



Date: October 16, 2008
To: MTAC/TPAC High Capacity Transit System Plan Subcommittee
From: Tony Mendoza, Transit Project Analysis Manager
Re: HCT Screening Criteria

At the October 22, 2008 meeting, you will be asked to confirm the attached Screening Criteria (Figure 1) and to recommend the Screening Criteria to MTAC and TPAC. The Screening Criteria constitutes the first phase of the HCT evaluation framework (Figure 2 displays the HCT evaluation framework). The Screening Criteria will be used to narrow the wide array of High Capacity Transit Corridors and System Improvements that were developed for the RTP Scenario B¹ and suggested in stakeholder interviews, public workshops, and Metro Committee meetings.

Attached is an updated draft of the Screening Criteria prepared for the High Capacity Transit System Plan. An original draft was presented to the HCT MTAC/TPAC Subcommittee on 9/12/08. Refinements were made to that draft and then presented to TPAC on 9/26/08 and MTAC on 10/1/08. The following suggestions are incorporated in the attached draft:

- Use a “high to low” rating system for each screening criterion that can be incorporated into a “scorecard” matrix for all improvements.
- Refine the Existing and Future Potential Ridership screening targets to better reflect local conditions. Include a five-tiered rating system from “low” to “high” where the “low” rating is indicative of areas where land use densities are not supportive of any HCT investment.
- Include “congestion” conditions in parallel arterials or freeways as a new screening criterion, favoring corridors where congestion is worse. The assessment would be conducted using the regional travel demand model, focusing on current and predicted levels of congestion using 2005 and 2035 regional travel demand forecasts.
- Include a new screening criterion that addresses the issue of “equity.” This is included in the attached memo as a qualitative criterion that would evaluate access to HCT projects from identified census tracts with high densities of low-income and/or minority residents.
- Include 2040 Regional Centers as priorities for connecting HCT. Other 2040 centers and corridors should also be ranked in order of 2040 designations.

In the second phase of the evaluation framework, the Evaluation Criteria will be used to help prioritize High Capacity Transit improvements. At the October 22, 2008 meeting, you will also be given the opportunity to review and begin to discuss the Evaluation Criteria. You will be asked to confirm the Evaluation Criteria at the November 14, 2008 Subcommittee meeting.

Attachments:

Figure 1 – Screening Criteria

Figure 2 – Evaluation Framework diagram

¹ Scenario B HCT improvements were gathered from the following sources: Region 2040 Concept, TriMet Transit Investment Plan (2007), RTP Federal Component (2007), and local jurisdiction comments received from TPAC/MTAC/JPACT/MPAC.