

2018 Call for Projects

Background

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has made substantive progress on key policy and process recommendations on the 2018 Call for Projects. Based on the work to date of TAC subcommittees and the TAC Call for Projects Workshop conducted Wednesday July 18th, staff will review areas of consensus and summarize work yet to be completed.

Key Policy/Process Decisions

Funding – Based on the latest TxDOT estimates of funding availability, TAC is considering a project call of \$922 million for the ten-year period of 2019-2028. This estimate is based on making 100% of unprogrammed funds available for the next 5 years and 50% of unprogrammed funds available for the second five years of the ten-year period. \$895 million of expected available funds would be held in reserve for future project calls.

The recommendation also includes “reserving” \$20 million for development of a regional transit fare collection system which would allow one ticket purchases for transit trips across multiple transit providers.

The selection of projects would be compliant with former TPC guidance of funding allocations by Project type: 75-82% for Mobility; 9-13% for Air Quality; 9-13% for Alternative Modes; and up to one percent for Planning.

Project Scoring and Ranking Criteria – TAC will be recommending all project scores be based on a cost benefit analysis and planning factors describing the projects contribution to goals of the regional transportation plan. 50% of score points will be determined by the cost/benefit analysis and 50% by the planning factors. The TAC is still discussing aspects of the specific point allocations of certain planning factors and their appropriate consideration.

Project Readiness – Candidate projects must demonstrate that an appropriate level of project development has or may be completed prior to the year for which project construction or implementation is anticipated. The TAC will be reviewing recommendation from the Texas Department of Transportation regarding the extent to which critical project development activities such as planning, environmental analysis, design, right of way acquisition, utility adjustments, etc. must be complete prior to the programming of construction dollars. Consensus on this assessment is needed to determine if a project may be considered for funding during the first or second five years of the ten-year plan or should be considered for inclusion in later years of the long range transportation plan.

Application Process – At the TIP Workshop, H-GAC staff reviewed on online application process for the call for projects. TAC members expressed a desire for more “hands on” experience with this and the project analysis tools associated with it.

Current Situation

TAC will next meet on August 15th with the anticipation of finalizing its recommendation on the call for projects.

Action Requested

No action requested.