

2020 Project Selection Process



Workshop Agenda

- Overview
- Policy Framework
- Policy Focus
- Eligibility Requirements
- Project Selection Details
- Project Evaluation Criteria
- Project Tracking Requirements
- Schedule
- Regional FHWA Competition
- Online Resources and Forms



Overview

| Federal Highway Administration Funds | Federal Transit Administration Funds |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Regional Competition - \$49.2m | Regional Competition - \$24.9m |
| Countywide Competitions - \$104.1m | Earned Share / Preservation Distributions - \$354.9m |

Other PSRC funding programs, conducted separately:

- *Rural Town Centers & Corridors Program*
- *Special Needs Transportation*
- *Transportation Alternatives Program*



Overview

All processes will:

- Follow policy direction from Board, as adopted in the *Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds*
- Follow regional policies and procedures
 - Consistency with VISION 2040 and the Regional Transportation Plan
 - Consistency with local comprehensive plans
- Follow federal and state requirements
 - Must be competitive
 - Specific eligibility requirements per funding program
 - Full funding of awarded phases



Policy Framework

Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds

- Adopted prior to each funding cycle
- Funds distributed approximately every 2 years
 - *Program funds into the future*
 - *2020 process will distribute FFY 2023-2024 funds*
- Based on VISION 2040 policies
 - *Support for centers and the corridors that serve them*
- Provides board direction for project selection
- Detailed policies and procedures for conducting the process



Policy Framework Key Elements

Identifies:

- Funding estimates
- Set-Asides (Preservation, Bicycle/Pedestrian, FTA Minimum Floor)
- Details of each process (amounts per process, funding limits, etc.)
- Project evaluation criteria
- Other administrative details



Policy Focus

- Policy focus continues to be support for centers and the corridors that serve them:
 - FHWA regional competition = centers defined as regional growth and manufacturing/industrial centers
 - For all other processes = centers definition expanded to include locally identified centers
 - Military facilities included as a locally identified center for countywide competitions



Eligibility Requirements

FHWA Funds

- Surface Transportation Program (STP):
 - most flexible
 - can fund roadway, transit, bicycle/pedestrian, freight projects, etc.
 - minimum amount required to be spent in rural area (separate from the RTCC Program)
 - 13.5% match
- Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ):
 - projects must provide an air quality benefit
 - general purpose capacity projects ineligible
 - 13.5% match



Eligibility Requirements

FTA Funds

- projects must be transit-related
- local agencies eligible to apply with concurrence from a transit agency
- four specific funding programs with specific eligibility requirements
- 20% match



Project Selection - FTA

Shared Regional / Earned Share Process

- Three urbanized areas (UZAs) in the region: Bremerton, Marysville, Seattle-Tacoma-Everett

*Seattle-Tacoma-
Everett UZA only*

How FTA funds come to the region:

Operating characteristics, service provided from each transit agency

- Earned Share Distribution

Regional attributes such as population density

- Regional Competition
- Set-Asides



Project Selection - FHWA

Shared Regional / Countywide Processes

- Regional competition
 - Limited number of applications, regional focus
- Countywide competitions
 - Set-asides distributed
 - Rural minimum
 - Priorities within each county, based on Policy Framework
- For both:
 - single phase requests, or PE + 1



All Project Evaluation Criteria

Project evaluation criteria include:

- Support for centers
- Safety, mobility and accessibility
- Populations served, including health and equity considerations
- Emissions reduction
- *CMAQ includes cost-effectiveness*
- Project readiness and financial plans
- Non-scored elements include innovations and cost-benefit / practical design in project considerations



Project Tracking Requirements

Project Tracking System in place since 2003

Goal = Efficient use of PSRC funds

- Projects are delivered in a timely manner, cost of delays are minimized
- Policies updated over time, address all funding programs and processes
- Progress reports required twice a year
- Specific to FHWA funds
 - June 1st obligation deadline
 - Each project award tied to a specific fiscal year
 - Opportunity to request a one-time extension
 - Annual delivery targets = “use it or lose it”



Project Tracking Requirements

FHWA obligation deadline extensions

- No longer automatically granted – rather, identification of reasons *not* allowed
- Earlier date for requesting extensions
- Two tiered process for approving extensions
 - First deadline = July 15th, for projects needing only a short extension after the June 1st deadline
 - Second deadline = no more than one additional year (to June 1 of following year), for projects needing more time; requires PSRC Board approval
- Regular monitoring and reporting



Schedule

January 2020 – 2020 Policy Framework adopted

February 3 – Call for Projects Released

February 11-14 – Workshops in each County

February to July 2020 – Project selection process conducted; project recommendations to Board in July

September 2020 – Public comment on Draft 2021-2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

October 2020 – Board adoption of 2021-2024 Regional TIP

January 2021 – Federal approval of TIP



Schedule – Key Deadlines

Eligibility Screening Form Deadlines:

- Regional FHWA – March 2
- Countywide FHWA – March 20 thru April 3, *set by each countywide process*
- FTA Earned Share – April 6
- FTA Regional – March 23

Grant Application Deadlines:

- Regional FHWA – April 8
- Countywide FHWA – *set by each countywide process*
- FTA Regional – April 27



FHWA Regional Competition

- Limited Number of Applications = 36
 - 6 each from Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish Counties
 - 12 from King County
 - 2 each from Sound Transit, WSDOT, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
- Policy Focus = support for regional centers and the corridors that serve them
- Three categories of projects
 - Regional Growth Centers
 - Manufacturing/Industrial Centers
 - Corridors Serving Centers



FHWA Regional Competition

- Maximum amount to be requested by each application
 - 50% of available funds by year, by source
 - \$14.76 million of CMAQ available per year
 - *\$7.38 million maximum CMAQ request*
 - \$9.84 million of STP available per year
 - *\$4.92 million maximum STP request*
- Reminders:
 - sponsors may request a single phase, or PE + the subsequent phase
 - phases must be fully funded with PSRC and all other sources



FHWA Regional Project Evaluation Criteria

Policy Criteria:

- Varies slightly depending on category – Regional Growth Center, Manufacturing / Industrial Center, Corridor Serving Centers
- Focused on:
 - Center development, user benefits
 - Circulation, mobility, safety, accessibility
 - System continuity

Technical Criteria:

- Applies to all projects, regardless of category
- Focused on:
 - Air quality / climate change
 - Project readiness / financial plan



FHWA Regional Project Evaluation Criteria

| | Points | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| | STP | CMAQ |
| Part 1: Policy Criteria (Category Specific Questions) | 75 | 45 |
| Category A: Designated Regional Growth Centers | | |
| <i>Regional Growth Center Development</i> | 30 | 16 |
| <i>Benefit to the Regional Growth Center</i> | 20 | 12 |
| <i>Circulation within the Regional Growth Center</i> | 25 | 17 |
| Category B: Manufacturing / Industrial Centers | | |
| <i>Development and User Benefit</i> | 40 | 25 |
| <i>Mobility and Accessibility Benefit</i> | 35 | 20 |
| Category C: Corridors Serving Centers | | |
| <i>Benefit to Regional Growth or Manufacturing / Industrial Center</i> | 40 | 25 |
| <i>System Continuity/Long-Term Benefit and Sustainability</i> | 35 | 20 |
| Part 2: Technical Criteria for all Projects | | |
| <i>D: Air Quality/ Climate Change</i> | 20 | 50 |
| <i>E: Project Readiness/Financial Plan</i> | 5 | 5 |
| TOTAL | 100 | 100 |

FHWA Regional Project Evaluation Criteria

Highlights of Regional Growth Center policy criteria:

Supporting centers development

- How the project supports housing/employment densities in the center
- How the project supports the plans and activities for the center
- How the project supports new or existing jobs in the center

Benefits to the center

- How the project addresses a problem
- How the project benefits a variety of user groups, and vulnerable populations

Circulation

- How the project provides access, completes a gap, etc.
- How the project improves circulation, addresses safety, provides active transportation opportunities, etc.



FHWA Regional Project Evaluation Criteria

Highlights of Manufacturing / Industrial Center policy criteria:

Center development and user benefit

- How the project supports the plans and activities for the center
- How the project supports new or existing jobs in the center
- How the project benefits a variety of user groups, including vulnerable populations

Mobility and accessibility

- How the project improves opportunities for freight movement
- How the project completes a gap, removes a barrier, etc.
- How the project addresses safety, reduce conflicts
- How the project improves access for multiple modes
- How the project provides active transportation opportunities, promotes CTR, etc.



FHWA Regional Project Evaluation Criteria

Highlights of Corridors policy criteria:

Supporting centers development

- How the project supports housing/employment densities in a center
- How the project benefits a range of modes
- How the project benefits a variety of user groups, including vulnerable populations
- How the project supports new or existing jobs in the center

System continuity

- How the project supports a long-term strategy for efficiency of the corridor
- How the project provides a logical segment linking to a center, fills a gap, etc.
- How the project relieves pressure on the system, addresses safety, reduces conflicts, etc.
- How the project provides opportunities for active transportation



FHWA Regional Project Evaluation Criteria

Highlights of Technical criteria:

Air Quality / Climate Change

- The project reduces emissions from:
 - Reducing trips
 - Reducing vehicle miles traveled
 - Improving travel flow / reducing vehicle idling
 - Converting vehicles to cleaner fuels
- CMAQ projects only:
 - Air quality score based on cost effectiveness
 - $(\text{CMAQ } \$ \text{ requested} / \text{Useful life}) / \text{Emissions reduced}$



FHWA Regional Project Evaluation Criteria

Highlights of Technical criteria:

Project Readiness / Financial Plan

- Will the project be ready to use PSRC funds by the requested date?
 - What is the schedule of the prerequisites for obligation, project milestones
 - What is the project budget and financial plan

Key reminders:

- Single phase, or PE + 1
- Phase requested must be fully funded with request
 - *Based on reasonable financial plan and schedule*
- June 1st delivery deadline



Tips for Completing Applications

Be clear and concise

- Provide a clear scope of work; how will the funds be used?

Be thorough – answer every question, address every criterion

- Don't cut and paste, respond to each bullet
- Don't assume scoring team knows your project or your area

Maps and graphics help illustrate your project and its location

The policy focus is support for centers

- It's not enough to have a good project; your project must meet the established criteria

Delivery matters – make sure your schedule and your financial plan are feasible



Online Resources and Forms

Key resources on PSRC website:

Policy Framework

- Eligibility
- Maps
- Funding amounts available
- Guidance
 - screening form & applications checklists
 - financial constraint
 - air quality
 - populations served



Online Resources and Forms

- Online system for screening forms, applications
- Key Features:
 - Use regular TIP Application username and password
 - Save and return later
 - Questions based on which category selected
 - System will prompt if errors or blanks
- Key Tips:
 - Complete answers
 - Refer to criteria and guidance
 - Upload pertinent attachments

<https://www.psrc.org/our-work/funding/project-selection/fhwa-and-fta-regional-funding>



Questions?

