



STAFF REPORT/RESOLUTION

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director 
DATE: May 31, 2016
SUBJECT: **Transportation Programming Guidebook, Resolution 06-16-14**

AT A GLANCE - ACTION

The purpose of this resolution is to seek RTC Board adoption of the Transportation Programming Guidebook. The Guidebook provides an overview of the Transportation Improvement Program, the regional project development process, and the policies and procedures associated with the development of the Transportation Improvement Program.

INTRODUCTION

The attached Transportation Programming Guidebook is a new document that RTC staff has prepared as a resource for the RTC's member agencies and their staff. The document provides an overview of the Transportation Improvement Program, the regional grant process, and the policies and procedures associated with the development of the Transportation Improvement Program.

The Draft Transportation Programming Guidebook has been reviewed by the RTC Board several times over the last year. Most recently, the Guidebook including guiding and new policies was reviewed at the May 2016 RTC Board meeting. The RTC Board also provided additional policy clarification into the grant selection process at their January and February 2016 meetings. At the May RTAC meeting the Guidebook was presented in final form, with RTAC recommending adoption by the RTC Board.

TIP FUNDING: POLICY AND STRATEGIES

Through prior briefings in 2016, the Board provided policy guidance pertaining to the overall grant policy framework, funding strategies, and grant selection criteria. The policy guidance is summarized as follows:

Guiding Policy:

Guiding the grant program investments is the policy framework established in the current Regional Transportation Plan, 2014 (RTP). As stated in the RTP, the goals of the region are balanced to promote a vibrant community. Implementation of the RTP promotes goals which invest resources in the transportation system to enhance economic development, mobility, and safety. The RTP also promotes the efficient operations of the multimodal transportation system for the traveling public. Investments of the regional federal funds should continue to be diverse and aligned with implementing the goals of the RTP.

Guiding Strategies:

Since the need for transportation improvements exceed the available revenue, a competitive project selection process is conducted for the distribution of RTC's regional federal funds. The overarching strategy is to implement the goals and policies of the Regional Transportation Plan. Specific funding strategies were developed to promote multi-modal outcomes and create agency leverage due to the limited grant funds available.

1. **STP and CMAQ Strategies** include the leverage of other grant sources, implementation of Transportation System Management and Operational (TSMO) improvements, building of multimodal urban arterials, and will not include using regional federal resources for the preservation of the transportation system.
2. **TAP Strategies** include the construction of bicycle and pedestrian projects.

GRANT SELECTION CRITERIA

RTAC has recommended Urban STP/CMAQ grant scoring criteria for the grant selection process. The TAP scoring criteria will be reviewed as part of the next call for projects in the spring of 2017. The following represents the recommended STP and CMAQ grant selection criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Weight
Mobility	20
Multimodal/Operations	15
Safety	20
Economic Development	20
Financial/Implementation	15
Sustainability/Air Quality*	10
Total	100

**Air Quality points are tripled for CMAQ projects*

TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMMING GUIDEBOOK

The RTC Board, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the region, has selection and programming authority for regionally allocated federal transportation funds, including the urban Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program. As the Regional Transportation Planning Organization, the RTC Board has selection authority for the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) for the three county RTPO region.

The intent of this document is to bring the overall regional TIP development process into one document and clarify the process for member agencies and their staff. The development of this Guidebook is the result of RTC staff working with member agency technical staff.

The Transportation Programming Guidebook is a working document that can be amended as needed by the RTC Board.

POLICY IMPLICATION

Upon approval of the Resolution, the Transportation Programming Guidebook will be placed on the RTC website as a programming resource document to assist local agencies in seeking federal transportation funding through the regional programming process.

BUDGET IMPLICATION

There is no impact to the RTC Budget. The budget for development of the Transportation Improvement Program is included in the annual adopted RTC Budget and Unified Planning Work Program.

ACTION REQUESTED

Adoption of the Resolution 06-16-14, "Transportation Programming Guidebook."

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ 2016,
by the Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council.

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

ATTEST:

Jack Burkman
Chair of the Board

Matt Ransom
Executive Director

Attachment