Regional Solicitation Policy Work Group Meeting Notes – May 21, 2021

Attendees:

James Hovland; Kevin Reich; Peter Dugan; Christopher Geisler; Deb Barber; Mathews Hollinshead; Frank Boyles; Mary Giuliani Stephens; Jon Ulrich; Trista MatasCastillo; Stan Karwoski

Staff Attendees:

Cole Hiniker; Jenna Ernst; Jon Solberg; Nick Thompson; Amy Vennewitz; Steve Peterson; Emily Jorgenson; Michael Thompson; Joe Barbeau; Elaine Koutsoukos

Notes:

1. Welcome, Meeting Overview, and Meeting #2 Recap

Cole Hiniker went over the results from the previous meeting, including themes from the guest speakers and the Mentimeter exercise results. There were general comments that the results matched the discussion from the previous meeting.

There was some discussion about the difference between scalability and regional significance and that both are important factors to evaluate.

2. Unique Project Evaluation Framework Confirmation

Cole Hiniker presented a concept for unique project evaluation with proposed criteria.

It was suggested there should be a cost-effectiveness element to the evaluation framework. It was noted by staff that the existing methodology in the rest of the regional solicitation would be difficult to translate to Unique Projects because of the expected qualitative nature of the scoring.

There were questions about how significance and scalability can be defined. It was suggested that scalability relates to the ability to expand whereas significance relates to the how broad the impact will be.

Members generally thought that the multimodal communities criteria captures the intent well.

A member commented on the TAB presentation from Tawanna Black and that connectivity and access need to be included in some of the criteria.

A question was asked about where "senior" would come in, since the demographics of the region are changing and aging. Another comment mentioned the disabled community and how mobility is an equity issue.

A comment was made about noise and light being an environmental consideration as well.

A comment discussed how innovation is important and that cost-effectiveness may not be as important here if innovation is a true goal.

3. Application Process Concept and Discussion

Cole Hiniker presented a proposal for a two-step application process and proposed several questions for the group to consider.

Members were supportive of an ongoing role for the group into the evaluation phase, particularly for this first time evaluating Unique Projects. It was generally agreed that this group would be better prepared than the full TAB.

There were questions about the timing of the application process and the public comment process, whether this would be discouraging to applicants with some uncertainty during the initial phase. Some slight schedule tweaks were discussed for the initial application deadlines.

A member asked about those who go through the Unique Projects process only to find that the project is not actually unique, and they need a different category. Hiniker said the evaluation of eligibility for federal dollars is the first consideration and the first step would allow for time for the application to consider other application categories.

4. Evaluation Metrics and Technical Committee Role Discussion

Cole Hiniker presented some background for a discussion on metrics and went through an exercise for the six evaluation criteria. There were questions about whether congestion is truly a measure of environmental impact. A member noted that it means cars spending less time sitting in traffic creating pollution. A point was made that congestion generally has not been reduced in the long-run when investments in congestion are made, so it is not directly tied to environmental impacts, particularly the long-term land use impacts.

Below are the results of the exercises:

How would you measure or evaluate "Improve Racial Equity"?

average mean income
listening to bipoc   access to good jobs
rcap outreach   cost effective for user
increase engagement
economics   diverse team
compensatory scoring   access to jobs

access
connectivity

survey
access to service   diversity in the work pla   poverty
jobs housing and transpor   not sure
prioritizing investments
common positive impact
higher quality service
areas of poverty   rcap projects

How would you measure or evaluate "Support Multimodal Communities"?

system gaps

collaboration
transit alternatives
complementary service
pedestrian safety   extent of connectivity
number of modes available
number of multimode trips   emerging modes

connectivity

data   holistic view
integrating modes   investments

access

access to jobs   integration
efficiency   connection to deatination
ease of switching modes
switching modes   transit hierarchy
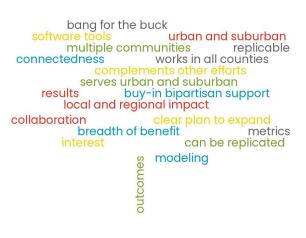access to system

facts

How would you measure or evaluate "Innovation"?

new modes
technology
collaborative
collaboration
new to region
changes in behavior
capabilities
connects to community
not currently happening
outside of box new idea
new technology
advancement
creativity
system effeciency
not tried before
new energy source
outside kickstart funding
future forward thinking
system improvement
new and emerging tech
outcomes
technology jump
emerging technology
ideas made bigger

10

How would you measure or evaluate "Regional Significance/ Scalability"?

bang for the buck
software tools
urban and suburban
multiple communities
replicable
connectedness
works in all counties
complements other efforts
serves urban and suburban
results
buy-in bipartisan support
local and regional impact
collaboration
clear plan to expand
breadth of benefit
metrics
interest
can be replicated
modeling
outcomes

9

How would you measure or evaluate "Partnerships/ Collaboration"?

commitment to match
number of partners   extent of partnership
private sector involve
across boundaries
public private support
private sector resources
result   funding allocation betwee
tools measuring
public and private
integrates modes   multi city county support
cross jurisdictions
number of diverse groups
measure group learnings
bipartisan support   shared responsibility
diversity of partners
cost
willingness