



Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

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MEMORANDUM

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TO: Surface Transportation Program
(STP) Subcommittee, Capital Area Regional
Transportation Study (CARTS) Technical Committee

FROM: Paul Hamilton, Chief Planner

RE: Call for Additional 2009 Urban STP projects, High Risk Rural Roads and
Federal Local Safety Program

DATE: December 18, 2007

This memo constitutes our call for additional Urban STP projects for 2009 and transmits a copy of our STP Project Priority Assessment Guidelines. On Project Selection Day, February 2, 2007, the STP Subcommittee met, selected and prioritized (among other things) Urban STP projects for 2008-2011. In developing annual revenue assumptions it was anticipated that a substantial rescission of 2009 federal funding would occur, so project selection for 2009 was scaled back accordingly. The good news is that there appears to be slightly over \$1 million in un-programmed Urban STP funding available for the region. This issue only effects projects for FY 2009. A copy of the appropriate sections of these Guidelines must be submitted for any proposed project to be amended into the 2009 TIP year.

This call for projects is also being transmitted electronically for the convenience of implementing agencies. Hard copies are also being made available.

Project applications previously submitted but not programmed must be re-submitted using the procedures and forms contained in these guidelines. **The deadline for submittal of your STP Application is 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 14** at the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission at 913 W. Holmes Road, Suite 201, Lansing, Michigan 48910.

Applications for the 2009 Federal Local Safety Program and Federal High Risk Rural Roads programs are also due at TCRPC on January 14, although **MDOT has set a later deadline of February 29, 2008 and these applications must be submitted by the local agency to MDOT no later than February 29.**

As many of you are aware, we are operating under a transportation law known as SAFETEA-LU, which supports and compels strong state-local partnerships in the selection of trunkline projects, while maintaining the MPO's preeminent role in the selection of non-trunkline projects.

We are relying on the latest versions of the Priority Assessment Guidelines (attached), as one of the criteria for rating and selecting projects. Sections of the Guidelines that apply to programs related to this call have been updated.

The application and review process also requires the additional criteria form relating to transportation investment strategies, goals, and objectives (pages 18-29 of the guidelines) that relate to the program category of your proposed project(s). Be sure to make extra copies in case of multiple applications. Results of these additional ranking criteria will be reviewed and provided to the Committees.

The application process references the following items relevant to this special call, which you should review for applicability or consistency with your proposed projects:

- Appendix B: Excerpt from Congestion Management System Document
- Appendix C: Long Range Transportation Plan Goals and Objectives
- Appendix D: Transportation Investment Strategies
- Appendix E: Tri-County Regional Policy Map
- Appendix F: 2025 Deficiencies (Peak Hour Volumes by Network Alternative Type), to be utilized in the congestion management process.

Several components of the project application are relatively new, and are based on adopted investment strategies and on policy guidelines, such as Regional Growth Plan land use visions and long range plan goals and objectives. Staff, through this call for projects, is again integrating these approaches to ascertain that proposed projects are consistent with the new guidelines, goals, and objectives. Staff's overriding consideration is to provide useful, workable evaluation tools that will meet the region's needs.

The STP Subcommittee will meet on Tuesday, February 5, 2008 in Conference Room D/E of the Ingham County Human Services Building at 8:30 a.m. CARTS will follow.

Project priority ranking results and recommendations from the STP Subcommittee will then be reviewed by the CARTS Committee at its regular 9:30 a.m. meeting that follows. CARTS recommendations will then be considered by the Transportation Review Committee at their February 13 regular meeting and will be scheduled for review at the February 27 Commission meeting. Recommended projects and priorities will then be amended into the 2008-2011 TIP.

Since the Commission established the Metropolitan Area Boundary at the Regional boundary, encompassing all of Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties, the STP Subcommittee and its rural TEDF Task Force are to rank and make project priority decisions for several different types of projects, but only 2009 Urban STP, High Risk Rural Roads and the Federal Local Safety Program are currently available and subject to this call.

Applicants for all projects must complete pages 11-27, demonstrating that the project is consistent with adopted regional themes and principles. Projects that would add capacity (through travel lanes) must include pages 8-10 to demonstrate the project was drawn from the approved Congestion Management System (CMS) process.

The Project Priority Assessment Guidelines reflect the various types of projects. Additional sections of the guidelines which must be completed for each type of proposed STP project to be completed between 2008 and 2011 are summarized below:

Lansing Urbanized Area Project Applications:

Applicants within the Lansing Urbanized Area should complete page 7 and 30-50 for each proposed project. Instructions for these projects are contained on pages 4 and 5.

Federal Local Safety Projects:

Applications for STP Safety funds must include pages 7 and 58-64.

Applicants must also submit their application to MDOT with a postmark no later than February 29, 2008. Please send a copy of your application to TCRPC by January 14 in order that TCRPC priorities can be identified through the MPO planning process. MDOT will accept the TCRPC time of return analysis included in this call.

High Risk Rural Roads:

Attached on pages 104-110 is an application and background information for this new funding category. **Applications for this program must be sent to MDOT and must be postmarked by February 29, 2008. Also send a copy of your application to TCRPC by January 14 in order that TCRPC priorities can be identified through the MPO planning process.**

Remember, please complete the additional criteria form that relates to investment strategies and corresponds to your program category with each project application.

Should you have any questions or need any assistance in completing the guidelines, please contact me or Steve Skinker of my staff at 393-0342.

Again, TCRPC's deadline for submittal of new 2009 Urban STP projects High Risk Rural Roads and Federal Local Safety Projects is Monday, January 14 at 5:00 p.m.
Thank you for your cooperation and timely preparation of your project application.

