ANNUAL VERMONT PROJECT SELECTION AND PROJECT PRIORITIZATION (VPSP2) PROCESS for FY'23

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BACKGROUND

VTrans and Regional Planning Commission (RPC) partners have been working to revamp the annual Vermont project selection and prioritization process (VPSP2). The vision is to develop a performance-based, data driven project selection and prioritization framework that maximizes the "transportation value" delivered to Vermont taxpayers. Objectives of this updated framework include:

❑ Identify and utilize criteria that provide "transportation value" within potential and planned VTrans projects.

❑ Develop a mechanism for RPC and communities to provide input in the selection and prioritization of transportation projects.

❑ Provide a defined, consistent, and transparent process for selecting and prioritizing the projects that ultimately make up VTrans' Capital Program.

In the previous prioritization framework, we examined our regional list of asset driven capital projects. We are now focused on potential projects that will feed into the Capital Program.

CAPITAL PROGRAM PROJECT STATUS

The VPSP2 framework tasks VTrans, RPCs and communities to jointly propose recommended potential projects to be accepted into the Capital Program. In order for VTrans to spend funds on a project it must be listed in the Transportation Capital Program. VTrans submits a Capital Program to the Legislature each year and the Legislature must approve the list in order for projects to advance. The Capital Program categorizes projects according to the following status:

Candidate – A project gets on the Candidate list after it has completed the planning process, has been proposed through the RPCs and respective Transportation Advisory Committees (TACs) and has been accepted by VTrans.

Development & Evaluation (D&E) – A project moves from the Candidate list to the Development & Evaluation list if preliminary plans are expected within 12 to 24 months.

Front-of-the-Book (FOB) – Front-of-the-Book projects are part of VTrans four-year program. A project moves from the Development & Evaluation list to Front-of-the-Book when it has completed preliminary plan development.

PROJECT SELECTION AND PRIORITIZATION

There are eight (8) criteria identified where all potential and planned VTrans projects will be evaluated on to generate a Transportation Value score out of 100.

Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Points	Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Points
Safety	20	Resiliency	10
Asset Condition	20	Regional	10
Mobility and Connectivity	15	Environment	10
Economic Access	10	Health Access	5
		Transportation Value	**100**

Asset Driven Bridge Projects

VTrans provides each RPC with the 150% list of *asset driven* potential projects and VPSP2 scoring data for five criteria: asset condition, safety, mobility and connectivity, resiliency and environment in their respective region. RPCs and TACs are tasked to review this list, evaluate the 3 criteria scores (*mobility and connectivity, economic access and health access*) and update the *Preliminary Transportation Value*.

In addition, VTrans will provide each RPC with a list of existing Capital Program projects along with each project's Transportation Value for informational purposes. The *asset driven* potential project list will be submitted to VTrans by May 31.

> *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 land development, harmonization, modernization and expansion.

Regionally Driven Potential Bridge Projects

RPCs will have an opportunity to identify potential projects or community needs that they would like to propose for consideration as *regionally driven potential projects*. As an RPC/TAC identifies these potential projects, they will work with VTrans and use the **RPC Qualifications Sheet**. The **RPC Qualification Sheet** is designed as a screening tool to assist RPCs in prioritizing regionally driven potential projects. The **RPC Qualification Sheet** will evaluate the potential project or community need against the eight VPSP2 criteria so that these projects also have a *Preliminary Transportation Value*. If a project does not score well in the **RPC Qualifications Sheet**, the potential project will likely not receive a high Transportation Value. Consider refining/ revising the scope of the potential project, undertaking additional study of the project or table the project idea for now.

The RPC will submit this list of regionally driven potential bridge projects with their Preliminary Transportation Value to VTrans by May 31, 2022 for consideration.