



# MEMO

**To:** Tacoma Transportation Commission

**From:** Jennifer Kammerzell, Assistant Division Manager

**Date:** November 7, 2024

**Subject:** 2025 Transportation and Mobility Plan: Project Prioritization Criteria

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## **Purpose of Presentation**

At the September 18, 2024 Transportation Commission meeting, staff provided an overview of the current 2015 Transportation Master Plan Project Prioritization Criteria, including the background of how the criteria was developed and how it used. At that meeting, Commissioners gave feedback on the current criteria and suggestions for updated criteria. The purpose of the today's presentation is to get feedback from the Transportation Commission on the proposed framework for Transportation and Mobility Plan project prioritization criteria.

## **Project Summary**

### 2015 TMP Project Prioritization

The 2015 TMP considered a wide variety of projects to address Tacoma's diverse transportation needs, resulting in over 400 projects. Not all of the projects can be funded over the next 25 years, and the project list must be fiscally constrained. As such, the TMP includes a prioritized list to identify the projects that are most likely to be funded within the 25-year planning horizon.

The Tacoma Transportation Commission created a project prioritization matrix that aligns with the TMP's policy priorities. All of the projects were evaluated based on the following criteria and then re-ordered to put the projects that scored highest at the top of the list:

- Location (whether the project is on a TMP-identified priority network)
- Multimodal benefits
- Equity
- Safety
- Health & Environment
- Maintenance/system preservation benefits
- Cost to the City
- Congestion management
- Project horizon
- Primary mode served/rank on the modal hierarchy
- Whether or not the project is in a growth center

### 2025 TMP Project Prioritization Criteria Proposal

For the updated TMP, we'll need to take a similarly comprehensive approach as in 2015, evaluating a broad spectrum of projects to meet Tacoma's evolving and diverse transportation needs. The project list will need to be fiscally constrained, incorporating a prioritized selection of projects that are most feasible to fund and

implement within this 25-year planning horizon. This approach will guide resources towards projects that advance our community's current and future transportation goals.

The Transportation Commission has voiced a desire to have the goals be more than aspirational statements. Staff is proposing to tie the project prioritization criteria more directly to the eight goals of the 2025 TMP, providing the accountability the Commission seeks.

1. Use 8 goals as overarching criteria
2. Identify evaluation criteria for each goal
3. Assign points (0,1,2)

By linking project scoring criteria directly to the TMP goals, the plan reinforces that each goal actively informs decision-making, holding the TMP accountable for delivering outcomes. A clear and simple prioritization process will help with transparency and understanding of why certain projects are prioritized. (It is also necessary to make it feasible to apply given limited staff resources.) At the same time, the process must recognize the many diverse needs of the transportation system.

#### Draft Example

| 2025 TMP GOAL                           | EVALUATION CRITERIA  |
|---|--|
| Environmentally Sustainable and Healthy | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Located in a mixed-use center or regional growth center</li><li>2. Includes green infrastructure elements</li></ol> |

#### Next Steps and Discussion

Staff is looking for feedback on the following items:

- Confirmation that the proposed approach for the project list prioritization criteria will work for the updated TMP
- Provide feedback on potential evaluation criteria that could be used for each TMP goal

#### Attachment

- Updated TMP goals and policies to help guide the criteria discussion and support alignment with the policies