

Waco Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board

Meeting Date: January 18, 2024

Agenda Item: Review, Discussion, and Action Regarding Project Funding Strategies for Immediate Short-Term Projects

Comments: TxDOT maintains a Unified Transportation (UTP) plan which authorizes the distribution of construction dollars expected to be available over a 10-year period. The current UTP accounts for allocations totaling approximately \$187 M in Category 2 funds within the Waco MPO planning area over the coming decade.

There are currently \$48 M in unallocated Waco MPO Category 2 funds. These funds consist of approximately \$23 M in existing funds currently unallocated due to recent project changes and \$25 M in estimated additional funds from the new UTP. While unallocated funds are not “lost,” they may be temporarily allocated to other TxDOT projects outside of the MPO planning area.

The Policy Board is able to allocate the available Category 2 funds to immediate short-term projects in the development pipeline rather than leaving them unallocated. When determining which project should receive these funds project readiness should be considered. This action will not affect the IH 35 4C project which continues to be the top priority within the planning area.

TxDOT Waco District has proposed two projects as possible recipients of these funds, the SH 6 Twin Bridges project and the NE Loop 340 project. SH 6 Twin Bridges currently has a funding gap of \$26 M and involves reconstruction and widening of Lake Waco bridges and approaches. NE Loop 340 currently has a funding gap of \$108 M and would widen the roadway to four divided lanes between US 84 (Bellmead Dr) and SL 484 (Marlin Highway).

At its January 4, 2024 meeting, the TAC recommended that the Policy Board direct TxDOT District Staff to allocate available Category 2 dollars in their 2024 UTP first to the SH 6 Twin Bridges project with remaining funds to be allocated to the NE Loop 340 project. This action may provide TxDOT with the ability to begin construction of an additional priority project within the current 4-year TIP timeframe. If so, the project will be added and programmed for construction in the forthcoming FY 2025 -FY 2028 TIP.

Action Required:

1. Receive and discuss funding strategies
2. Consideration and directive action

Motion By:

Seconded:

Content of Motion:

Vote: