



MEMORANDUM

To: STP Project Selection Committee

From: CMAP Staff

Date: August 4, 2022

Re: STP Shared Fund Methodology - Subregional Priority

Purpose: Staff requests committee discussion of this proposal to clarify the requirements for the assignment of subregional priority points

Action Requested: Discussion

The Subregional Priority category of the STP Shared Fund scoring methodology provides a way to consider the relative importance of project applications within the region's eleven subregional councils and the City of Chicago, by allowing each of these subregions to assign points to their five highest priority projects. This criterion has evolved from "bonus points" in the 2019 call for projects cycle, to be a part of the total project score in the 2021 call for projects cycle. Despite the success of this evolution in providing a more appropriate level of scoring, concerns regarding the subjectivity of this category remain, particularly in instances when a subregion identifies projects outside of their borders as a priority. Considering the characteristics of the region, which include people travelling significant distances between their homes and their jobs, it is not unrealistic for improvement priorities to lie outside of political boundaries. Therefore, staff recommends continuing the use of this scoring category, with the attached modifications.

The proposed modifications tighten the requirements for identifying projects located outside of a subregion as a priority of that subregion by requiring that the travel shed of the project must extend into the subregion that wishes to prioritize it. The modifications do not explicitly prohibit a subregion from identifying any project as a priority but do lay out a review process that ultimately places the decision on whether or not to accept a priority designation for a particular project with the project selection committee. Additional language has also been added to the methodology to prohibit the "swapping" of points between councils and to clarify the timeline for submittal of subregional priorities to CMAP.

Subregional Priority

The CMAP region consists of eleven subregional councils of mayors and the City of Chicago. While the STP Shared Fund methodology captures priorities of the entire region, each subregion and Chicago also have unique priorities. In order to give consideration to those subregional priorities, each council and the City of Chicago (through CDOT) are asked to identify their five highest priority projects from the eligible applications received during the call for projects. These projects will be assigned subregional priority points as follows:

Priority	Points
Highest priority	5
2 nd highest priority	4
3 rd highest priority	3
4 th highest priority	2
5 th highest priority	1

Although it is anticipated that councils and CDOT will identify projects located within their borders, regardless of the sponsor agency, as their highest priorities, they may also identify priorities outside of their borders if the travel shed of the priority project (developed as part of the jobs + households scoring) extends into their jurisdiction.

Should a council or CDOT identify a project outside their borders and that project's travel shed does not extend into their jurisdiction (an "external project"), ~~To do so,~~ they must provide a clear justification of ~~the~~ this external project's transportation benefit to their residents and/or to persons working or traveling within their subregion. -This justification will be reviewed by CMAP staff and discussed with CDOT and Council representatives. Any disagreement on the validity of the justification provided will be presented to the STP PSC for discussion and a final decision regarding the assignment of subregional priority points. Should the STP PSC decide not to accept the priority designation, the council that assigned the priority will not be given an opportunity to identify an alternate priority.

Projects that are designated as priorities by more than one subregion will receive the combined points appropriate to the level of priority, up to a maximum of 5 points. "Point swapping" between councils and/or CDOT is prohibited. The STP PSC will have discretion in determining if any point swapping has occurred and may elect to nullify any priority points assigned by the involved councils or CDOT.

CMAP will provide the councils and CDOT with a list of eligible project applications received no later than 3-2 weeks after the close of the call for projects. CMAP will also provide travel shed maps for projects under consideration for priority points upon request. The councils and CDOT will have no less than 3 additional weeks to identify their priorities. Up to two additional weeks may be utilized for CMAP staff to review and seek committee feedback on any external projects identified as priorities. Should any project identified as a priority by a

Proposed revisions to STP Shared Fund Application Booklet. Underlined text indicates an addition, ~~stricken~~ text indicates a deletion.

council or CDOT be determined to be ineligible for the Shared Fund after the initial assignment of priority points, the council or CDOT will be given one opportunity to re-assign that priority to a different project or to elevate projects of lower priority into the ineligible project's slot.

Initial project evaluation results will not be released for applicant or public review prior to the final identification of subregional priorities. The overall program development schedule may be modified to accommodate this policy.

Councils and CDOT may also indicate at this time lack of support for non-municipally sponsored project applications falling wholly or partially within their boundaries. Lack of support will not cause a project application to be disregarded, however the lack of support will be communicated to the STP PSC for consideration.

Subregional priority is 5% of the total project score.