

# **Technical Steering Committee**

Regional Solicitation Evaluation metrocouncil.org



## Purpose of Today's Meeting

- Review and discuss changes to applications, criteria and scoring percentages
- Review timeline for next round of application review
- Provide final feedback before application details are approved by TAC and TAB in November and December



METROPOLITAN C O U N C I L



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### Recent Updates

#### • TAC 10/1:

- Discussion about why there was no maximum for ABRT category.
- Questions about why some category maximums were not increased (e.g., bridges).
- Question about whether projects can apply to more than one category.

#### • TAC Planning 10/9:

Minimal discussion and questions.

#### Policymaker Working Group 10/15:

- Recommended no maximum for ABRT.
- Recommended no local match for the Active Transportation-funded projects.
- Requested more time to discuss the Community Considerations' approach.

## Recent Updates (2)

- TAB 10/15:
  - Limited discussion.
- TAC Funding & Programming 10/16:
  - Recommendations made on the 6 action items. Some clarifications requested on the nuances of the funding/application categories like documenting the Regional Model/TBI funding.
- Active Transportation Working Group
  - Recommend to maintain current geographic balance process
  - Seeking technical feedback on the timing of Active Transportation solicitations

# **Active Transportation Solicitation Schedule - Discussion**

#### **Active Transportation Solicitation Beyond 2026**

Should the Active Transportation Solicitation occur:

- Annually, or
- Biennially
  - In-line with the federal Regional Solicitation
  - On an off-year cycle

Should the Active Transportation Solicitation be released on a cycle

- Concurrent with release of the Regional Solicitation (same time), or
- Staggered from the federal regional solicitation (its own time of the year)
- What needs to be considered for regional technical partners on this question?
  - On the applicant side?On the scoring side?

TAC and TAB

### **Future Action Items**

#### **Proposed Actions**

- 1. Approve application categories
- 2. Approve minimum/maximum awards
- 3. Approve category funding targets
- 4. Approve qualifying requirements
- 5. Approve application criteria, measures, and scoring guidance
- 6. Approve score weighting
- 7. Approve overall solicitation package and release for public comments

guidance November F&P/December

October F&P/November TAC and TAB

# Application Changes and Updates



### **Application Review Process**

#### Criteria, Measures and Scoring Development

- April-May: Workshops to develop initial proposed application details
- July-Aug: Initial draft applications developed
- Aug-Sep: Technical review (Technical Steering Committee and Special Issue Working Groups) of applications and qualifying requirements
- Sep-Oct: Revisions based on technical review
- October: Application package released for TAC and TAB review
  - Comments due November 10
- November 20: Action items at TAC Funding and Program
- December 3: Action items at TAC
- December 17: Action items at TAB and release for public comment

### Technical Review Feedback (1)

#### Generalized Feedback and Key Changes

- Safety: Requested to include type B and C crashes. Determined to include type B crashes for bike/ped only.
- Safety and Bike/Ped: Updated scoring criteria/measures following technical feedback.
- **Bike/Ped and Transit**: Comments received to increase the distance buffer to higher than ½ mile for the Connections to Destination measure. No change was made as this distance directly connects to the TPP language and GHG analysis requirements.
- Active Transportation Planning: Simplified application following feedback initial proposal was too complicated.

## Technical Review Feedback (2)

#### Generalized Feedback and Key Changes

- Roadway and Bike/Ped: Simplified Safety for People Outside of Vehicles criteria to respond to feedback.
- **Transit Expansion:** Adjusted criteria and scoring to better address facility-only projects. Facility projects are only eligible in Transit Expansion category if an expansion of transit service will also take place. If not, then the applicant should apply in Transit Customer Experience category.
- All applications: Received technical comments to reduce the *Community Considerations* percentage (currently 20% for all applications) or to have it vary by funding category. No change was made yet to the applications based on this feedback as more discussion is needed. The Policy Working Group also requested additional time to discuss the three *Community Considerations* measures, overall weighting, and funding priority approach.

## Technical Review Feedback (3)

#### **Qualifying Requirements and Rules**

- Generally reviewed and simplified language.
- Updated Active Transportation Sales Tax-funded projects to allow costs for planning, design and engineering (not right-of-way).
- Clarified that projects may not apply for both Regional (federally funded) and Local (sales tax funded) categories.

# Metropolitan Council

## Proposed Modal+ Hybrid Structure

#### **Safety**

Proactive Safety (All Modes):

Small Projects (HSIP)

Large Project (Reg Sol Federal Funding)

Reactive Safety (All Modes):

Small Projects (HSIP)

Large Projects (Reg Sol Federal Funding)

#### **Dynamic and Resilient**

Bicycle/Pedestrian

Federal Reg Sol Funding

Regional Bike Facilities

Reg Active Transportation Funding

**Local Bike Facilities** 

Local Pedestrian Facilities

Active Transportation Planning

**Transit** 

Transit Expansion (Including Microtransit)

Transit Customer Experience

Arterial Bus Rapid Transit

Roadway

Roadway Modernization

Congestion
Management
Strategies

New Interchanges

**Bridge Connections** 

**Environment** 

EV Charging Infrastructure

Travel Demand Management (TDM)

**Regional Data** 

Regional Modeling/Travel Behavior Inventory

The goal area, Our Region is Equitable and Inclusive, is being proposed as a scoring measure called Community Considerations.

## **Draft Applications**



#### **Discussion**

- Any specific applications or items for discussion?
- Any feedback on AT solicitation funding?
  - Annually or Biannually (on- or off-cycle)

# New GHG Offset Qualifying Requirement

The Metropolitan Council and the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) reserve the right to utilize the greenhouse gas and vehicle miles traveled offsets of any awarded projects to fulfill state requirements for the Greenhouse Gas Impact Assessment (473,145) enacted in 2023. Offsets can only be used one time. By accepting these funds, sponsors are giving up their rights to use the offsets for themselves. If the offsets are not needed by the Metropolitan Council and TAB, then ownership of them, in whole or in part, will revert to the original project sponsor. Based on inputs provided in the application, Met Council staff will calculate the magnitude of the offsets.

#### Two main options:

- 1. TAB "owns" full offset of all funded projects
- 2. TAB gets a proportionate share of the offsets based on the percentage of the project funded by the region.

Which of these approaches would this group recommend?



### Community Considerations Criteria



# **Proposed Community Considerations Measures**



#### 1. Community Data and Context

• Strong applications show a clear picture of who the community is and how their needs shape the project.

#### 2. Community Engagement

• Engagement must demonstrate that community voices guided the project's direction.

#### 3. Community Benefits

Projects must deliver meaningful benefits to nearby communities and reduce harms.

### Community Considerations Scoring & Training



- 20% of points across all application categories
- 5 ratings: Low, Medium-Low, Medium, Medium-High, High
- High ratings only on applications that show full use of best practices
- Annual training for scorers and agency staff to build understanding of measures
- Funding Priority for applications rated High on all measures
  - Substitutes for a separate application category for this goal area
- Built-in scoring checks and balances:
  - Committee needs to agree on funding priority
  - 2-3 Community Considerations scorers per application

Scoring rewards high community alignment, and training equips staff with understanding of best practices and expectations.

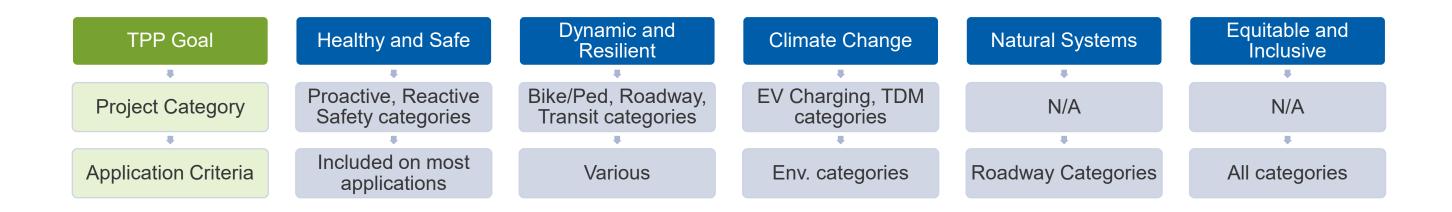


# Metropolitan Council

### Addressing our 2050 Goals

#### **TPP Goal Alignment**

- Regional Solicitation addresses all major TPP Goals in varying ways
- Project categories include a majority of points from the primary TPP goal, but other goals may be evaluated too
- Community Considerations provides Equitable and Inclusive evaluation for all application categories



#### **Safety Categories**

TPP Goal	Proactive Safety	Reactive Safety
Healthy and Safe	80%	80%
Dynamic and Resilient		
Climate Change (performance measure)		
Natural Systems		
Equitable and Inclusive	20%	20%
Total	100%	100%

#### **Bicycle/Pedestrian Category**

TPP Goal	Regional Bike Facilities
Healthy and Safe	20%
Dynamic and Resilient	60%
Climate Change (performance measure)	
Natural Systems	
Equitable and Inclusive	20%
Total	100%

# Legislation Alignment for Active Transportation

#### **Bicycle/Pedestrian Categories**

Legislation Requirements	Local Bike Facilities	Local Pedestrian Facilities	Active Transportation Planning
Inclusion in plan	Qualifying	Qualifying	40%*
Complete streets	5%	5%	10%
Community connections	30%	30%	40%*
Address barriers and deficiencies	25%	25%	40%*
Safety or health benefits	20%	20%	30%
Geographic equity (community considerations)	20%	20%	20%
Ability to maintain infrastructure	Qualifying	Qualifying	Qualifying
Total	100%	100%	100%

<sup>\*</sup>One question worth 40% asks for information related to three legislative requirements

#### **Transit Categories**

TPP Goal	Transit Expansion	Transit Customer Service
Healthy and Safe		
Dynamic and Resilient	80%	80%
Climate Change (performance measure)		
Natural Systems		
Equitable and Inclusive	20%	20%
Total	100%	100%

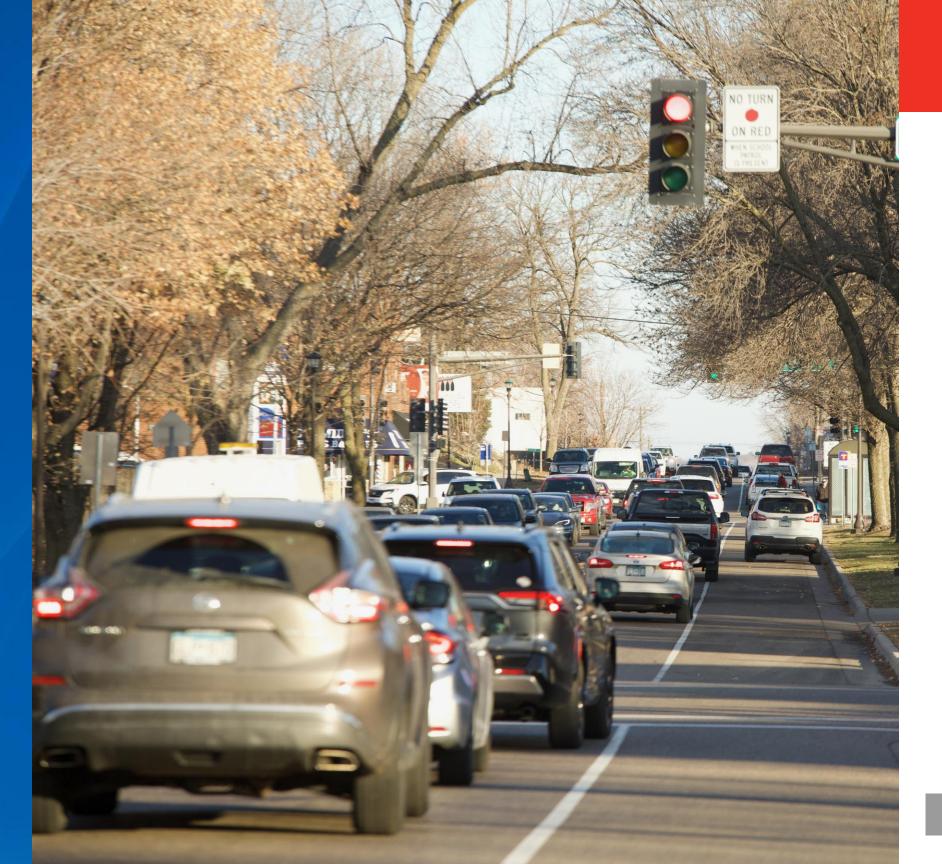
#### **Roadways Categories**

TPP Goal	Roadway Modernization	Congestion Management	New Interchanges	Bridge Connections
Healthy and Safe	30%	25%	30%	20%
Dynamic and Resilient	40%	50%	45%	55%
Climate Change (performance measure)				
Natural Systems	10%	5%	5%	5%
Equitable and Inclusive	20%	20%	20%	20%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

#### **Environment Categories**

TPP Goal	EV Charging	TDM
Healthy and Safe	10%	
Dynamic and Resilient		30%
Climate Change (and performance measure)	70%	50%
Natural Systems		
Equitable and Inclusive	20%	20%
Total	100%	100%

### Scoring Measures and Weighting



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### Proposed Modal+ Hybrid Structure

#### **Safety**

Proactive Safety (All Modes):

Small Projects (HSIP)

Large Project (Reg Sol Federal Funding)

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#### **Dynamic and Resilient**

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Active Transportation Planning

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Transit Expansion (Including Microtransit)

Transit Customer Experience

Arterial Bus Rapid
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Roadway

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Regional Modeling/Travel Behavior Inventory

The goal area, Our Region is Equitable and Inclusive, is being proposed as a scoring measure called Community Considerations.

# **Proactive Safety**

Criteria and Measures	%
1. Connection to Existing Safety Planning Efforts  Measure A – Connection to existing safety planning efforts	35%
2. Expected System Risk Reduction in Fatal or Serious Injury Crashes  Measure A – Crash Reduction Factor(s) (CRFs) for proposed project	15%
3. Fatal and Serious Injury Crash History Measure A –10-year crash history of fatal and serious injury crashes	5%
4. Improvements for People Outside of Vehicles  Measure A – Project-Based Pedestrian Safety Enhancements and Risk Elements	25%
5. Community Considerations  Measure A – Community Data and Context  Measure B – Community Engagement  Measure C – Community Benefits	20%
Total	100%

# **Reactive Safety**

Criteria and Measures	%
1. Expected Reduction in Fatal and Serious Injury Crashes Measure A – 5-year crashes reduced (Benefit/Cost ratio)	35%
2. Connection to Existing Safety Planning Efforts  Measure A – Connection to existing safety planning efforts	20%
3. Fatal and Serious Injury Crash History Measure A –10-year crash history of fatal and serious injury crashes	5%
4. Improvements for People Outside of Vehicles  Measure A – Project-Based Pedestrian Safety Enhancements and Risk Elements	20%
5. Community Considerations  Measure A – Community Data and Context  Measure B – Community Engagement  Measure C – Community Benefits	20%
Total	100%

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# Regional Bike Facilities (Federally Funded)

Criteria and Measures	%
Regional Bicycle Priorities  Measure A – Identified network priorities	30%
2. Connection to Key Destinations  Measure A – Connection to key destinations	10%
<ul><li>3. Context Sensitive Design</li><li>Measure A – Appropriate facility type</li><li>Measure B – Design features and roadway crossings</li></ul>	20%
<ul> <li>4. Safety</li> <li>Measure A – Connection to existing safety planning efforts</li> <li>Measure B – Safety improvements for people outside of vehicles</li> </ul>	20%
5. Community Considerations  Measure A – Community Data and Context  Measure B – Community Engagement  Measure C – Community Benefits	20%
Total	100%

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# Local Bike Facilities (Active Transportation Regional Sales Tax Funded)

Criteria and Measures	%
1. Complete Streets* Measure A – Complete streets planning, design, and construction	5%
2. Connection to Key Destinations*  Measure A – Connections to key destinations  Measure B – Connection to K-12 schools  Measure C – Active transportation demand	30%
3. Identified Gaps, Barriers, or Deficiencies* Measure A – Gaps, barriers or deficiencies addressed	25%
<ul> <li>4. Safety*</li> <li>Measure A – Connection to existing safety planning efforts</li> <li>Measure B – Safety improvements for people outside of vehicles</li> </ul>	20%
5. Community Considerations*  Measure A – Community Data and Context  Measure B – Community Engagement  Measure C – Community Benefits	20%
Total * Direct connection to legislative requirements	100%

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# Local Pedestrian Facilities (Active Transportation Regional Sales Tax Funded)

Criteria and Measures	%
1. Complete Streets* Measure A – Complete streets planning, design, and construction	5%
2. Connection to Key Destinations*  Measure A – Connections to key destinations  Measure B – Connection to K-12 schools  Measure C – Active transportation demand	30%
3. Identified Gaps, Barriers, or Deficiencies* Measure A – Gaps, barriers or deficiencies addressed	25%
<ul> <li>4. Safety*</li> <li>Measure A – Connection to existing safety planning efforts</li> <li>Measure B – Safety improvements for people outside of vehicles</li> </ul>	20%
5. Community Considerations*  Measure A – Community Data and Context  Measure B – Community Engagement  Measure C – Community Benefits	20%
Total * Direct connection to legislative requirements	100%

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# Active Transportation Planning (Active Transportation Regional Sales Tax Funded)

Criteria and Measures	%
<ul><li>1. Proposed Project*</li><li>Measure A – Project identification</li><li>Measure B – Complete streets planning, design, and construction</li></ul>	50%
2. Safety* Measure A – Safety improvements for people outside of vehicles	30%
3. Community Considerations*  Measure A – Community Considerations	20%
Total	100%

# **Transit Expansion**

Criteria and Measures	%
1. Service/Facility Provided Must be Effective for Transit Market Area Measure A – Transit Market Area Alignment Measure B – Regional Transit Performance Guidelines	30%
2. New Ridership Measure A – New annual riders	20%
3. New Coverage Measure A – New service hours by population within service area	10%
4. Connections to Key Destinations  Measure A – Connection to key destinations	10%
5.Transit Needs-based Determination  Measure A – Demographic and roadway delay/reliability data.	10%
6. Community Considerations  Measure A – Community Data and Context  Measure B – Community Engagement  Measure C – Community Benefits	20%
Total	100%

# Transit Customer Experience

Criteria and Measures	%
Ridership Affected     Measure A – Total existing annual riders	20%
2. Transit Service  Measure A – Travel times and/or reliability of existing transit service	15%
3. Access to Transit Facilities  Measure A – Multimodal connections to and ADA accessibility	15%
4. Safety and Security Measure A –Safety and security for transit riders and people accessing transit facilities	15%
5. Customer Comfort and Ease of Use  Measure A – Comfort for transit riders and overall ease of use of the transit system	15%
6. Community Considerations  Measure A – Community Data and Context  Measure B – Community Engagement  Measure C – Community Benefits	20%
Total	100%

## Roadway Modernization

Criteria and Measures	%
1. Multimodal/Complete Streets Connections  Measure A – New or improved multimodal connections (transit, bicycle, pedestrian, TDM elements)	40%
<ul> <li>2. Safety</li> <li>Measure A – Connection to existing safety planning efforts</li> <li>Measure B – Safety improvements for people outside of vehicles</li> <li>Measure C – Safe System approach</li> </ul>	30%
3. Freight Measure A – Regional Truck Corridor Study tiers	5%
4. Natural Systems Protection and Restoration  Measure A - Flood mitigation, stormwater treatment, other environmental benefits, etc.	5%
5. Community Considerations  Measure A – Community Data and Context  Measure B – Community Engagement  Measure C – Community Benefits	20%
Total	100%

# Congestion Management Strategies

Criteria and Measures	%
Anticipated Delay Reduction     Measure A – Cost effectiveness of delay reduced	20%
2. Regional Priorities for Reliability & Excessive Delay  Measure A – 2050 TPP map for Reliability  Measure B – 2050 TPP map for Excessive Delay  Measure C – Intersection Mobility and Safety Study priorities	25%
<ul> <li>3. Safety</li> <li>Measure A – Connection to existing safety planning efforts</li> <li>Measure B – Safety improvements for people outside of vehicles</li> <li>Measure C – Safe System approach</li> </ul>	20%
4. Multimodal/Complete Streets Connections  Measure A – New or improved multimodal connections (transit, bicycle, pedestrian, TDM elements)	5%
5. Freight Measure A - Regional Truck Corridor Study tiers	5%
6. Natural Systems Protection and Restoration  Measure A - Flood mitigation, stormwater treatment, other environmental benefits, etc.	5%
7.Community Considerations (3 Measures – see previously applications)	20%
Total	100%

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# New Interchanges

Criteria and Measures	%
Anticipated Delay Reduction     Measure A – Cost effectiveness of delay reduced	15%
2. Regional Priorities for Reliability & Excessive Delay Measure A – 2050 TPP map for Reliability Measure B – 2050 TPP map for Excessive Delay	20%
<ul> <li>3. Safety</li> <li>Measure A – Connection to existing safety planning efforts</li> <li>Measure B – Safety improvements for people outside of vehicles</li> <li>Measure C – Safe System approach</li> </ul>	30%
4. Multimodal/Complete Streets Connections  Measure A – New or improved multimodal connections (transit, bicycle, pedestrian, TDM elements)	5%
5. Freight Measure A - Regional Truck Corridor Study tiers	5%
6. Natural Systems Protection and Restoration  Measure A - Flood mitigation, stormwater treatment, other environmental benefits, etc.	5%
7. Community Considerations (3 Measures – see previously applications)	20%
Total	100%

# **Bridge Connections**

Criteria and Measures	%
1.System Resilience Measure A – Detour length Measure B – Bridge posting for load restrictions	30%
2. Multimodal/Complete Streets Connections  Measure A – New or improved multimodal connections (transit, bicycle, pedestrian, TDM elements)	20%
<ul> <li>3. Safety</li> <li>Measure A – Connection to existing safety planning efforts</li> <li>Measure B – Safety improvements for people outside of vehicles</li> <li>Measure C – Safe System approach</li> </ul>	20%
4. Freight Measure A – Regional Truck Corridor Study tiers	5%
5. Natural Systems Protection and Restoration  Measure A - Flood mitigation, stormwater treatment, other environmental benefits, etc.	5%
6. Community Considerations  Measure A – Community Data and Context  Measure B – Community Engagement  Measure C – Community Benefits	20%
Total	100%

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# EV Charging Infrastructure (2028 application)

Criteria and Measures	%
<ul> <li>1. Improve Access to EV Charging</li> <li>Measure A - Serves EV drivers in areas with few public EV chargers per capita</li> <li>Measure B – Serves EV drivers far from public EV charging options</li> </ul>	45%
2. Destinations Measure A - Infrastructure size and location	25%
3. Address Public Health Through Siting Measure A - Near areas with lower-than-average air quality	10%
4. Community Considerations  Measure A – Community Data and Context  Measure B – Community Engagement  Measure C – Community Benefits	20%
Total	100%

## Travel Demand Management (TDM)

Criteria and Measures	%
1. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Reduction  Measure A – Average weekday users and miles shifted to non-single occupancy vehicle travel or trip reduction	30%
2. Connection to Jobs, Educations, and Opportunity  Measure A – Connections to jobs, education and other opportunities	25%
3. Project Effectiveness Evaluation  Measure A – Plan and methods to evaluate project outcomes	20%
4. Innovation Measure A - Completely new, new to the region or serving new communities	5%
<ul> <li>5. Community Considerations</li> <li>Measure A – Community Data and Context</li> <li>Measure B – Community Engagement</li> <li>Measure C – Community Benefits</li> </ul>	20%
Total	100%

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### **Next steps**



#### **Next steps:**

- 1. First Package of Action Items Oct-Nov
  - Oct TAC Planning (info), Oct F&P, Nov TAC, Nov TAB
  - Public outreach on funding targets begins
- 2. Policymaker Working Group November 19
- 3. Technical Steering Committee (Tentative) November 25
- 4. Second Package of Action Items to Release for Public Comment– Nov/Dec
  - Nov TAC Planning (info), Nov F&P, Dec TAC, Dec TAB
  - Public outreach on the entire application package begins
- 5. Call for projects Spring 2026
- 6. Project selection End of 2026