

# 2020-2023 Community Transportation Program Project Evaluation Criteria

# Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) Division of Statewide Planning and Program Development

Thank you to all Alaskans who commented on the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) project scoring criteria. A Comment-Response Matrix has been created to provide a summary of comments, responses, and changes made to the criteria. The Matrix can be found at our website http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/cip/stip/projects/2023\_ctp\_peb.s http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwdplng/cip/stip/projects/2023\_ctp\_peb.s httml. Many of the changes merely clarify the intent of existing criteria through minor changes to wording and formatting; however, there are some significant changes to the criteria. Applicants interested in submitting project nominations are encouraged to review the Comment-Response Matrix as it provides details related to changes made and further describes the Department's intent relative to criteria that were commented upon.

Additional key considerations for applicants are discussed below, including a discussion regarding the delay to the Community Transportation Program timeline.

## **Community Transportation Program Timeline**

The last project nomination opportunity for the Community Transportation Program (CTP) occurred in 2011 for the 2012-2015 STIP. When the criteria were developed for that project nomination opportunity the federal funding bill, known as SAFETEA-LU, had expired and federal transportation funding was provided through extensions of SAFETEA-LU. These extensions continued until a new two year federal funding bill, MAP-21, was enacted in July 2012. Federal funding continued under MAP-21, and extensions of MAP-21, until the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act was enacted in December 2015. In summary, the last project nomination opportunity was initiated during a time of extensions and with recognition of uncertainty regarding future funding.

The projects included in the 2012-2015 STIP were primarily funded under MAP-21. While MAP-21 brought some funding certainty, it was a short term bill that also came with many significant changes. These changes included a focus on asset management and performance measures for the National Highway System (NHS). To help states achieves these goals, more funds were dedicated to the NHS, leaving fewer funds available for other needs funded under the Surface Transportation Program (STP). The CTP program falls under these 'other needs' using STP funds. As a result the Department continues to fund a backlog of CTP projects and has been unable to provide another project nomination opportunity.

These criteria are expected to be used for a project nomination opportunity for the 2020-2023 STIP.

Fiscal uncertainty affecting both the federal-aid program and state funding continue to drive the ADOT&PF to make very conservative funding projections into the near future and narrow the focus of the CTP. The FAST Act expires in 2020, therefore the upcoming project nomination opportunity will again be solicited with uncertainty regarding the amount of funding available. The Department is hopeful that federal-aid funding will continue to remain at stable levels; however, we will continue to proceed cautiously and analyze funding availability as the project nomination opportunity approaches and as projects are selected and funded.

## Sets of criteria

This CTP project nomination opportunity will have two sets of criteria: Urban and Rural; and Remote.

Per 17 AAC 05.175 (c), Communities not connected to the continental road network by road or ferry will use the Remote Projects Criteria. All other communities will use the Urban and Rural Projects Criteria.

## Local contribution to match

In the current fiscal climate, community partnership is more important than ever in building and maintaining infrastructure. Federal funds are limited and demand is high. An effective way of distributing federal dollars fairly and widely is to share capital costs with the community. As communities strive to balance local budgets, the willingness to contribute to capital costs of a project is an extremely strong indicator of the community's perceived value of the project.

## Projects will not advance unless the local community provides federally-required match.

The DOT&PF Match Policy may allow for a reduced match amount for routes with a higher functional classification.

Matching contributions will be calculated as a percent of the total project cost, using a DOT&PF approved project cost estimate. The federal aid match requirement is officially 9.03%. Each additional 1% of additional contribution will be awarded 0.2 pts. This means that a 5% additional contribution (above the required matching funds) will receive 1 point before weighting and 5 points with weighting. The purpose for using 0.2pts for each 1% is so that additional contributions do not need to be in 5% increments as in previous nomination cycles. See examples below.

Total committed contribution (including required match)	Additional contribution beyond required match (Total minus 9%)	Points without weighting (0.2 pt for each 1%)	Points with weighting (times 5)
9.03%	0	0	0
14%	5%	1	5
25%	16%	3.2	16

All financial commitments must be in writing and approved by the local governing body of the community or tribal government before project will be considered for funding.

## Local Ownership of Local Infrastructure

Communities that own and maintain their own road infrastructure make a significant financial commitment. Some communities have declined to take on maintenance and ownership responsibility, and still enjoy state ownership and maintenance of roads that primarily serve the local population. These communities essentially get a subsidy that other communities do not.

Roads are classified based on their use, and range from roads that primarily access adjoining land, to roads that primarily move large amounts of traffic. Functional classification, from least to highest, is as follows:

Local Minor Collector Major Collector Minor Arterial Principal Arterial Interstate

The Long Range Transportation Plan "Let's Get Moving 2036" requires communities to take ownership of state-owned local and minor collectors; supports divestment of local roads (Action 7.2); and encourages targeting state resources to higher functional class routes (Action 1.1). Additional regulatory language asks the Project Evaluation Board (PEB) to consider whether the municipality, another state agency, or a federal agency has made a contribution to finance capital costs and/or to take ownership (17 AAC 05.175(b)(6-7), (c)(6-7).

The Urban and Rural criteria and the Remote criteria reward communities that make a commitment to take on new responsibility of local infrastructure or that have already taken responsibility for a large share of their local infrastructure (primarily those local and minor collector routes). The Department will calculate the percentage of local and minor collectors for which the community has assumed ownership and/or management responsibility.

Any commitment to assume new ownership or management responsibility of a route or to maintain current ownership must be in

writing and approved by the local governing body of the community or tribal government before the project is considered for funding.

## Resolutions

A resolution of support from the local or tribal government is extremely important. Every resolution must include:

- Explicit support for the project. Be as specific as possible, but provide some qualifying language in case there are elements that are not feasible due to other concerns such as environmental or funding constraints. Example language might be: "Construction of a two lane gravel road from X to Y along Z route, or similar given design or funding constraints."
- Acknowledgement of financial contribution commitments including required match.
- Acknowledgement of new or continued ownership, management, and/or maintenance responsibility.
- Explicit language authorizing the execution of an agreement with the State to perform the specified acts.\* The specified acts include monetary commitments for which the project is expected to be awarded points under standards five (funding contributions) and six (M&O contributions). Including this language will enable the Department and the sponsor to execute an agreement upon award of funds.

\*This last bullet is not a mandatory requirement for project nominations; however, it is highly recommended. Each project that is awarded funds will be required to have a project agreement in place before any project related work can begin. For an incorporated community to enter into and sign this agreement, there must be a resolution authorizing the execution of the agreement. Therefore, it is in the best interest of each project sponsor to obtain these permissions as part of the resolution of support for the project.

For unincorporated communities a public record of support is required in lieu of a resolution. Additionally, all monetary

commitments for maintenance and match must be committed at the time of nomination and provided in full prior to initiation of the project.

## Let's Keep Moving

The Department is not alone in feeling uncertainty related to long term funding projections. The State's fiscal crisis, along with federal aid funding uncertainty, have left the Department and many communities feeling pressure to do more with less. The Department expects with limited funds available, and a conservative approach, that this project nomination opportunity will be highly competitive. Project sponsors that are willing to provide additional funding contributions and/or take on additional maintenance responsibility will be rewarded. The Department appreciates the willingness of communities to participate in the ownership, funding, and maintenance of transportation systems in Alaska.

	Scoring Criteria				
		3			
Standards	(5)	(3)	(0)	(-3)	
1. Economic benefits.	Endorsed in an economic development plan by a public entity <b>and</b> provides new or improved direct access to a community resource.	Identified in an economic development plan by a public entity; or provides new or improved access to an important community resource.	Supports minimal, speculative, or temporary economic opportunities; or benefits or provides non- crucial benefit to existing economic activity.	N/A	
Weighting: 1					
	s shall not consider benefits du sive plan is acceptable if the fo				
2. Health and quality of life (For example air and water quality, neighborhood continuity, access to basic necessities.).	This project provides a measureable significant contribution to improved health or quality of life; or reduces or removes a significant existing negative factor.	This project provides a moderate contribution to improved health or quality of life; or reduces or removes an existing negative factor.	Project will have no effect either positive or negative on quality of life issues.	This project provides a significant degradation to health or quality of life.	
Weighting: 2					

		Scoring Criteria				
Standards	(5)	(3)	(0)	(-3)		
<ol> <li>Safety Meets goals or strategies listed in the Alaska Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP).</li> <li>Year Safety Historical Concentrations.</li> </ol>	Proposes mitigation which is recognized in practice to address safety issues for a route that qualifies based on: A) a long term pattern of fatal or major (incapacitating) injury crashes; or B) a documented high crash potential or risk between a major non- motorized use facility and vehicular traffic; or C) HSIP* costs/mile of project length greater than \$2.5 million per mile**.	Proposes mitigation which is recognized in practice to address safety issues for a route that qualifies based on: A) a long term pattern of minor injury or property damage crashes; or B) a documented moderate crash potential or risk between non- motorized users and vehicular traffic,-or C) HSIP costs/mile of project length between \$1.5 and \$2.5 million per mile.**	No mitigation is demonstrated to address a crash problem or potential in other categories: A) historical crash patterns identified are less than 3 or more crashes per year. B) no demonstrated traffic conflicts between non- motorized users and vehicular traffic.	Proposes features which are recognized in practice to worsen highway safety such as a project that: A) would be contrary to a strategy of the SHSP in a significant manner; or B) proposes other work that is viewed as contrary to producing a safer roadway environment for motorized or non- motorized users.		
Weighting: 5						
responsibility) = maximum scc recognized in practice = maxir *Highway Safety Improvement	t Program (HSIP)		cond-hand sources (not on-scene	e responsibility) or data not		

		Scoring	l Criteria	
Standards	(5)	(3)	(0)	(-3)
4. Improves intermodal transportation or lessens redundant facilities. Weighting: 2	Would clearly reduce the need for capital investment or significantly reduce operating costs in another mode or on an adjacent facility; or significantly improves the connection between modes for travelers or freight. Contributes to system network by substantially alleviating safety concerns, increasing efficiency, or decreasing operating costs of a nearby NHS route (+1) or interstate route (+2).	May reduce the need for capital investments and / or result in a reduction in operating costs in another mode or on an adjacent facility; or would moderately improve the connection between modes for travelers or freight.	Does not impact other mode or adjacent facility requirements or connections.	Will increase demand on another mode or facility requiring additional capita expenditure; or a new increase in operating cost
5. Local, other agency or user <b>contribution to fund</b> <b>capital costs.</b> Weighting: 5	Contribution of cash matchi of project cost in excess of match.	ng funds: .2 pt per each 1% the required federal aid	Contribution covers no capital costs beyond required federal aid match commitment of 9.03%.	N/A Commitment to provide matching funds is require for all project nominations

		Scoring	l Criteria	
Standards	(5)	(3)	(0)	(-3)
6a. Local, other agency or user <b>contribution to fund</b> <b>M&amp;O costs</b> (For non- DOT&PF sponsored projects).	Sponsor will assume ownership and management responsibility if currently a DOT&PF facility; or sponsor will assume ownership of another DOT&PF facility of similar M&O cost.	Continued sponsor ownership and management responsibility of locally owned facility <b>and</b> community currently assumes management responsibility for: - 90% or greater of routes (in miles) functionally classified minor collector or	Sponsor assumes ownership and management responsibility of proposed or existing locally owned facility.	Project would increase M&O costs significantly.
Weighting: 0 or 5		local (3pts); or - 60-90% of routes (in miles) functionally classified as minor collector or local (2pts).		
			nmunity or tribe before points	
6b. Departmental <b>M&amp;O</b> <b>costs</b> and priority (For DOT&PF sponsored projects). Weighting: 0 or 5	Significant M&O priority. A project that results in a transfer of management responsibility to a local government will be considered a significant priority.	Moderate M&O priority.	Not an M&O priority; little effect on M&O costs.	Not an M&O priority; would increase M&O costs significantly.

		Scoring	Criteria	
Standards	(5)	(3)	(0)	(-3)
7. Public support. Weighting: 3	Project has a resolution of support from the local elected body* <b>and</b> is identified as a high priority project in state, tribal, or local plans*.	Project has a resolution of support from local elected body*; and supported in official state, tribal, or local plans.	Project has resolution of support from local elected body*. Project has resolution of support <b>and</b> resolution includes language authorizing the execution of an agreement with the State promising to perform the specified act(s) for which the sponsor is seeking points under standard 5 (funding contributions) and standard 6 (ownership and management responsibility). (1 point)	N/A Resolution* is required for all project nominations.
elected body, a public recor at the time of nomination. C	in areas/communities repres d of support is required and a apital Improvement Program nsor would like to have consi	any monetary commitments fo (CIP) and similar lists adopte	or maintenance or match will ad by resolution will be consid	need to be committed to lered as a resolution. Any
8. Environmental	Environmental approval	Environmental approval	Environmental approval	Environmental approval
approval readiness.	complete; or	likely with an	likely with an	unlikely.
	Environmental approval	Environmental	Environmental Impact	
	likely with a categorical	Assessment (EA).	Statement (EIS).	
Weighting: 2	exclusion (CE) document.			

Urban and Rural Proje	ects Criteria			
		Scoring	Criteria	
Standards	(5)	(3)	(0)	(-3)
9. System Reliability or deficient width/grade/alignment (w/g/a).	Primarily an Asset Management preservation project; or a route with significantly deficient w/g/a relative to standards impacting system reliability.	A portion of the project rehabilitates subgrade, appurtenances or other infrastructure such as sidewalks, etc.; or moderately deficient w/g/a relative to standards.	Primarily major reconstruction; addresses long-range rehabilitation <b>And</b> no w/g/a deficiencies.	N/A
Weighting: 4				
	a situation where there is a tr have significantly (or moderat			s of the number of existing
10. <b>Cost Effectiveness</b> using cost, length, AADT evaluation. Divide project cost (in thousands) by length (miles) and further divide result by Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT). Weighting: 5	\$0 - \$1.50= 5 \$ 1.50- \$ 3.00 = 4	\$ 3.00 - \$ 4.50 = 3 \$ 4.50 - \$6.00 = 2 \$ 6.00 - 8.00 = 1	\$ 8.00 - \$ 10.00 = 0	\$10.00 - \$20.00 = -1 \$20.00 - 40.00 = -2 >\$40.00 = -3
	use assumed length of 1 mile			<sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> mile. The Department wi
prepare or approve (possible) 11. Deficient bridges.	y with revision) all cost estimate Bridge needs to be replaced. At the end of service life and structurally deficient. Two	Structurally deficient. At least one bridge rating (deck, superstructure, or substructure) is deficient	e. +1 point if project addresses a functionally obsolete bridge.	N/A
Weighting: 4	or more bridge ratings (deck, superstructure, substructure) are deficient (rating 4 or less).	(rating is 4 or less).		

		Scoring	g Criteria	
Standards	(5)	(3)	(0)	(-3)
12. Functional classification.	Minor Arterial = 5	Major Collector =3 Minor Collector =2	Local Roads / Streets or Unclassified	
Weighting: 4 If local government agree	s to take over ownership of sta	te owned road – lowest funct	tional class score is "4".	
13. <b>Other factors</b> not specified.	Project exhibits significant innovation, creativity, or unique benefits not otherwise rated.	Project exhibits moderate innovation, creativity, or unique benefits not otherwise rated.	Project exhibits no innovation, creativity, or unique benefits not otherwise rated.	
Weighting: 2				

	F	Remote Projects Criteri	а	
		Scoring Criteria		-
Standards	(5)	(3)	(0)	(-3)
1. Economic benefits.	Endorsed in an economic development plan by a public entity <b>and</b> provides new or improved direct access to a community resource.	Identified in an economic development plan by a public entity; or provides new or improved access to an important community resource.	Supports minimal, speculative, or temporary economic opportunities; or benefits or provides non-crucial benefit to existing economic activity.	N/A
Weighting: 2				
	shall not consider benefits du			
	ive plan is acceptable if the f			
2. Health and quality of life (For example air and water quality, neighborhood continuity, access to basic necessities.). Weighting: 4	This project provides a significant contribution to improved health or quality of life; or reduces or removes a significant existing negative factor.	This project provides a moderate contribution to improved health or quality of life; or reduces or removes an existing negative factor.	Project will have no effect either positive or negative on quality of life issues.	This project provides a significant degradation to health or quality of life.
Examples: Access to basic	sanitation = 5; dust control =	4; access to medical facility	= 3	

	F	Remote Projects Criteri	a	
		Scoring Criteria		
Standards	(5)	(3)	(0)	(-3)
<ul> <li>3. Safety (Meets goals or strategies listed in the Alaska Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP).</li> <li>5 Year Safety Historical Concentrations.</li> </ul>	Proposes mitigation which is recognized in practice to address safety issues for a route that qualifies based on: A) a long term pattern of fatal or major (incapacitating) injury crashes; B) a documented high crash potential or risk between a major non- motorized use facility and vehicular traffic; or C) HSIP* costs/mile of project length greater than \$2.5 million per mile**.	Proposes mitigation which is recognized in practice to address safety issues for a route that qualifies based on: A) a long term pattern of minor injury or property damage crashes; B) a documented moderate crash potential or risk between non- motorized users and vehicular traffic;-or C) HSIP costs/mile of project length between \$1.5 and \$2.5 million per mile. **.	No mitigation is demonstrated to address a crash problem or potential in other categories: A) historical crash patterns identified are less than 3 or more crashes per year; or B) no demonstrated traffic conflicts between non- motorized users and vehicular traffic.	Proposes features which are recognized in practice to worsen highway safety such as a project that: A) would be contrary to a strategy of the SHSP in a significant manner; or B) proposes other work that is viewed as contrary to producing a safer roadway environment for motorized or non- motorized users.
responsibility) = maximum sco	ar official ADOT&PF data. When pre is 4 points. When using ane			
recognized in practice = maxin *Highway Safety Improvement **The Department will provide		project nominations that include	a qualifying safety improvemen	t.

		Remote Projects Criter	la	
Standards	(5)	(3)	(0)	(-3)
<ul> <li>Improves intermodal ransportation or lessens edundant facilities.</li> </ul>	Would clearly reduce the need for capital investment or significantly reduce operating costs in another mode or on an adjacent facility; or significantly improves the connection between modes for travelers or	May reduce the need for capital investments and / or result in a reduction in operating costs in another mode or on an adjacent facility; or would moderately improve the connection between modes for travelers or	Does not impact other mode or adjacent facility requirements or connections.	Will increase demand on another mode or facility requiring additional capita expenditure; or a new increase in operating cost
Weighting: 2	freight. Contributes to system network by substantially alleviating safety concerns, increasing efficiency, or decreasing operating costs of a nearby NHS route (+1) or interstate route (+2).	freight.		
5. Local, other agency, or iser contribution to <b>fund</b> capital costs. Weighting: 5	Contribution of cash matchi of project cost in excess of match.		Contribution covers no capital costs Beyond required match commitment.	N/A

		Remote Projects Criter	la	
		Scoring Criteria	1	
Standards	(5)	(3)	(0)	(-3)
6a. Local, other agency, or user <b>contribution to</b> <b>fund M&amp;O costs</b> (For non-DOT&PF sponsored projects).	Sponsor will assume ownership and management responsibility if currently a DOT&PF facility; or sponsor will assume ownership of another DOT&PF facility of similar M&O cost.	Continued sponsor ownership and management responsibility of locally owned facility <b>and</b> community currently assumes management responsibility for: - 90% or greater of routes (in miles) functionally classified minor collector or local (3pts); or - 60-90% of routes (in miles) functionally classified as minor collector or local (2pts).	Sponsor assumes ownership and management responsibility of proposed or existing locally owned facility.	Project would increase M&O costs significantly.
Weighting: 0 or 5 Sponsor commitment must	be in writing and passed by t	he governing body of the con	nmunity or tribe before points	will be assigned
<i>6b.</i> Departmental <b>M&amp;O</b> <b>costs</b> and priority (For DOT&PF sponsored projects). Weighting: 0 or 5	Significant M&O priority. A project that results in a transfer of management responsibility to a local government will be considered a significant priority.	Moderate M&O priority.	Not an M&O priority; little effect on M&O costs.	Not an M&O priority; would increase M&O costs significantly.

Remote Projects Criteria							
Scoring Criteria							
Standards	(5)	(3)	(0)	(-3)			
7. Public support.	Project has a resolution of support from the local elected body* <b>and</b> is identified as a high priority project in state, tribal, or local plans.	Project has a resolution of support from local elected body* <b>and</b> nominally supported in official state, tribal, or local plans.	Project has resolution of support from local elected body*.	N/A Resolution* is required for all project nominations			
Weighting: 3							
the time of nomination. Cap document for which the spo 8. Environmental	rd of support is required and a bital Improvement Program (C onsor would like to have consi Environmental approval	CIP) and similar lists adopted idered as a 'plan' must includ Environmental approval	by resolution will be consider e documentation of public inv Environmental approval	ed as a resolution. Any olvement. Environmental approval			
approval readiness.	complete; or Environmental approval likely with a categorical exclusion (CE) document.	likely with Environmental Assessment (EA).	likely with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).	unlikely.			
Weighting: 2							
Environmental documentation must follow FHWA guidelines as explained in explained in federal regulations.							
<ol> <li>Will project provide new and/or improved access to the noted uses:</li> </ol>	New access to two or more uses = 5.	New access to one = 3; Improved access to two or more = 2;	None of uses listed.	N/A			
ferry terminals, airports, subsistence sites, or river/ocean access? Weighting: 2		Improved access to one of listed uses = 1.					

Remote Projects Criteria Scoring Criteria							
10. System preservation and Bridges.	Major purpose of project is to extend the life of existing facility by 10 or more years. Bridge needs to be replaced. At the end of service life and	Secondary purpose of project is to extend life of existing facility by 10 or more years. Structurally deficient. At least one bridge rating (deck, superstructure, or	Preservation is not significant purpose of the project. +1 point if project addresses a functionally obsolete bridge.	N/A			
Weighting: 5	structurally deficient. Two or more bridge ratings (deck, superstructure, substructure) are deficient (rating 4 or less).	substructure) is deficient (rating 4 or less).					
11. Is this a <b>joint project</b> coordinated with ADEC, BIA, ANTHC, or similar state or federal agency? Weighting: 4	N/A	Yes	No.	N/A			
Must provide written letter of	or MOU showing commitment	and coordination.					
12. <b>Cost Effectiveness</b> : total project cost/persons whom facility provides essential services & benefits described in Criteria 1,2,3,4 or 9.	5pts – If per capita cost is \$5,000 or less. 4pts – If per capita cost is \$5,001-\$7,500.	3pts – If per capita cost is \$7,501 - \$10,000. 2pts – If per capita cost\$10,001 - \$12,500. 1pt – If per capita cost is \$12,501 - \$15,000.	0pt – If per capita cost is \$15,001 - \$20,000.	-1pt – If per capita cost is \$20,001 - \$25,000. -2pts – If per capita cost is \$25,001 - \$30,000. -3pts – If per capita cost is \$30,001 or more.			
Weighting: 5							
13. <b>Other factors</b> not specified.	Project exhibits significant innovation, creativity, or unique benefits not otherwise rated.	Project exhibits moderate innovation, creativity, or unique benefits not otherwise rated.	Project exhibits no innovation, creativity, or unique benefits not otherwise rated.				
Weighting: 2							