National Capital Region
Transportation Planning Board

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Long-Range Plan Task Force
FROM:	Kanti Srikanth, TPB Staff Director
	John Swanson, Long-Range Planning Program Manager
SUBJECT:	Preliminary set of draft regional project selection criteria
DATE:	May 12, 2016

This memo describes a preliminary set of selection criteria that the TPB could potentially use to select a limited list of unfunded regional priority projects.

TPB staff developed the set of eight criteria (listed in Phase II) based upon goals and objectives in the TPB Vision and the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan. The draft selection criteria are described below in broad brush terms. Questions regarding the actual application of such criteria are listed at the end of this memo.

It should be noted that the final set of criteria would not only be used to identify unfunded regional priority projects; they would also be used by the TPB to promote regional priorities in the project selection processes of the TPB's members.

PHASE I: Network of regionally significant multi-modal projects

The full inventory of unfunded projects that the TPB staff has compiled (the projects in the All-Build Scenario) will be screened to identify a subset of regionally significant highway and transit projects. These will generally be large projects that have a significant effect on the capacity of the region's transportation system or are otherwise deemed to be regionally significant.

Regionally significant roadway projects will include Interstate highways and other facilities on the National Highway System. Regionally significant transit projects will include all fixed-guideway projects as well as bus rapid transit and projects on WMATA's Priority Corridor Network (PCN). Freight projects will include those projects that are on the Regional Freight-Significant Network will be included. Any additional projects not in the inventory but agreed to by the Task Force will be added.

Product: Basemap with unfunded regionally significant multimodal projects (described above)

PHASE II: Limited set of currently unfunded Regional Priority Projects

A set of multi-modal criteria will be developed that are grounded in the TPB Vision, the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan, and Region Forward. These will serve as the region's criteria for project selection/prioritization. Eight criteria, listed below, will provide the basis for project selection. These

criteria are derived from key TPB policy documents – the TPB Vision, the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan, and Region Forward.

The criteria will be used to highlight current and anticipated deficiencies in the regional transportation system. Some criteria may be applied in a straight-forward binary fashion – for example, projects either are or are not connected to a Community of Environmental Justice Concern. In other cases, staff will analyze current and forecast (under the CLRP) conditions to identify the specific locations of anticipated deficiencies or needs. Candidate projects will then be assessed based upon whether they are anticipated to address the needs in these locations.

It should be emphasized that staff does not anticipate conducting project-level travel demand forecasting for individual candidate projects. Such analysis would be extremely resource-intensive and in many cases would not yield helpful results. Rather, the selection process will assess whether projects are or are not anticipated, based upon professional judgment, to address a problem or need that will be highlighted through staff analysis.

A suggested treatment for each criteria is outlined below.

1. **Increase Person Throughput**
   Will a project increase the number of people traveling through a corridor?

   Assessment of Current and/or Forecast Needs: Staff will identify and map congested corridors with low person-throughput where person throughput is constrained because capacity is limited.

   Project Selection: Projects that are deemed likely to increase person throughput in the above key corridors will be given credit in the evaluation system.

2. **Provide Targeted Congestion Relief**
   Will a project offer targeted congestion relief?

   Assessment of Current and/or Forecast Needs: Staff will identify facilities/corridors with the heaviest current and forecast congestion under the CLRP. The analysis will separately provide maps for vehicle hours or delay (VHD) and auto person hours of delay (PHD). Comparable measure(s) will be used to identify transit facilities with current or anticipated problems with crowding.

   Project Selection: Candidate projects that are deemed likely to relieve congestion in congested corridors will be given credit in the evaluation system.

3. **Increase the Use of Non-SOV Travel Modes**
   Will a project increase transit ridership, walking, bicycling, or carpooling?

   Assessment of Current and/or Forecast Needs: None.

   Project Selection: Projects that are deemed likely to increase non-SOV travel will be given credit in the evaluation system (binary assessment).

4. **Connect Activity Centers**
Will a project connect two or more Activity Centers?

> Assessment of Current and/or Forecast Needs: Staff will provide maps of Activity Centers that will also include current and planned road and transit connections.

> Project Selection: Projects that connect two or more Activity Centers will be given credit in the evaluation system.

5. **Improve Access to Environmental Justice Communities**
Will a project improve travel options or otherwise increase access for traditionally disadvantaged communities?

> Assessment of Current and/or Forecast Needs: Staff will develop maps of Communities of Concern that will also include current and planned road and transit connections.

> Project Selection: Projects that address transportation challenges of the Community of EJ Concern will be given credit in the evaluation system.

6. **Improve Safety**
Will a project address a specific safety issue or connection?

> Assessment of Current and/or Forecast Needs: [Facilities with specific safety issues – identified by member jurisdictions? Other?]

> Project Selection: Projects that specifically alleviate a safety issue will be given credit in the evaluation system.

7. **Address Freight Needs**
Will a project address regionally significant freight opportunities or needs?

> Assessment of Current and/or Forecast Needs: Staff will provide a map of the Regionally Significant Freight Network.

> Project Selection: Projects designed to enhance and /or improve freight movement on the Regionally Freight-Significant Network will be given credit in the evaluation system.

8. **Improve Non-Motorized Connectivity**
Will a project increase connectivity of the regional trail network and non-motorized access to transit stations?

> Assessment of Current and/or Forecast Needs: Under the guidance of the TPB Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee, staff will provide: 1) a map of a regional trail network (currently under development) with built and unbuilt facilities and 2) a map of transit stations with constrained walksheds (WMATA's station access improvement study).

Project Selection: Projects (packaged in groups) that are deemed likely to increase access to transit stations or close gaps in the regional trail network will be given credit in the evaluation system.

NOTE: The process of identifying projects for the above two groups will be conducted, for the Task Force's consideration, under the guidance of the Bike/Ped Subcommittee. Projects will be drawn from the Regional Bike/Ped Inventory and the inventory of unfunded projects.

Some Followup Questions

- What form will the "scores" for the individual criteria take?
  Some options:
    o A checkbox or binary equivalent – A project either does or does not serve the criterion in question.
    o Harvey balls (Consumer Reports-style ideograms) – A project could be graphically shown to meet criteria in ways that indicate partial achievement.
    o A numeric range – One project may serve the criterion more effectively than another and therefore we might want to assign it a relatively higher score.

- How will the "scores" for the 8 criteria be compared to each other?
  Some options:
    o Essentially qualitative: A table with checkboxes (or Harvey balls) and no cumulative total
    o A simple tally: Add up the check marks (binary score) or assigned points.
    o A weighted sum: Some criteria might convey more weight than others.