

7. CALL FOR PROJECTS

Background

At the March 2020 Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting the council approved goals, priorities and policies for next Call for Projects. These goals, priorities and policies guide the H-GAC staff, Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Subcommittee in development of project selection criteria and evaluation methodologies for the next Call for Projects.

Current Situation

Since July 2020, staff has worked with the TIP subcommittee and TIP subcommittee project evaluation workgroup members to develop the following components of the draft evaluation criteria. Staff will highlight the progress made on the development of the project development criteria and solicit Committee feedback on some of the project development tasks. Below is a summary of some the topics in discussion with the TIP Subcommittee:

- Investment Categories: The five investment categories in which potential sponsors can submit proposed freight, roadway, transit and active transportation projects for federal funding requests.
- Definitions and example project types for each investment categories are available at the website linked below.
- All projects will be evaluated and scored based on benefits/cost analysis and planning factors.
- Benefits/cost analysis and planning factors for all proposed projects will be scored at 50% weight each in all investment categories except active transportation projects investment category.
- Benefits/cost analysis for proposed projects in all investment categories except active transportation will be based on safety, delay reductions and emission reduction benefits and total project cost.
- Safety, delay reductions and emission reductions benefits will be weighed at 50%, 30%, and 20% respectively within the benefits/cost analysis for all investment categories except for active transportation investment category.
- All proposed projects in active transportation investment category will be evaluated and scored based on benefits/cost analysis and planning factors at 20% and 80% respectively.
- Consistent with the TPC guidance all proposed project's total project cost will include estimated costs for construction, engineering (including environmental), and right of way (including utility relocation) phases of the project. If required right of way is donated or previously purchased current appraised value of the required right of way may be used in the total project cost.

Additionally, staff discussed the recommending the following items.

- Active transportation projects be eligible to compete for Category 5 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funding.
- Propose alternative ways to select safety projects such as unselected local safety projects submitted to TxDOT’s statewide Safety call for Projects located within the TMA or Proven Safety Countermeasures located on Federal Highway Administration website at <https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/provencountermeasures/>.

Staff continues to work with the TIP Subcommittee the following items.

- Detail of the planning factors evaluation are still to be developed before it can be presented to TAC.
- Develop safety and emissions benefits calculation templates.
- Call for projects submittals rules.

Staff anticipates the project evaluation criteria development to be complete in by October 2021 and project submittal process to begin in December 2021. Draft timeline for project evaluation criteria is presented below.

Draft Timeline	
July, 2020	Begin discussions on investment criteria and establish working group
August-October, 2020	Continue discussions on investment criteria
	Update on the Benefit/Cost Analysis review
	Input from other Subcommittees
November, 2020	TAC Mid-point Progress Report (Information)
December 2020-October, 2021	Continue development of draft evaluation criteria and selection process with TIP Subcommittee
October	TAC/TPC review of draft evaluation criteria and selection process (Information)
November 2021	Final draft evaluation criteria and selection process to TAC/TPC (Action)
December 2021 – February 2022	Projects submittals
March 2021 - June 2021	Project evaluation/draft scoring and public review
July 2021	TAC/TPC review of draft recommendation of projects selected for funding and inclusion in the RTP (Information)
August 2021	Final draft recommendation of projects selected for funding and inclusion in the RTP to TAC/TPC (Action)

Action Requested

Information only.