AGENDA ITEM

DATE: 24 March 2014
SUBJECT: TIP Selection - Project Ideas
PREPARED BY: Shawn Eliot

BACKGROUND: The TIP is a 4 year program of transportation projects and programs of all federally funded projects and all significant state and local projects, updated every 4 years. During the program life, changes can occur and are addressed with modifications and amendments. Over the last 4 years, the Regional Planning Committee has made numerous changes to the program through this process.

FUNDING: Mountainland MPO has jurisdiction over five federal transportation funds; STP-Provo/Orem Urban, Congestion Management/Air Quality (CM/AQ), CM/AQ 2.5, STP-Small Urban MAG, and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Total funding available through the MPO is about $11.2m annually. The MPO also makes recommendations for the Utah County Sales Tax funds that generate about $8.6 million annually. Currently there is projected to be about $50m to program this selection cycle with the majority of funding available in FY2016, 2017 and 2018.

PROCESS: There are various rules and regulations for applying and using MPO federal funds. MPO staff work with the MPO Technical Advisory Committee to develop a needed project list every two years. This process started at the MPO TAC Committee meeting on 24 February 2014. At this meeting the process was explained including that a Project Idea Form for each project to be considered for transportation funds would be due on 13 Feb 2014.

PROJECT IDEA FORMS: The Project Idea Form is a brief summary of projects a sponsor would like to have considered for MPO federal funds. At the March 24 MPO TAC Committee meeting, the committee will review all submittals and vote on which projects should go forward to the Concept Report stage. Their decisions should be based on criteria established by the MPO such as regional projects, based on the MPO transportation plan, with an emphasis on congestion relief, mode choice, air quality, and safety. Each TAC member can cast one vote per motion.

Please go to the Mountainland website at www.mountainland.org and click TIP Selection Process to view the completed Project Ideas forms.

There were 105 Project Idea Forms submitted with 8 of those studies. There is $50m in MPO and county funds available, $152.3m in draft costs were submitted for consideration (not including UDOT costs).

UDOT PROJECT IDEAS: For this selection process, we have asked UDOT to submit their listing of projects for ranking. UDOT projects, other than UDOT TOC projects, generally do not receive funding by the MPO. The committee can decide at project selection stage (May) if it wants to fund or partially fund a UDOT project.

PRESENTATIONS: Each sponsor will present their ideas to the MPO TAC Committee. The committee gives feedback as to better develop each project. Because of the large number of projects submitted, each sponsor will have 10 minutes to present each project and take feedback. Sponsors that submitted 6 or more projects will have 25 minutes total for all their projects to present and take feedback. The UDOT project listing will take longer.
VOTING: After the presentations, the committee will assign points to their top projects. This will be tallied by MPO staff and the committee will vote on a top tier of projects. Next another round of points will be given to the projects not listed in the top tier. After this is tallied, the committee will vote on the middle and lower tier project list.

NEXT STEPS: The project sponsors will consider the score they are given by the MPO TAC Committee for each project and decide if they have a viable project. More time and costs are involved in developing a Concept Report and if the project received a low score by the MPO TAC, it might be prudent not to proceed further. Concept Reports are due on 24 April 2014. MPO staff will rank the reports, based on the approved ranking matrix, and give a summary the MPO TAC Committee members before the Field Review.

The Field Review is planned for 12 May 2012 (depending on how many Concept Reports are submitted, this might take two days). Lunch will be provided. All projects that can be viewed in the field will be visited with the project sponsor presenting their ideas.

Project Prioritization will occur on 19 May 2012. The committee will take what they have learned from the MPO staff rankings, the field review, and other observations and rank the overall projects.

MPO staff will used the prioritization list to created a list of recommended funded projects. This will then go to the MPO TAC Committee meeting on 27 May 2014 for their review and approval. Once the list is finalized it will move to the next MPO Regional Planning Committee meeting for their final approval on 7 June 2014.


RECOMMENDATION: This is an information item only.

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ATTACHMENTS: Project Ideas Submittals 2014
Process timeline