

Sample Metropolitan Planning Organization

TO: Technical Advisory Committee

FROM: MPO Director

DATE: TAC meeting date

SUBJECT: Discussion of MTP / TIP Project Selection Criteria

At the October meeting of the Texas Transportation Commission the TxDOT staff was instructed to develop "Project Evaluation Indexes" to be used in making decisions on the selection and funding of projects. Staff presented their initial thoughts at the November meeting and a video of the presentation can be viewed on the web at: <http://www.dot.state.tx.us/transcom/video/nov05/videoexcerpts.htm> (link example)

It was also made clear that it is the intention of the Commission to require that MPO's utilize these indexes in the selection of projects as part of the 30-year Metropolitan Transportation Plan and the 4-year Transportation Improvement Program (MTP / TIP) process. Generally it appears that projects will need to be evaluated from:

- 1) How the proposed project provides a short-term, mid-term or long-term solution to the needs of the transportation network;
- 2) How the proposed project impacts the network on a local, regional or statewide level;
- 3) How the proposed project addresses the TxDOT goals of:
 - Reducing congestion – by measuring the percentage improvement to volume over capacity from the existing condition;
 - Improving safety – by projecting the reduction of accidents;
 - Expanding economic opportunity – by projecting the number of new jobs the proposed project will create;
 - Improves air quality – by projecting reduced travel time;
 - Increases the value of the states assets – by identifying local investment.

Given that an increase in the Category 7 – Metropolitan Mobility Funds in the coming months will necessitate a revision to the TIP-- the application of this new approach in project selection requires discussion. Additionally, the staff would benefit from discussion and direction on the development of project preferences or targets. These targets could include projects that focus on issues such as access management, safety, congestion mitigation, bicycle and pedestrian, freight and hazardous cargo, transit, roadway maintenance, etc.

Your thoughts and comments will be welcome.