



Green River Area Development District

SHIFT Prioritization Methodology Report

FY 2026



THIS DOCUMENT WAS PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE KENTUCKY TRANSPORTATION CABINET

Introduction & Overview

The purpose of this document is to provide a plan and methodology to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) for the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) 2026 SHIFT Prioritization Plan. The prioritization plan will be used as input for the Enacted Kentucky Highway Plan to be submitted to the next session of the Kentucky General Assembly in 2026.

KYTC has developed a process called the Strategic Highway Improvement Formula for Tomorrow (SHIFT) to make the selection process more data-driven and objective. SHIFT uses quantitative data such as crashes, fatalities, traffic volumes, delays, and employment data to assess and compare the benefits of planned projects. Selection for the Highway Plan through the SHIFT process is a collaborative effort, with local leaders involved throughout the process to help shape regional priorities.

Timeline

- March 2025: Local meetings held in conjunction with Highway District Office 2 (HDO)
- March 2025: GRADD staff updated project data and added new projects to the Continuous Highway Analysis Framework (CHAF) database
- March 2025: The RTC chose 21 projects to sponsor at the quarterly meeting
- April 2025: GRADD staff sponsored the recommended 21 projects in the CHAF database
- August 2025: GRADD received a list of scored projects from KYTC
- August 2025: The RTC selected nine projects to boost at the quarterly meeting
- September 2025: GRADD's SHIFT Prioritization Plan submitted to KYTC

Project Selection Criteria & Methodology

For projects to move forward in the SHIFT process, they must be selected for "sponsorship" by either the RTC or the HDO. "Sponsored" projects would go on to be "scored" by KYTC. GRADD was given 21 project sponsorship allotments for this purpose. In March 2025, meetings were held at the local level to determine which projects were county priorities. The RTC met on March 24, 2025 to select projects to sponsor. These projects were selected based on the following criteria:

- Legislative support
- Local needs and priorities
- Regional significance and impact
- Safety concerns
- Economic development
- Project viability and resiliency
- Data metrics obtained through previous SHIFT scoring processes

Project Boost Criteria & Methodology

Once all sponsored projects were scored by KYTC, the GRADD RTC was given an allotment of nine projects to "boost". The RTC met on August 18, 2025, to select projects to boost. Discussion was held by the members of the RTC with input from the HDO. They sought a balance between projects they believe are most needed in the community and projects that scored high enough to be funded in the next Enacted Highway Plan. The remaining projects capable of receiving a boost were determined based on the following criteria:

- Legislative support
- Local needs and priorities
- Regional significance and impact
- Safety concerns

- Economic development
- Project viability and resiliency
- Data metrics obtained through previous SHIFT scoring processes

Public Involvement & Feedback

GRADD solicited public input throughout the prioritization process by consulting with local officials, transportation stakeholders, the HDO, and the members of the RTC. Meetings were held in each county to review and obtain input on CHAF projects to be considered for sponsorship. Input was also obtained on sponsored projects, selection criteria, and boost points at the RTC meetings. All RTC meetings were advertised on GRADD's website, social media, email, and monthly media notices. These meetings are open to the public. This Prioritization Plan has been posted on the GRADD website.

Conclusion

The 2026 SHIFT process combined data driven project analysis with local input to sponsor, score, and boost projects. This allowed participants to look at the transportation network from a regional perspective, as well as consider unique local issues. The process is under continual review and update and will be used for input in the next Enacted Highway Plan. The GRADD Regional Transportation Committee members, the HDO, and local officials continue to work together on the SHIFT prioritization process to improve the GRADD region.