**AGENDA ITEM # 5**

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<th>DATE:</th>
<th>September 24, 2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>SUBJECT:</td>
<td>Regional Transportation Plan - Draft Needs Based Project Lists</td>
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<td>PREPARED BY:</td>
<td>Shawn Eliot</td>
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**BACKGROUND:** The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is updated by the MPO once every 4 years. It will be called TransPlan50. Our next update is proposed for completion in June 2019. In developing the RTP a listing of regional highway, transit, and active transportation (bikes/trails) projects is created. At this point in the development of regional projects, only a needs-based list has been developed and only highways and transit are complete. Projects proposed in the plan are the larger regional projects. For highways we list arterial highways and freeways, transit, bus rapid transit, light rail and commuter rail, and core trails and bike lanes. Federal regulations require that the air quality conformity be done on a list of projects that are fiscally constrained to reasonable funding assumptions. This process will be done later this year.

**TRANSPORTATION SUMMITS:** Last spring the MPO held 6 meetings or transportation summits with mayors, county commissioners, city council members and planning commission members, staff, and others. There was good attendance. We took input and modeled many ideas generated from the meetings. Many of the major projects proposed came from these meetings. There were five goals that came from these meetings;

1. Improve Regional Highway Connections
2. Complete the Grid
3. Explore Additional Freeways, Add Capacity
4. Create a Robust Regional Transit Network
5. Walkable / Livable Communities

Over the last month we have met with most cities, UDOT and UTA to review demographic projections and proposed projects and have incorporated their input into the draft list.

**The Regional Highway Grid:** a major theme from the transportation summit meetings was working together to create a connected grid of regional highways connecting between and through communities. Utah County is currently lacking such a system. MPO staff created an ideal grid map placing proper road types at proper spacing. We connected the dots, so to speak, connecting already built roads together showing what would need to be done to complete such a grid. This is the beginning of the conversation. Our goal would be to have communities discuss these options and work through your
planning process to see what corridors could occur. The lines on the map are in no way concrete. The local process should dictate adjustments to the map, including removing lines completely. We would also point out that this idea of a grid system has caught on with the state and we are in talks to address funding shortages for creating such a system. Whatever can be placed in the local plans now, could go a long way if and when funding is identified.

**Highways:** regional roads include minor arterials and larger facilities which are currently on, or are proposed for, the State Functional Classified Highway System. In developing the projects, three sources are reviewed, they include projects on the current RTP, city master transportation plans, and transportation studies. Projects from these sources are then modeled with the MPO Traffic Model to gauge performance. For projects where a need is demonstrated, they are placed in one of three phases of the plan (phase one is by 2030, phase two by 2040 and phase three by 2050). Projects can be added in consultation with our partners if a need is demonstrated.

**Transit:** the MPO traffic model produces data to show when ridership warrants a new transit project. The plan lists major transit projects including commuter rail, light rail, bus rapid transit, and core bus service. With our project 1.3m population in 2050, major transit lines work in Utah County, especially in our north/south I-15 corridor. Projects are placed in one of three phases, just like highways, based on when the service would be viable (enough riders to warrant). Projects can be added in consultation with our partners if a need is demonstrated.

**PROPOSAL:** Before the MPO Technical Advisory Committee is the draft listing of the proposed project needs for the RTP update. Please review to see if the list represents the regional needs of your area. Any requests for changes to the list we propose be made by 10/16/2018. Our goal is to present project costs and a fiscal constrained project list by phase at the next meeting.

The Ideal Regional Highway Grid is for information. We ask that you review this with your staff, council and planning commission and work toward how this regional solution works in planning process. MPO staff are available to help.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that the TAC committee recommend approval of the draft Project’s Need-based List known that it is draft and that adjustments can be made.
**SUGGESTED MOTION:**  
I move that the MPO Technical Advisory Committee, based off the MPO staff recommendation, approve the draft listing of projects. This approval allows MPO staff to present the needs-based listing of projects to the public knowing that it is a draft and further refinement could occur.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**  
Draft Highways Projects List - Need-based  
Draft Transit Projects List - Need-based  
Ideal Utah County Regional Highway Grid (information only)