

# NATS Proposed Road Project Prioritization System

## Approved January 26, 2016

The following pages present the approved methodology for scoring projects submitted for consideration for NATS' allocation of \$518,608 annually in Surface Transportation Program (STP) dollars for 2017-2020. This methodology has been developed with some consultation from committee members. The deadline for application submittal is **February 8, 2016**.

This document serves as guidance in the project selection process. The scoring system will be one factor in project selection that is conducted through an open, public process in which all interested individuals and parties will have an opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns on projects under consideration. The NATS MPO acknowledges unique factors to certain projects that may make them a priority outside of this scoring system. The NATS Policy Committee has the ultimate authority to select projects. The project selection committee will recommend projects to the Technical Advisory Committee who will then recommend projects to the NATS Policy Committee.

This project prioritization methodology emphasizes factors used in other transportation project selection procedures with which our committee members have experience. These factors are:

- **Connectivity** (Does this project connect important areas of the region? Does it allow for connection between modes of travel? Is this project being coordinated between jurisdictions?)
- **Continuity** (Is this project continuing resurfacing, reconstruction, or maintenance work adjacent to a segment where work has already been done in the past?)
- **Traffic Count** (How important is this roadway based on the amount of traffic it moves?)
- **Road condition** (What is the PASER rating of the roadway? How much will the proposed project extend the useful life of the road?)
- **Safety** (How will this project improve safety?)
- **Local Priority** (Is this project part of a capital improvement plan or identified in another planning document? Is your agency willing to provide additional local match to help NATS member agencies use their dollars more effectively?)
- **Readiness of the Project** (Has your agency considered possible issues and contingencies surrounding the project and its timeline for completion?)

We are looking for committee approval of this methodology at the January 26 NATS meeting.

### Overview

Each of these scoring categories corresponds to the relevant section on the TIP Application.

A “\*” next to an item indicates that this question is not asked on the application, but SWMPC staff will conduct analysis based on the project that is submitted.

**A grand total of 50 points are possible.**

**Section 1: Applicant Information (No points awarded)**

This is basic information about the applying agency and as such, no points are awarded.

**Section 2: Project Information and Funding Proposal (3 points total possible)**

3 points if agency is willing to provide 40% or more of the total construction cost in local match.

2 point if agency is willing to provide 30% or more of the total construction cost in local match.

An 18.15% minimum local match is **required** to proceed.

**Section 3: Safety (7 points total possible)**

**a. Scope of Safety Improvements (up to 5 points possible)**

- Design or infrastructure changes (3 points)
- Better Driving Surface (2 points)

**b. Addressing High Crash Location (2 points or none) \***

Project is in a location with multiple crashes (of any type) in the last three years per Michigan Crash Facts (1 point) AND safety measures address the causes of these crashes (1 point).

**Section 4: Accommodation of multiple users (3 points possible total)**

**a. Ped/Bike Facility (1 points possible)**

1 point if project provides facility for pedestrians and/or bicyclists.

**b. Connectivity (2 points possible)**

2 points if the pedestrian and bicycle elements of the project connect to existing bicycle, pedestrian, or transit facilities or those that can reasonably expect to be completed during 2016-2020. In the NATS area, the connecting facilities can be on either side of the state line.

**Section 5: System Preservation (22 points possible total)**

**a. PASER Rating (12 points possible)**

12 points if road's most recent PASER Rating is 3-4

8 points if road's most recent PASER Rating is 5-7

5 points if road's most recent PASER Rating is 1-2

**b. Extension of Service Life of Road (10 points possible) per MDOT criteria, but we defer to engineering judgment as well.**

10 points if project extends useful life by 15 years or more

6 points if project extends useful life by 10-14 years

4 points if project extends useful life by 5 years or more

2 points if project extends useful life between 2-5 years

**Section 6: Strategic Investment (15 points possible)**

**a. Project Readiness (NOT SCORED; Eligibility Determination)**

If project does not require relocation of utilities, purchase of ROW, or railroad crossing permits, or if these items are being addressed in the project schedule, then project may proceed.

In order to be considered eligible for TIP funding, projects that require the above items shall identify the work items in the proposed project schedule.

**b. Capital Improvement Plan (2 points possible)**

2 points if the project is identified in the agency's approved capital improvement plan.

**c. Local Planning Document (1 point possible)**

1 point if project is identified in another local planning document such as a master plan or parks and recreation plan.

**d. Cross Jurisdictional Coordination (1 points possible)**

1 point if project crosses jurisdictional boundaries (i.e. city to township) and is arranged in such a way to be bid as a single project.

**e. Coordination with sewer and water projects (NOT SCORED: this will help prioritize the years that project can go)**

Prioritization of fiscal year if project is coordinated with planned sewer and/or water improvements in your community.

**f. Traffic Count (5 points possible)**

5 points if ADT is 10,000 or more vehicles per day.

4 points if ADT is 5,000 or more vehicles per day.

3 points if ADT is between 2,000 and 4,999 vehicles per day

2 points if ADT is less than 2,000 vehicles per day

**g. Project Continuity (4 points possible)**

4 points if project continues resurfacing, reconstruction or Preventative Maintenance on segment of roadway adjacent to a resurfacing, reconstruction or Preventative Maintenance project done during the 2014-2017 TIP cycle or through Rural Task Force funding. For example: if Elkhart Road from May to the Village limits was resurfaced in 2015, a resurfacing project on Elkhart Road within the Village of Edwardsburg would count as an adjacent segment.

**A Grand Total of 50 points are possible in this system.**