

# Memo



**Metro**

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Date: Thursday, May 8, 2025  
To: Joint Policy Alternatives Committee on Transportation and Interested Parties  
From: Grace Cho, Principal Transportation Planner  
Jean Senechal Biggs, Resource Development Section Manager  
Subject: 2028-2030 Regional Flexible Fund Step 2: Allocation Package Illustrative Concepts, Input and Next Steps

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**Purpose:** To gather JPACT input on concepts to build Step 2 allocation package options and outline the next steps in the 28-30 Regional Flexible Fund Allocation Step 2 process.

## **Background & Current Place in Development:**

The 2028-2030 Regional Flexible Fund Step 2 allocation process began in the Fall 2024 with a call for projects which resulted in 24 Step 2 applications received requesting a little over \$140 million in Regional Flexible Funds. Following the submissions, two technical evaluations were conducted assessing how well each project application advances the Regional Transportation Plan goals and the potential project delivery challenges the project may encounter as a federal aid project. Applicants received the final results of the technical evaluations on April 15<sup>th</sup>. A five week public comment period recently closed on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **Getting to a Step 2 Allocation Decision**

Decision-makers are provided five pieces of information to shape a Step 2 allocation package. These include:

- Meeting the objectives of the Program Direction for the allocation;
  - Includes but not limited to: the connection of Regional Flexible Fund investment towards RTP goals advancement, investment across the region without sub-allocation, honoring prior commitments of Regional Flexible Funds.
- Outcomes Evaluation results;
- Public comment received;
- Coordinating committee/City of Portland priority or priorities;
- Input on concepts to shape different Step 2 allocation packages.

## **Step 2 Allocation Package Illustrative Concepts**

With an estimated up to \$42 million available in Regional Flexible Funds for Step 2, the requested \$140 million in Regional Flexible Funds among the 24 applications equates to 3 times the amount of Step 2 funding available to allocate. To prioritize, JPACT members are asked to provide direction on concepts to develop Step 2 allocation package options. The concepts input is an opportunity to elevate one of the five pieces of information in shaping a recommended Step 2 allocation package, emphasize a component among the pieces of information, or identify another factor for consideration. The input will develop refined Step 2 allocation packages options to discuss at the June committee meetings.

In the 25-27 cycle, JPACT elevated consideration of equity and safety outcomes in the development of the final Step 2 allocation package. Using a similar framework to assist the discussion, Metro staff created four illustrative concepts based on the results of the Outcomes Evaluation (Attachment 1). The illustrative concepts emphasize different goal areas and repackages the technical scores of all 24 applications. These illustrative concepts with descriptions are:

- *Concept: Combined Emphasis on RTP Goal Areas and Design (if applicable)*  
Ranks projects from highest to lowest based on their overall technical evaluation scores regardless of application type (e.g. construction or project development).
- *Concept: Emphasis on Safe System*  
To reflect feedback from regional decision-makers around the need to prioritize safety in the transportation system, this concept ranks projects from highest to lowest based solely on their score in the safe system goal area of the technical evaluation regardless of application type (e.g. construction or project development).
- *Concept: Combined Emphasis on Thriving Economy and Mobility*  
To reflect input and feedback from regional decision-makers around desires to elevate economic considerations and mobility, this illustrative concept ranks projects from highest to lowest based solely on their combined scores of thriving economy and mobility options goal areas in the technical evaluation regardless of application type (e.g. construction or project development).
- *Concept: Combined Emphasis on Equitable Transportation, Safe System, and Climate Action and Resilience*  
To reflect input and feedback from regional decision-makers about elevating the RTP goals of equity, safety, and climate action, this illustrative concept ranks projects from highest to lowest based solely on their combined scores of equitable transportation, safe system, and climate action and resilience goal areas in the technical evaluation regardless of application type (e.g. construction or project development).

These are illustrative examples and should not be construed as proposed Step 2 allocation package options. The illustrative concepts at this time do not reflect input from the public comment opportunity (summary provided in a separate memorandum), coordinating committee or City of Portland priority, or whether the Program Direction objectives have been met.

### **TPAC Input on Step 2 Allocation Package Illustrative Concepts and Other Themes**

TPAC was presented the same four illustrative package concepts with the opportunity to provide input and provide further information for JPACT members. TPAC input included:

- TPAC members expressed not wanting to elevate a specific Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) goal area. They stated a preference to keep all the goal areas weighted equally as identified in Concept 1. TPAC members felt the appropriate time for considering the weighting of the RTP goal area would have been as part of the Program Direction development.
- TPAC members desired to see the Step 2 public comments to weigh in further on concepts.
- Other factors that TPAC members identified:
  - Incorporate the consideration of different funding opportunities available to different applications. Some projects may have wider grant opportunities where they would be as equally competitive. Whereas other projects, the funding opportunities are limited to the Regional Flexible Fund competitive allocation.
  - Incorporate the consideration of the project's ability to leverage additional funding and viability of the project to get built with the funding requested.

Based on the input received at TPAC, Metro staff will bring forward in June at least one Step 2 allocation package option which modifies Concept 1 to incorporate public comment, coordinating

committee and city of Portland priorities, and the other factors identified. Also in response to TPAC input a short memorandum providing an initial summary of the Step 2 public comment is included.

In addition, TPAC members requested for the next Regional Flexible Fund cycle, a desire to have Metro convene workshops or working group focused on the technical evaluation rubric for the Step 2 evaluation.

#### Discussion Questions

1. Of the five pieces of information, are there any that JPACT would like to see emphasized in a Step 2 allocation package options for discussion next month? (See page 1 “Getting to a Step 2 Allocation Decision”)
2. In addition to the package option identified by TPAC, are there other concepts that JPACT would like to see further developed in a Step 2 package option for discussion?
3. Are there other considerations JPACT members would like to see explored in a refined Step 2 allocation package options for discussion?

#### **Next Steps**

*Table 1. 2028-2030 Regional Flexible Funds Step 2 – Next Steps and Key Dates*

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
2028-2030 RFFA public comment closes	April 30, 2025
TPAC: Solicit concept input for Step 2 allocation package options	May 2, 2025
JPACT: Solicit concept input for Step 2 allocation package options	May 15, 2025
Summary of 28-30 RFFA Step 2 public comments issued to TPAC & JPACT - Summary also provided to coordinating committees and City of Portland for deliberations.	May 16, 2025
Coordinating committee and City of Portland deadline to submit coordinating committee priorities (if electing)	June 3, 2025
TPAC: 28-30 Regional Flexible Funds Step 2 allocation package options - Reflective of technical analysis, concept input, and public comment. Possibly coordinating committee priorities. - Opportunity to provide input on preferred Step 2 allocation package - Draft Step 2 legislation	June 6, 2025
JPACT: 28-30 Regional Flexible Funds Step 2 allocation package options - Reflective of technical analysis, concept input, coordinating committee priorities, public comment and TPAC input. - Opportunity to provide input on preferred Step 2 allocation package - Draft Step 2 legislation	June 12, 2025
Metro Council: updates on Step 2 and input on staff recommendation	June 17, 2025
TPAC: Staff recommendation on finalize 28-30 RFFA Step 2 allocation package. Request recommendations to JPACT.	July 11, 2025
JPACT: Carry forward TPAC recommendation. Request action on 2028-2030 RFFA Step 2 and recommendation to Metro Council adoption	July 17, 2025
Metro Council: Adoption of 2028-2030 Regional Flexible Fund Step 2 Allocation	July 31, 2025*

*\*Tentative date still to be confirmed*