Helping jurisdictions propose better projects

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The Planning Process



Vision and Goals

Selection Criteria

Vision and Goals

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Call for Projects

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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

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- Improve technical quality of applications
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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

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Questions?

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