AGENDA ITEM

DATE: 28 October 2013
SUBJECT: MAG MPO/UDOT Joint Project Selection Process
PREPARED BY: Shawn Eliot

BACKGROUND: Last month, MPO staff presented to the MPO TAC Committee and the MPO Regional Planning Committee the proposed joint project selection process. This process will join the MPO, UDOT, and UTA project priority and selection processes together so all projects (except for maintenance, safety, bridge, and other smaller UDOT projects) will be prioritized at the MPO level before funding is programmed.

Currently, the MPO and UDOT have separate project selection processes to approve projects and to assign funding. The federal regulations for project selection within MPOs required that the MPO, the state, and the transit operators work together to select projects. Lochner Consultants was hired last year to study and make recommendations to the process with the goal to merge both processes together. The hope was that by creating one project selection process, all parties would be involved and project selection and funding would be more inclusive. This process also makes many MPO and UDOT programs more functional (i.e. Congestion Management).

INFORMATION: After last month’s meetings, the next step is to bring the ranking matrix to the MPO committees to educate and take input. The new ranking matrix is more technical, using more qualitative questions. It is more in line with the UDOT mission priorities (Optimize Mobility, Strengthen the Economy, Zero Fatalities, Preservation), as well as magnitude, cost.

Another main purpose of the matrix is to rank different project types together. To accomplish this, smaller, non-highway projects can have different points applied that allow them to compete with larger highway projects.

RECOMMENDATION: MPO staff proposes that we move forward with the proposed process and use it for the next round of project selection. Once through the process, we would suggest that any needed adjustments to the proposed process be made prior to any final adoption.

PROPOSED MOTION: I move that MPO staff work with UDOT and UTA to use the proposed Joint Project Priority Process for the upcoming project selection process. The MPO TAC Committee understands that this is a trial process and that adjustments can be made before it is formally adopted after the project selection process is completed.

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ATTACHMENT: Ranking Matrix