MVMPO Transportation Evaluation Criteria Scoring Methodology

Overview

Merrimack Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MVMPO) assigns locally-sponsored federal-aid candidate projects scores based on Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC). MVMPO uses a two-step TEC process that accounts for merit on a raw level and return on investment (ROI). Typically, larger projects tend to have greater opportunity to receive higher merit scores because they include several elements. Smaller, geographically confined projects tend to have lower merit scores as they have less opportunity to comprehensively address MVMPO's transportation goals. Small projects, however, often cost less, presenting good return on investment if pursued. MVMPO's TEC methodology averages a project's merit score and ROI score to normalize projects, allowing large and small projects to be compared on a single horizon. The TEC scoring calculation follows:

(merit score + ROI score) / 2 = TEC score

Merit Scores

The TIP scoring application calculates the value for a merit score by summing the points received from the merit scoring criteria. MVMPO staff determined the scoring criteria categories based on the Capital and Strategic Investment priorities in the region's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The chart below shows these funding priorities:
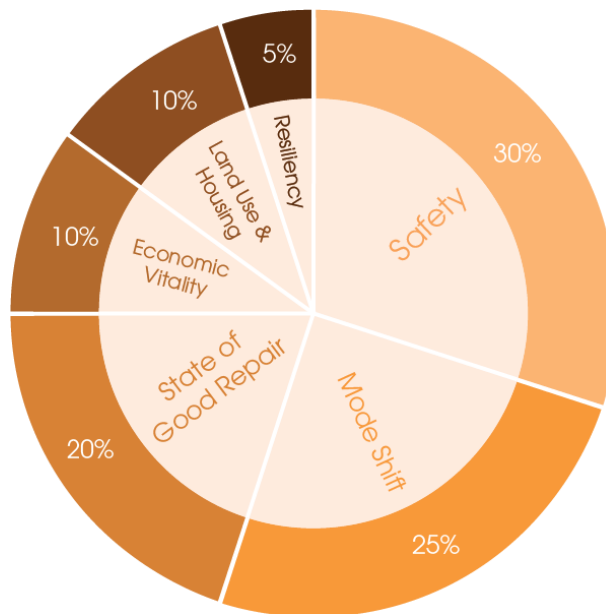
The matrix below shows the details of the merit scoring criteria and points assigned in each category.

PROJECT PHASE	RESILIENCE 5%	SAFETY 30%	MODE SHIFT 25%	STATE OF GOOD REPAIR 20%	LAND USE AND HOUSING 10%	ECONOMIC VITALITY 10%	EQUITY/GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT BONUSES	MVPC REVIEW (BONUS/ PENALTY)
Project Initiation (Max Points 82 with 20 possible bonus points)	-Is the project anticipated to result in a net addition or reduction of impervious surface area *dedicated to driving* or *built environment*? -.5, 0, .5

-Is the project located in a Priority Preservation Area? Is the project intended to aid preservation? If so, how? -.5, 0, .5

-Is the project located in an area prone to flooding? If so, will the project include measures that reduce the likelihood of flooding? 0, .5

-Will the project involve the development or use of alternative energy? 0, .5 | -Is the project located on and relevant to the region's trends-based HIN? How so? 0,4

-Is the project located on and relevant to the region's risk-based HIN? How so? 0,4

-Does the project intend to implement a strategy detailed in the region's Vision Zero Plan? How so? 0,4

-Does the project offer any innovative or demonstrative applications, that, if successful, could be potentially replicated in other locations? 0,4

-What is the existing design speed for the roadway? (If unknown, list posted speed) Will the project reduce this speed? 0,4 | -Will the project make using a non-auto mode of travel more cost-efficient OR convenient (e.g. reduce fares, increase span of service, expand or add a transit route, reduce purchase costs for nonmotorists, add amenities)? 0,10

-Will the project complete a link on the region's Planned Active Transportation Network? 0,10 | -Will the project improve deficient existing surface paving (either roadways, paths, or sidewalks)? 0,10

-Will the project replace existing assets in need of repair, such as signal equipment or an existing culvert? What asset in need of repair will be replaced? 0,10 | What is the residential density within .25 miles of the project in dwelling units/acre? Dwelling Units per Acre: < 3: 0 points, ≥ 3 < 5: 1 point, ≥ 5 < 10: 2 points, ≥ 10: 3 points

Is the project within a quarter mile of mapped subsidized housing? 0,3

Does the community sponsoring the project have a community-wide inclusionary zoning bylaw that is 3A compliant? 0,1

What 0.5% Housing Production Plan Goa for the community sponsoring this project? Has the community met its housing production plan goals in at least one of the past 5 years? 0,3 | -Is the project located within a Priority Development Area? 0,3

-Is the project located within an existing downtown activity center? 0,3

-Is the project specifically included in the region's Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Plan? 0,3

-Will the project improve access and/or connectivity for freight? 0,.5

-If the project will improve access and/or connectivity for freight, is the project on the regional prioritized freight network? 0,.5 | -Is the project located in a regional environmental justice plus geography? If yes, +10

-Has the sponsor community received federal transportation aid to construct a transportation project within the past five years? If no, +5

-Is/was the project's design funded in part with federal aid programmed on the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)? If yes, +5 | |

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Design & Construction (Max Points 18 with +/- Review Bonus/Penalty)	-Has project met all MEPA/NEPA requirements and received approval from any relevant conservation commission? 0,1 -Will project go above and beyond in meeting MEPA/NEPA requirements? If so, how? 0,2	-Has the project's 25 percent design been reviewed by MVPC for consistency with best safety practices? -10,10	-Has the project's 25 percent design been reviewed by MVPC for consistency with best nonmotorist design practices? -5,5					-What changes have been made to address MVPC's comments, if any: Substantive or No Changes Needed +5, Minor Changes, 0 No Changes/Response, -5

ROI Scores

The application calculates a project's ROI score by dividing the project's cost by the merit score to get a value of cost per merit point. MVMPO staff assign a project with a letter grade based on its dollar per point value with doubling scale threshold breaks. The table below depicts threshold breaks and associated point values.

Cost Per Point	Letter Grade	Point Value
Less than $50,000	A	95
$50,000 - $99,999	B	85
$100,000 - $199,999	C	75
$200,000 - $399,999	D	65
$400,000 or greater	F	55

MVPC calculates a *final score*, by averaging the merit and ROI scores.

Bonuses, Penalties and Exceeding Caps.

Projects receiving bonuses may not exceed 100 points; in other words, projects exceeding 100 points are capped. Based on the nature of the system, it is impossible for projects to receive fewer than 27.5 points.