

2010-15 Transportation Improvement Program Update Programming New Projects

The goal of CDTC is to produce a “balanced” TIP that contributes to implementation of the New Visions 2030 Plan. The CDTC approach meets both the letter and spirit of federal regulations by allowing CDTC to look at the array of projects and their relative merit, and to establish a program that best implements the range of goals included in the metropolitan transportation plan. The CDTC staff has prepared the following material to be used to help guide the Planning Committee in choosing new projects for the 2010-15 TIP.

1. An overall programming approach was approved by the Planning Committee in November, 2009 as described in the attached document, *Use of New Visions Budgets for Round One Programming Targets*. Comparison of New Visions budget to actual projects that have been implemented suggests that the emphasis should be on infrastructure renewal projects (with accommodation of the needs of non-auto modes, etc).
2. Round 1 programming is the phase of program building that considers new projects based on merit. Projects are grouped by category and arrayed according to merit after filtering the projects. The filtering process focuses upon assigning Round 1 funds to cost-effective projects in important locations. The attached table shows the results of CDTC’s merit evaluation exercise. In each project category, projects are listed in descending order of quantitative benefit/cost in two groups: those that pass at least two filters and those that do not. The three filters are described in the *Project Justification Package* materials. Only 50 percent of anticipatory funding will be programmed in Round 1.
3. Calculated benefit/cost ratios capture quantitative benefits fairly well. However, the benefit/cost ratio alone is not always sufficient to communicate how well a project can meet the goals and implement New Visions strategies. For this reason, Project Fact Sheets are prepared for each project to include a narrative description of qualitative project benefits. The source of this information is derived from sponsor’s answers to questions posed in the Project Justification Package. Fact Sheets will be distributed at the January 20, 2010 meeting.