2018 Project Selection Process

Transportation Policy Board
January 11, 2018
Presentation Overview

- Overview of the Project Selection Task Force
- Background on PSRC Funds and Project Selection
- Task Force Recommendations
- Project Selection Schedule
- Recommended Action on 2018 Policy Framework for PSRC’s Federal Funds
Project Selection Task Force

- Project Selection Task Force representation
  - Volunteers solicited from PSRC’s four Boards
  - 27 members met four times between September – December 2017

- Purpose:
  - Review key policy issues and administrative procedures for PSRC’s project selection processes
  - Recommend the *2018 Policy Framework for PSRC’s Federal Funds* to the Transportation Policy Board
PSRC Funds

Under the FAST Act, PSRC is expected to receive ~$260 Million annually in federal transportation funds:

**Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) ~$80m**

- Two funding programs, specific eligibility requirements for each
  - Surface Transportation Block Grant Program [STP]
  - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program [CMAQ]
- In general, can fund roadway, transit, bicycle/pedestrian, ITS, equipment, etc.

**Federal Transit Administration (FTA) ~$180m**

- Four funding programs, specific eligibility requirements for each
- Projects must be transit-related
Other PSRC funds distributed under separate selection processes:

**Special Needs Transportation Funding:**
- ~$2 million per year
- Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities
- Distributed through the Special Needs Coordinated Grant Program

**Transportation Alternatives Program:**
- ~$4.5 million per year
- Non-traditional, community-based transportation projects
- *Recommendations for action at today’s meeting*
Federal Requirements

- Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) updated at least every 4 years
  - Currently funded transportation projects – federal, state, local funds

- Public comment and review opportunities

- Competitive project selection process of PSRC’s federal funds required
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*
  - *2018 process will distribute FFY 2021-2022 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
Project Selection Background

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All processes will:

- Follow policy direction from Board, as adopted in the *Policy Framework for PSRC’s Federal Funds*
- Follow regional policies and procedures
  - Consistent with VISION 2040, the regional transportation plan, project tracking policies
  - Consistent with local comprehensive plans
### Key Policy Framework Issues

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Task Force Recommendations

Funding Estimates:
- FFY 2021-2022 funds to be estimated at 2017 levels

Policy Focus:
- Retained as support for regional growth and manufacturing/industrial centers for the regional FHWA competition; regional, countywide and local centers for all other competitions (*including military facilities*)

Contingency Lists:
- Retained existing procedure of creating prioritized contingency lists, should additional funds become available prior to the next cycle
Task Force Recommendations

Number of Regional Applications:
- Retained at a total of 36 for the regional FHWA competition (12 King County, 6 each for Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish Counties, 2 each for regional agencies – WSDOT, PSCAA, Sound Transit); no limit for the regional FTA competition

Split of Funds Between Processes:
- Retained the 50% / 50% split of funds between the FHWA regional / countywide competitions, after set-asides are applied; retained the FTA regional / earned share distribution:
  - Seattle-Tacoma-Everett Urbanized Area (UZA) = ~14% regional competition / ~86% earned share distribution
  - Bremerton, Marysville UZAs = one transit agency, earned share distribution only
Task Force Recommendations

Amounts by Source in FHWA Competitions:

- Retained existing process of pre-determining amount of FHWA funds by source, by competition

Funding Limits:

- Recommended limit on FHWA regional applications at 50% of available annual funding by source; no limit recommended on FTA regional applications

Preservation Set-Asides:

- Retained FHWA preservation set-aside at 20%, with 5% added back to countywide processes; retained FTA preservation set-aside at 45% of regional pot
Task Force Recommendations

Bicycle/Pedestrian Set-Aside:
- Retained bicycle/pedestrian set-aside at 10% of FHWA funds

Rural Town Centers & Corridors Program:
- Recommended increase of program from $3 million to $5 million

Kitsap County Methodology:
- Retained existing distribution methodology

FTA Minimum Floor Adjustment:
- Recommended retention of existing minimum floor adjustment, capped at 2015 levels, with consideration of “purchased services”
Task Force Recommendations

PSRC Work Program:
- Retained set-aside of $1 million of FHWA STP funds, and $1.25 million of FTA funds per year

Project Evaluation Criteria:
- Retained the improvements made in 2016 to the FHWA CMAQ funds:
  - higher weighting of air quality criterion, inclusion of cost-effectiveness, higher amount of CMAQ in the regional competition
- Safety and equity are included, but make more explicit in the criteria
- Strengthen the integration of transit projects to state, local and transit agency plans
- Retain project readiness criterion but reduce points and convert to a risk analysis – *due to new strict accounting by year, and programming 2021-2022 funds*
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
PSRC Project Tracking Program

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
- Current policies address annual delivery target for FHWA funds
  - Firm obligation deadlines
  - “Use it or Lose it”
- 2017 – new element of balancing use of funds by year
  - No more older funds on the books
  - Delivery = annual allocation
  - Each project award tied to a specific fiscal year
FTA Special Needs Funding Process – Information Only

- PSRC distributes funds competitively through the FTA Section 5310, Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program
  - Modest amount of funding (~$2 million per year)
  - Coordinated grant program with WSDOT’s Consolidated Grant Program
  - Part of larger PSRC Coordinated Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan
- Has not previously been part of the *Policy Framework for PSRC’s Federal Funds*
- Conducted on separate cycle
- *Staff working with WSDOT and Special Needs Transportation Committee on a proposal to streamline the process*
Draft 2018 Project Selection Schedule

September to December 2017 – Task Force prepares recommendations on policies and procedures to the Transportation Policy Board

January 2018 – 2018 Policy Framework adopted

February to July 2018 – Project selection process conducted; project recommendations to Board

September 2018 – Public comment on Draft 2019-2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

October 2018 – Board adoption of 2019-2022 Regional TIP

January 2019 – Federal approval of TIP
Call for Projects

Call for projects will include:

- Online application materials
- Guidance on addressing the evaluation criteria
- Online resources including a web map to assist in completing applications

Workshops will be held in each of the four counties

An eligibility review of every project will be conducted prior to final submittal of applications
Recommended Action

The Transportation Policy Board is asked to:

Recommend the Executive Board approve the policies and procedures for the 2018 project selection process, to be documented in the 2018 Policy Framework for PSRC’s Federal Funds.
Thank You

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