



MEMORANDUM

To: Environment and Natural Resources Working Committee

From: CMAP Staff

Date: October 23, 2019

Re: Draft ON TO 2050 Regionally Significant Project (RSP) Benefits Report

One role of ON TO 2050 is to establish a list of regionally significant projects (RSPs) that fit within the region's expected future financial resources. The [Draft ON TO 2050 Regionally Significant Project \(RSP\) Benefits Report](#) describes the projects under consideration for the plan along with information about their performance on a number of measures.

Project information describing potential RSPs was collected from implementers and the public in late 2016. Forty-two highway and sixty transit projects met the criteria for consideration as RSPs and entered the project evaluation process.

After assembling the list of projects, projects were evaluated in three categories:

- *Addressing today's needs* describe current conditions at the project location in terms of asset condition, reliability, congestion, safety, etc. This data does not address the extent to which the proposed project will impact the measures.
- *2050 performance* includes the traditional travel model evaluation results describing project use and impacts on system performance. A draft 2050 household and employment forecast was created for project evaluation. The 2050 performance measures are supplemented with a cost-effectiveness measure that calculates the cost per benefit unit for each project. Note that arterial projects were not modeled and do not have associated 2050 performance measures.
- *Planning factors* encompass other project impacts important to the region. These include impacts on residents of economically disconnected areas, economic impacts, greenhouse gas emissions, support for infill development, impacts on environmentally sensitive areas and water resources.

The selected measures were developed to identify projects that help the region meet its transportation, economic, land use, environmental, and quality of life goals. As expected, no individual project performs well for every measure, and in some cases there are distinct tradeoffs between goals.

Next steps

The [Draft ON TO 2050 Regionally Significant Project \(RSP\) Benefits Report](#) simply describes project performance and evaluation methods. Aside from describing some highlights, the report does not compare or rank projects. For the final document, staff suggests developing a simple, informational approach to ranking projects in different categories so that the data are more intuitive.

Agencies are also being asked to review the evaluations in the report. CMAP staff requests agency comments by November 17.

Lastly, the information in the benefits report will be used to support recommendations for which projects to constrain in ON TO 2050. Discussions with implementers and other stakeholders about which projects to include will take place over fall and winter.

Questions

1. Can the committee suggest ways to compare relative project performance in a way that is easy to understand?
2. Do committee members have initial reactions to the draft evaluation approach?

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Action requested: Discussion