



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Transportation Committee

**From:** CMAP staff

**Date:** July 2016

**Re:** Update on regionally significant project evaluation for ON TO 2050

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As previously discussed with the Transportation Committee, the process of identifying and evaluating regionally significant projects (RSPs) for ON TO 2050 is beginning in summer 2016. This memo provides minor updates to the overall schedule previously discussed with the committee and includes a proposal on how to seek additional projects through public input. Financial plan development will be completed in a similar timeframe, and will be coordinated with the RSP evaluation process.

The following are the tasks and timelines involved in evaluating and recommending capital projects for ON TO 2050:

- **Identify initial list of capital projects to be considered in ON TO 2050.** This spring, staff met with implementers to develop an initial list of the projects that would meet the revised regionally significant project thresholds.<sup>1</sup> In late July, staff will begin coordinating with implementers to ensure that this initial list of regionally significant projects reflects all projects that should be considered for the next plan. Staff anticipates bringing the draft list of capital projects to the TC in September 2016.
- **Solicitation of additional projects through public input.** After the TC has reviewed the draft universe of capital projects, staff will seek public input on the list through a 45-day public comment period. Specifically, the public will be provided with information on the projects already proposed and have an opportunity to recommend additional projects for consideration in ON TO 2050 through an online format. Clear guidance will be provided on minimum criteria to suggest a project. During this period, implementers

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<sup>1</sup> This includes projects that cost at least \$100 million in current dollars and (a) change capacity on the National Highway System (NHS) or that are new expressways or principal arterials, or (b) change capacity on transit services with some separate rights-of-way or shared rights-of-way where transit has priority over other traffic; or are discrete system preservation and state of good repair projects that cost at least \$250 million.

will have an opportunity to suggest projects that are not within their jurisdictional control – for instance, a county could nominate a project on an NHS route controlled by the state.

- **Report universe of capital projects back to TC.** The recommendations from public comment and other implementers will be included with projects submitted by sponsors and presented to TC, most likely at the November 2016 meeting.
- **Develop an evaluation framework.** Before carrying out project evaluations, the TC and other stakeholders should discuss the types of measures and other information needed. Two pre-TC forums, one in July 2016 on highway projects and one in September 2016 on transit projects, will be held to discuss the evaluation approach. At the September forum, Metra staff is anticipated to present on a concurrent Unified Work Program project to evaluate the costs and benefits of capital projects under consideration for that agency. The input from forum participants would be discussed at TC in fall.
- **Prepare needs analysis and project benefit report.** The main product expected from the capital project evaluation is a report on the benefits and costs of the projects and the needs they serve, to be complete in summer 2017.
- **Select regionally significant projects.** Following completion of the project benefit report and discussion with the working committees, staff anticipates making a recommendation to TC on capital projects to include under fiscal constraint in late fall 2017 with presentations to the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee in early 2018.

**Action requested: Discussion**