

Owensboro-Daviess County MPO



SHIFT 2022 Prioritization Plan

FINAL

September 13, 2021

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Introduction/Overview

The purpose of this document is to provide a plan and methodology to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) for the Owensboro-Daviess County MPO's SHIFT Prioritization Plan. The prioritization process will be used as input for the Recommended Kentucky Highway Plan to be submitted to the next session of the Kentucky General Assembly in 2022.

KYTC has developed a process called the Strategic Highway Improvement Formula for Tomorrow (SHIFT) to make the selection process more data-driven and objective. Selection for the Highway Plan through the SHIFT process is a collaborative effort, with local leaders involved throughout the process to help shape regional funding priorities. Through the SHIFT collaboration, projects are selected for prioritization, or "sponsored," at one of the following levels:

- District Level – Selected by the KYTC Highway District 2 Office
- MPO Level – Selected by the Owensboro-Daviess County MPO

Timeline

- March/April – Owensboro-Daviess County MPO selected a list of projects to sponsor
- June – Owensboro-Daviess County MPO's Draft Prioritization Plan submitted to KYTC
- June – MPO meeting notices and Draft Prioritization Plan available on the MPO website
- August – MPO will assign boost points to projects to adjust priorities
- September – Boosted projects submitted to KYTC
- September – Owensboro-Daviess County MPO's Final Prioritization Plan submitted to KYTC
- October/November – KYTC Central Office develops Recommended Draft Highway Plan
- November/December – KYTC delivers Draft Highway Plan to the Governor

Project Selection Criteria/Methodology

The MPO was granted nine project sponsorship slots by KYTC. These nine projects were drawn from a list of 56 projects the MPO has compiled in the KYTC's Continuous Highway Analysis Framework (CHAF). The MPO's Technical Advisory and Policy Committees met March 30, 2021, to reduce that list of 56 prospective road projects to nine. During the March meeting, MPO members created a list of 12 projects to be considered for SHIFT sponsorship at the April 27, 2021 joint MPO committee meeting.

During its April 27, 2021, meeting, the TAC learned the KYTC District 2 office would be sponsoring two projects in the MPO area. Both projects were among the 12 selected at the March meeting. TAC members discussed the remaining 10 projects, eliminating one before voting to recommend the Policy Committee approve the nine remaining projects. The Policy Committee approved the list as offered.

The approved minutes of the April 27, 2021 meeting, containing the list of sponsored projects will be posted to the MPO's website after they are approved at the June 29, 2021, meeting.

The MPO considered multiple criteria as it selected its list of SHIFT projects:

- Whether the project was funded in the current Highway Plan
- Safety improvements
- Area significance
- Congestion mitigation
- Economic development
- Project viability

Project Boost Criteria/Methodology

KYTC completed its statewide selection process and provided a list of projects will be provided to the MPO for prioritization on Aug. 4. The MPO's committees met Aug. 27 to assign boost points.

In addition to the criteria used in the SHIFT selection process, MPO members considered the value of specific projects to the community, based on their expertise/knowledge of local conditions that might not have been reflected in the SHIFT process. They sought a balance between projects they believe are most needed in the community, projects that scored high enough to be funded in the new Highway Plan and projects that are economically feasible.

Public /Legislators/Local Officials & Stakeholders Involvement/Feedback

All MPO meetings are advertised on GRADD's website:

<https://www.gradd.com/individuals/gradd-transparency-reports/owensboro-daviess-county-mpo-reports/> its social media, email, e-newsletter and monthly media notices. These meetings are open to the public. The MPO's committee had been meeting via videoconference because

of COVID-19 restrictions. Those meetings were publicized in the same manner as in-person meetings, with detail of how to join the meetings included in all news releases. The committees briefly returned to in-person meetings, but the August meeting of the MPO in which boost scores were assigned was held virtually. The meeting was streamed live on Facebook and the availability of watching the meeting on Facebook and offering comments was made public through the local media. There were no comments from the public related to the MPO's boost selections. The MPO will continue to make virtual meetings as accessible to the public as possible, while ensuring the health and safety of all involved.

Notification of the August meeting of the MPO, in which the boost decisions were discussed were sent to Kentucky Statehouse members representing the MPO area. None attended.

This Prioritization Plan has been posted on the GRADD website.

Conclusion

The Owensboro-Daviess County MPO believes these criteria will allow it to accurately identify and prioritize the projects of the greatest benefit to personal and commercial traffic in the MPO area, balanced against fiscal responsibility.