

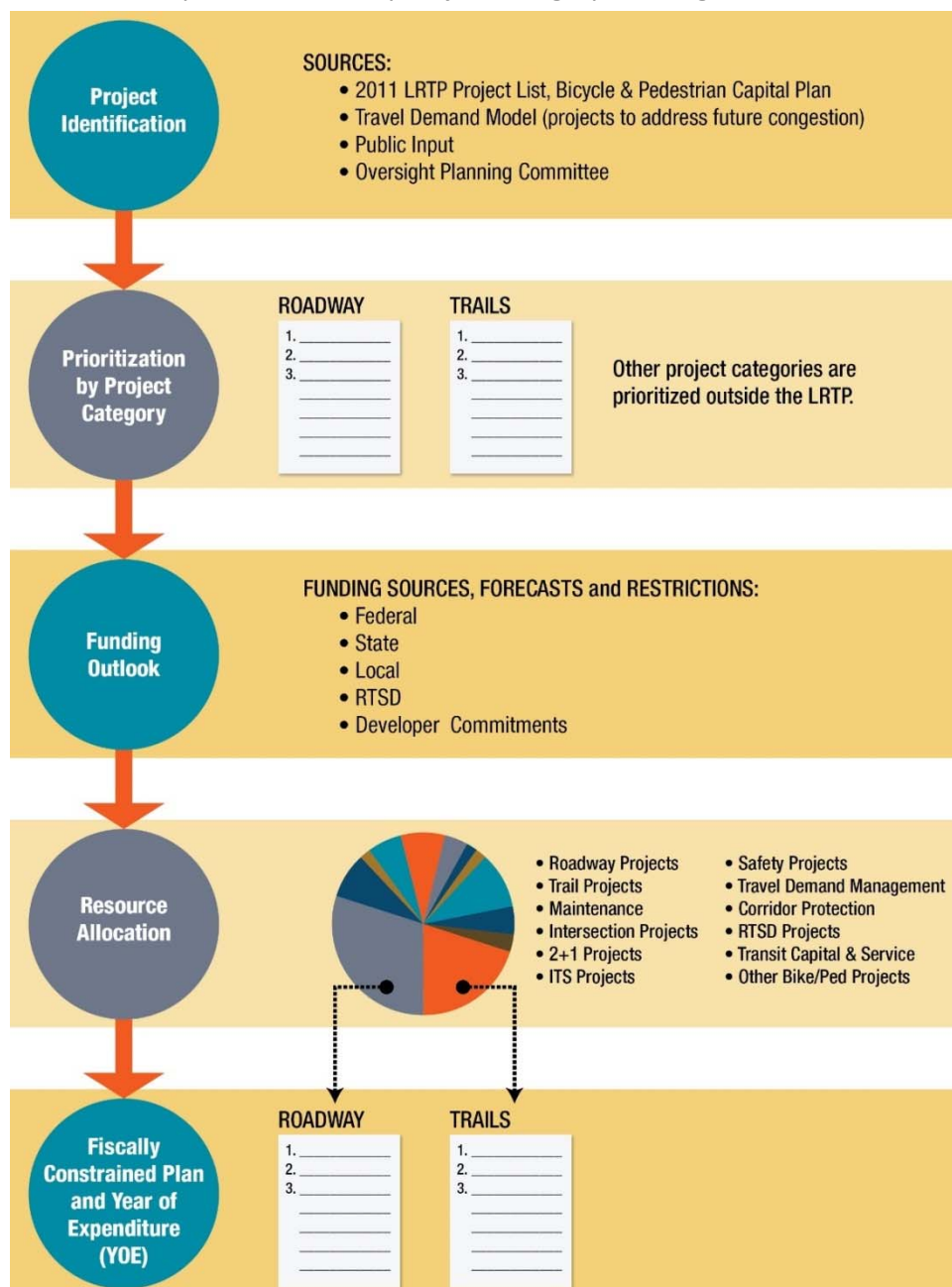
Project Prioritization Process

March 25, 2016

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to describe the process used to prioritize projects and develop a fiscally constrained plan for the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update. The graphic below depicts the overall process, which involves five steps (shown along the left hand side). This document focuses primarily on the second step: Prioritization by Project Category. Although the LRTP addresses funding for a variety of project

types, only roadway and trail projects are prioritized within the LRTP. All other project categories (e.g., transit, safety, travel demand management [TDM], maintenance, etc.) are prioritized outside of the LRTP. These other project categories are funded through a “pool” of funding as established in the Resource Allocation step. The Fiscally Constrained Plan will include the top ranked roadway and trail projects, and a pool of funding for the various other project categories.



Project Scoring Process

L RTP Goals

In compliance with federal requirements, the 2040 L RTP Update is a performance-based plan. The Lincoln MPO will track a series of system-level performance measures that align with the seven L RTP goals (listed below). The project prioritization process is structured to identify those projects that will provide the greatest contributions toward meeting these seven goals. The evaluation criteria used to compare projects are directly related to the seven goals.



Maintenance Goal:

A well-maintained transportation system.



Mobility and System Reliability Goal:

An efficient, reliable, and well-connected transportation system for moving people and freight.



Livability and Travel Choice Goal:

A multimodal system that provides travel options to support a more compact, livable urban environment.



Safety and Security Goal:

A safe and secure transportation system.



Economic Vitality Goal:

A transportation system that supports economic vitality for residents and businesses.



Environmental Sustainability Goal:

A transportation system that enhances the natural, cultural, and built environment.



Funding and Cost Effectiveness Goal:

Collaboration in funding transportation projects that maximize user benefits.

Project Scoring and Weights

Project Scoring

Each project that is prioritized through the LRTP Update is given a score of 0, 1, 2, or 3 for each goal. A score of 1 generally corresponds to a “Low” rating, a score of 2 a “Medium” rating, and a score of 3 a “High” rating. A score of 0 is reserved for projects that may have a negative impact on reaching a particular goal.

Weights by Goal and Project Category

The relative importance of the seven goals varies, therefore weights are assigned to each goal category and corresponding evaluation criteria. Because the relative importance of the goals differs for roadway projects and trail projects, a separate set of weights is established for the two project categories.

Goal	Weight by Project Category	
	Roadway Projects	Trail Projects
Maintenance	18.8	14.8
Mobility and System Reliability	17.7	21.7
Livability and Travel Choice	14.2	19.2
Safety and Security	15.4	15.9
Economic Vitality	11.2	7.4
Environmental Sustainability	11.3	12.4
Funding and Cost Effectiveness	11.5	8.6
Total	100	100
Optional Community Support Bonus	TBD	TBD

NOTE: The weights may be modified at the April 2016 Oversight Planning Committee meeting based on input from all Planning Commissioners.

The project score (0 – 3) for each goal will be multiplied by the corresponding weight, resulting in a total project score ranging from 0 to 300.

Scoring Committees

Two scoring committees will be responsible for scoring the roadway and trail projects, respectively. The Roadway Scoring Committee will include representatives from the Lincoln Planning Department and the Lincoln Public Works Department. The Trails Scoring Committee will include representatives from the Lincoln Planning Department, the Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department, and the Lincoln Public Works Department. Committee members will score projects independently, and project scores will be compiled. Each Scoring Committee will meet to discuss the scoring results and will present their recommended scores to the LRTP Oversight Planning Committee.

Scoring Guidelines

Roadway Projects



Maintenance

Will the project improve the condition of the existing facility?

Assessment	Score
Project will reconstruct or replace infrastructure (road, bridge, sidewalk) that is in poor condition.	3
Project will provide considerable relief to infrastructure that is in poor condition. For example, a new road that would draw considerable traffic away from a parallel road/bridge in poor condition.	2
Project will have no impact on the condition of the existing infrastructure – OR – Project will reconstruct or replace infrastructure that is in fair or better condition.	1
Project will result in higher demands on infrastructure that is in poor condition.	0

Data Sources:

- 2015 pavement conditions
- Bridge sufficiency ratings



Mobility and System Reliability

Will the project provide operational improvements or decreased travel times?

Assessment	Score
Project will provide significant operational improvements and travel time reductions where congestion is currently experienced.	3
Project will provide moderate operational improvements and travel time reductions where congestion is currently experienced – OR – project will provide significant operational improvements and travel time reductions where congestion is expected in the future.	2
Project will provide no operational improvements or travel time reductions.	1
Project will have negative impacts on operations and/or travel time.	0

Data Sources:

- Existing, 2026, and 2040 Traffic Forecasts
- Existing, 2026, and 2040 V/C ratios



Livability and Travel Choice

Will the project incorporate infrastructure for all modes of transportation?

Assessment	Score
Project will improve the accommodation of three alternative travel modes (biking, walking, and transit).	3
Project will improve the accommodation of two alternative travel modes.	2
Project will improve the accommodation of one alternative travel modes.	1
Project will not improve the accommodation of an alternative travel mode.	0

Data Sources:

- Existing Bike, Pedestrian and Transit System maps
- Proposed Bike, Pedestrian and Transit System maps
- Transit routes identified in Transit Development Plan



Safety and Security

Will the project alleviate a known safety problem?

Assessment	Score
Project will directly address a major identified safety problem (any mode).	3
Project will improve (but not eliminate) an identified safety problem (any mode).	2
Project will only marginally improve safety; no safety problems are identified.	1
Project will have no identifiable safety benefits.	0

Data Sources:

- Top 25 crash rate intersections
- Bike and pedestrian crash locations



Economic Vitality

This category has two evaluation criteria; the *highest* of the two scores will be used.

Part 1) Will the project improve access to and/or add value to surrounding land uses?

Assessment	Score
Project will significantly improve access to a major employment base and/or commercial area – OR – project will support a more attractive environment that adds value to adjacent uses.	3
Project will moderately improve access to an employment base and/or commercial area – OR – project will moderately contribute to the value of adjacent uses.	2
Project will not improve access to a major employment base or commercial area nor will the project contribute to the value of adjacent uses.	1
Project will detract from the value of surrounding land uses.	0

Part 2) Will the project improve travel on a designated truck route?

Assessment	Score
Project will considerably improve travel on a primary truck route.	3
Project will considerably improve travel on a secondary truck route – OR – project will moderately improve travel on a primary truck route.	2
Project will not impact travel on a designated truck route.	1
Project will negatively impact travel on a designated truck route.	0

Data Sources:

- Primary and secondary truck routes



Environmental Sustainability

This category has two evaluation criteria; the average of the two scores will be used.

Part 1) Will the project reduce mobile-source emissions?

Assessment	Score
Project will result in a significant reduction in vehicle miles of travel (VMT) or idling time.	3
Project will result in a moderate reduction in VMT or idling time.	2
Project will not reduce VMT or idling time.	1
Project will increase VMT or idling time.	0

Part 2) Will the project protect the natural, cultural, and built environment?

Assessment	Score
No red-flag environmental resources have been identified within the project buffer; if an environmental justice (EJ) population is present in the project area, the project is expected to have beneficial effects.	3
Some environmental resources exist within the project buffer, but avoidance is expected; if an EJ population is present in the project area, the project impacts are expected to be very minimal.	2
Some environmental resources exist within the project buffer, but mitigation is expected; if an EJ population is present in the project area, the projects impacts are expected to be minimal.	1
Red-flag environmental resources may be negatively impacted within the project buffer – OR – an EJ population is present in the project area, and the project may have adverse impacts.	0

Data Sources:

- Environmental resource mapping, buffer for each project
- Environmental Justice (EJ) mapping



Funding and Cost Effectiveness

How does the cost of the project compare to the benefits?

Assessment	Score
The project benefits compare very favorably to the cost of the project.	3
The project benefits compare favorably to the cost of the project.	2
The project benefits compare somewhat favorably to the cost of the project.	1
The project benefits compare unfavorably to the cost of the project.	0

Data Sources:

- Project cost estimates

Optional Community Support Bonus

Does the project have strong community support?

Assessment	Bonus
The project has strong community support.	TBD
The project has community support.	TBD
The project has neither community support nor community opposition.	TBD
The project has community opposition.	TBD

Data Sources:

- Public input

Trail Projects



Maintenance

Will the project improve the condition of the existing trail?

Assessment	Score
Project will reconstruct or replace a trail segment that is in poor condition.	3
Project will reconstruct or replace a trail segment that is in fair or better condition.	2
Project will have no impact on the condition of the existing trail.	1
Project will result in higher demands on a trail segment that is in poor condition.	0



Mobility and System Reliability

Will the project complete a gap in the trail system?

Assessment	Score
Project will fully complete a gap in the trail system.	3
Project will extend the trail system.	2
Project will partially complete a gap in the trail system.	1
Project will detract from the connectivity of the trail system.	0



Livability and Travel Choice

Will the project encourage the use of alternative modes of transportation?

Assessment	Score
Project will serve a significant commuter travel pattern – AND – will improve access to a major employment area – AND – will improve access to transit.	3
Project will serve a significant commuter travel pattern – OR – will improve access to a major employment area – OR – will improve access to transit.	2
Project will serve a minor commuter travel pattern – OR – will improve access to a minor employment area – OR – will marginally improve access to transit.	1
Project will not encourage the use of alternatives modes of transportation.	0



Safety and Security

Will the project alleviate a known safety problem?

Assessment	Score
Project will directly address a major identified safety problem.	3
Project will improve (but not eliminate) an identified safety problem.	2
Project will only marginally improve safety; no safety problems are identified.	1
Project will have no identifiable safety benefits.	0



Economic Vitality

Will the project improve access to and/or add value to surrounding land uses?

Assessment	Score
Project will significantly improve access to a major employment base and/or commercial area – OR – project will support a more attractive environment that adds value to adjacent uses.	3
Project will moderately improve access to an employment base and/or commercial area – OR – project will moderately contribute to the value of adjacent uses.	2
Project will not improve access to a major employment base or commercial area nor will the project contribute to the value of adjacent uses.	1
Project will detract from the value of surrounding land uses.	0



Environmental Sustainability

Will the project protect the natural, cultural, and built environment?

Assessment	Score
No red-flag environmental resources have been identified within the project buffer; if an environmental justice (EJ) population is present in the project area, the project is expected to have beneficial effects.	3
Some environmental resources exist within the project buffer, but avoidance is expected; if an EJ population is present in the project area, the project impacts are expected to be very minimal.	2
Some environmental resources exist within the project buffer, but mitigation is expected; if an EJ population is present in the project area, the projects impacts are expected to be minimal.	1
Red-flag environmental resources may be negatively impacted within the project buffer – OR – an EJ population is present in the project area, and the project may have adverse impacts.	0



Funding and Cost Effectiveness

How does the cost of the project compare to the benefits?

Assessment	Score
The project benefits compare very favorably to the cost of the project.	3
The project benefits compare favorably to the cost of the project.	2
The project benefits compare somewhat favorably to the cost of the project.	1
The project benefits compare unfavorably to the cost of the project.	0

Optional Community Support Bonus

Does the project have strong community support?

Assessment	Bonus
The project has strong community support.	TBD
The project has community support.	TBD
The project has neither community support nor community opposition.	TBD
The project has community opposition.	TBD