

## **CREATION OF A PROJECT PRIORITIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT WORKGROUP**

### **Introduction**

At its March 2019 meeting, the Transportation Policy Council (TPC) adopted recommendations for project funding and prioritization resulting from the 2018 Call for Projects. As part of its recommendations, the Policy Council discussed the desirability of a workgroup or committee to review the guidelines/processes for evaluating and ranking submitted projects prior to the next program call.

### **Background**

Several opportunities/issues were identified for possible review, including:

- How well did the selected projects reflect the priorities of the Regional Transportation Plan?
- What restrictions, if any, should be placed on the potential funding available for eligible projects? Should funding “set asides” (either maximums or minimums) be continued or developed for highway, transit, bicycle/pedestrian, freight or other categories of projects?
- Do the evaluation criteria favor or penalize projects in urban, rural, economically disadvantaged or minority areas of the region?
- Should the Benefit/Cost analysis be modified? If so, how?
- Should additional federal or state funding become available, what process should be used to award federal funding to projects “under development” in the Regional Transportation Plan?

### **Current Situation**

The TPC Chair identified the need for a project prioritization and development workgroup to consider recommendations addressing these and any related concerns identified by the Policy Council. He has recommended the workgroup be led by one or more officers of the Policy Council, include both additional Policy Council members/alternates and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) officers. Staff suggests a committee composed of 15 members:

- 2 TPC officers;
- 3 City members (perhaps one each from small, medium, and larger cities);
- 3 County members (including at least one from a rural county);
- 4 Agency members (TxDOT, METRO, H-GAC, Port/Rail); and
- 3 TAC officers (Chair, First and Second Vice Chairs).

### **Action Requested**

Creation of a Project Prioritization and Development Workgroup.