



Polycymaker Working Group

metro council.org



July 2024



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Polycymaker Working Group decision making approach



Evaluation purpose, goals, timeline

Stakeholder Groups, Public Engagement, Equity Engagement

Decision Point 1: Preferred Solicitation Structure Fall 2023 – Fall 2024

- 10-Year summary
- MPO peer review
- Develop solicitation structure that incorporates Imagine 2050 & 2050 TPP goals, objectives, and policies
- Listening sessions
- Active Transportation working group meetings

Deliverable: Identify preferred solicitation structure

Decision Point 2: Application Categories and Criteria Fall 2024 – Spring 2025

- Identify application categories
- Develop prioritizing criteria
- Identify best way to incorporate new federal funding sources
- Special issue working group meetings

Decision Point 3: Simplified Application Spring 2025 – Fall 2025

- Simplify application process
- Incorporate TPP performance measures
- Implement changes to application process
- Special issue working group meetings

Decision Point 4: Final Application Materials Fall 2025 – Winter 2026

- Final application package
- Final report
- Online testing of application
- Recommend any changes to the 2050 TPP

Steps to decision point #1

Goal: Select preferred structure for Regional Solicitation

April	July	September	October-Dec
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current structure • Role of working group • Introduce structure elements • Initial listening session feedback • Peer review desktop findings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm what we are trying to change/keep • Discuss dual-process model • Insights from peer reviews and listening sessions woven throughout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm current or dual-process model • Discuss structural elements • Insights from peer reviews and listening sessions woven throughout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm preferred structural elements • Develop recommended solicitation structure
<p>Which peer review interviews to complete?</p>	<p>Which model is better at addressing identified issues?</p>	<p>Which structural elements do you like/dislike?</p>	<p>Recommend a structure for TAB to consider.</p>



Evaluation goals



What are we trying to achieve?

Overarching goal of the Regional Solicitation Evaluation

To tie federally funded project selection closely to the goals, objectives, and policies of the 2050 Regional Development Guide and the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan.



Guiding principles



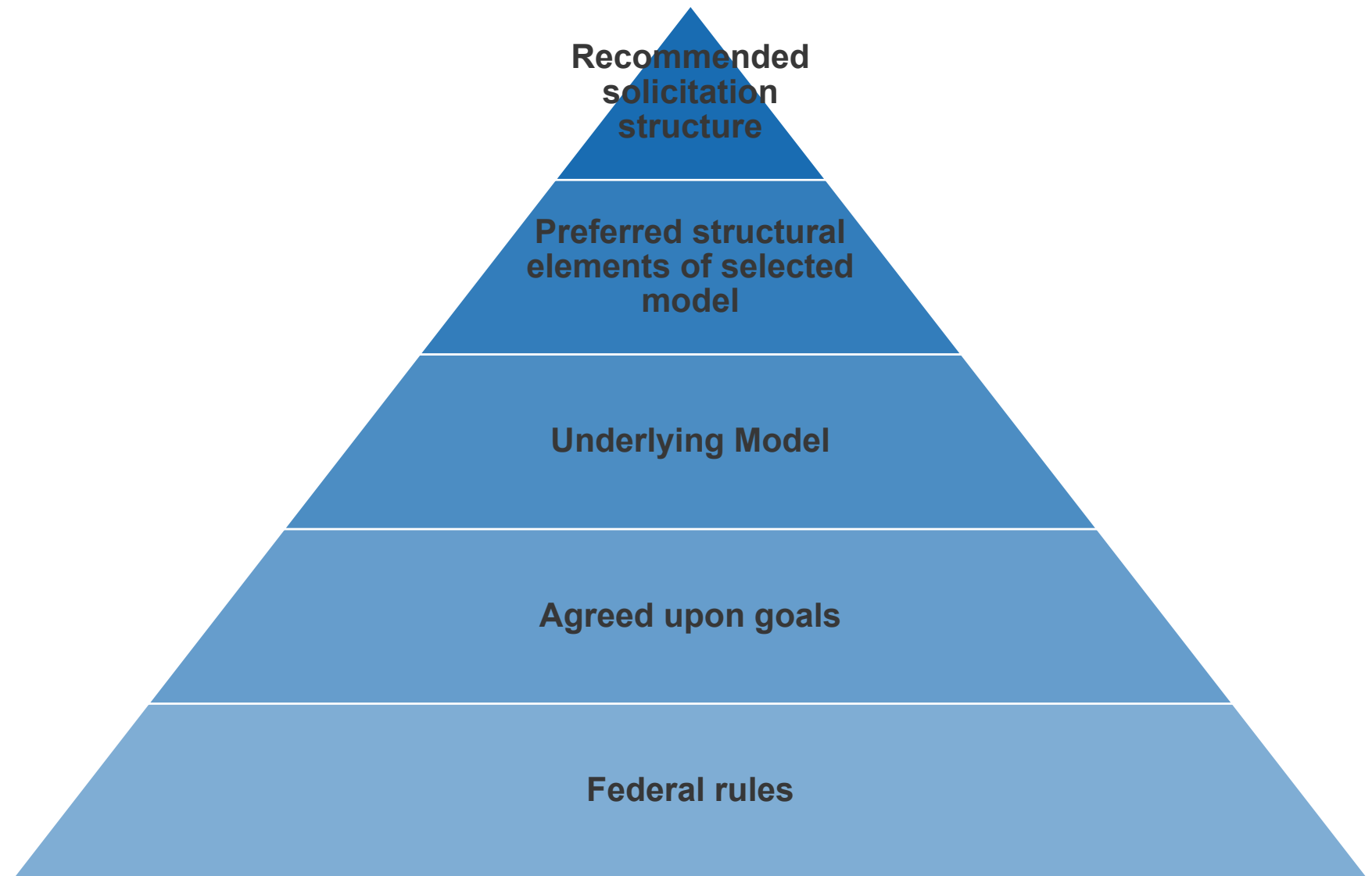
Federal rules

The solicitation must include:

- Projects must be selected by the MPO Board.
 - Must be a competitive process (TA and CMAQ).
 - STBG funds cannot be suballocated to individual jurisdictions by pre-determined percentages.
- Must align with the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan.
- Selected project must be shown in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Selection must involve other stakeholders and the public, including traditionally underserved and underrepresented populations.

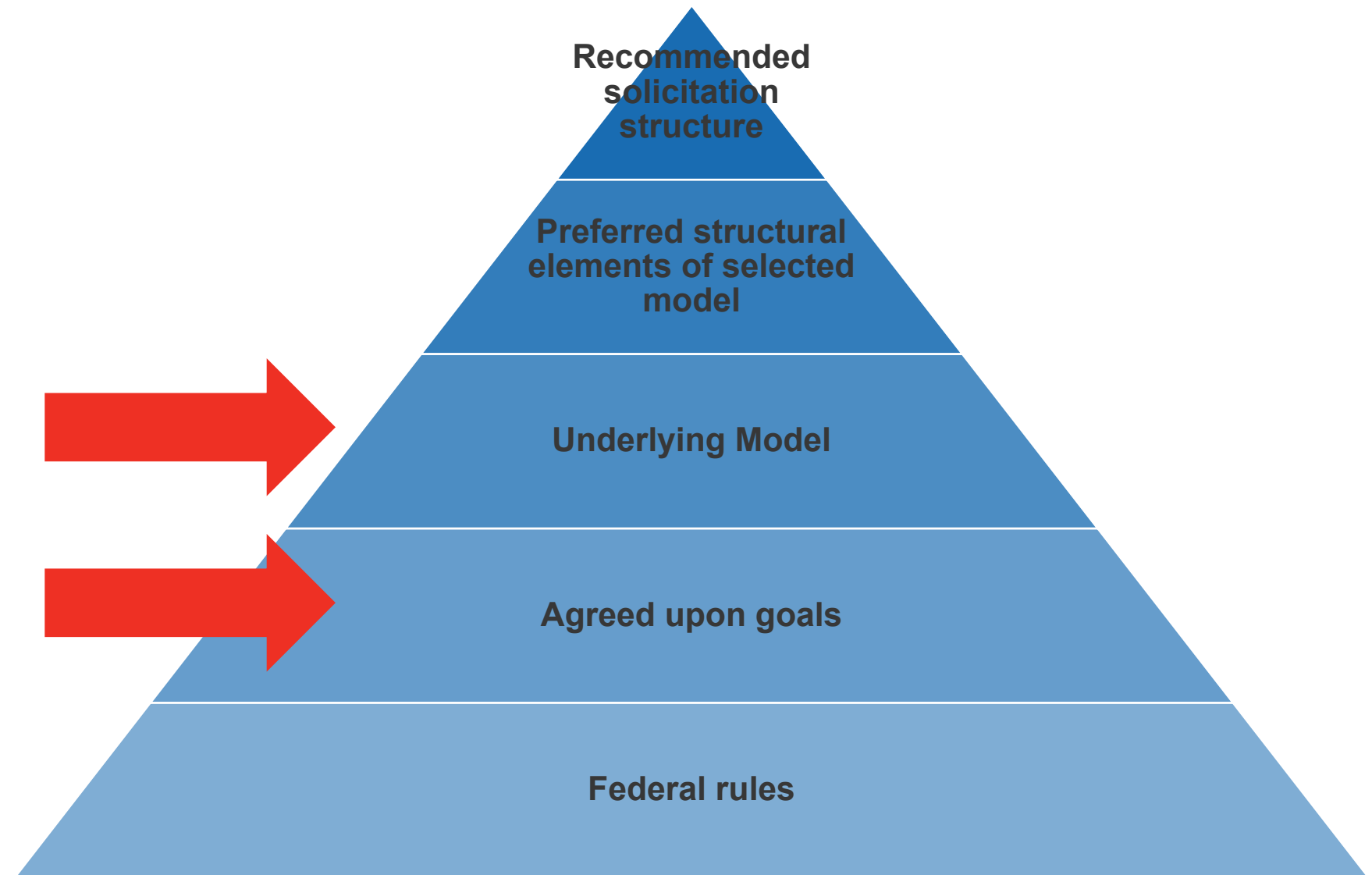
Process for building our guiding principles

The decisions we make at each meeting will narrow down options until we have a final solicitation structure.

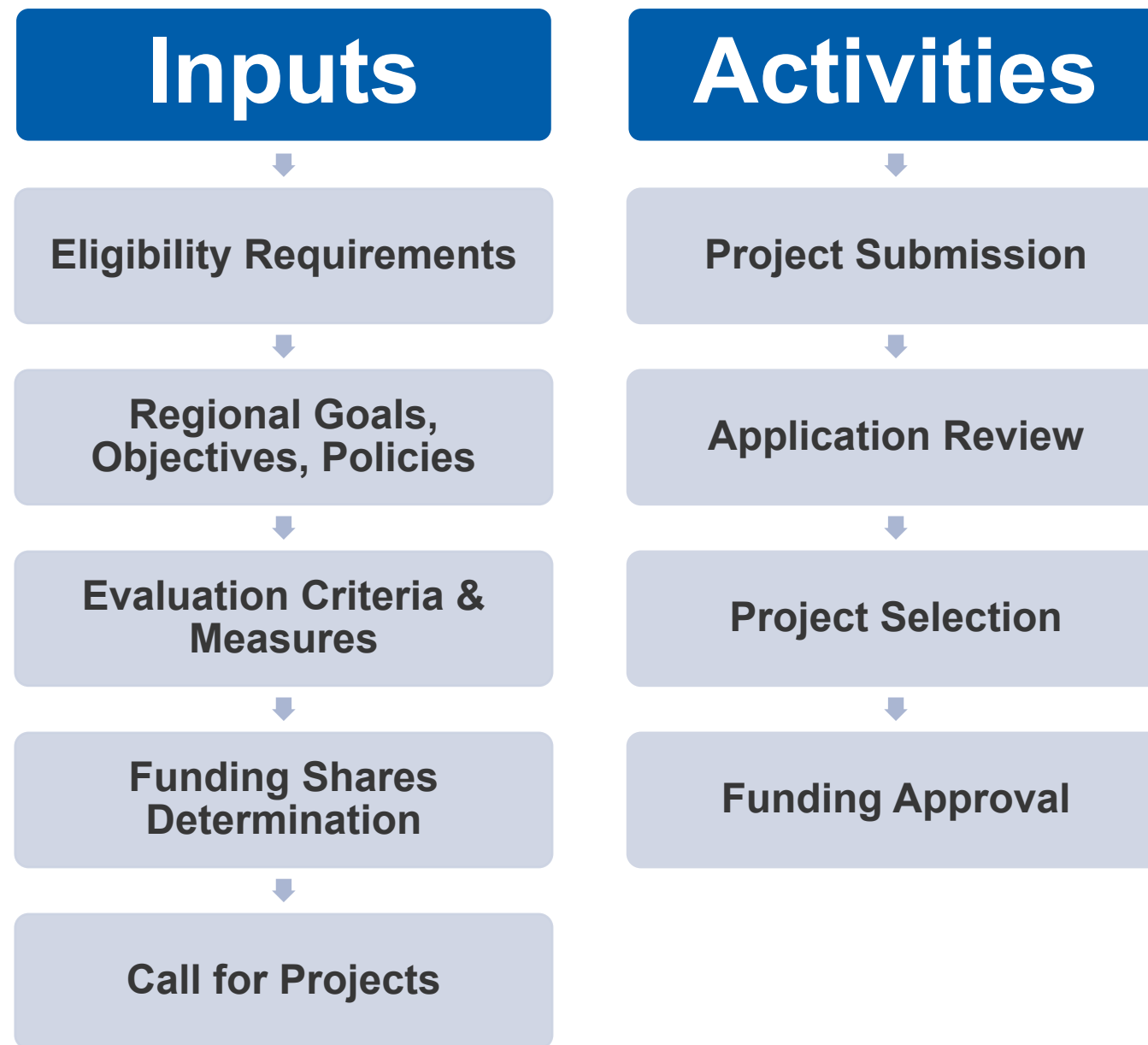


Process for building our guiding principles

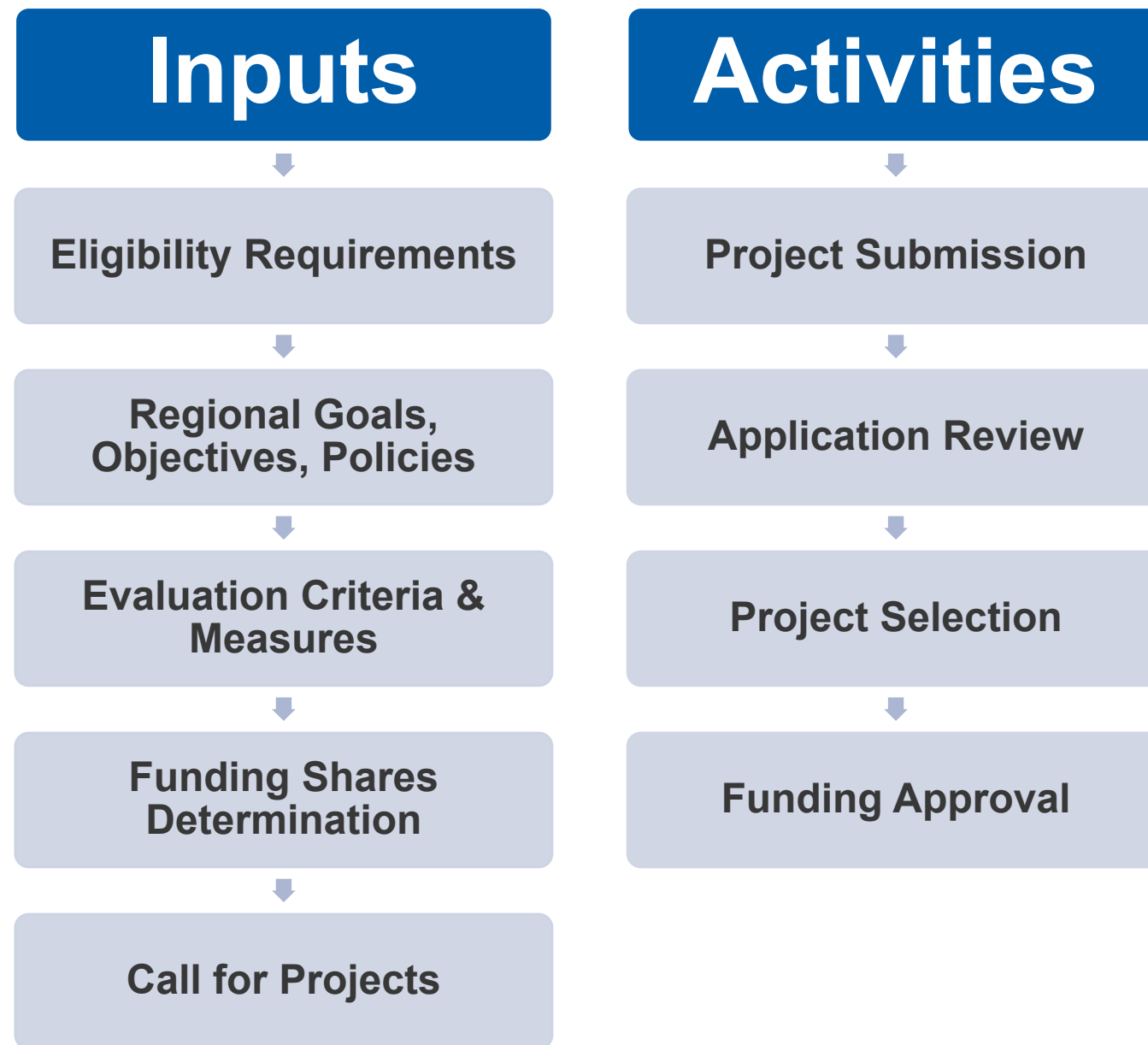
Today's Focus



Regional solicitation elements



Regional solicitation elements



- **Federal rules** create boundaries and limitations for changes
- **Top goals** inform what changes to make
- **Underlying model** informs who is responsible for major elements of the process
- **Structural elements** include specific inputs and activities



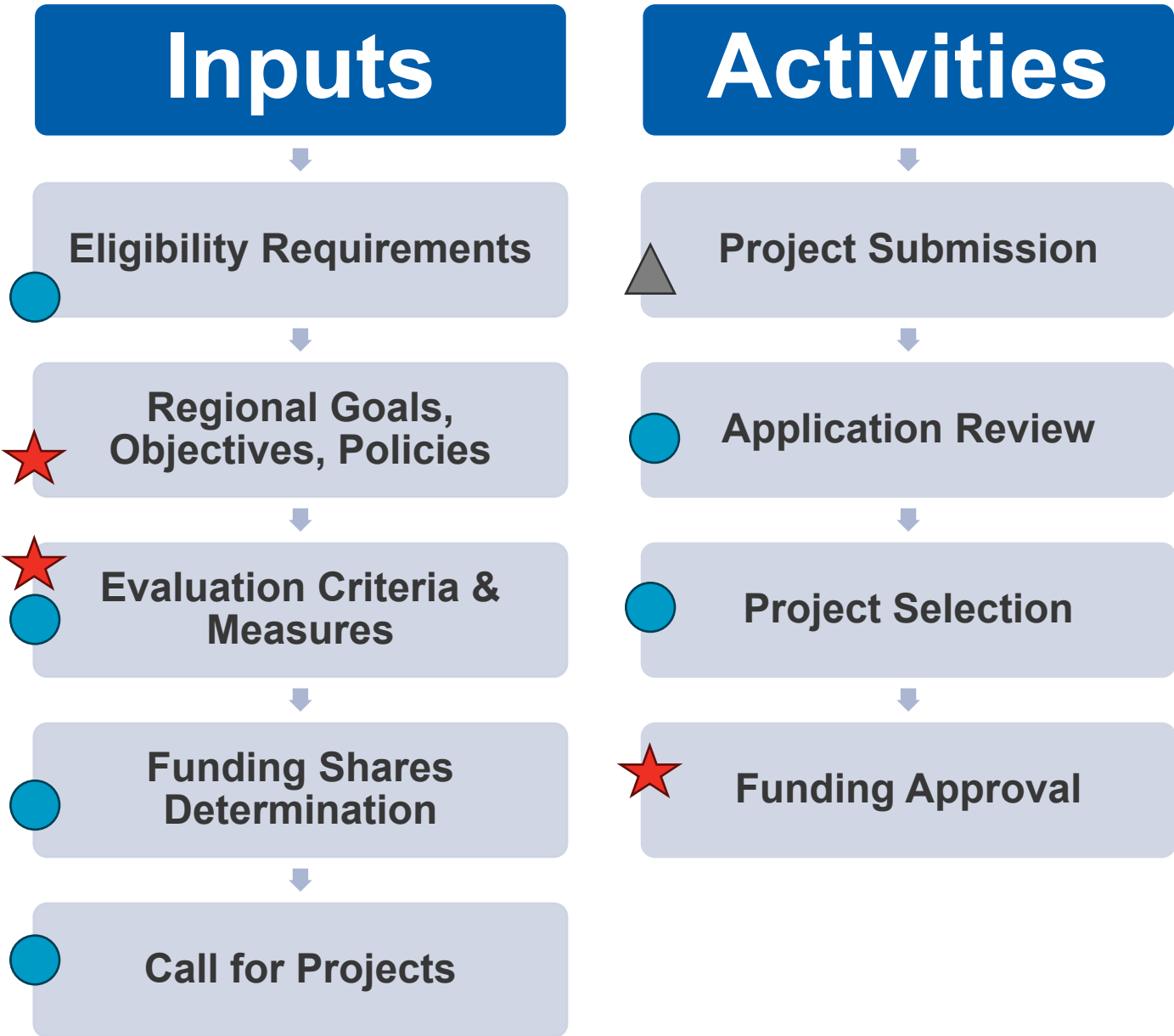
**Existing
centralized
regional model
vs dual
regional/
subregional
model vs**



Findings from peer interviews

- Issues and best practices here are common elsewhere, too.
- Peer review uncovered methods and approaches that could help address key issues through tweaks to the existing structural elements – subject of the next working group meeting.
- Today’s focus is on the two most common “underlying models”:
 - Centralized regional process (existing TAB Regional Solicitation process)
 - Dual regional/subregional process

Existing centralized regional process



Primary Responsible Entity

- ★ MPO Board/Governing Body
- MPO Committees (e.g. TAB)
- ▲ Project Sponsors

MPO Staff are involved at all stages in defining policy, ensuring compliance with federal rules, and providing guidance.

Stakeholders (including project sponsors, regional agencies, advocacy groups, and others) provide input and feedback on all elements

Dual regional/subregional process



Findings from peer interviews

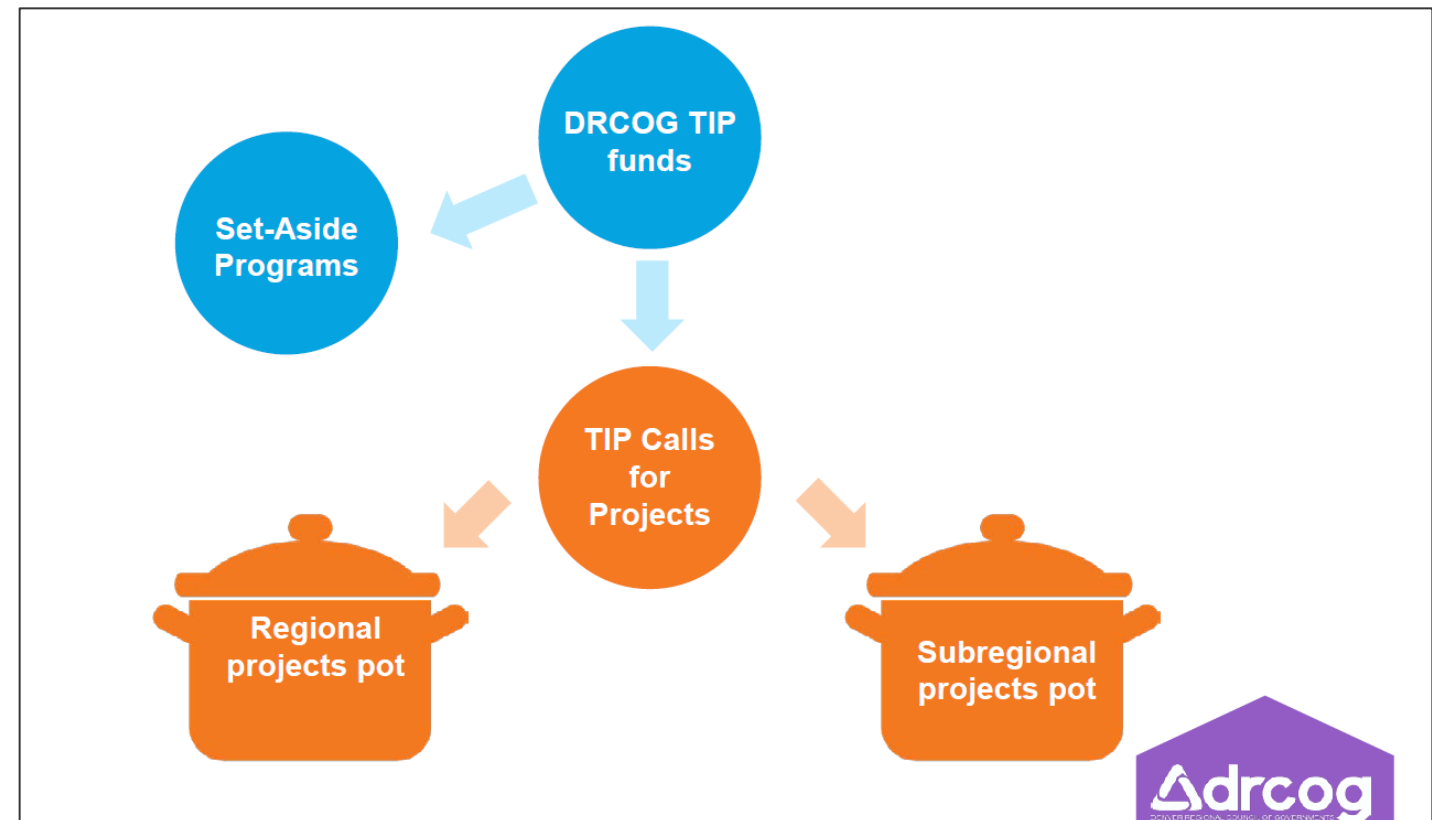
Peers using the dual regional/subregional process:

- Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG)
- Seattle Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC)
- San Francisco Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)

Peers using centralized regional process:

- Kansas City Mid-America Regional Council (MARC)
- Columbus Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)
- Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC)

Denver Dual Model



Potential *advantages* of the dual regional/subregional process

- Requires participation from all local governments
- Creates a more transparent distribution of funds across the region
- Allows for a portion of the process to reflect specific subregional issues/priorities
- Potential to improve local government relationships
- Creates opportunity for capacity building through knowledge-sharing in subregional environment

Potential *disadvantages* of the dual regional/subregional process

- Administrative and time burden for MPO and sponsors by adding more layers of committees
- Additional call for projects results in limiting funding available to any one project
- Implementation challenges
- Greater risk of disproportionate influence for certain agencies
- Potential for less focus on “regional” thinking
- Difficult to undo once implemented

Listening session feedback on the Regional Solicitation

Things we heard that some stakeholders think should stay the same:

- Like the open and transparent process.
- Appreciate space for deliberation as part of the decision-making process.
- Past projects selected provided benefit to the region.
- Like having a data-driven process.
- General support for some level of modal balance.

Things we heard that some stakeholders think should change:

- Make the application easier to complete.
- Projects in more suburban and rural areas do not compete well in bike/ped categories.
- Projects should better align with regional policy goals.
- Current structure does not consider nuance of local government context.
- Make it easier/create more opportunities for local governments to participate

PWG feedback

What do you think are the top issues to address with the solicitation?

Note: A mentimeter exercise will be conducted at the meeting. Nothing needs to be done ahead of time.

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Polycymaker Working Group discussion

Instructions

- Break into small groups.
- Discuss each model and impact on top issues:
 - What would it look like to address the top issues with tweaks to our current model?
 - What would it look like to address the top issues with the dual-process model?
 - What are the pros and cons of tweaking our current model?
 - What are the pros and cons of switching to a dual-process model?

Polycymaker Working Group discussion

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Instructions

- Individually indicate which you feel best addresses each issue:
 - Tweaks to the current approach.
 - Switching to the dual model approach.
 - Addresses equally.

Note: A mentimeter exercise will be conducted at the meeting. Nothing needs to be done ahead of time.



Preview: structural elements



Solicitation elements

Questions for discussion next month:

- **Project identification/prioritization:** To what extent should the Regional Solicitation fund regionally identified and prioritized projects or projects that are locally identified and prioritized?
- **Project recommendations:** To what extent should the Regional Solicitation project selection recommendations be led by local governments or the TAB?
- **Solicitation categories:** To what extent should the Regional Solicitation distribute funding categorically? If included, what type of categories (e.g., funding sources, modes, goals, topics, community types, project types)?
- **Set-asides:** To what extent should the Regional Solicitation include set-asides? If included, set-asides for what (e.g., modes, goals, topics, geography, project types, studies)?

Note: These elements can be pieced together in different ways to create an application structure. These elements can be applied in either the centralized regional process (existing process) or dual regional/subregional process.



Closing thoughts?



Next steps



Next steps:

1. Policymaker Working Group meeting – ~~August 15, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.~~
 - September meeting – 18, 10:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. in person?
2. Technical Steering Committee meeting – August and October
3. Policymaker Workshop – for TAB and Council Members - October
4. TAB meeting – December/January – Goal to provide a structure recommendation for this meeting

Things to think about for next meeting:

- Where do you want the Regional Solicitation to fall along the solicitation structure spectrums?
- What other information do you need to make a recommendation on a preferred solicitation structure?

Thank You

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