of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

ACTION TRANSMITTAL No. 2014-26

DATE: March 11, 2014 **TO:** TAB Members

FROM: Regional Solicitation Evaluation Steering Committee

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SUBJECT: Regional Solicitation Modal Criteria

RECOMMENDED That the design of the next regional solicitation be based on revised

MOTION: criteria 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. TAB also previously approved application subcategories for each mode. These criteria, as recommended by the Steering Committee, were presented as information to TAB for the February meeting.

RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY: TAB develops and issues a Regional Solicitation for federal funding. This recommended motion will provide policy direction on the higher-level criteria that should be used in the design of a new solicitation.

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

ROUTING

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

Step 3: Evaluation Criteria Changes

Regional Solicitation Evaluation – Updated February 12, 2014

On the following pages the PMT has proposed prioritizing criteria for each of the evaluation sub-categories. The primary purpose of Step 3 is to streamline and simplify the process for applicants and reviewers. With this in mind, the 2011 Regional Solicitation prioritizing criteria was modified to:

- 1. Use quantitative criteria where possible, as opposed to qualitative criteria.
- 2. Remove questions that do not differentiate applications (an analysis was completed of past solicitation scoring to identify criteria that were less influential in determining the selected projects).
- 3. Remove questions that are repetitive (either within the prioritizing criteria or with the qualifying criteria).

To ensure that the proposed prioritizing criteria align with regional policy, the prioritizing criteria are matched up with their corresponding Thrive MSP 2040 Outcomes and Transportation Policy Plan Update Goals. In addition, example measures listed are only examples, and TAC Funding and Programming and TAC will be tasked with recommending the final measures. At this point, the example measures are meant to help the Steering Committee better understand what is meant by each prioritizing criteria.

A. Recommendations for Roadways Including Multimodal Elements Criteria:

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

Table A1: Draft Roadway Expansion Projects (1) Streamlined Prioritizing Criteria

Prioritizing Criteria	Thrive Outcomes	TPP Goals	Example Measures (2)
Role in the Regional Transportation System and Economy ⁽³⁾	ProsperityLivabilityEquity	 Access to Destinations Competitive Economy Align Transportation and Land Use 	 Length of the route Functional class specific measure (to be developed by TAC Funding and Programming) Proximity to identified job and activity centers Connections to identified regional intermodal freight terminals or major freight generators
Usage (3)	LivabilityProsperity	 Access to Destinations Align Transportation and Land Use Competitive Economy 	 Current and forecast traffic volumes Commercial vehicle usage Current average annual transit ridership (provided by Council)
Equity	– Equity – Livability	 Access to Destinations 	 Project located in an identified Racially Concentrated Area of Poverty (RCAP) Low income/minority/people who rely on transit within one mile of the project Affordable housing
Infrastructure Age/Condition	StewardshipLivabilitySustainability	Access to DestinationsTransportation SystemStewardship	 Useful life/age of roadway and other infrastructure elements Infrastructure condition Length of proposed roadway not currently rated 10-ton
Congestion Reduction (3)	ProsperityLivability	Access to DestinationsHealthy EnvironmentCompetitive Economy	 Project cost/increase in hourly person throughput (all modes) Project cost/reduction in travel time Project cost/reduction in V/C ratio
Safety ⁽³⁾	LivabilitySustainability	Safety and SecurityStewardshipHealthy Environment	 Project cost/crashes reduced by project (including severity)
Multimodal Facilities (Transit, Bicycle, Pedestrian) and Connections ⁽³⁾	ProsperityEquityLivabilitySustainability	 Access to Destinations Transportation and Land Use Healthy Environment Competitive Economy 	 Proposed connections, improvements (transit, bicycle, pedestrian) and deficiencies addressed
Project Readiness/Risk Assessment	StewardshipProsperity	Transportation SystemStewardshipCompetitive Economy	 Project development checklist (project readiness, right-of-way, environmental documentation, railroad issues, etc.)

⁽¹⁾ Expansion projects include roadway improvements that add thru lane capacity (e.g., two-lane to four-lane reconstructions and new interchanges).

⁽²⁾ The measures listed are only examples and TAC/TAC Funding and Programming will be tasked with recommending the final measures.

⁽³⁾ Prioritizing criteria identified by the Steering Committee as being the most important.

A. Recommendations for Roadways Including Multimodal Elements Criteria:

Table A2: Draft Reconstruction/Modernization Projects (1) Streamlined Prioritizing Criteria

Prioritizing Criteria	Thrive Outcomes	TPP Goals	Example Measures ⁽²⁾
Role in the Regional Transportation System and Economy ⁽³⁾	ProsperityLivabilityEquity	 Access to Destinations Competitive Economy Align Transportation and Land Use 	 Length of the route Functional class specific measure (to be developed by TAC Funding and Programming) Proximity to identified job and activity centers Connections to identified regional intermodal freight terminals or major freight generators
Usage ⁽³⁾	LivabilityProsperity	 Access to Destinations Align Transportation and Land Use Competitive Economy 	 Current and forecast traffic volumes Commercial vehicle usage Current average annual transit ridership (provided by Council)
Equity	– Equity – Livability	 Access to Destinations 	 Project located in an identified Racially Concentrated Area of Poverty (RCAP) Low income/minority/people who rely on transit within one mile of the project Affordable housing
Infrastructure Age/Condition	StewardshipLivabilitySustainability	Access to DestinationsTransportation SystemStewardship	 Useful life/age of roadway and other infrastructure elements Infrastructure condition Length of proposed roadway not currently rated 10-ton Deficient design features
Congestion Reduction (3)	ProsperityLivability	Access to DestinationsHealthy EnvironmentCompetitive Economy	 Project cost/increase in hourly person throughput (all modes) Project cost/reduction in travel time Project cost/reduction in V/C ratio
Safety ⁽³⁾	LivabilitySustainability	Safety and SecurityStewardshipHealthy Environment	 Project cost/crashes reduced by project (including severity)
Multimodal Facilities (Transit, Bicycle, Pedestrian) and Connections ⁽³⁾	ProsperityEquityLivabilitySustainability	 Access to Destinations Transportation and Land Use Healthy Environment Competitive Economy 	 Proposed connections, improvements (transit, bicycle, pedestrian) and deficiencies addressed
Project Readiness/Risk Assessment	StewardshipProsperity	Transportation SystemStewardshipCompetitive Economy	 Project development checklist (project readiness, right-of-way, environmental documentation, railroad issues, etc.)

⁽¹⁾ Reconstruction/Modernization projects include roadway improvements that do not add thru lane capacity (e.g. raised medians, bike lanes, turn lanes, continuous left-turn lanes, sidewalks, trails, traffic signals, roundabouts).

⁽²⁾ The measures listed are only examples and TAC/TAC Funding and Programming will be tasked with recommending the final measures.

⁽³⁾ Prioritizing criteria identified by the Steering Committee as being the most important.

A. Recommendations for Roadways Including Multimodal Elements Criteria:

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

Table A3: Draft Roadway System Management Streamlined Prioritizing Criteria

Prioritizing Criteria	Thrive Outcomes	TPP Goals	Example Measures ⁽¹⁾
Role in the Regional Transportation System and Economy	ProsperityLivabilityEquity	 Access to Destinations Competitive Economy Align Transportation and Land Use 	 Length of the route Proximity to identified TOD overlay zones Proximity to identified job and activity centers Connections to identified regional intermodal freight terminals or major freight generators
Usage	LivabilityProsperity	 Access to Destinations Align Transportation and Land Use Competitive Economy 	 Current and forecast traffic volumes Commercial vehicle usage Current average annual transit ridership (provided by Council)
Equity	– Equity – Livability	 Access to Destinations 	 Project located in an identified Racially Concentrated Area of Poverty (RCAP) Low income/minority populations within one mile of the project Project usage by people who rely on transit Affordable housing
Infrastructure Age/Condition	StewardshipLivabilitySustainability	Access to DestinationsTransportation SystemStewardship	Useful life/age of infrastructure elements
Congestion Reduction (2)	ProsperityLivability	Access to DestinationsHealthy EnvironmentCompetitive Economy	 Project cost/increase in hourly person throughput Project cost/reduction in hours of delay per day
Safety	LivabilitySustainability	Safety and SecurityStewardshipHealthy Environment	 Project cost/crashes reduced by project (including severity)
Multimodal Facilities (Transit, Bicycle, Pedestrian) and Connections	ProsperityEquityLivabilitySustainability	 Access to Destinations Transportation and Land Use Healthy Environment Competitive Economy 	 Proposed connections, improvements (transit, bicycle, and pedestrian), and deficiencies addressed
Project Readiness/Risk Assessment	StewardshipProsperity	Transportation SystemStewardshipCompetitive Economy	 Project development checklist (project readiness, right-of-way, environmental documentation, railroad issues, etc.)

⁽¹⁾ The measures listed are only examples and TAC/TAC Funding and Programming will be tasked with recommending the final measures.

⁽²⁾ Prioritizing criteria identified by the Steering Committee as being the most important.

Table A4: Draft Bridges Streamlined Prioritizing Criteria (Eligibility Limited to Non-Freeway Principal Arterials and "A" Minor Arterials)

Prioritizing Criteria	Thrive Outcomes	TPP Goals	Example Measures ⁽¹⁾
Role in the Regional Transportation System and Economy	StewardshipProsperityLivability	 Access to Destinations Competitive Economy Aligns Transportation and Land Use 	 Distance to nearest parallel crossing of barrier by road with equal or greater functional class Length of detour route if bridge closed Proximity to identified job and activity centers Connections to identified regional intermodal freight terminals or major freight generators
Usage	LivabilityProsperity	 Access to Destinations Align Transportation and Land Use Competitive Economy 	 Current and forecast traffic volumes Current and forecast heavy commercial traffic volumes Current average annual transit ridership (provided by Council)
Equity	EquityLivability	 Access to Destinations 	 Project located in an identified Racially Concentrated Area of Poverty (RCAP) Low income/minority/people who rely on transit within one mile of the project Affordable housing
Infrastructure Age/Condition (Safety) (2)	StewardshipLivabilitySustainability	Transportation SystemStewardshipSafety and Security	 Structural and sufficiency ratings of bridge elements Correction of design deficiencies for bridge width, capacity constraint and vertical clearance
Multimodal Facilities (Transit, Bicycle, Pedestrian) and Connections	ProsperityEquityLivabilitySustainability	 Access to Destinations Transportation and Land Use Healthy Environment Competitive Economy 	 Proposed connections, improvements (bicycle and pedestrian) and deficiencies addressed
Project Readiness/Risk Assessment	StewardshipProsperity	Transportation SystemStewardshipCompetitive Economy	 Project development checklist (project readiness, right-of-way, environmental documentation, railroad issues, etc.)
Total Project Cost Effectiveness	– Stewardship	Transportation SystemStewardship	Project cost/total points awarded in other criteria listed

⁽¹⁾ The measures listed are only examples and TAC/TAC Funding and Programming will be tasked with recommending the final measures.

 $^{(2) \} Prioritizing \ criteria \ identified \ by \ the \ Steering \ Committee \ as \ being \ the \ most \ important.$

B. Recommendations for Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Criteria:

Table B1: Draft Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities Streamlined Prioritizing Criteria

Prioritizing Criteria	Thrive Outcomes	TPP Goals	Example Measures ⁽¹⁾
Role in the Regional Transportation System and Economy	StewardshipLivabilityProsperity	 Access to Destinations Align Transportation and Land Use Competitive Economy 	 Identified in the regional bikeway network Gaps filled by project Proximity to identified TOD overlay zones Proximity to identified job and activity centers Project's impact on direct connections between trip origins and destinations
Usage ⁽²⁾	LivabilityProsperity	 Access to Destinations Align Transportation and Land Use Competitive Economy 	 Potential users Project cost/population (existing and future) within one mile of the project Project cost/employees (existing and future) within one mile of the project
Equity	– Equity – Livability	 Access to Destinations 	 Project located in an identified Racially Concentrated Area of Poverty (RCAP) Low income/minority/people who rely on transit within one mile of the project Affordable housing
Infrastructure Age/Condition	StewardshipLivabilitySustainability	Access to DestinationsTransportation SystemStewardship	 Useful life/age of infrastructure elements Infrastructure condition
Deficiencies and Safety (2)	– Livability	Safety and SecurityHealthy EnvironmentAccess to Destinations	 Existing deficiencies Barriers overcome Proposed safety improvements Proposed ADA improvements
Multimodal Facilities (Transit and Roadway) and Connections	LivabilityProsperitySustainability	 Access to Destinations Transportation and Land Use Healthy Environment Competitive Economy 	 Proposed connections to transit routes/facilities and roadways
Project Readiness/Risk Assessment	StewardshipProsperity	Transportation SystemStewardshipCompetitive Economy	 Project development checklist (project readiness, right-of-way, environmental documentation, railroad issues, etc.)

⁽¹⁾ The measures listed are only examples and TAC/TAC Funding and Programming will be tasked with recommending the final measures.

⁽²⁾ Prioritizing criteria identified by the Steering Committee as being the most important.

B. Recommendations for Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Criteria:

Table B2: Draft Pedestrian Facilities (Sidewalks, Streetscaping, and ADA) Streamlined Prioritizing Criteria

Prioritizing Criteria	Thrive Outcomes	TPP Goals	Example Measures ⁽¹⁾
Role in the Regional Transportation System and Economy	StewardshipLivabilityProsperity	 Access to Destinations Align Transportation and Land Use Competitive Economy 	 Gaps filled by project Proximity to identified TOD overlay zones Proximity to identified job and activity centers Project's impact on direct connections between trip origins and destinations
Usage ⁽²⁾	LivabilityProsperity	 Access to Destinations Align Transportation and Land Use Competitive Economy 	 Potential users Project cost/population (existing and future) within one mile of the project Project cost/employees (existing and future) within one mile of the project
Equity	EquityLivability	 Access to Destinations 	 Project located in an identified Racially Concentrated Area of Poverty (RCAP) Low income/minority/people who rely on transit within one mile of the project Affordable housing
Infrastructure Age/Condition	StewardshipLivabilitySustainability	Access to DestinationsTransportation SystemStewardship	Useful life/age of infrastructure elementsInfrastructure condition
Deficiencies and Safety (2)	– Livability	Safety and SecurityHealthy EnvironmentAccess to Destinations	 Existing deficiencies Barriers overcome Proposed safety improvements Proposed ADA improvements
Multimodal Facilities (Transit, Bicycle, and Roadway) and Connections	LivabilityProsperity	 Access to Destinations Transportation and Land Use Healthy Environment Competitive Economy 	 Proposed connections to transit routes/facilities, trails, and roadways
Project Readiness/Risk Assessment	StewardshipProsperity	Transportation SystemStewardshipCompetitive Economy	 Project development checklist (project readiness, right-of-way, environmental documentation, railroad issues, etc.)

⁽¹⁾ The measures listed are only examples and TAC/TAC Funding and Programming will be tasked with recommending the final measures.

⁽²⁾ Prioritizing criteria identified by the Steering Committee as being the most important.

Table B3: Draft Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Streamlined Prioritizing Criteria

Criteria used in the first-time TAP solicitation including SRTS currently underway (1)

Prioritizing Criteria	Thrive Outcomes	TPP Goals	Example Measures
Urgency/ Significance	ProsperityLivabilityStewardship	Access to DestinationsHealthy EnvironmentSafety and Security	 Time-sensitive opportunity Addresses significant opportunity, unmet need or problem
Impact	– Livability	Access to DestinationsHealthy Environment	 Fills gaps, overcomes barriers, connects system segments or otherwise is significant opportunity in pedestrian/bike network
Relationship between SRTS Program Elements	StewardshipLivability	Transportation System StewardshipSafety and Security	 How 5Es (evaluation, education, encouragement, enforcement, and engineering) of SRTS programs considered or incorporated
Relationship to Intermodal/ Multimodal Transportation System	ProsperityLivabilitySustainability	 Access to Destinations Healthy Environment Transportation and Land Use Competitive Economy 	 How facility benefits transportation system users for the school How project benefits multiple modes How facility serves trips otherwise made by motor vehicle
Safe Routes to School Framework	StewardshipLivability	Access to DestinationsHealthy EnvironmentTransportation & Land Use	How project meets SRTS program purposes
Maturity of Project/Risk Assessment	ProsperityStewardship	Transportation System StewardshipCompetitive Economy	Project development checklist

⁽¹⁾ The prioritizing criteria and example measures shown in the above table is consistent with the first-time TAP solicitation for SRTS projects currently underway. TAC/TAC Funding and Programming will be tasked with evaluating the first-time TAP solicitation and recommending the final measures.

Table C1: Draft Transit Expansion Streamlined Prioritizing Criteria

Prioritizing Criteria	Thrive Outcomes	TPP Goals	Example Measures ⁽¹⁾
Role in the Regional Transportation System and Economy	StewardshipProsperityEquityLivability	 Access to Destinations Align Transportation and Land Use Competitive Economy 	 Project is associated with a High or Medium rated service in the Regional Service Improvement Plan (RSIP) Proximity to identified TOD overlay zones Proximity to identified job and activity centers
Usage ⁽²⁾	LivabilityProsperity	 Access to Destinations Align Transportation and Land Use Competitive Economy 	 Project cost per existing or new daily transit rides Project cost per total population/employment served by project
Equity	EquityLivability	 Access to Destinations 	 Project located in an identified Racially Concentrated Area of Poverty (RCAP) Low income/minority populations within one mile of the project Project usage by people who rely on transit Affordable housing
Infrastructure Age/Condition	StewardshipLivabilitySustainability	Access to DestinationsTransportation SystemStewardship	Useful life/age of infrastructure elements
Emissions Reduction	StewardshipSustainability	 Healthy Environment 	Project cost/daily emissions reduced (KG)
Improvement Quality Rating	StewardshipProsperity	 Transportation System Stewardship 	Percentage impact for service speeds, span of service, customer information, etc.
Multimodal Facilities (Roadway, Bicycle, Pedestrian) and Connections	ProsperityEquityLivabilitySustainability	 Access to Destinations Transportation and Land Use Healthy Environment Competitive Economy 	 Proposed connections, improvements (roadway, bicycle, pedestrian) and deficiencies addressed
Project Readiness/Risk Assessment	StewardshipProsperity	Transportation SystemStewardshipCompetitive Economy	 Project development checklist (project readiness, right-of-way, environmental documentation, railroad issues, etc.) Availability of operating funds

⁽¹⁾ The measures listed are only examples and TAC/TAC Funding and Programming will be tasked with recommending the final measures.

⁽²⁾ Prioritizing criteria identified by the Steering Committee as being the most important.

Table C2: Draft Transit System Modernization (1) Streamlined Prioritizing Criteria

Prioritizing Criteria	Thrive Outcomes	TPP Goals	Example Measures ⁽²⁾
Role in the Regional Transportation System and Economy	LivabilityStewardshipEquityProsperity	 Healthy Environment Stewardship Competitive Economy Access to Destinations 	 Proximity to identified TOD overlay zones Proximity to identified job and activity centers Total population/employment in area served by project
Usage ⁽³⁾	LivabilityProsperity	 Access to Destinations Align Transportation and Land Use Competitive Economy 	 Project cost/total daily transit rides affected by project Project capital cost/savings in operating cost
Equity	– Equity – Livability	 Access to Destinations 	 Project located in an identified Racially Concentrated Area of Poverty (RCAP) Low income/minority populations within one mile of the project Project usage by people who rely on transit Affordable housing
Infrastructure Age/Condition	StewardshipLivabilitySustainability	Access to DestinationsTransportation SystemStewardship	Useful life/age of infrastructure elements
Emissions Reduction	StewardshipSustainability	 Healthy Environment 	Project cost/daily emissions reduced (KG)
Improvement Quality Rating	ProsperityStewardship	Transportation SystemStewardship	 Percentage impact for service speeds, span of service, customer information, etc.
Multimodal Facilities (Roadway, Bicycle, Pedestrian) and Connections	LivabilityProsperity	 Access to Destinations Transportation and Land Use Healthy Environment Competitive Economy 	 Proposed connections, improvements (roadway, bicycle, pedestrian), and deficiencies addressed Connections to regional destinations from the transit improvement
Project Readiness/Risk Assessment	StewardshipProsperity	Transportation SystemStewardshipCompetitive Economy	 Project development checklist (project readiness, right-of-way, environmental documentation, railroads issues, etc.)

⁽¹⁾ Modernization is the improvement of an existing transit system or service through an investment in new or improved infrastructure that either A) produces operating cost savings through improved operations or B) improves quality of service for users (user experience) or both. Modernization could include: improved customer information, expanded customer facilities, improved system technology, improved vehicle technology (hybrids), new transit advantages.

⁽²⁾ The measures listed are only examples and TAC/TAC Funding and Programming will be tasked with recommending the final measures.

⁽³⁾ Prioritizing criteria identified by the Steering Committee as being the most important.

C. Recommendations for Transit and TDM Criteria:

Table C3: Draft TDM (Competitive) Streamlined Prioritizing Criteria

Criteria used in the first-time TDM solicitation currently underway (1)

Prioritizing Criteria	Thrive Outcomes	TPP Goals	Example Measures ⁽²⁾
Project Clarity and Readiness	Stewardship	Transportation SystemStewardshipCompetitive Economy	 What are the main components of this project? What are the objectives of the project? Where does this project fit within your agency's goals and objectives?
Integration and Coordination	LivabilityStewardship	Access to DestinationsTransportation SystemStewardship	 What existing resources are being used in this project? What plans, programs, or initiatives does this project relate to? What existing infrastructure is being capitalized on in this project? Relate the project to the Council's Development Framework and/or the TPP.
Innovation	ProsperityLivabilityStewardship	Competitive Economy Access to Destinations	 Has this project been implemented before? If yes, what changes have been made to make this project unique now? Is this project new to a particular geographic area? What about this project is new or unique?
Impact to Congestion	ProsperityLivability	 Access to Destinations Healthy Environment Competitive Economy 	 Both quantitative and qualitative descriptions of impacts. VMT = number of one-way commute trips reduced * 12.1 miles (average length of commute trip according to TBI). Methodology for the "number of one-way commute trips reduced" Qualitative/narrative description of the impact to congestion
Impact to Air Quality	StewardshipSustainability	 Healthy Environment 	 Both quantitative and qualitative descriptions of their impacts. We asked for a simple multiplication using their VMT from the above section, and multiply it by pollution records from MPCA and Council staff. CO reduced = VMT reduced * .857157 PM2.5 reduced = VMT reduced * .000192 NOx reduced = VMT reduced * .056438 qualitative/narrative description of the impact to air quality

⁽¹⁾ The prioritizing criteria and example measures shown in the above table is consistent with the first-time TAP solicitation for SRTS projects currently underway. TAC/TAC Funding and Programming will be tasked with evaluating the first-time TAP solicitation and recommending the final measures.

⁽²⁾ Add connectivity to the example measures.