

CAMPO Transportation Investment Decision Tree

May 5, 2008

1. Is the process transparent and accountable?

Project History:

- A. To what degree have local governmental authorities, or the public, previously endorsed this or related proposals?
- B. To what degree have local governmental authorities, or the public, incorporated this, or related proposals, into their planning, or into other projects?
- C. Should this proposal receive special consideration relative to other proposals because of previous governmental or public endorsement of this proposal, or because this proposal has been incorporated into other plans or projects?

2. What is the purpose of the project? Can the project create the following benefits? If so, how? (see Attachment 1 for detailed questions)

A. Mobility benefits

- 1) Manage growth of VMT, commute time, congestion, or other appropriate metric
- 2) Transportation network capacity
- 3) Public Security
- 4) System Efficiency

B. Economic Development Benefits for the Community

- 1) Financial stability
- 2) Regional economic competitiveness
- 3) Property value
- 4) Financial viability of small cities/towns
- 5) Local community priority
- 6) Smart growth, activity centers

C. Environmental and Public health Benefits

- 1) Air quality
- 2) Water quality
- 3) Noise impacts
- 4) Pedestrian activity
- 5) Growth away from sensitive areas/toward desired areas

D. Social Equity/Quality of Life Benefits

- 1) Access to jobs, healthcare, education, cultural and/or recreational destinations for everyone, especially most vulnerable
- 2) Predictability of commute and travel time
- 3) Personal safety
- 4) Serve a "historically underserved" area of the region
- 5) Visual and aesthetic quality
- 6) Sense of place, regional and/or local

3. What does the project cost?

- A. What is the actual capital cost, in dollars, of the project and any additional, necessary, directly related projects as determined by SAFETEA-LU standards or some other uniform criteria?
- B. What are the actual operating and maintenance costs of the project over its anticipated useful life?
- C. Have the cost measures included in Attachment 2 been considered?
- D. Are there other actual costs that should be considered because of the type or nature of the project?

4. What are the indirect costs necessary to implement the project, including costs to local businesses, costs created by removal of infrastructure such as parking, loss of rail capacity for uses such as freight, or other costs?

5. What jurisdictions can or should fund the project?

- A. Why should the jurisdictions be considered?
- B. What criteria is being considered?
- C. Should a jurisdiction that benefits from the project not contribute?
- D. Is there a way for a regional entity to be involved in the financing (or to be created to assist the financing)?

6. What mechanisms are available to fund the project?

- A. Are the financing mechanisms associated with specific participating jurisdictions?
- B. Are the financing mechanisms available for capital costs, operations costs, or both?

7. How will the financing mechanism(s) be funded?

- A. How are estimates of revenue made?
- B. What impact will this use of this source of funds have on Central Texans (i.e. tax rates, etc.)? To what extent will the project be funded by users or by beneficiaries beyond the users?
- C. Are there ways to decrease actual costs (i.e. efficiency in infrastructure work, etc.)?
- D. Can the project generate excess funds to invest in other transportation priorities?

8. What is the project's timeline? Should the project be phased? If so, how?

9. Will there be a need for an election or legislative action?

- A. What type of election would be required (i.e. funding vs. operation authority)?
- B. What jurisdictions will have the election?
- C. Could elections by multiple jurisdictions conflict?
- D. What is the impact of potential conflicts?

10. What entity or entities will govern (i.e. construct, operate, and maintain) the project?

- A. Could entities with governance responsibilities be in conflict with each other?
- B. What mechanism is there for resolving governance conflicts?

11. What are the opportunity costs of moving forward with the project relative to alternate projects?

- A. Is there another comparable project that accomplishes the same purpose and/or benefits at lower costs?
- B. Are there services or projects, including non-transportation projects, either now or in the future that will be impacted by the creation of this project?

Attachment 1: Project Benefit Measures

2.A. Mobility Benefits

- 1) Can the project manage growth of vehicle miles traveled, congestion, commute times or other appropriate applicable measures? If so, how?
- 2) Can the project increase or conserve transportation network capacity? If so, how?
- 3) Can the project increase public security (evacuations, fire, police etc.)? If so, how?
- 4) Can the project improve the functionality of the transportation system - i.e., system efficiency for movement of people, goods, and utilities? If so, how?
 - (a) Can the project improve productive operation and management of the existing and planned transportation system?
 - (b) Can the project improve connectivity with other travel modes or transportation facilities?
 - (c) Can the project serve or manage existing or future demand?
 - (d) Can the project be part of a regional transportation corridor?
 - (e) Can the project allow more continuity of travel or access to surrounding areas?
 - (f) Can the project be compatible with existing or future land uses?

2.B. Economic Development Benefits for the Community

- 1) Can the project encourage financial stability? If so, how and at what levels? (e.g., an indicator could be to measure impacts on affected school district, city, and county revenues)
- 2) Can the project encourage regional economic competitiveness? If so, how?
- 3) Can the project increase property value? If so, how and at what levels?
- 4) Can the project increase financial viability of small cities/towns? (to be determined by local municipal entity in question)
- 5) Can the local community put the policies and services in place to capitalize on the investment? If so, how?
- 6) Can the project encourage smart growth, activity centers, or more sustainable development? If so, how?

2.C. Environmental and Public Health Benefits

- 1) Can the project have a positive impact on air quality? If so, how and at what levels? Would the project have a negative impact on air quality? If so, how and at what levels?
- 2) Can the project have a positive impact on water quality? If so, how and at what levels? Would the project have a negative impact on water quality? If so, how and at what levels?
- 3) Can the project positively impact noise? If so, how? Would the project negatively impact noise? If so, how?
- 4) Can the project have a positive impact on pedestrian activity? If so, how? Would the project have a negative impact on pedestrian activity? If so, how?
- 5) Can the project promote/direct growth away from sensitive areas? Would the project promote/direct growth toward desired growth areas? If so, how?

2.D. Social Equity/Quality of Life Benefits

- 1) Can the project improve mobility that increases access to jobs; healthcare; educational, cultural and/or recreational destinations; etc. for everyone, especially the most vulnerable members of our community? If so, how?
- 2) Can the project create a time-certain or a more predictable and acceptable travel time?
- 3) Can the project improve personal safety (e.g., fatalities, serious injuries, property damage)?
- 4) Can the project help serve a "historically underserved" area of the region? ("historically underserved" needs to be defined for transportation context)
- 5) Can the project help create positive visual/aesthetic impacts? If so, how? Would the project create negative visual/aesthetic impacts?
- 6) Can the project help promote a sense of place at the regional and/or local level? If so, how? Would the project detract from a sense of place at the regional and/or local level?

Attachment 2: Project Cost Measures

3.C. Have the following cost measures been considered:

- 1) What is the ridership of the project based in origin/destination modeling and analysis? What time frame is being measured?
- 2) What is the cost per passenger mile?
- 3) What is the cost per passenger trip?
- 4) What is the cost to add an additional transit rider?
- 5) What percentage of the annual operating and maintenance costs will be covered by system revenues (e.g. fares)
- 6) What percentage of the total costs (amortized capital plus annual operating and maintenance) will be covered by system revenues (e.g. fares)
- 7) Other applicable measures of cost-effectiveness.