

CDTC Transportation Improvement Program Project Application, Evaluation and Data Management Process Update Summary

August 26, 2021

Introduction

CDTC's staff has worked throughout 2021 to update the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project application, evaluation and data management processes. The goals were to simplify the application process for project sponsors, streamline staff evaluation efforts and ensure the process is consistent with the principles and language of the regional transportation plan, New Visions 2050. The updated materials were shared and discussed with CDTC's Planning Committee at its August 4, 2021 meeting. To follow is a brief summary of the changes.

Summary of Changes

- 1) Web Based Project Application – Staff developed an electronic TIP project application powered by Jotform. Applicants will be required to use this web based application to apply for funding. A workshop will be held virtually to review the application process.
- 2) Updated Bridge Evaluation Procedure – Staff shared several options with the Planning Committee to address NYSDOT concerns about bridge projects receiving low scores during the project evaluation process. The Planning Committee approved revisions to the merit score sheet to allow bridges to score more points by revising the evaluation criteria in the Preservation/Renewal of Existing Infrastructure Category and increasing the maximum point value of the Security and Resiliency to Natural Hazards and Human Caused Events category. In addition, the Planning Committee approved adding a weighted score to all bridge projects at the completion of CDTC's evaluation to inflate the scores of bridges as supplemental information in an appendix.
- 3) Merit Score Sheet Updates – Staff made numerous changes to the language within each merit category to align with New Visions 2050 objectives and to make the score sheet more consistent and comprehensible. Additional consideration, including bonus points, was given to bridges in the Preservation/Renewal of Existing Infrastructure and the Security and Resiliency to Natural Hazards and Human Caused Events categories to account for vulnerable bridges, bridges that if closed would result in long detours or bridges in close proximity to a critical facility.
- 4) New Data Management System – Staff developed a new TIP project data management system using Microsoft Access. The system allowed staff to refresh the format of TIP data reports and project fact sheets for the Policy Board, Planning Committee and the public during the project programming process and public review. The new system will also improve the efficiency of the staff workflow.
- 5) Definitions for Preservation and Beyond Preservation Projects – Staff worked with NYSDOT and CDTC's Planning Committee to develop a guidance document defining projects that would be categorized as preservation versus those that would be categorized as beyond preservation during the TIP evaluation and programming process. These definitions include limits on the reconstruction of sidewalks and trails as part of preservation projects and that no new sidewalk or trail

construction would be part of preservation projects. This is subject to change as NYSDOT develops guidance for the 2022-2027 TIP/STIP update later this fall.

Planning Committee Recommendation

CDTC's Planning Committee recommended that the Policy Board approve the revised TIP materials and authorize initiation of the 2022-2027 TIP update process.