



Regional Solicitation Update

Discussion of 2022 Survey Results, Timeline for 2024 Funding Cycle, and Key Tasks for Reg Sol Evaluation (2026)



February 1, 2023

2022 Regional Solicitation Surveys

Survey Content and Participants

Participants were provided surveys that consisted primarily of open-ended questions. Four surveys were administered.

1. TAB Members (15 Replies). Questions about policy, process, and general thoughts.
2. TAC and TAC F&P Members (10 Replies). Questions criteria/measures and general thoughts.
3. Scorers and Chairs (18 Replies). Questions on scoring process and the application scoring experience.
4. Applicants (17 Replies). Questions about online application, training, qualifying criteria, and other elements of the application process.

Key Themes from Surveys



1. Modal distribution.
2. Geographic distribution.
3. More updates to TAB during scoring and scenario development process.
4. Connect funding decisions to regional performance targets and policy goals.
5. Document and incorporate the priorities from each agency into decision-making.
6. Provide more emphasis on safety.
7. Better incorporate climate change.
8. Review the Unique Projects category scoring process.
9. Address whether a rule (or lack thereof) is needed around tied scores.
10. Simplify the process.
11. Pedestrian safety score requires a lot of work for its small point value.
12. Simplify how applicants obtain and calculate affordable housing data.
13. Improve measurement of the potential bike/pedestrian usage.

2024 Regional Solicitation Cycle



Overlapping Study Efforts

- Careful planning is needed to ensure that stakeholders have adequate time to participate in 3 major MPO study efforts over the next two years: 2024 Regional Solicitation, 2050 TPP, and Regional Solicitation Evaluation leading into the 2026 Regional Solicitation.
- The 2024 Regional Solicitation funding cycle is proposed to be advanced by 4 months. We anticipate limited changes for the 2024 cycle making it easy for the sponsors of the \$250M of unfunded projects from the 2022 cycle to reapply, plus project sponsors for any new projects wouldn't have to consider major changes. Instead, we plan to consider most survey comments for the 2026 cycle.
- Key points in this updated 2024 schedule include:
 - Open application period (fall 2023 and closing in early Dec)
 - Scoring (early 2024)
 - Funding scenarios (spring/summer 2024 – during TPP public comment period)
 - TAB decision (July 2024 – moved up from Nov 2024 to avoid overlap with the TPP approval)

Regional Solicitation Evaluation for 2026 Funding Cycle



Project Context

- The Council plans to undertake a major evaluation of the Regional Solicitation to ensure that the projects being selected align with the updated 2050 Regional Development Framework and 2050 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP).
- This was a major past work item for Council staff and committees that last took place from 2012 to 2014.
- The next Evaluation will start summer 2023 and conclude in 2025. The Evaluation will overlap with the 2024 Regional Solicitation funding cycle and the development of the 2050 TPP.
- Changes resulting from the Regional Solicitation Evaluation will impact the 2026 Regional Solicitation (program years 2030 and 2031) and set the framework for the next 10 years of funding.
- Today, we are asking for your input on the Evaluation's key tasks.

Draft Key Tasks

Regional Solicitation Evaluation (2023-2025)

1. Complete a Before-and-After Study: How did we invest Regional Solicitation funding over the past 10 years and what were the outcomes relative to 2040 TPP Goals and Objectives?
2. Complete a peer review of other MPOs and how they distribute their federal funding, including the online software used.
3. Define the focus of the Regional Solicitation: What Goals and Objectives in the 2050 TPP do policy makers want to advance with this federal funding source?
4. Incorporate the 2050 TPP Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Actions (and other regional plans) into the Regional Solicitation: How will any new TPP changes affect the modal funding ranges, application categories, qualifications, criteria, point weighting, or measures.
5. Establish the best way/method and timing to select projects and allocate federal funding (e.g., currently doing a call for proposals every two years).
6. Simplify the process for allocating funding.
7. Engage with stakeholders and the public in the development of a new application.
8. Document findings and develop revised Regional Solicitation application materials (pdf and online submittal).
9. Incorporate performance measures into Regional Solicitation decision-making.

Connecting the 2050 TPP and Regional Solicitation



Safety Goal: Options to Incorporate into the Regional Solicitation

1. Create a new safety application category
2. Change the amount of money going to safety as an application category
3. Create a safety criterion
4. Create a safety scoring measure
5. Change the point distribution for safety criterion or measure within an application category like Pedestrian Facilities
6. Change the qualifying requirements so that all projects submitted must improve safety in some manner, for example

Other Questions for the Group



1. Do you have any other key tasks that should be added to the scope?
2. What is the best way to ensure that that 2026 Regional Solicitation is addressing the 2050 TPP Goals and Objectives?
3. Do you know of other MPOs that are effective in allocating federal funding that we should document?
4. What is the best way to engage you as a technical expert in this multi-year effort?
5. What is the best way to engage your policymakers?



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