

Programming Options for Competitive Safety Set-Aside (RG105)

At its January 9, 2008 meeting, two main options for selecting projects to be funded from the competitive safety set-aside (RG105) were presented to the Planning Committee. Option 1 was for CDTC to conduct the solicitation, evaluation and programming as it normally would. Option 2 was for a Region One (or eight-county) group (possibly consisting of staff from CDTC, NYSDOT, AGFTC, Essex and Greene Counties) to conduct the process. The Planning Committee directed the staff to present to the eight-county group, the method CDTC would use, to see if the process would be accepted by the group.

Left unresolved for both options are 1) whether or projects would be limited to roadway engineering solutions or could include education and enforcement, and 2) whether or not projects should have maximum funding limits, and how any limits should be applied.

The following table highlights the major elements of the CDTC process as presented by CDTC staff, and the response of the rest of the eight-county group to those elements.

Element	Option 1 (CDTC Area Only)	Option 2 (Eight Counties at One Time)
Funding Target	Relying on funding source budget amounts approved early in the 2007-12 TIP update process, CDTC carries a \$7.5M budget for RG105.	Region 1 carries an eight-county, \$10 M total. Individual project evaluations and rankings provide implicit funding amounts for the sub-areas (CDTC, AGFTC, other counties). Neither MPO has a mechanism by which to challenge the distribution by sub-area.
Evaluation Procedure	CDTC uses its traditional project screening and evaluation process as defined in the 2007-12 TIP, including both qualitative and quantitative measures. The life cycle of each improvement is reflected in the annualized project costs.	The evaluation is limited to the calculation of a benefit/cost ratio based on two input values: a safety benefit, calculated using CDTC's 2007-12 TIP procedure and the total estimated project cost (not the annualized cost).
Project Selection	The Planning Committee is shown a ranked list of projects based on the results of the merit evaluations and is presented with some programming options. The Planning Committee would program one of those options, or another of its making, to the established funding target.	Projects are ranked by benefit/cost and recommended for funding in that order until all funds are spoken for. As stated above, no consideration is given to distribution among sub-areas of the Region.
Adjustments to Project Selection	CDTC often reserves funds for a short final round of programming after a public review period. This may or may not be applicable here.	The recommended list of programmed projects is provided to the Planning Committee along with the results of CDTC's full project evaluation procedure. The Planning Committee could then replace projects within the CDTC area recommended for programming by the eight-county group with others of its choosing on a dollar-for-dollar basis.
Final Approval	Final project approval rests with the Planning Committee (as with all drawdowns on regional set-asides).	Final approval rests with the Planning Committee as long as the funding amount determined by the eight-county group's recommended project list has not been exceeded.

