# RGVMPO Transportation Alternatives Set –Aside Working Group Meeting #2

JANUARY 24,2023
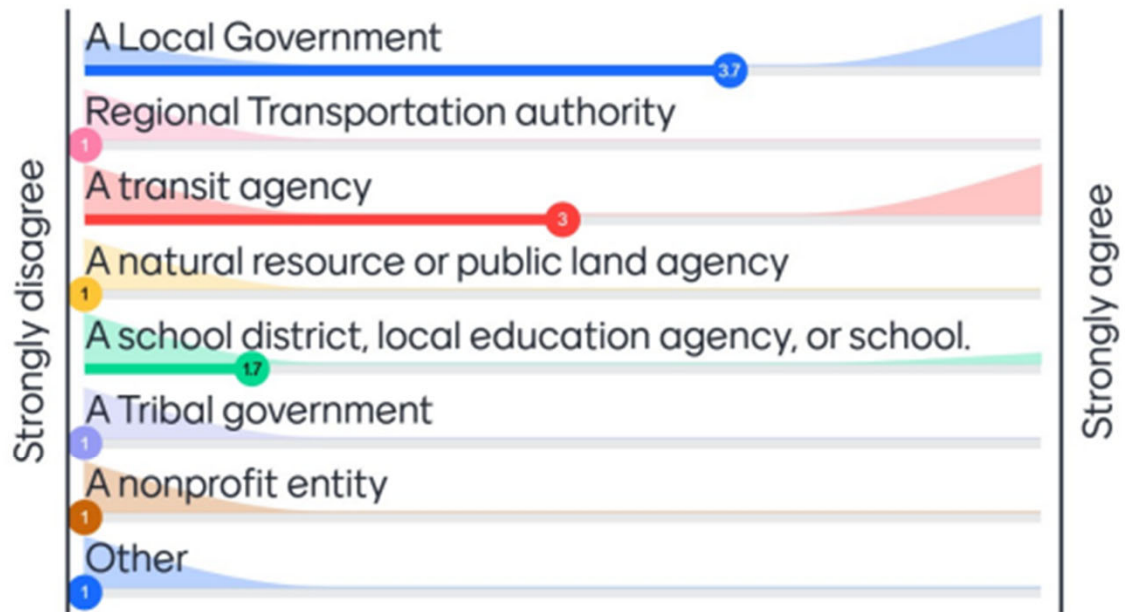
EVA L. GARCIA
PLANNER III: BIKE-PED PROGRAM COORDINATOR

# TASA Working Group Meeting #2 Agenda

➢ Review TASA Working Group Meeting #1 Feedback

➢ Review RGVMPO BPAC Survey TASA Feedback

➢ Discuss draft Scoring Criteria & solicit feedback via Mentimeter

  ➢ Project Readiness

  ➢ Safety Benefits

  ➢ Equity

  ➢ Connectivity
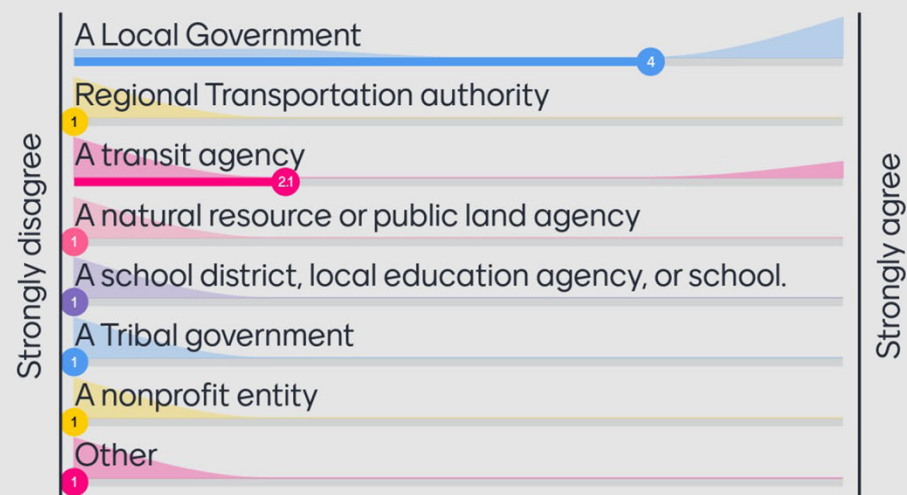
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# TASA Working Group Meeting #1 [12.19.22]

## Agenda

- TxDOT - TA program guide review

- RGVMPO - draft TASA program guide review & feedback

- TxDOT - TASA Application review

- RGVMPO - draft Application review and feedback

- TxDOT - scoring criteria & timeline of actives review

- RGVMPO - draft scoring criteria & timeline of activities review and feedback
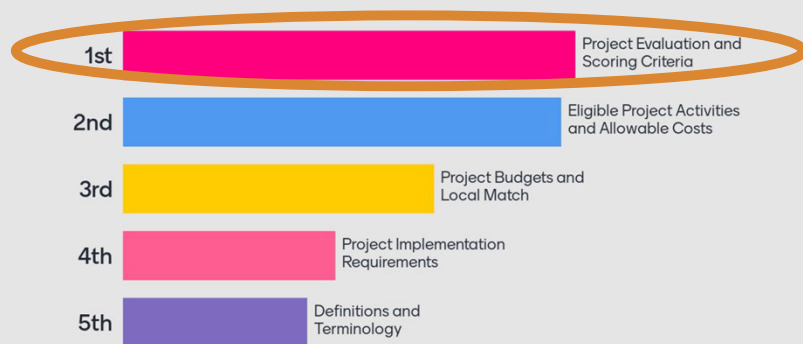
# TASA Working Group Meeting #1 Feedback

## Most useful in the RGVMPO TASA Program Guide?

| Rank | Category |
|------|----------|
| 1st | Project Evaluation and Scoring Criteria |
| 2nd | Eligible Project Activities and Allowable Costs |
| 3rd | Project Budgets and Local Match |
| 4th | Project Implementation Requirements |
| 5th | Definitions and Terminology |

## What did you find was helpful from the TxDOT TASA Application?

budget breakdown

detailed and easy to fill

fillable pdf

## What would you change/add to the Draft RGVMPO TASA Program Guide?

- Helpful websites for information or documents
- Area to upload documentation/references attached to scoring
- Visual with explanation of evaluation and scoring criteria

# What did you find was helpful from the TxDOT TASA Program Guide?

**Including in RGVMPO TASA Program Guide revision**

**Discussing today!**

**Developing for Mtg. #3**

was very helpful and the
program important dates
process detail on p 7
start to finish map
easy to read        scoring criteria
criteria measures        guided criteria
informative        cities would benefit
educative
terminology        flow charts
refined
possible program issues        use visuals
the sidewalk information

# TASA Working Group Meeting #1 Feedback

## What would you like to change/add to the Draft RGVMPO TASA scoring criteria & timeline of activities?

Please consider changing how project information is shared with members.

Eva is amazing. I trust her.

extended technical assistance for cities with populations less than 10/20K?

It's a lot of info to process, but well described.

Guided scoring criteria with examples and flow timeline

Timeline is doable. The scoring criteria will help us identify the best project to submit, so once that is finalized, we'll dissect it on our end as applications.

## What did you find was helpful from the TxDOT TASA Scoring Criteria & Timeline of Activities?

criteria definitions

scoring community support

how to prove connectivity

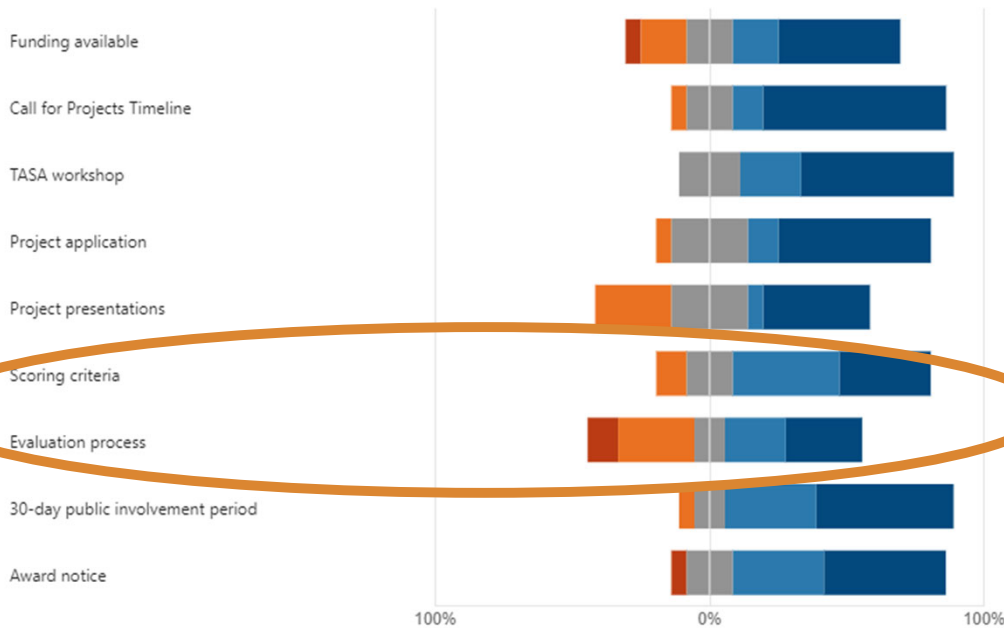how to score geo equity

gis analysis eval

# RGVMPO BPAC TASA Survey Feedback

8. In regards to the FY2021-2022 TASA Call for Projects, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the following:

More Details

■ Very dissatisfied   ■ Somewhat dissatisfied   ■ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied   ■ Somewhat satisfied   ■ Very satisfied

Funding available

Call for Projects Timeline

TASA workshop

Project application

Project presentations

Scoring criteria

Evaluation process

30-day public involvement period

Award notice

100%    0%    100%

9. TASA Evaluation Feedback:

More Details    ☼ Insights

13
Responses

Latest Responses

"Im not involved much with TASA and have no feedback for this."

"It is clear that staff are making great efforts to improve the TASA Call of Pr..."

"I think it would be good for the MPO to send a letter awarding the project a..."

7 respondents (54%) answered **projects** for this question.

projects with the applicates    similar call for projects    extended meeting
evaluation process    project presentations    application evaluation
TASA Call of Projects  time  **projects**    **best**  projects and the process
second meeting    meeting will be to review
evaluation meetings  area projects  project application  information in the application
BPAC meetings  stronger projects    amounts of projects

12. Would you support dedicating more than 10% of available TASA funds for *planning* projects?

More Details

● Yes      9
● No       1
● Maybe    6
● Other    2

# RGVMPO BPAC TASA Survey Feedback



11. TASA Scoring Criteria Evaluation Feedback:

More Details    💡 Insights

**13**
Responses

Latest Responses

"Possibly provide more points to connections to parks and rec areas as well ...

"The criteria is fine. However, I think the evaluation method needs improvem...

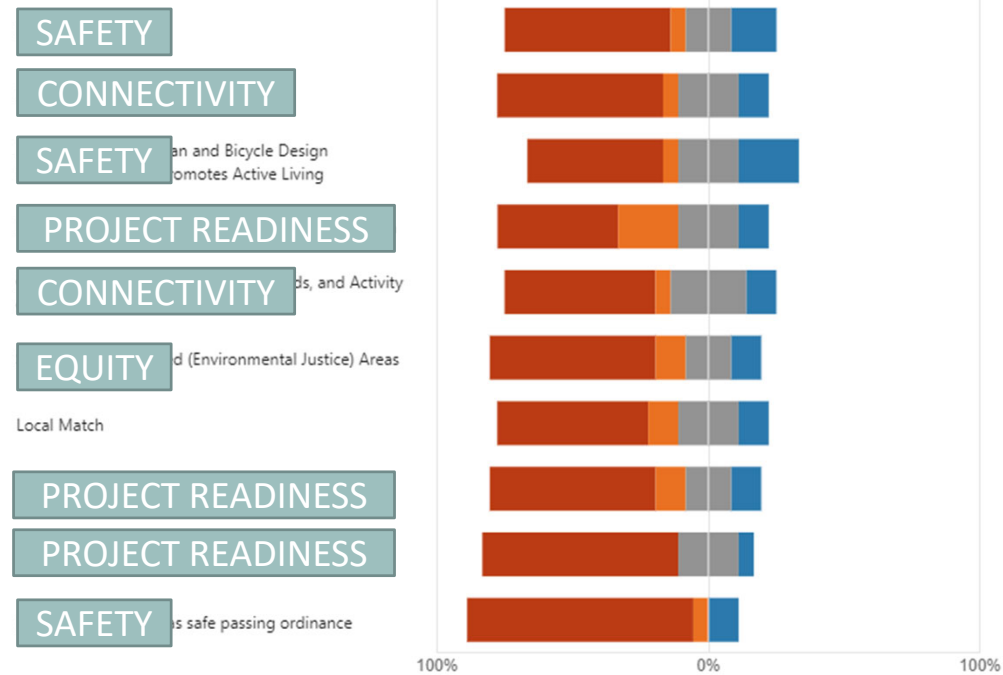"I think it should be more consistent. It seems like it changes from year to ye...

7 respondents (**54%**) answered **project** for this question.

percentage of match
project evaluations amenity project    scoring project Location of project
forms
score **project**    criteria    current projects
funded    point    complete projects
use of an over-match  local match    match funding
criteria answers    match amounts    match category    project readiness

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10. In regards to the TASA scoring criteria, which factor(s) need(s) to be considered for revision:

More Details

■ Leave 'As Is'   ■ Criteria Description   ■ Maximum Points   ■ Evaluation Method   ■ Consider Eliminating

SAFETY
CONNECTIVITY
SAFETY          an and Bicycle Design
                omotes Active Living
PROJECT READINESS
CONNECTIVITY          ds, and Activity
EQUITY          d (Environmental Justice) Areas
Local Match
PROJECT READINESS
PROJECT READINESS
SAFETY          s safe passing ordinance

100%          0%          100%
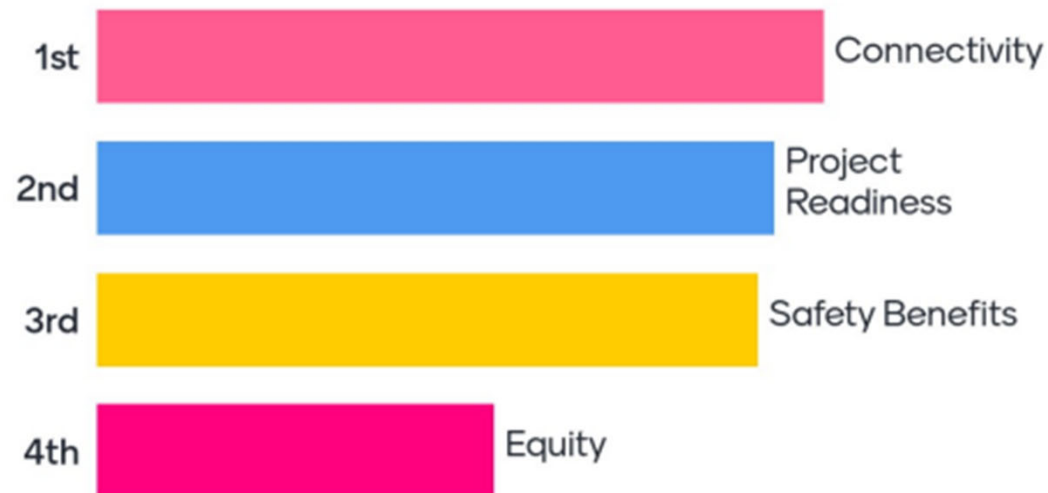
# Draft Scoring Criteria

## To be determined:

- Criteria Weights
- Scoring Criteria Description
- Maximum Points
- Evaluation Method

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**Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization**
**Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program**

*Last Edit: 1/18/2024*

### 2023-2024 TASA PROGRAM CALL SCORING CRITERIA

Note: FY 2023 & FY 2024 funds will be combined for project call:

| PROJECT TYPE | CONSTRUCTION of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrian, bicyclist, and other non-motorized forms of transportation. | PLANNING AND DESIGN of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrian, bicyclist, and other non-motorized forms of transportation. |
|---|---|---|
| PERCENT OF TASA FUNDING ALLOCATED | 90% | > 10% |
| **Criteria Category** | **Criteria Weights** | **Maximum Points** |
| Project Readiness | % | |
| Safety Benefits | % | |
| Equity | % | |
| Connectivity | % | |
| ADA Enhancements* | % | |
| Total | | |

### Construction Scoring Criteria

| Evaluation Criteria | Maximum Points | Description/Factors | Evaluation Method |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Readiness | | | • PTS- ROW acquisition is 90% complete or not required<br>• PTS- PS&E is at least 90% Complete<br>• PTS- If funding completes project<br>• PTS-<br>• PTS- Transportation Alternative Resiliency Plan<br>• PTS- Complete Streets Plan<br>• PTS- Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan<br>• PTS- Project Feasibility Study<br>• PTS- Preliminary Engineering, Environmental; Surveying; Conceptual<br>• PTS- Construction / Engineering Plan<br>• PTS- |
| Safety Benefits | | Provides safer and less intimidating facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, or other non-drivers by improving safety in areas with high numbers of crashes. This involves improved crossing, signalization, traffic calming and other safety improvements. | • PTS -Improves safety in area with high # of crashes within a block (300ft)<br>• PTS- Improves mobility for elderly, disabled, and/or youth (disadvantaged population)<br>• PTS- Improves visibility of non-drivers to vehicular traffic<br>• PTS- Provides design enhancements<br>• PTS- Provides bicycle parking/ seating for pedestrians, rest areas<br>• PTS -Provides trailheads, staging area and parking<br>• PTS -if location has safe passing ordinance<br>• PTS- Other (write in) must qualify as safety benefit |
| Equity | | Provides pedestrian and bicycle areas with landscaping, sidewalk design, crossing treatments, street furniture, bike racks, or lighting which encourages pedestrian and cyclists to utilize area, thus providing health and environmental benefits | • PTS- Improves mobility for elderly, disabled, and/or youth (disadvantaged population)<br>• PTS-Improves access to areas of commerce within or adjacent to 50% of households below poverty rate, as defined by Census |
| Connectivity | | Provides access to major entertainment destinations, parks & recreation, residencies, and general businesses for large numbers of residents and/or employees. Improves connections between neighborhoods, cities, transit services, bicycle facilities, or schools. This can be achieved through gap closures, extension of regional facilities, linking multiple jurisdictions, and providing access to rail stations, bus stops, & bicycle facilities via trails and sidewalks. Connecting to Employment, Households, and Activity Centers. | • PTS- Improves visibility of non-drivers to vehicular traffic<br>• PTS- Connects other cities/ neighborhoods<br>• PTS- Connects to schools/public building<br>• PTS- Extends existing system (bike/ped/transit)<br>• PTS- Eliminates gaps in system (bike/ped/transit)<br>• PTS -Improves access to commercial areas<br>• PTS- Improves access to parks and recreational areas<br>• PTS-Improves access to educational areas<br>• PTS- Connects to schools/public building<br>• PTS- Extends existing system (bike/ped/transit)<br>• PTS- Eliminates gaps in system (bike/ped/transit)<br>• PTS- < mile<br>• PTS- 1-5mi<br>• PTS- 5-10mi<br>• PTS- 10-15mi<br>• PTS- 10-15mi<br>• PTS- 15 + mi |
| TOTAL: | | 0 to 100 Points | |

### Bonus Points

| Evaluation Criteria | Maximum Points | Description/Factors | Evaluation Method |
|---|---|---|---|
| ADA Enhancements* | | | • PTS -Improves/adds ADA compliance enhancements |
| **Evaluation Criteria** | **Maximum Points** | | |
| TOTAL: | Points | | |

* Bonus Points for ADA enhancements

# Rio Grande Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization
# Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program

*Last Edit: 1/18/2023*

## 2023-2024 TASA PROGRAM CALL SCORING CRITERIA
Note: FY 2023 & FY 2024 funds will be combined for project call:

| PROJECT TYPE | CONSTRUCTION of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrian, bicyclist, and other non-motorized forms of transportation. | PLANNING AND DESIGN of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrian, bicyclist, and other non-motorized forms of transportation. |
|---|---|---|
| PERCENT OF TASA FUNDING ALLOCATED | 90% | > 10% |
| **Criteria Category** | **Criteria Weights** | **Maximum Points** |
| Project Readiness | % | |
| Safety Benefits | % | |
| Equity | % | |
| Connectivity | % | |
| ADA Enhancements* | % | |
| **Total** | | |

# Should the Criteria Weights remain the same for Planning Projects? Please share your thoughts.

Mentimeter

For simplicity's sake, I think it should weigh the same.

Hmm, what are they now?

Safety, equity and connectivity remain very important. Readiness depends on project

No, project readiness is not a big factor for planning projects. Equity and safety concerns are paramount, as is connectivity.

Criteria should be different for planning projects because have a creative element to them in certain cases.

The same

No, project readiness should weight less for planning.

They should weigh the same.

No, planning project should not rank as high as a project that has plans completed for construction.

No, there should be priority for some more than others, specifically project readiness

Where would environmental impact fall? For example - projects that enhance or improve stormwater infrastructure.

PS&E 5ROW 5EA 3

12

# Project Readiness

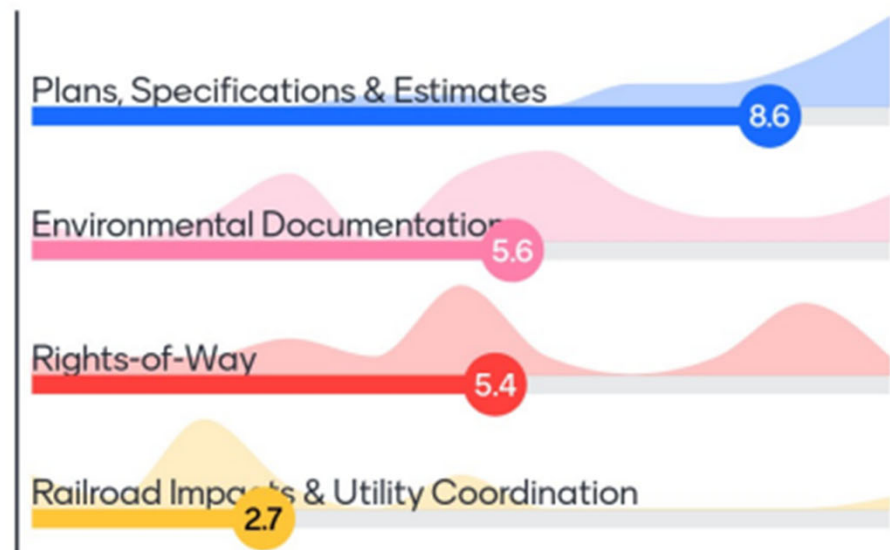| Criteria Category | Criteria Description | Criteria Measures | Evaluation Details |
|---|---|---|---|
| Project Readiness | • Demonstrates the ability to advance the project to construction immediately, if selected for funding<br>• Identifies comprehensive, detailed construction cost estimate<br>• Meets and/or exceeds design criteria established by US Access Board, FHWA, AASHTO, TxDOT, and/or NACTO<br>• Past project sponsor performance on previous | Professional judgement rating of project constructability/feasibility | Analysis of application responses |
| | | Professional judgement rating of shovel readiness | Analysis of application responses |

In the FY2020-2021 Program Call, a total of 3 points could be given for Project Readiness using the following evaluation method:

- 1 pt: ROW acquisition is 90% complete or not required
- 2 pts: PS&E is at least 90% complete

**The RGVMPO would like to significantly increase the weight of the Project Readiness criteria. A total of 25 points could be given using the following evaluation method:**

- **Up to 10 pts: Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E)**
- **Up to 5 pts: Environmental Documentation**
- **Up to 5 pts: Right-of-Way (ROW)**
- **Up to 5 pts: Railroad Impacts & Utility Coordination**

# Which evaluation method(s) should be given more points?

Plans, Specifications & Estimates — 8.6

Environmental Documentation — 5.6

Rights-of-Way — 5.4

Railroad Impacts & Utility Coordination — 2.7

# Additional Feedback on Project Readiness

LGP 101 training

Done right, project readiness very important

Training

Form looks good and detailed.

We need funding for planning and design for projects. There should not be extra points for project ready projects.

5

# Safety Benefits

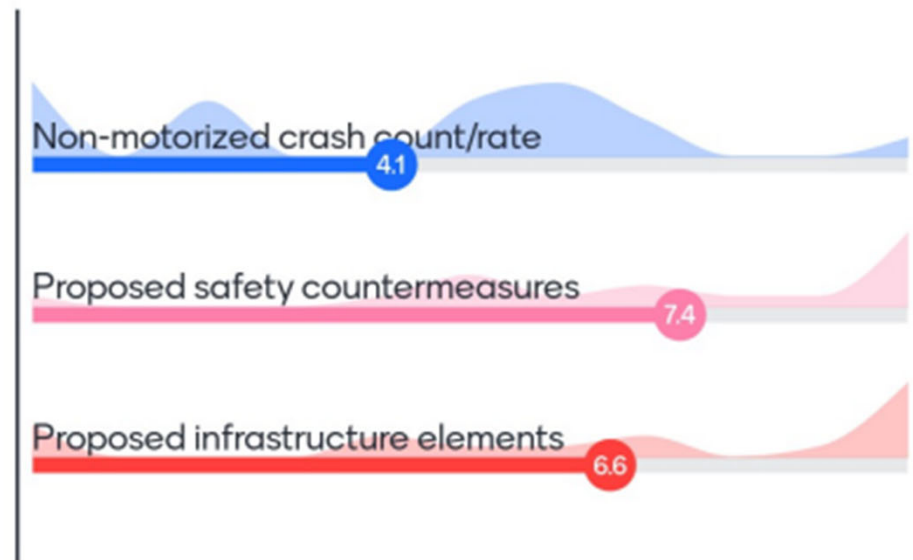| Criteria Category | Criteria Description | Criteria Measures | Evaluation Details |
|---|---|---|---|
| Safety | ▪ Demonstrates need for safety improvement and appropriate safety countermeasures. <br> ▪ Provides safer and/or less intimidating accommodations for walking, bicycling, and other non-motorized travel | Non-motorized crash count | TxDOT GIS analysis |
| | | Non-motorized crash rate | TxDOT GIS analysis |
| | | Documented safety hazards | Analysis of application responses |
| | | Professional judgement of countermeasure appropriateness | Analysis of application responses |
| | | Proposed infrastructure elements | Analysis of application responses |

In the FY2020-2021 Program Call, a total of 29 points could be given for Safety Benefits using the following evaluation method:

- 13 pts: improves safety in area with high number of crashes within a block (300 ft.)

- 8 pts: improves mobility elderly, disabled, and/or youth (underserved populations)

- 8 pts: improves visibility of non-drivers to vehicular traffic

**The RGVMPO would like to reduce the weight of the Safety Benefits criteria. A total of 25 points could be given using the following evaluation method:**

- **Up to 5 pts: Non-motorized crash count/rate**

- **Up to 10 pts: Proposed safety countermeasures**

- **Up to 10 pts: Proposed infrastructure elements**

# Which evaluation method(s) should be given more points?

Non-motorized crash count/rate — 4.1

Proposed safety countermeasures — 7.4

Proposed infrastructure elements — 6.6

# Additional Feedback on Safety Benefits

Safety should mean both vehicles and non drivers with improved visibility and awareness.

# Equity

| Criteria Category | Criteria Description | Criteria Measures | Evaluation Details |
|---|---|---|---|
| Geographic Equity | • Enhances livability by improving active transportation access and improves mode choice in underserved communities | Average percent zero car household | TxDOT GIS analysis |
| | | Average percent unemployed | TxDOT GIS analysis |
| | | Average percent minority | TxDOT GIS analysis |
| | | Average percent disabled | TxDOT GIS analysis |
| | | Average percent elderly | TxDOT GIS analysis |

In the FY2020-2021 Program Call, a total of 10 points could be given for Equity using the following evaluation method:

- 10 pts: improves access to areas of commerce within or adjacent to 50% of households below poverty rate, as defined by Census.

New BIL requirements state the competitive process used by MPOs must prioritize project location & impact in high-need areas as defined by the State, such as low-income, transit-dependent, rural or other areas (23 U.S.C. 133 (h)(4)(D)).

**The RGVMPO would like to increase the weight of the Equity criteria. A total of 25 points could be given using the following evaluation method:**

- **Up to 5 pts: Average percent elderly**

- **Up to 5 pts: Average percent disabled**

- **Up to 5 pts: Average percent zero car household**

- **Up to 5 pts: Percentage living below the poverty line**

- **Up to 5 pts: Within a historically disadvantaged tract**

# Which evaluation method(s) should be given more points?

Average percent elderly **6.4**

Average percent disabled **5.9**

Average percent zero car household **4.9**

Percentage living below the poverty line **6.7**

Within a historically disadvantaged tract **5.8**

15
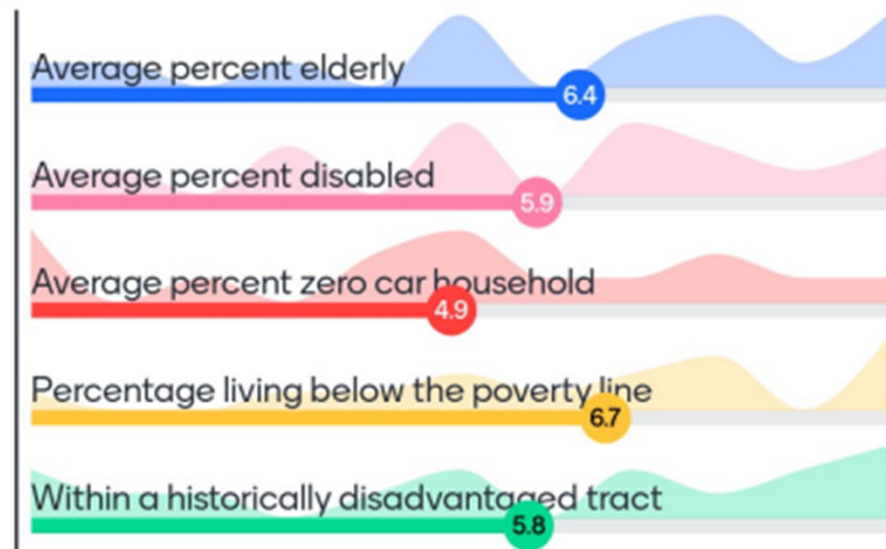
# Additional Feedback on Equity

Schools and Public Buildings/Parks should hold some weight in these types of projects.

# Connectivity

| Criteria Category | Criteria Description | Criteria Measures | Evaluation Details |
|---|---|---|---|
| Connectivity & Accessibility | ▪ Improves active transportation access to destinations of interest such as business districts, downtown, centers of business activity, high density residential, and/or employment centers<br>▪ Supports multi-modal connections<br>▪ Eliminates barriers to pedestrians, bicycle riders, and wheelchair users<br>▪ Supports investments in local/interregional tourism, especially Texas Bicycle Tourism Trails | Connects to bicycle, pedestrian, and/or transit infrastructure | Analysis of application responses |
| | | Connects to active transportation destinations | Analysis of application responses |
| | | Eliminates barriers | Analysis of application responses |
| | | Along long-distance bike route | Analysis of application responses |
| | | Population density* | TxDOT GIS analysis |
| | | Employer density* | TxDOT GIS analysis |

In the FY2020-2021 Program Call, a total of 24 points could be given for Connectivity using the following evaluation method:

- 6 pts: connects other cities/neighborhoods

- 6 pts: connects to school/public buildings

- 6 pts: extends existing systems (bike/ped/transit)

- 6 pts: eliminates gaps in system (bike/ped/transit)

The RGVMPO would like to reduce the weight of the Connectivity criteria. A total of 25 points could be given using the following evaluation method:

- Up to 5 pts: Implements local/regional active transportation plans.

- Up to 5 pts: Connects to existing transportation systems (bike/ped transit).

- Up to 5 pts: Connects to public buildings and parks or 5-10 miles in length.

- Up to 10 pts: Multi-jurisdictional connections or 10+ miles in length.

# Which evaluation method(s) should be given more points?

Implements local/regional active transportation plans. **7.8**

Connects to existing transportation systems. **7.7**

Connects to public buildings and parks or 5-10 miles in length. **7.9**

Multi-jurisdictional connections or 10+ miles in length. **4.1**
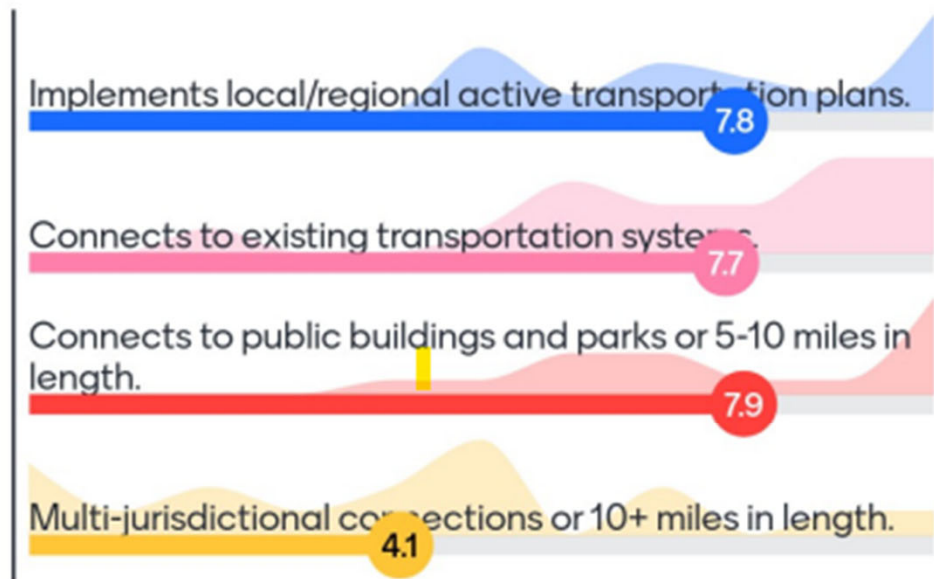
# Additional Feedback on Connectivity

Filling in gaps in networks or routes!!

More points for connecting gaps in long pedestrian corridors.

longer, multi-jursidictional trails are important, but 1. there is not enough funding available for huge projects, and 2. smaller projects in critical areas can be much more impactful in many instances. Too many points for big projects in big areas.

# Based on what was presented today, what would you recommend changing on the draft scoring criteria? And why?

Project readiness should not be a factor for planning projects
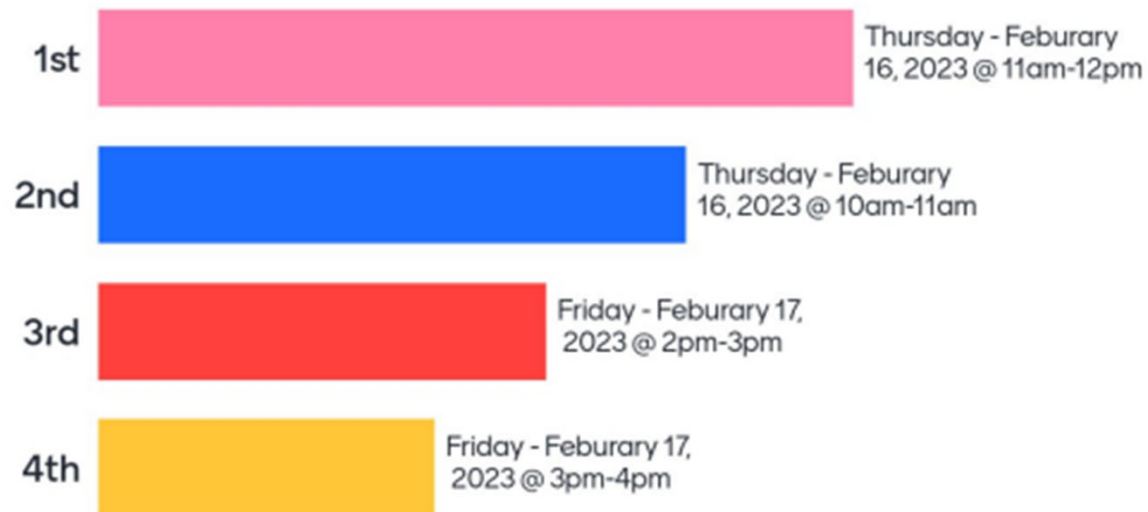
# Are there any Questions?

0 questions
0 upvotes

# TASA Working Group Meeting #3 DRAFT Agenda

➢ Review revisions to the Program Guide

➢ Review revisions to the Project Application

➢ Review revisions to the Scoring Criteria

➢ Solicit feedback for *FINAL* changes

**All revised documents will be uploaded to the**

**RGVMPO TASA webpage for review by February 2nd.**

# Draft RGVMPO TASA Timeline of Activites

| Date | Milestones |
|---|---|
| March 1, 2023 | RGVMPO FY2023-2024 TASA Call for Projects Opens (9 a.m.). |
| March 15, 2023 | RGVMPO TASA Program Virtual Workshop (MicrosoftTeams). |
| March 31, 2023* | Responses to TASA Workshop questions posted. |
| April 26, 2023 | Deadline to request Technical Assistance (5 p.m.; more info. on page #). |
| May 31, 2023 | Deadline to submit application/project proposals (5 p.m.). |
| June 2023 | RGVMPO & TxDOT Staff application review (may seek clarification). |
| July 2023 | Complete applications proceed to RGVMPO BPAC Voting Members for review. |
| August 2, 2023 | Presentations to the RGVMPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). |
| August 2023 | Special RGVMPO BPAC Meeting for application evaluation and project scoring. |
| September 14, 2023 | Recommendations presented to RGVMPO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). |
| September 27, 2023* | RGVMPO Transportation Policy Board (TPB) awards/programs TASA funds. |

*Target dates