Grouped Projects

The provisions of 23 USC 135(g)4(c)ii allows the state to combine non-regionally significant and environmentally neutral projects, previously listed as individual projects in the MPO TIPs, into statewide grouped projects or 'buckets' by funding source. This allows the state more efficient management of the STIP.

Projects that are exempt from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), known as categorically exempt (CE or DCE) and non-regionally significant can be grouped by source of funds. All others are listed individually. Some projects may be programmed individually in the MTIPs and local government TIPs. Only the grouping name (fund source) and the amount of funds budgeted for the category will be shown.

When a project is no longer eligible for a grouping, (example - if the environmental status changes from CE or DCE to an environmental assessment (EA)) the state may process a STIP amendment, moving the project out of the grouping to display the individual project in the STIP. The following grouped projects are included in the 2024 STIP:

Asphalt/Chip Seal Preservation/Concrete Roadway Preservation – Grouping by MPO/RTPO of planned pavement preservation projects for state highways and freeways where the pavement condition rating is projected to drop below the acceptable pavement adopted performance standards. Each group's funding allocation is determined first by summing the federal funding cost by year for the expected pavement preservation projects in the first four years of WSDOT's six-year plan. Then the federal cost per year for the expected pavement preservation projects within each MPO's/RTPO's boundaries is used to calculate each MPO's/RTPO's percentage of the total federal funding cost (for project limits that cross MPO/RTPO boundaries, the federal cost is pro-rated). This calculated percentage is then applied to the constrained pavement preservation federal funding available for each year to determine each MPO/RTPO group's funding allocation in the STIP. The individual pavement preservation projects supporting these groups can be found by using the Programmatic Projects in STIP search Tab at Project Search Page (wa.gov). The prioritized project list supporting this search function is updated once a year based on the annual update of WSDOT's six-year plan. However, since project delivery assumptions can change (e.g., cost increases/decreases and project schedules accelerated/delayed), the most current status of an individual pavement preservation project can be determined by using the Project Delivery Status search Tab which is updated monthly.

For actual project listings, contact WSDOT's Capital Program Development and Management Office at (360) 705-7134, or the MPO for the individual projects.

<u>FTA Section 5310</u> – This group contains projects serving the needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities primarily through private, nonprofit organizations and transit agencies in small urban and rural areas. Projects include program administration, operating assistance, mobility management, purchases of passenger vehicles and related equipment. Project administration is through the state consolidated grant program.

<u>FTA Section 5311</u> – This group contains projects serving the public transportation needs of rural communities. Projects include program administration; purchases of passenger vehicles; a 15%

apportionment for intercity bus program projects; operating assistance projects; and Rural Transit Assistance Program (RTAP) technical assistance. Project administration is through the state consolidated grant program.

<u>FTA Section 5339 - Bus and Bus Facilities Formula Program - This program provides capital</u> funding to replace, rehabilitate and purchase buses and related equipment and to construct bus-related facilities in rural and small urban areas. Project administration for the statewide apportionment is through WSDOT. Projects and funding distribution are determined through a competitive application process. Priority is given to projects in rural areas.

For a list of transit projects, contact WSDOT's Public Transportation Division at (360) 705-7919.