Helping jurisdictions propose better projects

Chris Upchurch
Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
The Planning Process
Public Engagement
Public Engagement

Vision and Goals
Public Engagement

Vision and Goals

Selection Criteria
Public Engagement

Call for Projects

Project Submissions
Project Submissions
What if WAMPO hired a consultant to work with our member jurisdictions to develop projects?
Desired Outcomes

• Projects better aligned with vision and goals
• Improve technical quality of applications
Improve technical quality of applications

• Back and forth with project sponsors

• Obvious Issues
  • Location
  • Scope
  • Funding
  • Selection criteria questionnaire

• Subtle Issues
  • Cost estimates
Desired Outcomes

• Projects better aligned with vision and goals
• Improve technical quality of applications
• Help every project sponsor put their best foot forward
Help every project sponsor put their best foot forward

• Wide range of:
  • Size
  • Technical Capacity
Desired Outcomes

• Projects better aligned with vision and goals
• Improve technical quality of applications
• Help every project sponsor put their best foot forward
Implementing Consultant Assistance

• Step 1: Come up with a great idea
• Step 2: USDOT says “NO”
Project Evolution

• Original:
  • Participating jurisdictions provide local match

• Modification:
  • WAMPO pays local match
  • Required scaling back the project
Procurement

• Require lots of consultant effort in a short time window
• Structured RFP to accommodate multiple firms
• Proposals
  • One consultant bid for the whole project
  • One consultant bid for about half
• Selection committee felt strongly that it should be split between two consultants
  • Choice for participating jurisdictions
Outcome

• Call for Projects from June through August
• 16 sponsors asked for consultant help
  • Worked out to approximately 65 hours per sponsor
  • All submitted projects
• Received 114 applications
• Staff has completed initial screening, working on project ratings
Desired Outcomes

- Projects better aligned with vision and goals
- Improve technical quality of applications
- Help every project put its best foot forward
Quality of applications

• More complete
• Fewer errors
• Less back and forth with project sponsors
• Time will tell if cost estimates are better
Helping projects put their best foot forward

• More project sponsors
• Less variance in quality between sponsors
Projects better aligned with vision and goals

• Results a bit more mixed

• Some projects that match the vision and goals very well
• Many projects with some elements matching our goals
• Some projects that are completely unrelated
Lessons Learned

• Short timeframe
• More structure
• Encourage coordination and engagement
• Consultant familiarity with WAMPO goals
Would we do this again?

- Next MTP: yes
- Next TIP: yes
  - But objectives would be a bit different
Thank You

chris.upchurch@wampo.org
Questions?

chris.upchurch@wampo.org