

FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN AMENDMENT PROCESS

Background

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is a long-range plan that prioritizes spending on regional transportation projects including short and long-range strategies to ensure the transportation network is safe and efficient. Updated every four years, the RTP outlines a fiscally constrained transportation investment program that is based on the unique needs and characteristics of the Metropolitan Planning Area. The RTP may be amended outside of the regular development cycle to accommodate changing regional needs.

Current Situation

The current H-GAC process for RTP amendments is not clearly defined and relies heavily on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment process to provide precedence. Over the last few months staff has created a draft framework of the RTP amendment process to be used toward the development of a comprehensive amendment process.

The following description provides information on the steps involved in RTP amendments based on the level of amendments. Changes to the regional transportation plan will be categorized as either an Administrative Modification or a TPC Amendment (Level 1 or Level 2).

Administrative Modifications

- Minor revisions that can be approved by the MPO Director
- Project Description clarifications, Limits changes, Costs changes less than 25% or \$5M of current cost estimate (whichever is less)
- Changes presented to TAC/TPC the following month
- Monthly requests and MPO Director approvals

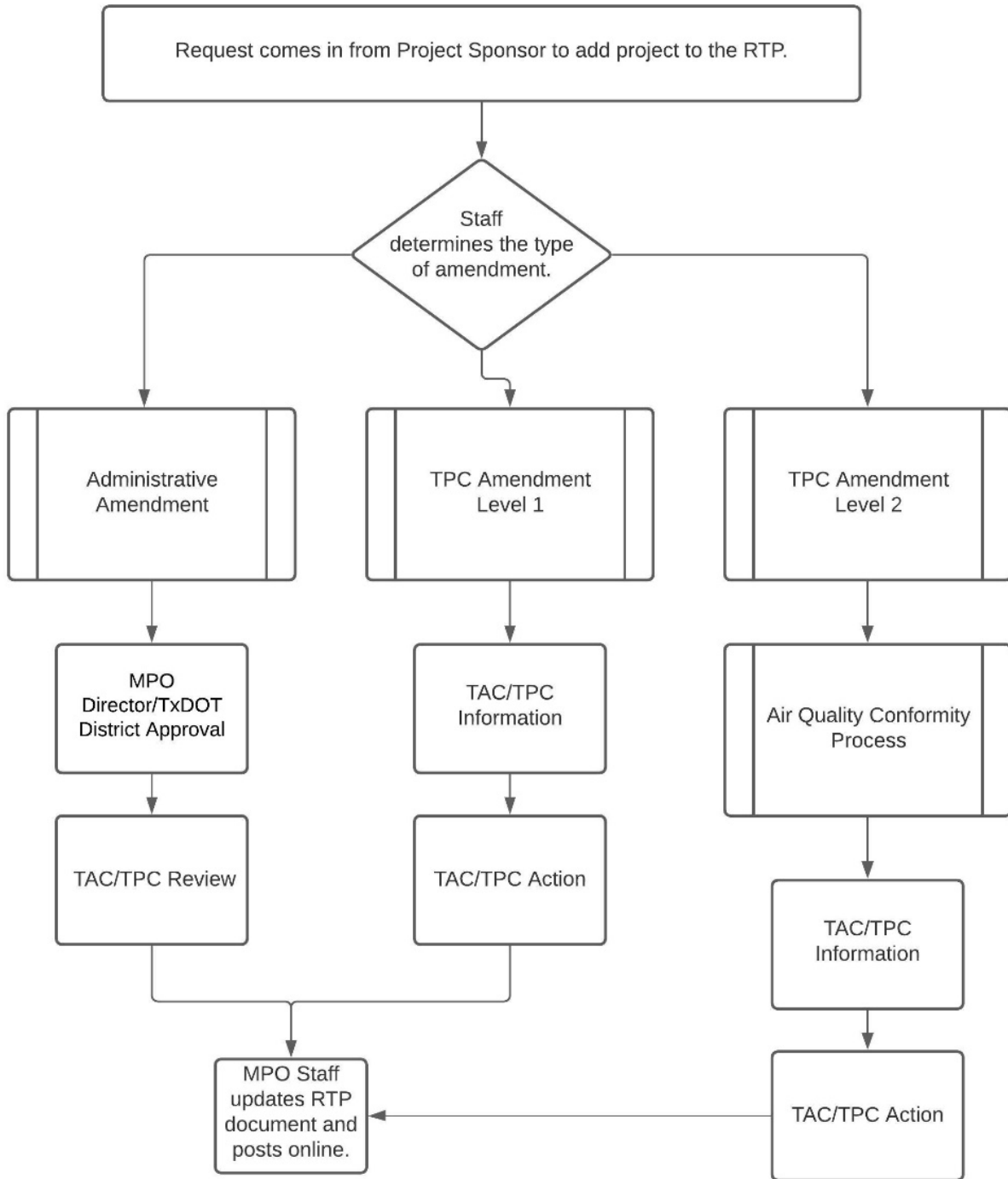
TPC Amendments (Level 1)

- Recommended by the TAC and approved by the TPC
- Project is already in the RTP
- Does not affect conformity
- Changes to project scope, limits, and costs
- Adding a new project
 - Includes transit formula-funded projects
 - Federal discretionary grant programs, State funding programs, or other grant programs outside of TPC selection authority
 - Projects funded through the TPC call for projects (approximately once every 3 years)
- Changes to the RTP document language (Appendices, etc.)
- Monthly request and TPC approvals

TPC Amendments (Level 2)

- Recommended by the TAC and approved by the TPC
- Projects that impact the air quality conformity determination
- Existing and New projects being added to the RTP
 - Federal discretionary grant programs, State funding programs, or other grant programs outside of TPC selection authority
 - Projects funded through the TPC call for projects (approximately once every 3 years)
- Project Sponsor should provide the following information for consideration of the project.
 - Project description (include existing and proposed lanes)
 - Limits (From/To)
 - Length of project in miles
 - Total Project Costs (In current year dollars; H-GAC staff to calculate Year of Expenditure at 4% inflation per year)
 - Purpose and Need Statement
 - Narrative description of project benefits
 - Demonstrate support of regional goals (RTP)
 - Summary of planning coordination efforts with local jurisdictions in the affected area/agencies
 - Anticipated Start Date (Year of Expenditure/Fiscal Year)
 - Maps (or shapefiles)
- Anticipate the conformity process to begin 18 months after the latest determination. Requests can be made at any time.
- Amendment process will take 6-9 months
- H-GAC will conduct the air quality conformity determination process and submit to the partners for approval
- H-GAC will conduct public engagement on the requested amendments

The flowchart on the following page outlines the overall process from submittal of the request for RTP amendment to an action by the Transportation Policy Council.



Action Requested

Committee recommendation for Transportation Policy Council approval of the framework for regional transportation plan amendments and to direct staff to work with the RTP and TIP subcommittees on a comprehensive amendment process.