

Highways Mode: Project Selection Process

Asset Driven projects are identified by VTrans' asset management systems based on asset condition, performance criteria, available funding levels and cost-benefit analysis that provide the most benefit to the highway network.

Regionally Driven projects consider asset management concepts but also include community needs, proposed development, harmonization, modernization and expansion.

The following steps provide guidance on how a project goes from an idea to becoming a capital project through VTrans and RPC inputs on the eight VPSP2 criteria:

Step 1: Programmatic Budget Targets (September-October):

VTrans' Budget Committee determines the spending levels for the various transportation programs in the Capital Program. Based on the financial commitments to current projects, VTrans will determine available funding for new projects. For this example, we'll focus on the Paving Program and assume that there is \$100M available for new projects over a 4-year fiscal time horizon (current year plus 3 future years).

Step 2: Asset Driven Potential Projects (November – February): VTrans' asset management systems perform data driven analyses to assist VTrans subject matter experts (SMEs) in identifying potential projects to meet established state and federal performance goals. The asset management system calculates a cost-benefit ratio that is used in developing the potential projects. A list of potential projects representing 150% of the \$100M of available funding, or \$150M, are identified. This 150% list will be used by VTrans and RPC's to calculate a preliminary Transportation Value (TV) for each potential project.

Step 3: VTrans to RPC Communication (March 1):

VTrans provides each Regional Planning Commission with the 150% list of potential projects and VPSP2 scoring data for five criteria: asset, safety, mobility, resiliency and environment by program, in their respective region. In addition, VTrans will provide each RPC with a list of existing projects along with each projects transportation value for informational purposes in the following steps.

Step 4: RPC Scoring (March – May): Each RPC will review the list of potential projects and scoring data provided by VTrans. The RPC will also provide VPSP2 scoring data for three criteria: economic access, health access and regional/community. This will be combined with the VTrans data identified in Step 3 and will complete the preliminary transportation value for all potential projects identified by the VTrans asset management systems.

Step 5: Regionally Driven Potential Projects (March-May): After an RPC has scored the Asset Driven potential projects and reviewed the list of existing projects, there will be an opportunity for RPC's to identify projects that they would like to propose for consideration as Regionally Driven Potential Projects. As an RPC identifies these projects, they will work with VTrans to

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provide data and scoring for each of the eight criteria so that this grouping of projects also has a preliminary transportation value.

Step 6: RPC to VTrans Communication (June 1):

Each RPC provides VTrans with the preliminary transportation value for both Asset Driven and Regionally Driven potential projects. This submittal will also include any additional information that the RPC would like VTrans to consider for these potential projects.

Step 7: Project Selection (July):

Based on preliminary transportation values, VTrans will create a statewide list of potential projects for each program. Based on available funding, additional input from RPC's, geographic equity, corridor management and harmonization opportunities, VTrans will then select the draft list of projects that will advanced to consume 100% of the additional funding (\$100M from the example in Step 2) to be advanced to programming for the upcoming Capital Program. This list, along with any backup documentation will then be provided to each RPC for review and comment.

Step 8: RPC Review (August – September): RPC's will review the draft list of projects and documentation provided by VTrans and provide any additional comments for consideration.

Step 9: Project Programming (October): VTrans will then finalize the projects that will be advanced to the next phase. Selected projects will be programmed within the Capital Program based on their project spending profile, fiscal constraints, and anticipated project schedule. These projects will be included in the next fiscal year Capital Program. Projects not selected will then need to compete in the next round of prioritization for the applicable program.

Prioritization Cycle: VTrans has various inventory cycles for the various assets on the interstate, state and town (bridges) highway network. Every two years, data is collected on the entire pavement network and the following year, data is collected on the entire bridge network. This cycle of inventory and inspection provides for an opportunity to synchronize these assets with the VPSP2 project selection process utilizing the most current network data. Based on this, the following schedule will be implemented for the following VTrans Capital Programs:

- Year 1 (2021) – Pavement, Roadway, Traffic & Safety
- Year 2 (2022) – Interstate, State & Town Highway Bridges
- This cycle will repeat every two years

Notes:

1. The VPSP2 team continues to work on the process for other modes; Rail, Aviation, Public Transit as Year 1 is being considered a pilot for this new process.
2. Safety and Grant programs will continue under the pilot and will be evaluated for harmonization with the VPSP2 process at a later date.