

Washington Federal Lands Access Program

Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2013

1 Introduction

The Washington Program Decisions Committee met by teleconference. The objectives of the meeting were to:

1. Review Project Selection Teams rankings for projects in the current Call for Projects
2. Select which projects to complete Field Reviews on
3. Go over the process for making final selections from the call for projects
4. Set next meeting
5. Updates on Guidance

2 Review of Project Call for CI & Enhancement

WFLHD has calls for projects in all of its states and we have received approximately 200 applications. In Washington, 37 applications were received from the Capital Improvement (CI) / Enhancement call which totaled over \$92 Million. The Project Selection Team (PST) has completed their review and developed an initial ranking.

2.1 PST Evaluation

- Spreadsheet with ranking was emailed to PDC and PST members. It contains each agencies score and comments.
- Projects are categorized by type (CI, Enhancement, etc).
- Scores are categorized in thirds by evaluator – Low (Red), Med (Yellow), High (Green)
- PST identified which projects they still had questions on that could be best answered through field reviews. Consolidated questions are contained in the PST Comments column.
- Field Reviews recommended (Proposal Number/Name):

Proposal	Name	Field Review
WA-05	Cattle Point Road Realignment	Yes
WA-13	Hanson Harbor Road Improvements	Field Review, If Possible
WA-14	Hard Creek Bridge Repair #40076	Yes
WA-15	Hawk Creek Road Improvements	Field Review, If Possible
WA-17	Juniper Dunes Wilderness Access	Yes
WA-18	Kugel Creek Culvert Replacement and Cooper Ranch Road Improvement	Only if convenient
WA-21	Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Road Enhancements for Public Access	Yes
WA-23	Mill Creek Road Improvements	Yes
WA-31	Mt. Baker Scenic Byway, State Route (SR) 542	Yes
WA-34	Teaway Road Phase I, from SR 970 to Red Bridge Rd (MP0 to MP.51)	Yes
WA-35	Union Creek Site Repair	Field Review, If Possible

- Project Cost requested from the Access program includes respective portions of PE, CN, and CE. Costs are directly out of the proposals and haven't been adjusted yet.
- Field reviews are scheduled for April 22-26. Greg will coordinate and be in contact with the PST.

2.2 Questions and Discussion

- How much to program?
 - WFL recommends that we program through FY 16 which would be approximately \$43 Million in additional projects. This takes into account those projects that are already programmed from previous decisions.
 - We want to have flexibility for out year projects and this would give us the ability to go out for another call in a few years.
- How do the FLMAs get their state wide priorities considered?
 - Each FLMA will submit a list of their priorities for the state by category
 - Each FLMA should supply a reason why and how you prioritized the projects

2.3 Concurrence on initial ranking and field review lists

- USFS
 - When they submit priorities – what will the PDC/PST do with the rankings?
 - PST will use in final evaluation
- BLM
 - Need to field review Juniper Dunes project as there are many unknowns.
- WSDOT
 - Lewis River Road (WA-19)
 - County will need to assume the majority of maintenance if the project is programmed. This would need to be done before the project is formally programmed or it can't move forward.
 - SR542 Roundabout Project (WA-31) – WSDOT will need to supply cash for non-federal match instead of Toll Credits to be consistent with the rest of the projects.
 - Teanaway – a lot of risk, match is uncertain
- County
 - Teanaway – need field review with the folks on the ground
 - Need scoping report and phasing approach to find where the commitments really are
 - Tribal concerns are mostly taken care of with the limited scope
- Projects not ranked
 - PM projects will be moved into the PM call
 - Tribal Projects – We will hold these until we get final direction from FHWA HQ on classification of Tribal Lands.
 - One project wasn't signed
- PDC agreed on the initial rankings and process
- PDC agreed on the projects for field reviews

3 Remaining process for final selection and programming

- Program good projects as quickly as possible
- PST will complete initial field reviews and then re-rank based on those reviews and by the priorities submitted by the FLMAs
- Hope that some projects jump out which are no-brainers that can be programmed and get working on as soon as the match agreement is negotiated and signed.
- For projects where there are still questions, WFLHD will complete scoping reports instead of PIRs and conduct phased programming.

- Administrative expenses are not allowed in the Access Program (by statute) and there are no dedicated funds to complete PIRs. To solve this problem, we will complete scoping reports as part of project delivery.
- Program only through initial scoping.
- Match agreement will need to be executed with proponent and funds collected for their share of the scoping report.
 - **Decision** – WSDOT agreed to provide Toll Credits to cover the Non-Federal Match for Scoping Reports
- Scoping reports will be developed to only address the questions the PST had. Typically these focus on scope and estimated cost.
- After the scoping report is complete, the PDC will need to decide if they want to program the project. We anticipate the scoping reports to be ready sometime in the summer/fall depending on how many are needed.
- Transit/Plan/Research Call for Projects is out now
- The PDC has decided to open the Call for CI/Enhancements Projects back up because of revised interpretation from Federal Lands HQ on Vested Maintenance.
 - Proposals are due April 8
 - Initially roads where Maintenance agreements were being used were excluded.
 - Federal Lands HQ has changed their opinion. A maintenance agreement satisfies this requirement as long as the majority of the cost for maintenance is borne by the state or local road authority.
 - PDC will consider another call in 2-3 years
 - **Decision** - We will limit the current call for projects to FY 13-16 due to the ongoing uncertainty in the program. This will limit the amount to program to approximately \$43 Million.
 - Consider doing a Preventive Maintenance call this summer and include the broader definition of Vested. This would allow us to plug holes earlier in the program.
- Final PST ranking around week of May 20 which will bring in the field review notes. The Transit/Research/Planning call is due April 5. PDC will need a face to face meeting to make final selection of projects.
- Greg will send out field trip itinerary for initial review – **FLMAs and members are responsible for contacting local units to coordinate them out on the ground.**

4 Face to Face meeting in June

- Objectives of the meeting will be:
 - Final ranking and selection
 - How much do we want to program by category (CI/Enh/Transit)
 - Discuss when the Preventive Maintenance call will go out and how to define the limits. May need to allow state highways to apply but only where the primary purpose of the route is to access to federal lands. Could adjust the criteria to this too.
- June 12, 2013 will be the meeting date at Western Federal Lands, Denali Room 0900-1500.

5 Consistency of Access Program between Federal Lands Divisions

- Federal Lands HQ is issuing direction to its divisions on the minimum requirements to gain FLMA input. They want all divisions to have the same procedures. MAP-21 requires that the PDC cooperate with the FLMAs but does not mandate how to do it.
- The process WFLHD is using is fine for now but there may need to be some changes in future calls.
- FLMAs expressed their appreciation for how WFLHD is conducting the calls and running the new program.

6 Attendees

- Greg Humphreys, WFL
- George Fekaris, WFL
- Tom Erkert, WFL
- Pete Field, WFL
- Aaron Butters, WSDOT
- Randy Hart, CRAB
- Dick Bergen, BLM
- Amy Thomas, USFS
- Christy Darden, USFS