

AGENDA

Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, April 1, 2021, 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Thurston Regional Planning Council

Zoom Teleconference Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86889191953?pwd=OUJxUlpDT2lScDU81bHEyNXpHUDBRZz09>

Meeting ID: 868 8919 1953

Passcode: 719969

Audio by phone, dial in early:

(253) 215-8782, or (301) 715 8592

In order to comply the Governor's guidance to "Stay Home and Stay Healthy" and in keeping with the Proclamation by the Governor Amending Proclamation 20-05 Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act issued on March 24th 2020, participation in the April 1 TAC meeting will be conducted through remote access only.

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|----|------|---|--|
| 1. | 2:00 | Welcome & Introductions | INTRODUCTIONS |
| 2. | 2:10 | Announcements: Upcoming 2022-2025 RTIP Preparation | Theresa Julius |
| 3. | 2:15 | 2021 Regional Federal Transportation Grant Program Delivery Schedule | Members |
| | | <i>Members will report on any changes to their projects' obligation timing, if applicable.</i> | |
| 4. | 2:20 | Transportation Model 2045 Telework/Compressed Work Week Data Discussion | Clyde Scott and Veena Tabbutt |
| | | <i>Continued from March 18. TRPC is exploring modeling data assumptions for 2045 telework and compressed work week schedules. Efforts are underway to analyze the effects of telework on trip reduction to calibrate model outputs to COVID-19 pandemic changes in travel patterns.</i> | |
| 5. | 2:40 | City of Olympia Synchro vs. Regional Dynameq Model Intersection Delay – Comparison of Tools for Planning Level Analysis | DISCUSSION
Aaron Grimes and Veena Tabbutt |
| 6. | 3:00 | TRPC's Future Revised Call for Projects Process - Efficient Use of Federal Funding and Obligation Criteria | Members |
| | | <i>TRPC staff and members will discuss suitable project selection criteria for evaluating 'Efficient Use of Federal Funds' for TRPC's future revised Call for Projects Process.</i> | |
| | | <i>Take the survey by 3/31 by noon: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5ZGRWJP</i> | |
| 7. | 3:45 | Member Information Sharing – pending time available | Members |
| 8. | 4:00 | Adjourn | |

Next Scheduled TAC Meeting

April 15, 2021

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

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If you need special accommodations to participate in this meeting, please call us at 360.956.7575 by 10:00 a.m. three days prior to the meeting. Ask for the ADA Coordinator. For TDD users, please use the state's toll-free relay service, 711 and ask the operator to dial 360.956.7575.

Thurston Regional Planning Council

CALL FOR PROJECTS UPDATE PROCESS PROPOSED PROGRAM STRUCTURE

March 2021

PURPOSE:

Update the process for TRPC's federal funding allocation process "Call for Projects" for Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG – formerly STP) and STBG Set Aside (formerly TAP) funding¹ to:

- Provide a more direct tie to performance goals and targets
- Provide clear and transparent project eligibility and evaluation criteria
- Continue to position the region to meet obligation targets and be eligible for redistributed funding

WHAT CAN'T CHANGE: FEDERAL GUIDELINES:

- Require urban, rural, and flexible (either urban or rural) funding allocations
- Set forth overall project eligibility

WHAT WE RECOMMEND DOESN'T CHANGE:

- Continue to program out 4 years of funding each cycle
- Identify set-asides up front
- Continue to maintain a contingency list in the event the region receives redistributed funding or a funded project is unable to move forward

PROGRAM STRUCTURE:

The proposed program would consist of three tiers:

- Project Priorities: to help identify eligible or priority types of projects.
- Regional Priorities: an overlay to assess all projects on their likelihood to advance regional goals.
- Set-asides and funding minimums/caps: to help distribute funding in a way that would smooth out differences in staff resources to develop plans or grant applications, or inherent differences in types of projects and their ability to advance regional goals.

Project Priorities

The region has always set project priorities that determine project eligibility, within the broader federal eligibility criteria. This update recommends adding two new Project Priorities and tying either project eligibility or ranking more directly to performance goals or local and/or regional priorities or plans.

For instance, similar to the State's safety program (Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), safety projects could be limited to those included in a local Safety Plan or could receive higher ranking if included in a local Safety Plan. Active Transportation projects could be focused on priorities (once established.) ***Details would be determined in a collaborative way over the coming months.***

¹ Note: Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds will continue to be awarded to projects that reduce emissions of particulate matter 10.

This will evolve over time as new plans are developed. For example:

- Rural Mobility Strategy will lead to rural efficiency project identification
- Regional Trails Plan will lead to trail project identification

Policy makers could develop set-asides for specific Project Priorities each funding cycle, to develop focus areas.

Recommended Project Priorities:

Project Priority	Existing or New	Rationale
Safety	Existing	
Efficiency	Existing	
Maintenance	Existing	
Resiliency	New	Lots of effort in the region around hazard and resiliency planning (i.e. hazard mitigation and climate adaptation)
Active Transportation	New	Active transportation projects have always been eligible, but making them an explicit priority highlights their importance to the region

Regional Priorities

Regional Priorities are tied to new or existing regional goals. Staff will work with the Technical Advisory Committee to identify types of projects that best meet identified goals. For instance, different types of projects can be categorized based on their effect on either greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions – either through reducing idling (delay) or vehicle miles traveled (distance).

Applying Regional Priority ranking will give policy makers transparent criteria for project evaluation, regardless of the type of project.

Recommended Regional Priorities:

Regional Priority	Existing or To Be Defined	Rationale
Efficient use of Federal Funds and Readiness to Obligate	To be defined	Will help ensure we meet our annual obligation target and use federal funding efficiently. Priority of Technical Advisory Committee.
Sustainable Thurston Land Use Goal	Adopted in 2013	Major regional planning project resulted in priority goals and targets
Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Goal.	GHG goal adopted in 2013 and updated in 2021	Recently updated the GHG goal and many local jurisdictions adopted a Regional Climate Plan
Equity Goal	Being defined currently	Priority of Council

Set Asides, Funding Minimums, or Funding Caps:

In addition to the required urban/rural allocations, policy makers can develop set-asides for rural communities (Tenino, Rainier, Bucoda, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation) or non-traditional partners such as school districts.

Policy makers can set Funding Caps, so that jurisdictions with greater resources for project identification and grant writing don't receive the majority of funding. Alternatively, they could set minimums for traditional partners (Cities, County, Intercity Transit) to ensure a geographic distribution of funding.

They could also set funding caps on types of projects. For instance, they may want to limit the amount of planning projects, or construction projects, just to ensure a wide range of types of projects to help meet obligation targets.

Project Outreach, Input, and Decision Making:

Public Outreach: TRPC is developing a community survey that will ask questions on project priorities, regional priorities, and access to transportation to meet daily needs. The survey will also include demographic questions so that respondents' answers can be correlated to various demographic characteristics. TRPC will distribute the survey by sending postcards to every resident in Thurston County, with follow up efforts to reach those who do not traditionally participate in planning projects. We will provide a Spanish version of the survey and will translate into other languages upon request. This survey will give the TAC and TPB insight into public priorities.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC): The TAC, consisting of staff from local and state partners, will help develop the process and give input on each step.

Transportation Policy Board (TPB): The TPB will be asked to make policy recommendations throughout the process, after being briefed with TAC input and any relevant information from public outreach.

Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC): TRPC will make the final decisions on the program structure.