

10. CALL FOR PROJECTS

Background

At the March 2020 Transportation Policy Council (TPC) meeting the Council approved goals, priorities, and policies for the next Call for Projects. These goals, priorities and policies guide the H-GAC staff, Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Subcommittee in development of project selection criteria and evaluation methodologies for the next Call for Projects.

Current Situation

Staff presented the following recommendation at the TAC meeting in January 2022:

- Create a rural funding allocation that uses the established adjusted urbanized area boundary.
- Allocate 9% of total available funds as a floor for projects located in rural area (ie., areas outside the adjusted urbanized area).
- Implement relative scoring of projects in rural areas.
- Establish a minimum threshold of points that projects in rural areas will need to meet for eligibility to receive funding. (Threshold level will be determined when final scoring criteria are adopted.)
- Provide an opportunity to all local agencies (all eligible agencies with the TMA) to assign additional points to one more high priority projects. This is intended to ensure projects are distributed across the region by giving agencies ability to identify their highest priority projects and including that in the scoring system. (The total number and distribution of additional points will be determined when final scoring criteria are adopted.)

The TAC approved the above recommendation with the condition that scoring criteria for agencies to award additional points to the highest priority projects be brought back for discussion and approval. The TAC's recommendation was presented to TPC at the Special meeting of the TPC held on February 4th. The TPC postponed the approval of this item until the details on related scoring criteria are developed and presented to TAC and TPC. Staff is planning to conduct a workshop with TIP Subcommittee on February 11th. Based on the outcomes of this workshop, more information on selection criteria may be presented at the upcoming TAC meeting.

Action Requested

Information only.