

Project Selection Advisory Council 2014

The Project Selection Advisory Council (PSA Council) is working to establish uniform project selection criteria for developing a comprehensive state transportation plan. The criteria shall be consistent with state and federal legislation, including MAP-21 (federal transportation authorization bill), MassDOT's weMove Massachusetts, the statewide strategic multimodal plan, and MassDOT's Capital Investment Plan process. The Council is charged with delivering its recommendations for a project priority formula or other data-driven process to the Legislature by the end of 2014.

Proposed Criteria

Since convening in January 2014, the PSA Council explored existing federal, state and regional evaluation criteria. The Council has also focused on data availability, geographic equity, and baseline requirements from state and federal statutes. The proposed criteria below, as well as possible metrics to support them, reflect the outcome of these initial PSA Council discussions.

Safety – the ability of the transportation system to allow people and goods to move freely, without harm in a secure environment.

Possible Metrics:

- Identify intersection crash locations, causes and multimodal transportation types.
- Incorporate safety elements into intersection design & maintenance projects.
- Determine if the project improves bicycling/pedestrian conditions in locations that have experienced pedestrian and bicycle crashes.

System Preservation – the ability of projects to improve the physical condition of transportation assets ensuring resiliency during extreme weather conditions.

Possible Metrics:

- Perform a life cycle analysis on major infrastructure projects.
- Determine if the project addresses future climate change resiliency planning measures.
- Determine if the project addresses existing poor transport infrastructure conditions.

Mobility/Access – the ability of a project to provide efficient movement of people and goods between all destinations and by all modes.

Possible Metrics:

- Estimate the reduction in person-hours of travel.
- Estimate the reduction in transit person-hours of travel.
- Determine whether the project will reduce commuting times after adjusting for seasonal variations and for changes in the economic activity in the region.

Healthy Transportation – the assessment of transportation system's impacts on quality of life, the natural environment and healthy transportation choices.

Possible Metrics:

- Does the project accommodate bicycling, transit and walking options?
- Perform analysis to determine whether the project is located within a public health distress area.

Economic Development – the ability of a project to facilitate or support business development & employment.

Possible Metrics:

- Use geographical analysis to determine whether the investment is located within an economically distressed area.
- Perform analysis to determine whether the project is located within a high-employment density area.

Social Equity / Fairness – the assessment of a project in supporting equitable investment in existing communities, through the provision of community enhancements, and the equal distribution of benefits & burdens amongst all communities.

Possible Metrics:

- Determine whether a project is located within an area that includes Environmental Justice (EJ) or Title VI populations.

Project Selection Advisory Council Public Hearing Dates*

The Council is seeking feedback at the following meetings as they further develop and refine the project selection criteria and prioritization formula.

July 29, 2014

Boston – 10 Park Plaza, 2nd Floor, Conference Room 2/3, Boston, MA 02116
(11:00am - 12:30pm)

September 16, 2014

Springfield – Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, Springfield, MA 01104
(11:30am – 1:00pm)

September 24, 2014

Haverhill – Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, 160 Main Street, Haverhill, MA 01830
(2:30pm - 4:00pm)

October 20, 2014

Hyannis – Cape Cod Commission, 3224 Main Street, Hyannis, MA 02630
(2:30pm – 4:00pm)

November 12, 2014

Worcester – Union Station (Union Hall), 455 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608
(6:30pm – 8:00pm)

This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities and those with limited English proficiency. Accessibility accommodations and language services will be provided free of charge, upon request, as available. For more information or to request reasonable accommodation and/or language services see "Further Inquiries" for contact.

Mission Statement

With due consideration of the requirements of fiscal constraint, federal funding restrictions, regional priorities, geographic equity, environmental justice and state of good repair, and in a manner that balances the need for responsive and transparent adaptability to unanticipated changes in funding, project readiness or in the event of an emergency or public safety need, the Project Selection Advisory Council, as established by the Massachusetts Legislature in Section 11 of Chapter 46 of the Acts of 2013, seeks to review existing statewide project evaluation criteria and prioritization processes for Massachusetts' multi-modal transportation system. The PSA Council will recommend changes for a more uniform, transparent and data-driven prioritization process that reflects MassDOT's mission to provide our nation's safest and most reliable transportation system to strengthen our economy and quality of life across the Commonwealth.

Membership

- Richard A. Davey, Secretary and CEO, MassDOT
- David Mohler, Deputy Secretary, MassDOT
- Frank DePaola, Highway Administrator, MassDOT
- Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director, Franklin Regional Council of Governments
- Jim Lovejoy, Massachusetts Municipal Association
- John M. Pourbaix, Construction Industries of Massachusetts
- Jeffrey B. Mullan, Foley Hoag LLP
- Steve Silveira, ML Strategies

Further Inquiries

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