



FMSIB Freight Policy and Project Advisory Committee (FPPAC)

Meeting No. 2

May 10, 2021

*Presentation Prepared by:
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Agenda



- Reminder of the Tasks
- Project Selection
 - Overview
 - FMSIB Process
 - Other Processes
- Lessons Learned
- Discussion of Next Steps

Reminder of the Tasks



- “Identify the highest priority freight investments for the state, across freight modes, state and local jurisdictions, and regions of the state.” (SSB 5165)
 - By Dec. 1, 2021: Submit a preliminary report providing a status update on the process and methodology for identifying and prioritizing investments.
 - By Dec. 1, 2022: Submit a prioritized list of freight investments that are geographically balanced across the state and can proceed to construction in a timely manner.
 - “The ...
 - ... prioritized freight project list (FMSIB proviso)
 - ...investment plan component (WSDOT proviso)
 - ...for the state portion of national highway freight program funds must first address shortfalls in funding for connecting Washington act projects.”

Project Selection Overview



- State / Region / Local Planning
 - Land Use (state guidance, local implementation)
 - Infrastructure (state and locally-owned)
 - Funding (state and federal grants to locals)
- Need vs. Projects (SSB)
 - Planning (Long-range needs)
 - Prioritization (List)
 - Programming (timing by fund source)
 - Selection / Authorization / Recommendation (decision to fund)
 - Road-Rail Conflicts Example

Grant Programs (General)



- Eligibility
 - Project Scope
 - Project Location (system)
- Prioritization
 - Criteria
 - Points
- Selection / Authorization / Recommendation
 - Available Funding
 - Fund Timing
 - Other Policies
- Governance: Who makes the final decision?
 - Legislative vs. Executive
 - Committees vs. “Super” Committees

FMSIB Project Selection



- Eligibility
 - On or Benefits FGTS T1/T2
 - Mitigate Negative Impacts of Freight
- Prioritization
 - Criteria (mobility, safety, environmental, match, etc.)
 - 198-point Scale (*“More Points = Better”*)
 - Interviews
- Selection / Authorization / Recommendation
 - Appropriation Level
 - Timing of Requests
 - First Dollar vs. Last dollar
- Board Consensus
- Legislative Approval

Project Prioritization Criteria



Summary of Evaluation Criteria:

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Freight Mobility for the Project Area | 35 Maximum |
| Freight Mobility for the Region, State, & Nation | 35 Maximum |
| General Mobility | 25 Maximum |
| Safety | 20 Maximum |
| Freight & Economic Value | 15 Maximum |
| Environment | 20 Maximum |
| Partnership | 25 Maximum |
| Consistency with Regional & State Plans | 5 Maximum |
| Cost | 10 Maximum |
| Special Issues | 8 Maximum |
| Total: | <hr/> 198 points |

FMSIB Scoring and Selection Process



- Scoring Applications:
 - Technical Team and Board Team score independently
 - Team reconciliation meeting
 - Create interview invite list
- Project Interviews: Presentations by Sponsors
- Board's Project Selection Team Makes Funding Recommendations to Full Board
- Board Makes Final Decision/Recommendation to the Legislature

FMSIB Final Award



- Award Letter:
 - Dollar Amount (ceiling)
 - Percentage Amount (shared savings)
 - Timing of Expenditure
- Match:
 - 20% Minimum
 - 50% or More is Typical
 - Sources of Match: other grants, local funds, LID's, loans, etc.

Other Project Selection Processes



- “Super Committees”
 - WSDOT
 - CRAB
 - TIB
 - FMSIB
- Committees (Four “freight-focused” Case Studies):
 - WAFAC 2016
 - WAFAC 2017
 - Road/Rail Conflicts
 - JTC 2016
 - FMSIB 2018

Case Studies Comparisons



- Product
- Process
- People
- Challenges

WAFAC 2016



- Product
 - Prioritized list of freight projects for NHFP funding
- Process
 - Issue statewide “Call for Projects”
 - Assemble and prioritize submittals
 - Transmit to Legislature (memo signed jointly, WSDOT and FMSIB)
- People
 - “2016 WAFAC” (12 to 15 representatives, selected by FMSIB)
- Challenges
 - Little time
 - Changing federal guidelines

WAFAC 2017



- Product
 - “Validated” list of freight projects for NHFP funding and Freight Plan Investment Component
- Process
 - Hire consultant to develop validation process
 - Apply to 2016 list of freight projects
 - Transmit list to Legislature (in WSDOT budget proposal) and include in 2017 Freight Plan (submitted to FHWA)
- People
 - “2017 WAFAC” (30 – 40 representatives, “2016 WAFAC” augmented)
- Challenges
 - Validation process was revised as it was developed
 - 2016 consensus project list was substantially revised

Road-Rail Conflicts Ph. 1 (2016)



- Product
 - Statewide prioritized list of road/rail crossing problems.
- Process
 - Hire consultant, convene Advisory Panel
 - Identify ranking criteria, apply to 2,000+ statewide crossings (*“More Points = Worse”*)
 - Rank crossings, report to JTC/Legislature
- People
 - Eleven-member Advisory Panel representing cities, counties, ports, railroads, trucking, WSDOT, UTC, and FMSIB.
- Challenges
 - \$250,000 budget
 - Debate over weighting of criteria

Road-Rail Conflicts Ph. 2 (2018)



- Product
 - Statewide prioritized list of road/rail crossing projects.
- Process
 - Hire consultant, convene Advisory Panel
 - Works with MPO's/RTPO's to collect project ideas for Top 50 and Top 300 problem areas.
 - Identify project ranking criteria, apply to collected project ideas (*"Higher Points/dollar = Better"*)
 - Rank crossing projects, report to JTC/Legislature
- People
 - Eleven-member Advisory Panel representing cities, counties, ports, railroads, trucking, WSDOT, UTC, and FMSIB.
- Challenges
 - \$60,000 budget
 - Collecting project ideas

Lessons Learned



- Creating project lists is not easy or cheap.
- Upfront agreement on the process, criteria, and desired results is essential.
- Prioritizing projects without knowing the scope/schedule/budget/benefits of those projects is challenging.
- Policy oversight of a technical process ensures collaboration, consensus, and a defensible list.

Draft Project Selection Principles (For FPPAC discussion)



- WSDOT and FMSIB should agree upfront on the selection process, criteria (eligibility and prioritization), and desired results.
- The project selection process should be collaborative, transparent, understandable, and defensible.
- The project selection process should prioritize projects, not needs.
- The technical project selection process should have strong policy oversight.

Discussion of Next Steps



- FPPAC Endorsement of “Draft Project Selection Principles”
- Staff development of a “Draft Project Selection Process”
- Another FPPAC meeting?
- Upcoming meetings
 - May 11 MPO/RTPO Coordinating Committee
 - June 4 Board Agenda
 - Sept. 16 Board Workshop