

Regional Solicitation Before & After Study Phase II

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**BOLTON
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**METROPOLITAN
COUNCIL**

Project Team

Project Managers



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Today's Talking Points

- Project Overview
- Preliminary Findings
- Discussion

Project Overview & Update



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

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Task 2: Examination of Projects Not Funded by Regional Solicitation (2014, 2016, 2018)

- **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.

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Task 3: Examination of Usage Measures

- Peer Review
- Focus Group
- Big Data

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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

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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 criteria and measures being used to score a project make it unclear on what the funds are trying to accomplish
- Data sources should be provided for the new housing measures

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Task 6: Risk Assessment Criteria and Evaluation

Findings:

- The risk assessment criteria helps ensure projects are “shovel-ready”
 - 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: late 2020/early 2021

Discussion

