

TO: Transportation Planning Board

FROM: Zach Dobelbower, Chair of the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: Questions regarding the Draft Scope for the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan

DATE: May 18, 2011

Upon receipt of the latest iteration of the Priorities scope at our meeting last week, and with anticipation the scope was nearing its conclusion, the CAC developed a set of questions we hope will benefit the Taskforce's effort in finalizing the scope. The ingredients for a successful priorities plan are in place; we believe that additional clarity will only strengthen the process moving forward and reinforce the good work that's already there. Please find our comments and questions below.

CAC questions:

- Is this a plan or a process? Can the proposed scope be revised to clarify what parts are an ongoing process (who are the participants and what is the process cycle), and how and when do the processes yield products? Will all prospective projects with regional significance be evaluated? Which group will be responsible for oversight of the plan and/or the ongoing use of the tool?
- We believe the scope will benefit with more direction and clarification on the 'strategy development' and 'candidate selection' processes. How they are designed, who designs them, and what process guides that? Will these processes be transparent and involve the public? More specifically, as part of Task 2, will the TPB identify and approve a limited number of key strategies that will be combined into a synergistic and aspirational regional system (essentially a preferred scenario)? And will such a system be used as the basis for identifying a limited number of priorities (numbering 10-15, as the scope suggests)? The draft scope alludes to a connection between strategies and priorities, but it does not clearly explain it.
- What provisions are there for public participation in the selection and final design of the performance measures in task 1, the selection of strategies in task 2, and the design of benefit-cost analysis in task 3? How will differences of opinion be resolved to ensure transparency and sound rationale in the outcomes? What happens after the projects are selected? Who will use the plan and priorities, and how?
- The CAC would like to ensure an appropriate role at each stage for public involvement, and we encourage the TPB to develop staff capacity and seek external professional support to conduct a multi-faceted public involvement strategy.