Regional Solicitation
Before & After Study
Phase II

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Project Team

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Today’s Talking Points

• Project Overview
• Preliminary Findings
• Discussion
Task 1: Population and Analysis of the Regional Solicitation Project Database

• Database is in development
  – Used to measure the before & after conditions of funded/built projects

• Congestion Measure:
  – Using StreetLight © data for the after condition

- 158 roadway and bridge applications submitted
- 60 projects funded (38% of applications)
- 16 resubmittals (6 received funding)

What we are hearing: Without Regional Solicitation, projects are being scaled back - fewer amenities/enhancements – or delayed until competitive funding is secured.
Project Overview & Update

Task 3: Examination of Usage Measures

- Peer Review
- Focus Group
- Big Data
Project Overview & Update

Task 3: Examination of Usage Measures

Peer Review: Key Themes from the 9 MPOs

• Rely on their long-range transportation plan for project selection

• Scoring Criteria
  – Ability to improve the user’s comfort level (design)
    • Example: Level of Traffic Stress Analysis (LTS)
  – Proximity to populations (Environmental Justice Areas)
  – Alignment with regional goals
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Task 3: Examination of Usage Measures

Focus Group: Key Themes

• Need to be more direct on what Regional Solicitation is trying to fund (RBTN?)

• Start requiring agencies to provide ped/bike counts after the project is built to help monitor after conditions

• Consider using quantitative measures (level of traffic stress analysis) that address the project’s ability to improve the user’s level of comfort
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Task 3: Big Data

- StreetLight© data is too new to measure before & after conditions
- Monitor “big data” sets for future use in applications to measure existing conditions
- Promote MnDOT’s Portable Counter Borrowing Program for data collection
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Task 4: Develop a List of Crash Modification Factors (CMF) for Roadway and HSIP Applications

- Objective: Apples to Apples comparison
- Coordinating the task directly with MnDOT
- Identified more than 20 CMFs that were used in past applications
- Developing CMF guidance for future applications
Task 5: Identify Ways to Simplify and Streamline the Application Process

Findings from the Focus Group (7 different consultant firms)

- The application process is easy to understand for those who participate in the process (e.g., grant writers, TAC and TAB members)
- The different types of measures being used to score a project make it unclear on what Regional Solicitation is trying to accomplish
- Data sources should be provided for the new housing measures
- The congestion measure is time consuming
Task 6: Risk Assessment Criteria and Evaluation

Findings:
- The risk assessment criteria helps ensure if a project will advance on-time.
  - Helps reduce the number of program year extensions or withdrawals
- Sensitivity tests have shown the risk assessment points have not played a larger role in a project’s overall score
- Consider making it part of the Qualifying Requirements
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Task 7: Coordination and Collaboration

- Now utilizing focus groups vs. a project management team
- Finish Date: early 2021
Discussion