FMSIB Freight Policy and Project Advisory Committee (FPPAC)

Meeting No. 2
May 10, 2021

Presentation Prepared by:
Brian J. Ziegler - FMSIB Director
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freight Mobility for the Project Area</td>
<td>35 Maximum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freight Mobility for the Region, State, &amp; Nation</td>
<td>35 Maximum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Mobility</td>
<td>25 Maximum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
<td>20 Maximum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freight &amp; Economic Value</td>
<td>15 Maximum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>20 Maximum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnership</td>
<td>25 Maximum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consistency with Regional &amp; State Plans</td>
<td>5 Maximum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>10 Maximum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Issues</td>
<td>8 Maximum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total:** 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case Studies Comparisons</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Process</td>
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<tr>
<td>• People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Challenges</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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