Project Scoring Criteria

• Project scoring composed of two elements:
  • Policy Score (up to 40 points)
    • Priority Score:
      • High Priority (up to 5 projects): 30 points
      • Medium Priority (up to 4 projects): 20 points
      • Low Priority (unlimited): 10 Points
      • Demonstrated Financial Support: 10 points
  • Technical Score (up to 50 points) for transit and highway:
    • Safety
    • Accessibility
    • Mobility
    • Environmental Conservation
    • Security
    • Economic Prosperity
Project Scoring Criteria

• BMC staff reviewed existing criteria this spring and developed recommended updates this summer

• In general, recommended updates:
  • Slightly shift the amount of points devoted to goals
  • Add transit scoring where previously absent (complete streets, safety, and security)
  • Clarify definitions and make scores less subjective
  • Transition to outcomes based scoring – how does the project contribute to creating a complete system?
  • Clarify/Integrate impacts to EJ populations into scoring

• Finalize in October, Resolution in November
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### Transit Technical Scoring Overview

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### Highway Technical Scoring Overview

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Goal: Safety  
Mode: Highway  
Max points: 10

• Prior criteria and justification for updates:
  • 3-year crash trends weighted by crash severity
  • Projects in areas with higher crash severity awarded more points
  • Cons to this approach:
    • LRTP projects are often completed years or decades in the future
    • Fails to account for safety countermeasures built into the project
    • Doesn’t align with local or state Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) emphasis areas

• New Criteria:
  • Emphasizes regional focus areas/State SHSP emphasis areas
  • Incorporates impacts to EJ areas
  • Increases max points from 5 to 10
Goal: Safety  
Mode: Highway  
Max points: 10  

- Highway Safety Scoring: 10 points max  
  - Identifies SHSP emphasis area(s)/strategy(s) addressed = 2 points  
  - Project includes countermeasures anticipated to benefit EJ areas = 2 points  
  - Project identifies countermeasures addressing the following SHSP emphasis areas (max of 6 points):  
    - Non-motorist safety = 6 points  
    - Speeding = 4 points  
    - Lane Departure for Impaired or Distracted Drivers = 2 points
Goal: Safety
Mode: Transit
Max points: 10

• Prior criteria and justification for updates: NA
• New Criteria added for transit providing same max points as highway:
  • Degree to which the project improves Transit Safety (5 points max), with features such as:
    • Rehabilitation of facilities, infrastructure, and vehicles to improve safety (eliminating at grade pedestrian crossings; installation of flashing light signals, etc.)
    • Adding ADA accessible stations and stops
    • Promoting safe pedestrian and bicycle transit access to bus stops, transit hubs, etc.
  • Degree to which the project improves Transit Security (5 points max), with features such as:
    • Installation of CCTV at stations and on vehicles
    • Application of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design
    • Lighting improvements
Goal: Safety  
Mode: Transit  
Max points: 10

- **Transit Safety Scoring: 5 points max**
  - Project designed to specifically improve system safety for all users and/or addresses an existing safety deficiency, and occurs within an EJ area = 5 points
  - Project designed to specifically improve system safety for all users and/or addresses an existing safety deficiency = 4 points
  - Project will generally result in a safety improvement for users, and occurs within an EJ area = 3 points
  - Project will generally result in a safety improvement for users = 2 points
  - Project will have no discernible positive effect on system safety = 0 points

- **Transit Security Scoring: 5 points max**
  - Project designed specifically to deter crime and/or enhance system security for all users and/or staff = 5 points
  - Project will generally result in a security improvement for users and/or staff = 3 points
  - Project will have no discernible positive effect on system security = 0 points
Goal: Accessibility – Complete Streets
Mode: Highway & Transit
Max points: 5

• Updates focus on defining & clarifying prior criteria
  • Adds FHWA-sourced examples of features to criteria
    • Traffic Safety: controlled intersections, reduced turn radii, traffic calming, etc.
    • Bicycle Facilities: cycle tracks, shared use paths, etc.
    • Pedestrian Facilities: New or improved sidewalks, median treatments, etc.
    • Transit Facilities: Bus rapid transit, bus pull out areas, TSP, dedicated lanes, etc.
• Defines how impacts to EJ areas will be scored (prior criteria mentioned EJ but did not define points)
• Clarifies how points are assigned to remove some subjectivity in scoring (significant vs moderate features)
• Adds score for transit projects (highway only previously; now 5 points each)
Goal: Accessibility – Complete Streets
Mode: Highway & Transit
Max points: 5

• Accessibility – Complete Streets Scoring: 5 points max
  • Degree to which project supports complete streets (delivers safety/accessibility benefits for all modes) (4 points max):
    • Significant features = 4 points. Over half of project includes features
    • Moderate features = 2 points. Up to half of project includes features
    • No features = 0 points
  • Proximity to EJ areas as determined by ½ mile buffer (1 point):
    • Over half of project in EJ area = 1 point
    • Up to half of project in EJ area = ½ points
    • Not in EJ area = 0 points
Goal: Accessibility – Access to Jobs
Mode: Highway & Transit

- Prior criteria:
  - Evaluated access using GIS buffer analysis and staff judgement
  - Proximity to jobs rather than network-level outcomes

- New Criteria:
  - Reduces subjectivity and is outcome oriented
  - Quantifies anticipated impacts of project by comparing the candidate project network to the E&C network
  - Improved measure: Change in the average number of jobs accessible per worker within 30 minutes (highway) or 45 minutes (transit)
  - Normalizes across large and small projects by dividing by project cost
  - Clarifies scoring for total population and EJ population

- Removed Criteria: Transit Stations/Stops
  - Scored based on adding new stations, improving stations, or operations
  - Removal yields more equal weighting for highway and transit accessibility
  - Opportunity to add transit scores for other criteria
Goal: Accessibility – Access to Jobs

Mode: Highway

Max points: 5

• Highway Accessibility – Access to Jobs Scoring: 5 points max

  • Degree to which the project improves access to jobs for workers within a 30 minute travel time (4 points):
    • Top 1/3 = 4 points
    • Middle 1/3 = 2 points
    • Bottom 1/3 = 0 points

  • Degree to which the project improves access to jobs for EJ workers within a 30 minute travel time (1 point):
    • Top 1/2 = 1 point
    • Bottom 1/2 = 0 points
Goal: Accessibility – Access to Jobs
Mode: Transit
Max points: 10

- Transit Accessibility – Access to Jobs Scoring: 10 points max
  - Degree to which the project improves access to jobs for workers within a 45 minute travel time (8 points):
    - Top 1/3 = 8 points
    - Middle 1/3 = 4 points
    - Bottom 1/3 = 0 points
  - Degree to which the project improves access to jobs for EJ workers within a 45 minute travel time (2 points):
    - Top 1/2 = 2 points
    - Bottom 1/2 = 0 points
Goal: Mobility
Mode: Highway
Max Points: 10

- Prior criteria:
  - Evaluated mobility with the 2025 and 2045 E&C networks
  - Projects with a worse LOS were given more points

- New Criteria:
  - Scores based on 2050 E&C network congestion as measured by Vehicle Hours of Delay (VHOD) per Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
  - Includes 3 vehicle classes capturing both goods and service movement
Goal: Mobility
Mode: Highway
Max Points: 10

- **Highway Mobility Scoring:** 10 points max
  - Passenger VHOD at AM/PM peak hours (4 points max)
    - Top 1/3 = 4 points
    - Middle 1/3 = 3 points
    - Bottom 1/3 = 2 points
  - Commercial VHOD Mid-Day (3 points max)
    - Top 1/3 = 3 points
    - Middle 1/3 = 2 points
    - Bottom 1/3 = 1 point
  - Truck VHOD at Overnight Peak (3 points max)
    - Top 1/3 = 3 points
    - Middle 1/3 = 2 points
    - Bottom 1/3 = 1 point
Goal: Mobility  
Mode: Transit  
Max Points: 10

- Prior criteria:
  - Transit Options: Scored by project transit mode (MARC/Commuter received most; local bus received least)  
  - Transit Ridership: Average daily number of riders

- New Criteria focuses on how each candidate project contributes to creating a complete system
  - Transit Options: Number of workers with high quality transit options based on their usual place of work (comparing candidate project to E&C network)  
  - Transit Ridership: Measures ridership via both walk and drive access.  
  - Transit Connectivity: Additional measure accounting for the degree to which a project reduces the number of transfers for a transit trip
Goal: Mobility  
Mode: Transit  
Max Points: 10

- Transit Mobility – Options Scoring: 3 points max
  - Degree to which the project increases the number of workers with high quality (<45 minutes) transit options based on their usual place of work
    - Top 1/3 = 3 points
    - Middle 1/3 = 2 points
    - Bottom 1/3 = 1 point

- Transit Mobility – Ridership Scoring: 5 points max
  - Degree to which the project supports transit ridership via walk access and drive access
    - Walk Access: Top 1/3 = 3 points; Middle 1/3 = 2 points; Bottom 1/3 = 1 point
    - Drive Access: Top ½ = 2 points; Bottom ½ = 1 point

- Transit Mobility – Connectivity Scoring: 2 points max
  - Degree to which the project contributes to transit connectivity as measured by the reduction in the average number of transfers required for transit trips
    - Top half of reductions = 2 points
    - Bottom half of reductions = 1 point
Goal: Environmental Conservation – Effects on ecologically sensitive lands and culturally significant resources
Mode: Highway & Transit
Max points: 5

• Minor updates:
  • Adds GIS layers that should be accounted for including: Wetlands, Sensitive Species, Critical Area Towns & Counties, and various Maryland Protected Lands layers
  • Reduces subjectivity by clarifying how scores will be assigned (significant vs moderate)
  • Incorporates potential impacts to EJ areas into project scoring
Goal: Environmental Conservation – Effects on ecologically sensitive lands and culturally significant resources
Mode: Highway & Transit
Max points: 5

Scoring: 5 points max

Degree to which project is located near ecologically significant lands and culturally significant properties and resources via GIS buffer analysis:
- Project neither intersects nor is adjacent to any data = 5 points
- Project is only adjacent to any data = 3 points
- Project intersects data = 1 point

Anticipated impacts to nearby EJ populations (buffer of 200 feet; distance derived from approximated distances used in NEPA analysis):
- Project anticipated to benefit EJ area = +1 point*
- Neutral or unclear anticipated EJ impacts = 0 points
- Project has anticipated negative EJ impacts = -1 point

*5 points max. Projects already receiving 5 points from the criteria above are not eligible for an additional EJ point
Goal: Environmental Conservation – Potential for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions
Mode: Highway & Transit
Max points: 5

- Minor updates:
  - Reduces subjectivity by clarifying how scores will be assigned
  - Lists additional Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) reducing components: new sidewalk construction, trail construction with connections, new bike lanes, traffic signal systemization, etc...
Goal: Environmental Conservation – Potential for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions
Mode: Highway & Transit
Max points: 5

• Environmental Conservation – Potential for GHG Emissions Reductions: 5 points max
  • Degree to which the project includes components that reduce GHG emissions:
    • Only emissions reducing components = 5 points
    • A majority of emission reducing components but also includes emissions inducing components = 4 points
    • Neutral mix = 3 points
    • A majority of emissions inducing components but also involves bike/ped/transit improvements improving connectivity to existing facilities = 2 points
    • A majority of emissions inducing components = 1 point
    • No emissions reducing components = 0 points
Goal: Security  
Mode: Highway & Transit  
Max points: 5

- Prior Criteria:
  - Included only highway evacuation routes or parallel routes

- Updated Criteria:
  - Incorporates a score for transit projects
  - Focuses on evacuation from vulnerable communities based on BMC’s Vulnerable Populations Index (VPI)
  - Improvements in evacuation routes would help all; incorporating the VPI helps to prioritize improvements where there are higher concentrations of vulnerable populations
Goal: Security  
Mode: Highway & Transit  
Max points: 5

- Security Scoring: 5 points max
  - Degree to which a project enhances the multi-modal evacuation mobility of vulnerable populations. Evacuation routes are defined in the Evacuation Traffic Management Support document:
    - Project falls on existing evacuation route or improves a critical link to an existing evacuation route in an area with a Vulnerable Populations Index (VPI) of 6 or higher
      = 5 points
    - Project falls on existing evacuation route or improves a critical link to an existing evacuation route in an area with a VPI of 4 or 5
      = 3 points
    - Project falls on existing evacuation route or improves a critical link to an existing evacuation route in an area with a VPI of 2 or 3
      = 1 point
Goal: Economic Prosperity
Mode: Highway & Transit
Max points: 5

• Prior Criteria:
  • Included separate scores for location in Sustainable Communities (5 points) and Priority Funding Areas (5 points) for a max of 10 points

• Updated Criteria:
  • Recognizes the new Opportunity Zone designation
  • Recognizes Sustainable Communities as being part of PFA’s
  • Reduces the point total from 10 to 5, creating the opportunity to redistribute points to other criteria
Goal: Economic Prosperity
Mode: Highway & Transit
Max points: 5

- Economic Prosperity Scoring: 5 points max
  - The project leverages or otherwise supports existing assets and programs available from the State to revitalize and improve existing and planned communities in the region:
    - An Opportunity Zone that is within a Sustainable Community and PFA = 5 points
    - A Sustainable Community or PFA = 3 points
    - Outside these areas/zones = 0 points
Thanks!

Zach Kaufman
Senior Transportation Planner
Baltimore Metropolitan Council
zkaufman@baltometro.org
410-732-0500 x 1048