

ACTION TRANSMITTAL 2014-06

DATE: January 8, 2014
TO: TAB Members
FROM: Regional Solicitation Evaluation Steering Committee
PREPARED BY: Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director MTS, 651-602-1058
Heidi Schallberg, Senior Planner MTS, 651-602-1721
SUBJECT: Regional solicitation application subcategories for the Roadways modal category
RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the design of the next regional solicitation application be based upon modal subcategories for Roadways including Multimodal Elements as shown in this transmittal and attachment.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: Previous TAB actions established that solicitation projects will be evaluated by modal categories (roadways, bicycle and pedestrian, and transit and TDM) and established the types of projects that would be eligible for evaluation under each modal category. Subcategories assist with making comparisons of project costs and benefits where projects have similar characteristics and objectives. In November 2013, TAB approved the application subcategories for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities and the Transit and TDM modal categories. Additional discussion was required for the Roadways including Multimodal Elements category.

RECOMMENDATION

The Steering Committee recommends the following application subcategories for Roadways including Multimodal Elements:

1. Expansion
2. Reconstruction/Modernization
3. Roadway System Management
4. Bridges

The Steering Committee discussed two issues related to bridges: which functional classes should be eligible, and if bridges should have a separate subcategory. The committee reaffirmed keeping bridge eligibility to Non-Freeway Principal Arterials and "A" Minor Arterials as originally approved in Step 1 of this process with general eligibility. Main considerations in this decision included:

- The dedicated federal bridge program was eliminated in current federal legislation, and there was an overall reduction in federal funds.
- This eligibility for bridges aligns with eligibility for other roadway projects.
- Focus on higher-level roadways with regional significance.

The recommendation to include a separate subcategory for Bridges included the following considerations:

- It would be difficult to compare bridges and roadway projects in the same subcategory as criteria to select the best projects from each are different in nature.
- Bridges are more expensive than roadways, so they would not compete well if cost effectiveness is stressed in the scoring criteria.
- Bridges provide important regional connectivity.
- If bridges are not funded and deteriorate, they may be closed, which could cause major mobility issues.

After projects are evaluated on their subcategory applications, the Steering Committee recommended two methods for reporting application scores, which are illustrated on the attached graphic. The first report should rank all projects within each subcategory by total points. The second reporting method will rank each subcategory by roadway functional classification for Expansion and Reconstruction/Modernization projects.

RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY: TAB develops and issues a Regional Solicitation for federal funding. This recommended motion will provide policy direction on the expected funding levels by modal category and design of modal subcategories for the solicitation.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND ACTION: The Regional Solicitation Steering Committee has met to discuss these issues and recommends the actions as described.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Adopt	
Transportation Committee	Concurrence	
Metropolitan Council	Concurrence	

Step 2 - Regional Solicitation Evaluation - December 17, 2013

Reporting Outputs for Roadways Including Multimodal Elements

