

Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities – Prioritizing Criteria and Measures

September 21, 2017

Definition: A project that benefits bicyclists (or bicyclists and other non-motorized users). All projects must have a transportation purpose (i.e., connecting people to destinations). A facility may serve both a transportation purpose and a recreational purpose. Multiuse trail bridges or underpasses should apply in this application category instead of the Pedestrian Facilities application category given the nature of the users and the higher maximum award amount.

Examples of Multiuse Trail and Bicycle Facility Projects:

- Multiuse trails
- Trail bridges/underpasses
- On-street bike lanes
- Filling multiple gaps, improving multiple crossings, or making other similar improvements along a trail corridor

Scoring:

Criteria and Measures	Points	% of Total Points
1. Role in the Regional Transportation System and Economy	200	18%
Measure A - Identify location of project relative to Regional Bicycle Transportation Network	200	
2. Potential Usage	200	18%
Measure A - Existing population and employment within 1 mile (<u>potential usage</u>)	200	
3. Equity and Housing Performance	120	11%
Measure A - Connection to disadvantaged populations and project's benefits, impacts, and mitigation	50	
Measure B - Housing Performance Score	70	
4. Deficiencies and Safety	250	23%
Measure A – Gaps closed/barriers removed and/or continuity between jurisdictions improved by the project	100	
Measure B - Deficiencies corrected or safety problems addressed	150	
5. Multimodal Facilities and Existing Connections	100	9%
Measure A - Transit or pedestrian elements of the project and connections	100	
6. Risk Assessment/Public Engagement	130	12%
Measure A - Risk Assessment Form	130	
Sub-Total	1,000	100%
7. Cost Effectiveness	100	9%
Measure A – Cost effectiveness (total project cost <u>points awarded</u> /total <u>project cost</u> <u>points awarded</u>)	100	
Total	1,100	

1. Role in the Regional Transportation System and Economy (200 Points) - This criterion measures the project's ability to serve a transportation purpose within the regional transportation system and economy through its inclusion within or direct connection to the [Regional Bicycle Transportation Network \(RBTN\)](#), which is based on the Twin Cities Regional Bicycle System Study (2015).

- A. **MEASURE:** Reference the "RBTN Evaluation" map generated at the beginning of the application process. Draw the proposed trail on the map.

Upload the "RBTN Evaluation" map used for this measure.

RESPONSE (*Select one, based on the "RBTN Evaluation and Major Barriers" map*):

- Tier 1, Priority RBTN Corridor (200 Points)
 - Tier 1 RBTN Alignment (200 points)
 - Tier 2, RBTN Corridor (175 Points)
 - Tier 2, RBTN Alignment (175 Points)
 - Direct connection to an RBTN Tier 1 corridor or alignment: (150 Points)
 - Direct connection to an RBTN Tier 2 Corridor or Alignment (125 Points)
- OR*
- Project is not located on or directly connected to the RBTN, but is part of a local system and identified within an adopted county city, or regional parks implementing agency plan. (50 Points)

SCORING GUIDANCE (200 Points)

The applicant will receive the points shown in the above bullets based on the location of the project relative to the RBTN.

RBTN Projects (Tier 1/Tier 2 corridors and alignments)

To receive the available points associated with Tier 1 and Tier 2 corridors and alignments, a project must accomplish one of the following:

- Improve a segment of an existing Tier 1 or Tier 2 alignment beyond a simple resurfacing of the facility;
- Implement a currently non-existing segment of a Tier 1 or Tier 2 alignment within and along a Tier 1 or Tier 2 corridor; OR
- Connect directly to a specific Tier 1 or Tier 2 corridor or alignment of the RBTN.
* Note: if connecting to a RBTN **corridor**, the project must connect to a roadway or to the planned terminus of a trail in a way that makes possible a future connection to a potential RBTN alignment for the corridor.

Projects that include both on-RBTN and off-RBTN improvements

Projects will be scored based on the proportion of the project that is within and along a RBTN corridor or along a designated RBTN alignment as shown on the RBTN map. Specifically:

- Tier 1 projects with 50% or more of the project's length within and along a Tier 1 corridor or alignment will receive 200 points.
- Tier 2 projects with 50% or more of the project's length within and along a Tier 2 corridor or alignment will receive 175 points.
- A project with less than 50% of its length within and along a Tier 1 corridor or alignment will be considered a Tier 1 direct connection and will receive 150 points for providing the direct connection.
- A project with less than 50% of its length within and along a Tier 2 corridor or alignment will be considered a Tier 2 direct connection and will receive 125 points for providing the direct connection.
- A project with less than 50% of its length within and along a Tier 1 or Tier 2 corridor or along a Tier 1 or Tier 2 alignment, but with 50% or more of its length within and along a combined Tier 1/Tier 2 corridor or alignment will receive the number of points corresponding to the Tier level with the higher proportion of project length.

Note: If no projects meet the above criterion for 200 points, the top scoring project(s) will be adjusted to 200 points and all other project scores will be adjusted proportionately. Due to tiered scoring, it is possible that ~~no, or~~ multiple, projects will receive the maximum allotment of 200 points.

2. Potential Usage (200 Points) - This criterion quantifies the project’s potential usage based on the existing population and employment adjacent to the project. Metropolitan Council staff will calculate the potential usage of the project using the Metropolitan Council model.

- A. MEASURE: Reference the “Population Summary” map generated at the beginning of the application process. Report the existing population and employment within one mile, as depicted on the “Population Summary” map.

Upload the “Population Summary” map used for this measure.

RESPONSE (Data from the “Population Summary” map):

- Existing Population within 1 Mile (Integer Only, 100 Points): _____
- Existing Employment within 1 Mile (Integer Only, 100 points): _____

SCORING GUIDANCE (200 Points)

The applicant with highest population will receive the full 100 points, as will the applicant with the highest number of jobs. Remaining projects will receive a proportionate share of the full points for population and jobs, respectively. As an example for population, projects will score equal to the existing population within 1 mile of the project being scored divided by the project with the highest population within 1 mile multiplied by the maximum points available for the measure (100). For example, if the application being scored had 1,000 people within 1 mile and the top project had 1,500 people, this applicant would receive $(1,000/1,500)*100$ points or 67 points.

- Existing population: 100 Points
- Existing employment: 100 Points

Using the Metropolitan Council model, all Census block groups that are included within or intersect the buffer area around the project will be included in the analysis.

The highest-scoring application for this measure will be adjusted to receive the full 200 points. Remaining projects will receive a proportional share of the full points. For example, if the application being scored had 80 points and the top project had 190 points, this applicant would receive $(80/190)*200$ points or 84 points.

3. Equity and Housing Performance (120 Points) – This criterion addresses the project’s positive and negative impacts to low-income populations, people of color, children, people with disabilities, and the elderly. The criterion also evaluates a community’s efforts to promote affordable housing.

A. **MEASURE:** Reference the “Socio-Economic Conditions” map generated at the beginning of the application process. Identify the project’s location as it applies in the listed responses below. Describe the project’s positive benefits, and negative impacts, and mitigation for low-income populations; people of color; children, people with disabilities, and the elderly. Geographic proximity alone is not sufficient to receive the full points listed below. In order to receive the maximum points, the response should address the benefits, impacts, and mitigation for the populations listed.

Upload the “Socio-Economic Conditions” map used for this measure.

RESPONSE (Select one, based on the “Socio-Economic Conditions” map):

- Project located in Area of Concentrated Poverty with 50% or more of residents are people of color (ACP50): (up to 100% of maximum score)
- Project located in Area of Concentrated Poverty: (up to 80% of maximum score)
- Project’s census tracts are above the regional average for population in poverty or population of color: (up to 60% of maximum score)
- Project located in census tract that is below the regional average for population in poverty or populations of color, or includes children, people with disabilities, or the elderly: (up to 40% of maximum score)

RESPONSE (Limit 2,800 characters; approximately 400 words):

SCORING GUIDANCE (50 Points)

Based on the “Socio-Economic Conditions” map’s output, the applicant will select the appropriate option from the bullets. However, geographic proximity alone is not sufficient to receive full points. The applicant must fully describe the positive benefits and negative impacts (with mitigation to address the issue) for those identified groups. Each project will first be graded on a 10-point scale, not accounting for geography. Each score from the 10-point scale will then be adjusted to the appropriate geography. The project with the most positive benefits and appropriate mitigation for negative impacts will receive the full points relative to its maximum geographic sub-area defined above. Remaining projects will receive a share of the full points at the scorer’s discretion. This response is intended to be qualitative. Metropolitan Council staff will score this measure.

Note: Due to the geographic adjustment to scores, it is possible that the above process will result in no project receiving the maximum allotment of 30 points. In this case, the highest-scoring application for this measure will be adjusted to receive the full 30 points. Remaining projects will receive a proportionate share of the full points. For example, if the application being scored had 10 points and the top project had 20 points, this applicant would receive $(10/20)*30$ points or 15 points.

MEASURE: Metropolitan Council staff will award points to the project based on the 2015 Housing Performance Score for the city or township in which the project is located. The score includes consideration of affordability and diversification, local initiatives to facilitate affordable workforce housing development or preservation, and density of residential development. If the project is in more than one jurisdiction, the points will be awarded based on a weighted average using the length of the project in each jurisdiction.

Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities

If a project is located in a city or township with no allocation of affordable housing need (either there is no forecasted household growth or the area does not have land to support sewered development), then the project will not be disadvantaged by this measure and the project's total score will be adjusted as a result.

RESPONSE (Affordable Housing Score completed by Metropolitan Council staff):

- City/Township: _____
- Length of Segment within City/Township:

SCORING GUIDANCE (70 Points)

The applicant with the highest 2015 Housing Performance Score will receive the full points. Remaining projects will receive a proportional share of the full points. For example, if the application being scored had a Housing Performance Score of 55 and the top project had a Housing Performance Score of 90, this applicant would receive $(55/90)*70$ points or 43 points.

Note: Metropolitan Council staff will score this measure.

Projects will use the city Housing Performance Score based on the project location. If a project is located in more than one jurisdiction, the points will be awarded based on a weighted average of the city or township scores for the project location based on the length of the project in each jurisdiction.

If a project is located in a city or township with no allocation of affordable housing need (either there is no forecasted household growth or the area does not have land to support sewered development), then the project will not be disadvantaged by this measure and the project's total score will be adjusted as a result.

If this is the case, then the total points possible in the application will be 930 instead of 1,000. The total points awarded through the rest of the application (900 as a hypothetical example) will be divided by 930, then multiplied by 1,000. Therefore, a project scoring 900 out of 930, will equate to 968 points on a 1,000-point scale.

If a portion of the project is located in a city with an affordable housing allocation and the other portion is located in a township with no affordable housing allocation, then a combination of the weighted average and no affordable housing methodologies should be used. This will result in a total score that will be somewhere between 930 and 1,000; then the score will need to be adjusted to fit a 1,000-point scale.

4. Deficiencies and Safety (250 Points) – This criterion addresses the project’s ability to overcome barriers or system gaps through completion of a [Critical Bicycle Transportation Link](#), as defined in the 2040 TPP. **Critical Bicycle Transportation Links** encompass several types of barriers that can disrupt the connectivity of the Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN) and isolate communities and key destinations. In addition to providing critical links, projects will be scored on their ability to correct deficiencies and improve the overall safety/security of an existing facility, or expand safe biking opportunities with a future multiuse trail or bicycle facility.

Note: Routine maintenance activities on a multiuse trail or bicycle facility are not eligible for funding. As defined by the FHWA, examples of routine maintenance activities include shrub and brush removal or minor drainage improvements. In order to be eligible for funding, reconstruction projects must be replacing a facility at the end of its useful life or include improvements to the facility (e.g., ADA, safety, other deficiencies). Resurfacing of a facility is eligible only if other improvements to the facility are also included in the proposed project.

- A. **MEASURE:** Discuss how the project will close a gap and/or improve continuity or connections between jurisdictions. The applicant should include a description of gap improvements for the project. (100 Points)

RESPONSE (Check all that apply):

- **Closes a transportation network gap and/or provides a facility that crosses or circumvents a physical barrier** (0-90 Points):

Gap improvements can be on or off the RBTN and may include the following:

- Providing a missing link between existing or improved segments of a regional (i.e., RBTN) or local transportation network;
- Improving bikeability to better serve all ability and experience levels by:
 - Providing a safer, more protected on-street facility;
 - Improving crossings at busy intersections (signals, signage, pavement markings); OR
 - Improving a bike route or providing a trail parallel to a highway or arterial roadway along a lower-volume neighborhood collector or local street.

Barrier crossing improvements (on or off the RBTN) can include crossings (over or under) of rivers or streams, railroad corridors, freeways, or multi-lane highways, or enhanced routes to circumvent the barrier by channeling bicyclists to existing safe crossings or grade separations. (For new barrier crossing projects, data about the nearest parallel crossing (as described above) must be included in the application to be considered for the full allotment of points under this criterion).

- **Improves continuity and/or connections between jurisdictions** (on or off the RBTN) (e.g., extending a specific bikeway facility treatment across jurisdictions to improve consistency and inherent bikeability): (10 Points)

RESPONSE (Limit 2,800 characters; approximately 400 words):

SCORING GUIDANCE (100 Points)

The applicant will receive up to 90 points if the response shows that the project closes a gap and/or crosses or circumvents a physical barrier and up to 10 points if it improves continuity and/or connections between jurisdictions. The project that the most meets the intent of each the criteria will receive the maximum points (e.g., 90 points for the project that best overcomes a gap or barrier). Remaining projects will receive a portion of the maximum points based on the response. Projects that do not check the box or whose description does not fulfill the intent of the criteria, will receive 0 points.

The highest-scoring application for this measure will be adjusted to receive the full 100 points. Remaining projects will receive a proportional share of the full points. For example, if the application being scored had 80 points and the top project had 90 points, this applicant would receive $(80/90)*100$ points or 89 points.

- B. **MEASURE:** Discuss how the project will correct existing deficiencies or address an identified safety or security problem on the facility. The applicant should also include any available project site-related safety data (e.g. crash data, number of conflict points to be eliminated by the project by type of conflict (bicyclist/pedestrian, bicyclist/vehicle, pedestrian/vehicle, and vehicle/vehicle)) to demonstrate the magnitude of the existing safety problem. Where available, use of local crash data for the project length is highly encouraged. Crashes involving bicyclists and pedestrians should be reported for 2011-2015. As part of the response, demonstrate that the project improvements will reduce the crash potential and provide a safer environment (by referencing crash reduction factors or safety studies) and/or correct a deficiency. (150 Points)

RESPONSE (Limit 2,800 characters; approximately 400 words):

SCORING GUIDANCE (150 Points)

The applicant will receive the points shown below, based on the magnitude of the deficiencies or safety issues and the quality of the improvements, as addressed in the response. The scorer will first place each project into one of the two categories below based on if-whether crash data is cited as part of the response. The project with the most extensive improvements will receive the full points for each category. Remaining projects will receive a share of the full points as listed below.

- For applicants that provide actual bicycle and pedestrian crash data to demonstrate the magnitude of the existing safety problem only. Project also demonstrates that the project will reduce the crash potential and provide a safer environment and/or correct a deficiency. The project that will reduce the most crashes will receive 150 points. The other projects in this category will receive a proportional share between ~~101-76~~ and 150 points (i.e., a project that reduces one-half of the crashes of the top project would receive 125 points): ~~101-76~~ to 150 Points
- For applicants that do not provide actual bicycle and pedestrian crash data. However, the applicant demonstrates the project's ability to reduce the risk for bicycle and pedestrian crashes with the reduction of modal conflict points (bike/pedestrian, bike/vehicle, pedestrian/vehicle, and vehicle/vehicle), safety improvements that address these modal conflicts, or the project's ability to correct deficiencies. The top project will receive 100 points while other projects will receive a portion of the 100 points based on the quality of the project and response: 0 to 100 Points

5. Multimodal Elements and Connections (100 Points) - This criterion measures how the project improves the travel experience, safety, and security for other modes of transportation, provides strong connections, and addresses the safe integration of these modes.

- A. **MEASURE:** Discuss any transit or pedestrian elements that are included as part of the project and how they improve the travel experience, safety, and security for users of these modes. Applicants should make sure that new multimodal elements described in the response are accounted for as part of the cost estimate form earlier in the application. Also, describe the existing transit and pedestrian connections. Furthermore, address how the proposed bikeway project safely integrates all modes of transportation (i.e., bicyclists, transit, pedestrians, and vehicles). Applicants should note if there is no transit service in the project area and identify supporting studies or plans that address why a mode may not be incorporated in the project.

RESPONSE (200 words or less):

SCORING GUIDANCE (100 Points)

The project with the most comprehensive enhancements to the travel experience and safe integration of other modes, as addressed in the required response, will receive the full points. Remaining projects will receive a share of the full points at the scorer's discretion. The project score will be based on the quality of the improvements, as opposed to being based solely on the number of modes addressed. Projects that include the transit or pedestrian elements as part of the project should receive slightly more points than existing or planned multimodal facilities on parallel routes, consistent with the supporting plans and studies.

Scorers should make sure that new multimodal elements described in the response are accounted for on the cost estimate form earlier in the application.

6. Risk Assessment (130 Points) - This criterion measures the number of risks associated with the project and the steps already completed in the project development process. These steps are outlined in the checklist in the required Risk Assessment.

MEASURE: Applications involving construction must complete the Risk Assessment. This checklist includes activities completed to-date, as well as an assessment of risks (e.g., right-of-way acquisition, proximity to historic properties, etc.).

RESPONSE (Complete Risk Assessment):

SCORING GUIDANCE (130 Points)

The applicant with the most points on the Risk Assessment (more points equate to less project risk) will receive the full points for the measure. Remaining projects will receive a proportional share of the full points. For example, if the application being scored had 40 points and the top project had 70 points, this applicant would receive $(40/70) * 130$ points or 74 points.

7. Cost Effectiveness (100 Points) – This criterion will assess the project’s cost effectiveness based on the total TAB-eligible project cost and total points awarded in the previous 6 criteria.

A. MEASURE: This measure will calculate the cost effectiveness of the project. Metropolitan Council staff will divide the number of points awarded in the previous criteria by the TAB-eligible project cost (not including noise walls) ~~by the total number of points awarded in the previous criteria.~~

- Cost Effectiveness = ~~total TAB-eligible project cost~~/total number of points awarded in previous criteria/total TAB-eligible project cost

RESPONSE (This measure will be calculated after the scores for the other measures are tabulated by the Scoring Committee):

- Total Project Cost (entered in Project Cost Form): _____

SCORING GUIDANCE (100 Points)

The applicant with the most points (i.e., the benefits) per dollar ~~lowest dollar value per point earned in the application (i.e., the benefits)~~ will receive the full points for the measure. Remaining projects will receive a ~~proportional~~ proportionate share of the full points. For example, if the top project received .0005 points per dollar and had 35,000 ~~and~~ the application being scored received .00025 points per dollar, had 70,000, this applicant would receive $(.00025 \times 35,000 / .0005 \times 70,000) * 100$ points or 50 points.

The scorer for this measure will also complete a reasonableness check of the total project cost that is used for this measure. The scorer may follow up with the applicant to clarify any questions. Up to 50 percent of points awarded for this measure can be deducted if the scorer does not believe that the cost estimate is reasonable.

TOTAL: 1,100 POINTS