

PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS



The careful selection of transportation projects that improve the way people and goods move around Central Oklahoma is a critical element of Encompass 2040. In order to accomplish this task, ACOG staff proposed modifying the selection process first adopted under the Encompass 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). For this process, all submitted projects would be measured against a comprehensive set of criteria that reflect the new goals and objectives adopted by the Intermodal Transportation Policy Committee (ITPC) in December 2014. In previous long-range transportation plan updates, ACOG utilized its transportation model to test alternative transportation networks for the selection of street and highway projects, primarily focusing on a minimum threshold of volume to capacity ratio. With Encompass 2040, projects would still need to provide the necessary relief of future congestion, but other objectives to help achieve a more diverse and equitable transportation system would also need to be considered.

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TASK FORCE

In December 2014, a multi-disciplinary Task Force was established with the purpose of assisting in the formulation of a methodology to select transportation projects for inclusion in Encompass 2040 – the Oklahoma City Area Regional Transportation Study (OCARTS) Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

The task force met three times during January and February 2015 and included representation from Jones, Edmond, Oklahoma City, Midwest City, Moore, Norman, Tuttle, Bethany, Yukon, Blanchard, Choctaw, Warr Acres, Noble, The Village, Harrah, Mustang, Del City, Newcastle, Guthrie, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority (COTPA), Cleveland Area Rapid Transit (CART), Oklahoma Bicycle Society, Urban Neighbors, and private citizens.

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SELECTED CRITERIA

The task force advanced a Project Submission Guidebook, which included 24 project selection criteria that reflected the adopted Encompass 2040 goals and a scoring system that emphasized the importance of each criterion in meeting the Plan’s vision. Table 6.1 illustrates the relationship between the selected criteria and Plan goals. The project selection criteria and guidebook were adopted by the ITPC on February 26, 2015.

CALL FOR PROJECTS

In March 2015, ACOG staff conducted a call for regionally significant transportation projects that support Encompass 2040’s adopted policy goals. Local entities and transportation agencies were invited to submit projects for consideration in the plan utilizing the newly created Guidebook. Entities were informed that projects listed in the region’s previous plan, 2035 OCARTS Plan, would not automatically be carried forward into the new plan. All projects – new or old –had to be submitted due to changing federal guidelines and to support the new policy direction for Encompass 2040.

Call for Projects Schedule

- Call for projects workshop (3/17/2015)
- Call for projects open (3/18/2015)
- Call for projects closed (5/1/2015)
- Staff analysis (5/1/2015-6/4/2015)

The Encompass 2040 Plan project list spans a multitude of transportation options, including bicycle trails, roadways, sidewalks, public transit, as well as other operational improvements (e.g. intelligent transportation systems). Submitted projects fit within at least one of the following categories: Roadway, Bicycle/ Pedestrian, or Transit. Maintenance projects were not required to be submitted as part of the call for projects since the Encompass 2040 financial analysis would account for the cost of up to three cycles of maintenance on every facility in the regional network. See Figure 6.2 for the project submittal process.

Approximately 200 projects were submitted through an electronic application and scored by ACOG staff. Scoring of projects provided a quantifiable methodology to rank projects according to their ability to meet the adopted goals of the fiscally constrained plan. Additionally, the increased level of project detail that was requested proved to be an important resource for maintaining records and performing analysis as projects move forward. Due to projected revenues, all eligible projects that were submitted during this process were included in the final plan list.

Please see Chapter 13 – The Adopted Plan - for a complete list of selected projects.

TABLE 6.1: PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

E2040 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN | PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA

EVALUATION CRITERIA		% of SCORE
TOTAL		100.00%
SCORE FACTOR: ECONOMIC STRENGTH (12% of total)		
C1	Does this project serve regional activity and employment centers?	4.00%
C2	Does this project support mixed use or transit oriented development (TOD)?	4.00%
C3	Does this project support regional freight movement?	4.00%
SAFETY & SECURITY (20% of total)		
C4	Does this project address a structurally deficient or functionally obsolete bridge?	4.00%
C5	Does this project address safety issues in a regional high crash location?	4.00%
C6	If there is a bicycle-facility component of this project, does the project match the road conditions (AADT and speed) according to the Appropriate Facilities Matrix from the OCART Regional Bicycle Facility Master Plan?	4.00%
C7	If there is a pedestrian facility component of this project, does that facility match the guidelines as established for width and distance from traffic lanes?	4.00%
C8	Which of the following safety counter measures does this project use?	4.00%
EQUITY & OPTIONS (12% of total)		
C9	Does the project increase access in an area of Environmental Justice Concern?	4.00%
C10	Does this project provide options?	4.00%
C11	Does this project improve accessibility for mobility impaired/disabled citizens by going above and beyond ADA requirements?	4.00%
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES (12% of total)		
C12	Does the project support existing density?	4.00%
C13	Does this project avoid adverse impact to culturally or environmentally sensitive lands?	4.00%
C14	Does this project support efforts to improve air and water quality?	4.00%
CONNECTIVITY (18% of total)		
C15	Does this project integrate multiple transportation modes?	4.50%
C16	Does this project integrate with existing infrastructure?	4.50%
C17	Does this project enhance public transportation modes by improving passenger terminals and intermodal hubs, and connections to these facilities?	4.50%
C18	Does this project remove barriers to pedestrians and bicyclists?	4.50%
PERFORMANCE (18% of total)		
C19	Does the project use Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) technology?	4.50%
C20	Does the project reduce total travel delay or improve reliability of travel times by implementing any of the following strategies?	4.50%
C21	Is the project located in an area where travel times are currently unreliable?	4.50%
C22	Does the project address areas that are currently congested?	4.50%
PROJECT HISTORY/READINESS (8% of total)		
C23	Does this project support a local plan or study?	4.00%
C24	Project benefits for multiple jurisdictions	4.00%

FIGURE 6.2: PROJECT SUBMITTAL PROCESS

