

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director *MR*
DATE: August 25, 2015
SUBJECT: **YR 2019 Regional Grant Proposals-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 2019 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 6, 2015 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 is seeking 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 21, 2015 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. The current TIP project evaluation and ranking process will be the basis for project selection and programming of estimated 2019 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 2016-2019 TIP at their October 6th meeting, and projects can then be implemented beginning in January 2016. Delay in adoption of the 2016-2019 TIP beyond October 2015, would result in no projects being able to be obligated in the first two months of 2016.

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 15 projects submitted to RTC from member agencies, including 6 VAST projects. The total cost of all the projects submitted was approximately \$38 million. The regional request was roughly \$11.2 million, with approximately \$7.5 million in STP and CMAQ funding available. The first three years of the TIP (2016-2018) 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 (2019).

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 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. The evaluation included four 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.

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:

STP-Urban Evaluation

| Rank | Agency | Project | Score |
|------|---------------|---|------------|
| 1 | Clark County | NE 119th St., 50th Av. to 72nd Av. <i>Widen to 3 lanes, sidewalk, and bike lanes</i> | 65 |
| 2 | Clark County | Highway 99, 63rd St. to 78th St. <i>Sidewalk improvement and HAWK signal</i> | 62 |
| 3 | Clark County | NE 10th Av., 154th St. to NE 164th St. <i>Bridge 10th Av. over Whipple Creek</i> | 59 |
| 4 | Battle Ground | SW 20th Av., Scotton to Eaton <i>Widen to 3 lanes, sidewalk, and bike lanes</i> | 42 |
| 5 | Battle Ground | SW 20th Av., SW 6th St. to Scotton <i>Widen to 3 lanes, sidewalk, and bike lanes</i> | 41 |
| N/A | RTC | VAST Coordination and Management <i>ITS Coordination between agencies</i> | No Capital |
| N/A | RTC | UPWP and Congestion Management <i>Support work elements of the UPWP and CMP</i> | No Capital |
| N/A | Vancouver | Clark County Transportation demand Mgmt. <i>Transportation Demand Management</i> | No Capital |

CMAQ Evaluation

| Rank | Agency | Project | Score |
|-------------|---------------|---|--------------|
| 1 | Vancouver | Mill Plain Blvd. Arrival on Green <i>Signal Upgrades to improve performance</i> | 99 |
| 2 | Clark County | Working to Refine ITS Transportation <i>Adaptive Traffic Signals NE 139th St.</i> | 72 |
| 3 | WSDOT | SR-14 ATIS Infill, I-5 to Evergreen <i>Install ITS devices for data collection</i> | 70 |
| 4 | C-TRAN | Mill Plain TSP Phase 2 <i>Transit Signal Priority</i> | 68 |
| T5 | Vancouver | Ft. Vancouver/McLoughlin Sidewalk Infill <i>Sidewalks and HAWK Signal</i> | 56 |
| T5 | C-TRAN | All Electric Buses (2) <i>Purchase two electric buses and equipment</i> | 56 |
| N/A | WSDOT | Centralized Signal System <i>Central Traffic System-ATMS.now</i> | No Capital |

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 2015 Board meeting.