

# **Project Evaluation Methodology**

The evaluation of regional transportation projects is specialized for the following types of transportation improvements:

- 1. Bridge Rehabilitation/Replacement (pages 2-3)
- 2. Traffic Management Technologies (Roadway System Mgmt.) (pages 4-5)
- 3. Roadway Reconstruction/Modernization/Automation (pages 6-7)
- 4. Roadway Expansion (pages 8-11)
- 5. Multiuse Trails & Bicycle Facilities (pages 12-13)
- 6. Pedestrian Facilities/Safe Routes to School (pages 14-17)
- 7. Transit Expansion/Transit Modernization (pages 18-19)

Evaluation criteria for regional transportation projects are based on federal goals, as well as regional goals.

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), enacted in 2012, included provisions to make the U.S. surface transportation system more streamlined, performance- based, and multimodal, and to address challenges facing the transportation system, including safety, infrastructure condition, traffic congestion, efficiency of freight movement, environmental impacts, and delays in project delivery. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) build on the changes made by MAP-21, including providing a dedicated source of federal dollars for freight projects.

The federal-aid highway program primarily focuses on the following goals:

- **Safety** To achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads.
- **Infrastructure Condition** To maintain the highway infrastructure asset system in a state of good repair.
- **Congestion Reduction** To achieve a significant reduction in congestion on the National Highway System.
- **System Reliability** To improve the efficiency of the surface transportation system.
- **Freight Movement and Economic Vitality** To improve the national freight network, strengthen the ability of rural communities to access national and international trade markets, and support regional economic development.
- **Environmental Sustainability** To enhance the performance of the transportation system while protecting and enhancing the natural environment.
- Reduced Project Delivery Delays To reduce project costs, promote jobs and the economy, and expedite the movement of people and goods by accelerating project completion through eliminating delays in the project development and delivery process, including reducing regulatory burdens and improving agencies' work practices.

The above types of transportation projects and evaluation criteria are described further in the following sections.

### 1. Bridges - Prioritizing Criteria and Measures

**Definition**: A bridge rehabilitation or replacement project located on a non-freeway principal arterial or minor arterial functionally classified roadway, consistent with the latest approved functional classification map. Bridge structures that have a separate span for each direction of travel can apply for both spans.

The bridge must carry vehicular traffic, but may also include accommodations for other modes. Bridges that are exclusively for bicycle or pedestrian traffic are evaluated under one of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities categories. Completely new bridges, interchanges, or overpasses where there were none before fall under the Roadway Expansion evaluation category.

**Examples** of Bridge Rehabilitation/Replacement Projects:

- Bridge rehabilitation of 20 or more feet, with a bridge condition classified as 'Poor', based on 'lowest condition rating' of the primary components of a bridge or culvert.
- Bridge replacement of 20 or more feet, with a bridge condition classified as 'Poor', based on 'lowest condition rating' of the primary components of a bridge or culvert.

Brid	lge Projects Scoring		
	Criteria and Measures	Points	%
1	Role in the Regional Transportation System and Economy		25
1a	Measure - Distance to the nearest alternate-crossing bridge		10
1b	Measure - Project location relative to jobs, manufacturing, transit routes, and education		10
1c	Measure - Transit routes, freight corridors, bicycle and trail corridors, and bicycle/pedestrian network		5
2	Usage		10
2a	Measure - Current daily traffic		5
2b	Measure - Forecast average daily traffic volume in MTP horizon year		5
3	Distribution of Benefits/Impacts		5
3a	Measure - Balanced distribution of project's benefits, impacts, & mitigation; connection to under-resourced areas		5
4	Infrastructure Condition		20
4a	Measure - Bridge rating		10
4b	Measure - Load posting		10
5	Multimodal Elements and Existing Connections		10
5a	Measure - Transit, bicycle, or pedestrian project elements and connections		10
6	Consistency with Regional Plans		10
6a	Consistent with plans, studies, goals, policies, strategies		10
7	Public Engagement/Risk Assessment (ROW acquisition, proximity to historic properties)		10
7a	Measure - Public engagement/municipal support/KDOT consult/railroad involvement		5
7b	Measure - National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act (e.g., historic resources areas, ROW easements, flood risk)		5
8	Cost Effectiveness		10
8a	Measure - Cost effectiveness (total points/total project cost)		10
	TOTAL		100

# 2. Traffic Management Technologies (Roadway System Management) – Prioritizing Criteria and Measures

**Definition**: An Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) or similar project that primarily benefits roadway users. Traffic Management Technology projects can include project elements along a single corridor, along multiple corridors, or within a specific geographic area, such as a downtown. To be eligible, projects must make improvements to at least one minor arterial or non-freeway principal arterial. Projects that are more transit-focused fall under the Transit Modernization evaluation category.

#### **Examples** of Traffic Management Technology Projects:

- Flashing yellow arrow traffic signals
- Traffic signal retiming projects
- Integrated corridor signal coordination
- Traffic signal control system upgrades
- New/replacement detectors
- Passive detectors for bicycle riders and pedestrians
- New/replacement traffic mgmt. centers
- New/replacement traffic communication
- New/replacement CCTV cameras
- New/replacement variable message signs & other info. improvements
- Incident-management coordination

Traf	fic Management Technology Projects Scoring		
	Criteria and Measures	Points	%
1	Role in the Regional Transportation System and Economy		20
1a	Measure - Functional classification of affected roadways; movement of people and goods		7
1b	Measure - Transit routes, freight corridors, bicycle and trail corridors, and bicycle/pedestrian network		6
1c	Measure - Integration within existing traffic management systems		7
2	Usage		10
2a	Measure - Current daily person throughput		5
2b	Measure - Forecast average daily traffic volume in MTP horizon year		5
3	Distribution of Benefits/Impacts		5
3a	Measure - Balanced distribution of project's benefits, impacts, & mitigation; connection to under-resourced areas		5
4	Infrastructure Condition/Age		10
4a	Measure - Upgrades to obsolete equipment		10
5	Congestion Reduction/Air Quality		10
5a	Measure - Congested corridor		5
5b	Measure - Emissions and congestion benefits of project		5
6	Safety		15
6a	Measure - Crashes reduced		7.5
6b	Measure - Safety issues in project area (e.g., signage, facility geometry)		7.5
7	Multimodal Elements and Existing Connections		10
7a	Measure - Transit, bicycle, or pedestrian project elements and connections		10
8	Consistency with Regional Plans		10
8a	Consistent with plans, studies, goals, policies, strategies		10
9	Public Engagement/Risk Assessment (ROW acquisition, proximity to historic properties)		5
9a	Measure - Public engagement/municipal support/KDOT consult/railroad involvement		2
9b	Measure - National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act (e.g., historic resources areas, ROW easements, flood risk)		3
10	Cost Effectiveness		5
10a	Measure - Cost effectiveness (total points/total project cost)		5
	TOTAL		100

# 3. Roadway Reconstruction/Modernization and Spot Mobility – Prioritizing Criteria and Measures

**Definition**: A roadway project that does not add through-lane capacity (with the exception of roundabouts), but reconstructs, reclaims, modernizes, or adds new spot mobility elements (e.g., new turn lanes, traffic signal, or roundabout). Projects must be located on a non-freeway principal arterial or a minor arterial roadway, consistent with the latest functional classification map.

**Examples** of Roadway Reconstruction/Modernization and Spot Mobility Projects:

- Intersection improvements or alternative intersections such as unsignalized or signalized reduced conflict intersections
- Interchange reconstructions that do not involve new ramp movements or added through lanes
- Turn lanes
- Two-lane-to-three-lane conversions (with a continuous center turn lane)
- Lane conversion to on-street parking, or bike-lanes addition
- Four-lane-to-three-lane conversions
- Roundabouts

- Addition or replacement of traffic signals
- Shoulder improvements
- Strengthening a non-10-ton roadway
- Raised medians, frontage roads, access modifications, or other access management
- Roadway improvements that add multimodal elements
- New alignments that replace an existing alignment and do not increase the number of through lanes
- Resurfacing roadway projects

	Criteria and Measures	Points	%
1	Role in the Regional Transportation System and Economy		20
1a	Measure - Level of congestion, movement of people and goods		7
1b	Measure - Project location relative to jobs, manufacturing, and education		7
1c	Measure - Transit routes, freight corridors, bicycle and trail corridors, and bicycle/pedestrian network		6
2	Usage		10
2a	Measure - Current daily traffic		5
2b	Measure - Forecast average daily traffic volume in MTP horizon year		5
3	Distribution of Benefits/Impacts		5
3a	Measure - Balanced distribution of project's benefits, impacts, & mitigation; connection to under-resourced areas		5
4	Infrastructure Condition/Age		15
4a	Measure - Date of construction		7.5
4b	Measure - Geometric, structural, or infrastructure improvements		7.5
5	Congestion Reduction		10
5a	Measure - Vehicle delay reduced		10
6	Safety		10
6a	Measure - Crash history		5
6b	Measure - Safety issues in project area (e.g., signage, facility geometry)		5
7	Multimodal Elements and Existing Connections		10
7a	Measure - Transit, bicycle, or pedestrian project elements and connections		10
8	Consistency with Regional Plans		10
8a	Consistent with plans, studies, goals, policies, strategies		10
9	Public Engagement/Risk Assessment (ROW acquisition, proximity to historic properties)		5
9a	Measure - Public engagement/municipal support/KDOT consult/railroad involvement		2
9b	Measure - National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act (e.g., historic resources areas, ROW easements, flood risk)		3
10	Cost Effectiveness		5
10a	Measure - Cost effectiveness (total points/total project cost)		5
	TOTAL	Ι Τ	100

## 4. (a) Roadway Expansion (Existing Road) – Prioritizing Criteria and Measures

**Definition**: A roadway project that adds through-lane capacity as a primary objective. Projects must be located on a minor arterial roadway or above, consistent with the latest functional classification map.

**Examples** of Roadway Expansion (Existing Road) Projects:

Four-lane-to-six-lane expansionsNew interchanges with or without

associated frontage roads

Two-lane-to-four-lane expansions
 Other through-lane expansions
 (excludes addition of a continuous center turn lane)
 Expanded interchanges with either new ramp movements or added through lanes
 New bridges, overpasses, and underpasses

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Road	lway Expansion (Existing Road) Projects Scoring		
	Criteria and Measures	Points	%
1	Role in the Regional Transportation System and Economy		20
1a	Measure - Level of congestion, movement of people and goods		7
1b	Measure - Project location relative to jobs, manufacturing, transit routes, and education		7
1c	Measure - Transit routes, freight corridors, bicycle and trail corridors, and bicycle/pedestrian network		6
2	Usage		10
2a	Measure - Current daily traffic		5
2b	Measure - Forecast average daily traffic volume in MTP horizon year		5
3	Distribution of Benefits/Impacts		5
3a	Measure - Balanced distribution of project's benefits, impacts, & mitigation; connection to under-resourced areas		5
4	Infrastructure Condition/Age		15
4a	Measure - Date of construction		7.5
4b	Measure - Geometric, structural, or infrastructure improvements		7.5
5	Congestion Reduction		10
5a	Measure - Vehicle delay reduced		10
6	Safety		10
6a	Measure - Crash history		5
6b	Measure - Safety issues in project area (e.g., signage, facility geometry)		5
7	Multimodal Elements and Existing Connections		10
7a	Measure - Transit, bicycle, or pedestrian project elements and connections		10
8	Consistency with Regional Plans		10
8a	Consistent with plans, studies, goals, policies, strategies		10
9	Public Engagement/Risk Assessment (ROW acquisition, proximity to historic properties)		5
9a	Measure - Public engagement/municipal support/KDOT consult/railroad involvement		2
9b	Measure - National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act (e.g., historic resources areas, ROW easements, flood risk)		3
10	Cost Effectiveness		5
10a	Measure - Cost effectiveness (total points/total project cost)		5
	TOTAL		100

## 4. (b) Roadway Expansion (New Road) – Prioritizing Criteria and Measures

**Definition**: New roadways that would be classified as Minor Arterial or above once the project is built.

**Examples** of Roadway Expansion (New Road) Projects:

•	New roadways connecting communities	•	New bridge connections providing
			connectivity between two or more
			communities

Road	lway Expansion (New Road) Projects Scoring		
	Criteria and Measures	Points	%
1	Role in the Regional Transportation System and Economy		25
1a	Measure - Level of congestion, movement of people and goods		8
1b	Measure - Project location relative to jobs, manufacturing, transit routes, and education		10
1c	Measure - Transit routes, freight corridors, bicycle and trail corridors, and bicycle/pedestrian network		7
2	Usage		10
2a	Measure - Forecast average daily traffic volume in MTP horizon year		10
3	Distribution of Benefits/Impacts		5
3a	Measure - Balanced distribution of project's benefits, impacts, & mitigation; connection to under-resourced areas		5
4	Connecting Communities in the Region		10
4a	Promotes regional roadway connections		10
5	Congestion Reduction		10
5a	Measure - Vehicle delay reduced		10
6	Safety		10
6a	Addresses safety concerns		10
7	Multimodal Elements and Existing Connections		10
7a	Measure - Transit, bicycle, or pedestrian project elements and connections		10
8	Consistency with Regional Plans		10
8a	Consistent with plans, studies, goals, policies, strategies		10
9	Public Engagement/Risk Assessment (ROW acquisition, proximity to historic properties)		5
9a	Measure - Public engagement/municipal support/KDOT consult/railroad involvement		2
9b	Measure - National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act (e.g., historic resources areas, ROW easements, flood risk)		3
10	Cost Effectiveness		5
10a	Measure - Cost effectiveness (total points/total project cost)		5
	TOTAL		100

## 5. Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities - Prioritizing Criteria and Measures

**Definition**: A project that benefits bicycle riders and/or other nonmotorized travelers. All projects must have a transportation purpose (i.e., connecting people to destinations). A facility may serve both a transportation purpose and a recreational purpose. Multiuse-trail bridges and underpasses are eligible in this category.

**Examples** of Multiuse Trail and Bicycle Facilities Projects:

- Multiuse trails
- Trail bridges/underpasses
- On-street bicycle lanes, improved signalization, detectors for bicycles
- Filling multiple gaps, improving multiple crossings, or making other similar improvements along a trail corridor

Criteria and Measures  Points  Role in the Regional Transportation System and Economy  Measure - Level of congestion, principal-arterial-intersection-conversion-study priorities, and congestion-management and safety plan opportunity areas  Measure - Project location relative to the regional bicycle transportation network, bicycle commuting corridors	% 20 5 5
Measure - Level of congestion, principal-arterial-intersection-conversion-study priorities, and congestion-management and safety plan opportunity areas  Measure - Project location relative to the regional bicycle transportation network, bicycle commuting corridors	5
priorities, and congestion-management and safety plan opportunity areas  Measure - Project location relative to the regional bicycle transportation network, bicycle commuting corridors	
network, bicycle commuting corridors	5
1. Magazine Connection to jobs transit varies and advertised in this in-	1
1c Measure - Connection to jobs, transit routes, and educational institutions	5
Measure - Connectivity to transit routes, trail connectivity, bicycle corridor  connectivity, bicycle/pedestrian network connectivity	5
2 Potential Usage	15
2a Measure - Existing population and employment within 1 mile (potential usage), population density and employment density	10
2b Measure - Snow and ice control	5
3 Distribution of Benefits/Impacts	5
3a Measure - Balanced distribution of project's benefits, impacts, & mitigation; connection to under-resourced areas	5
4 Deficiencies and Safety	10
4a Measure - Gaps closed/barriers removed and/or continuity between jurisdictions improved by the project	5
4b Measure - Deficiencies corrected or safety problems addressed	5
5 Multimodal Elements and Existing Connections	20
Measure - Transit or pedestrian/bicycle elements of the project and connections, level of traffic stress	20
6 Consistency with Regional Plans	10
6a Consistent with plans, studies, goals, policies, strategies	10
7 Public Engagement/Risk Assessment (ROW acquisition, proximity to historic properties)	10
7a Measure - Public engagement/municipal support/KDOT consult/railroad involvement	5
7b Measure - National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act (e.g., historic resources areas, ROW easements, flood risk)	5
8 Cost Effectiveness	10
8a Measure - Cost effectiveness (total points/total project cost)	10
TOTAL	100

# 6. (a) Pedestrian Facilities (Sidewalks, Streetscaping, and ADA) – Prioritizing Criteria and Measures

#### **Definition:**

Pedestrian Facilities: A project that primarily benefits pedestrians and the mobility-impaired. All projects must relate to surface transportation. A facility may serve both a transportation purpose and a recreational purpose; a facility that connects people to recreational destinations may be considered to have a transportation purpose. Multiuse trail bridges or underpasses and bicycle facilities fall under the Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities category, and not Pedestrian Facilities.

## **Examples** of Pedestrian Facility Projects:

•	Sidewalks	•	Making similar improvements in a concentrated
•	Streetscaping		geographic area, such as sidewalk gap closure
•	Americans with Disabilities Act		throughout a defined neighborhood or downtown
	(ADA) improvements		area

Ped	Pedestrian Facilities (Sidewalks, Streetscaping, and ADA) Projects Scoring					
	Criteria and Measures	Points	%			
1	Role in the Regional Transportation System and Economy		30			
1a	Measure - Project location relative to the regional bicycle transportation network, Bicycle Commuting Corridors (BCCs), and Pedestrian Areas (PAs)		10			
1b	Measure - Connection to jobs and educational institutions		10			
1c	Measure - connectivity to transit routes, trail connectivity, bicycle corridor connectivity, bicycle/pedestrian network connectivity		10			
2	Potential Usage		20			
2a	Measure - Existing population and employment within 1/2 mile (potential usage)		10			
2b	Measure - Snow and ice control		10			
3	Distribution of Benefits/Impacts		5			
3a	Measure - Balanced distribution of project's benefits, impacts, & mitigation; connection to under-resourced areas		5			
4	Deficiencies and Safety		15			
4a	Measure - Gaps closed/barriers removed and/or continuity between jurisdictions improved by the project		7.5			
4b	Measure - Deficiencies corrected or safety problems addressed		7.5			
5	Consistency with Regional Plans		10			
5a	Consistent with plans, studies, goals, policies, strategies		10			
6	Public Engagement/Risk Assessment (ROW acquisition, proximity to historic properties)		10			
6a	Measure - Public engagement/municipal support/KDOT consult/railroad involvement		5			
6b	Measure - National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act (e.g., historic resources areas, ROW easements, flood risk)		5			
7	Cost Effectiveness		10			
7a	Measure - Cost effectiveness (total points/total project cost)		10			
	TOTAL		100			

# 6. (b) Pedestrian Facilities (Safe Routes to School Infrastructure) – Prioritizing Criteria and Measures

#### **Definition**:

*Safe Routes to School Infrastructure*: An infrastructure project that is within a two-mile radius of and directly benefits a primary, middle, or high school site.

**Examples** of Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Projects:

•	Sidewalks benefiting people going to the	•	Improved crossings benefiting people going
	school		to the school
•	Multiuse trails benefiting people going	•	Multiple improvements
	to the school		

Ped	Pedestrian Facilities (Safe Routes to School Infrastructure) Projects Scoring					
	Criteria and Measures	Points	%			
1	Relationship to Safe Routes to School Program Elements		25			
1a	Measure - Project addresses 6 Es (Evaluation, Engineering, Education, Encouragement, Engagement, and Enforcement) of the SRTS program		15			
1b	Measure - Connectivity to transit routes, trail connectivity, bicycle corridor connectivity, bicycle/pedestrian network connectivity		10			
2	Potential Usage		20			
2a	Measure - Average share of student population that bicycles, walks, or rolls to/from K12 school; or student registrations		15			
2b	Measure - Student population within school's walkshed		5			
3	Distribution of Benefits/Impacts		5			
3a	Measure - Balanced distribution of project's benefits, impacts, & mitigation; connection to under-resourced areas		5			
4	Deficiencies and Safety		20			
4a	Measure - Gaps closed/barriers removed and/or continuity between jurisdictions improved by the project		10			
4b	Measure - Deficiencies corrected or safety problems addressed		10			
5	Consistency with Regional Plans		10			
5a	Consistent with plans, studies, goals, policies, strategies		10			
6	Public Engagement/Risk Assessment		10			
6a	Measure - Public engagement/municipal support/KDOT consult/railroad involvement		5			
6b	Measure - National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act (e.g., historic resources areas, ROW easements, flood risk)		5			
7	Cost Effectiveness		10			
7a	Measure - Cost effectiveness (total points/total project cost)		10			
	TOTAL		100			

### 7. Transit Expansion and Modernization - Prioritizing Criteria and Measures

**Definition**: A transit project that provides new or expanded transit service/facilities with the intent of attracting new transit riders to the system. Expansion projects may benefit existing or future riders, but the projects are evaluated primarily on the ability to attract new riders.

A modernization project makes transit more attractive to existing riders by offering faster travel times between destinations or improving the customer experience. Modernization projects may benefit existing or future riders, but these projects are evaluated primarily on their benefits to existing riders.

Routine facility maintenance and upkeep are not part of this category.

#### **Examples** of Transit Expansion and Modernization Projects:

Examples of Transit Expansion Projects:

- Operating funds for new or expanded transit service
- Transit vehicles for new or expanded service
- Customer facilities for new or expanded service, new transit centers or stations along a route
- Park-and-ride facilities or expansions
- Bus/transit-vehicle purchases

Examples of Transit Modernization Projects:

- Improved boarding areas, lighting, safety and security equipment, real-time signage
- Passenger waiting facilities, heated facilities, or weather protection
- New transit maintenance and support facilities/garages or upgrades to existing facilities
- ITS measures that improve reliability and the customer experience on a specific transit route or in a specific area
- Improved fare-collection systems
- Multiple eligible improvements along a route

Trai	Transit Expansion and Modernization Projects Scoring					
	Criteria and Measures	Points	%			
1	Role in the Regional Transportation System and Economy		15			
1a	Measure - Level of congestion, principal-arterial-intersection-conversion-study priorities, and congestion-management and safety plan opportunity areas		5			
1b	Measure - Project location relative to population density, jobs, manufacturing, transit routes, and education		5			
1c	Measure - connectivity to transit routes, trail connectivity, bicycle corridor connectivity, bicycle/pedestrian network connectivity		5			
2	Usage – Demonstration of Need		20			
2a	Measure - New annual riders (for expansion projects)		10			
2b	Measure - Total existing annual riders (for modernization projects)		10			
3	Distribution of Benefits/Impacts		5			
3a	Measure - Balanced distribution of project's benefits, impacts, & mitigation; connection to under-resourced areas		5			
4	Air Quality Emissions Reduction		15			
4a	Measure - Emissions and congestion benefits of project, kilograms of emissions reduction		15			
5	Multimodal Elements and Existing Connections		15			
5a	Measure - Bicycle and pedestrian elements of the project and connections		15			
6	Consistency with Regional Plans – Accessibility & Collaboration with MPO's Coordinated Transit Plan		10			
6a	Consistent with plans, studies, goals, policies, strategies		10			
7	Public Engagement/Risk Assessment (ROW acquisition, proximity to historic properties)		10			
7a	Measure - Public engagement/municipal support/KDOT consult/railroad involvement		5			
7b	Measure - National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act (e.g., historic resources areas, ROW easements, flood risk)		5			
8	Cost Effectiveness		10			
8a	Measure - Cost effectiveness (total points/total project cost)		10			
	TOTAL		100			