

Regional Project Evaluation Committee

December 3, 2021



Hardship Policy - Background

- Adopted Project Tracking policies include an *Exceptions* policy, under which certain requests may be entertained that deviate from the standard policies. In general address emergency funding requests and / or additional extensions of time
- Task Force interest in reviewing the *Exceptions* policy to include more parameters around “hardship” considerations
 - What is considered an emergency
 - What are potential restrictions applied to subsequent funding competitions



Task Force Modifications to RPEC Proposal

Proposed definition of “emergency” relating to funding requests:

- The need is due to a situation that was unpredictable and for which the sponsoring agency could not have planned; AND Made a requirement, not an “or”
 - The facility / project has been impacted by a natural disaster or catastrophic event; or
 - The facility / project is experiencing a major safety issue; or
 - There are or will be significant impacts to the regional system and/or local population / employment centers if the need is not addressed; or

The existence of a funding shortfall by itself is not considered to meet the threshold of an emergency under these procedures.



No Changes to RPEC Proposal

Proposed “offsets” to subsequent competitions =

- Considered on a sliding scale basis, taking into account:
 - The size of the emergency funding request;
 - The level of effort by the agency to fill the funding gap; and
 - The funding caps placed on award amounts as adopted in the *Policy Framework for PSRC’s Federal Funds*.

If the emergency is due to a disaster (natural or human caused), it is proposed that no limitations on future funding competitions be placed.



No Changes to RPEC Proposal

- Also – requests for emergency funding due to natural disasters or catastrophic events would be open to all projects
- Requests that are due to other, “non-event,” types of situations should be limited to those projects that have been evaluated in a previous PSRC funding competition

Emergency funding requests will be evaluated by RPEC to determine if the need is a true emergency and if so, what offsets might be appropriate for future funding competitions. RPEC will prepare a recommendation to the Transportation Policy Board incorporating this evaluation.



No Changes to Administrative Details

Policy Issues

- Policy Focus (*support for centers and the corridors that serve them*)
- Set-Asides
- Project Tracking and Delivery Provisions
- Project Evaluation Criteria

Administrative Issues

- Estimated Funding Amounts
- Funding Splits by Competitions
- Number of Applications / Request Limits for Regional Competitions
- Contingency List Procedures



Policy Framework – Next Steps

- Release summary of proposed *2022 Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds* for public comment
 - Mid-December 2021 through first week of January 2022
 - Will include basics of process and recommended changes
- Recommendation on *Policy Framework* presented to Transportation Policy Board in January
 - Scheduled for adoption by Executive Board January 27, 2022
- Call for Projects February 2022

