 29'-40' Hybrid Buses	13	10	5	8	11	20	67

PROJECT SELECTION AND PROGRAMMING

The final step for completing the regional project selection 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 2014 Board meeting.