

**Transportation Commission of Colorado  
Freight, Regional and Interstate Mobility Committee  
Virtual Meeting**

**Agenda**

**Wednesday, January 20, 2021**

**Rebecca White, Director, Division of Transportation Development**

**John Lorme, Director of Maintenance & Operations**

**Michelle Scheuerman, CDOT Freight Planning**

**Craig Hurst, CDOT Freight Office Manager**

- 1. Welcome – Commissioner Gary Beedy, Chair**
- 2. National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) Presentation –  
Rebecca White, Michelle Scheuerman and Craig Hurst**
- 3. Closing Comments**
- 4. Adjourn**

**THIS AGENDA MAY BE ALTERED AT THE CHAIR'S DISCRETION**



# COLORADO

## Department of Transportation

Division of Transportation Development

Multimodal Planning Branch  
2829 W. Howard Place, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Denver, CO 80204-2305

TO: The Freight, Regional, and Interstate Mobility Committee of the Transportation Commission

FROM: Rebecca White - Director, Division of Transportation Development (DTD)  
Craig Hurst - Freight Office Manager  
Michelle Scheuerman - DTD, Freight Planning

DATE: January 20, 2021

RE: National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) Overview

**Purpose:** The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an overview of the elements pertaining to the National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) and decision making process that will be presented to the Committee.

**Action:** Informational. No action required.

### **Background:**

The National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) was created within the Fix America's Surface Transportation (FAST Act) following substantial increases in freight movement resulting from economic growth and expanded global trade over the past few decades. The growth in freight transportation demand, along with growing passenger demand, has caused congestion in many parts of the transportation system, making freight movements slower and less reliable. With its enactment in 2015, the FAST Act directed Federal surface transportation funds specifically toward highway segments and other projects deemed most critical to freight movements for the first time.

The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act authorization included five years of Federal funding for the NHFP. The NHFP is a formula-based funding program, from which Colorado received approximately \$83 million combined funding in the FY2016-FY2020 time period. Those funds have been programmed in previous award cycles to projects targeted to improve the performance and condition of Colorado's surface transportation. Under a Continuing Resolution, the Fast Act has been extended by a year which includes NHFP funding for FY 21 in the amount of \$22 million.

### **Details:**

At the October 2020 workshop of the Freight, Regional, and Interstate Mobility Committee, CDOT's Freight Office Manager, Craig Hurst, provided a high-level overview of the NHFP. Committee members were very interested in this topic and requested to have a more detailed overview. Therefore, staff will dedicate this committee meeting to provide the Commissioners with a deeper dive into the program regulations and requirements, project eligibility, the decision making process (the newly established project application and selection process) which encourages greater stakeholder input, project successes and past project examples, the newly developed NHFP Guidance Document and timeline for the FY 21 Call for Projects.

### **Next Steps:**

- Conduct FY 21 call for projects and provide the Freight, Regional, and Interstate Mobility Committee of the TC with an overview of projects to be approved by CDOT Executive Management.

**Attachments:** Attachment A: NHFP Presentation





# National Highway Freight Program

**Transportation Commission**

**January 2021**



**COLORADO**  
Department of Transportation

# Today's Agenda

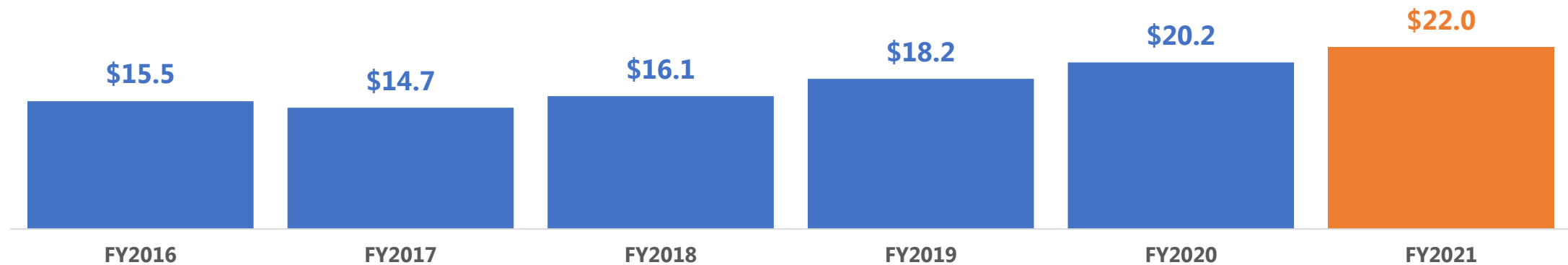
1. Welcome
2. NHFP and Freight Funding
3. Project Successes and Examples
4. Decision Making Processes
5. Discussion

# NHFP Program Overview



# National Highway Freight Program (NHFP) Overview

- Federal formula program created under the FAST Act
- Colorado apportioned \$84.9 million for freight investment needs
- Colorado Freight Plan (CFP) identifies a priority-based and stakeholder-informed framework for NHFP investments
- Projects are identified by Engineering Regions and prioritized by the Freight Office, with guidance from the Freight Advisory Council



# NHFP Project Eligibility and Requirements

- Broad project applications
  - Planning, design, pre-engineering, construction, operations, and other
  - Safety, sustainability, capacity, resiliency, parking and others
  - Highway, rail grade crossing, freight intermodal or freight rail
- Highway projects must be first designated as part of the state's critical urban or rural freight corridors
  - Colorado Freight Office administers program and corridor designation process
- Projects must be specified and included within the Freight Investment Plan



# Future of Freight Funding

- NHFP extended from FY2016 to FY2020 with the FAST Act
  - Continuing resolution will provide funds for FY21 (approx. \$22m)
- Future of program uncertain, but several scenarios are plausible:
  1. Current appropriation levels extended with FAST Act extension
  2. Program continued or expanded in next reauthorization bill
  3. Program zeroed out or consolidated in next reauthorization
- Other states provide additional dedicated freight funding:
  - Infrastructure banks or revolving loan funds
  - Revenues from commercial motor vehicles
  - High-priority system investments





# NHFP Project Successes and Examples



# NHFP in Review, FY16-20

**34**

priority awards made

**\$84.3**

million invested

**133.69**

miles of freight corridors improved

- 13** Truck parking, pull-out, or chain-up station expansions
- 12** Safety capacity or operational improvements
  - 5** Freight mobility or capacity investments
  - 2** Safety technology improvements
- 2** Structures or freight travel constraints removed



# Example Regional Projects

**Truck Parking Capacity** - Construction of up to four truck parking locations along I-70

**Ports-of-Entry** - improvements to highway pullouts statewide used by Colorado State Patrol as mobile enforcement sites

**US 50 Little Blue Canyon** - Safety and operations improvements including passing lanes, shoulders, and hazard mitigation

**US 160/SH 17 Freight Mobility** - Intersection improvements to accommodate freight movements

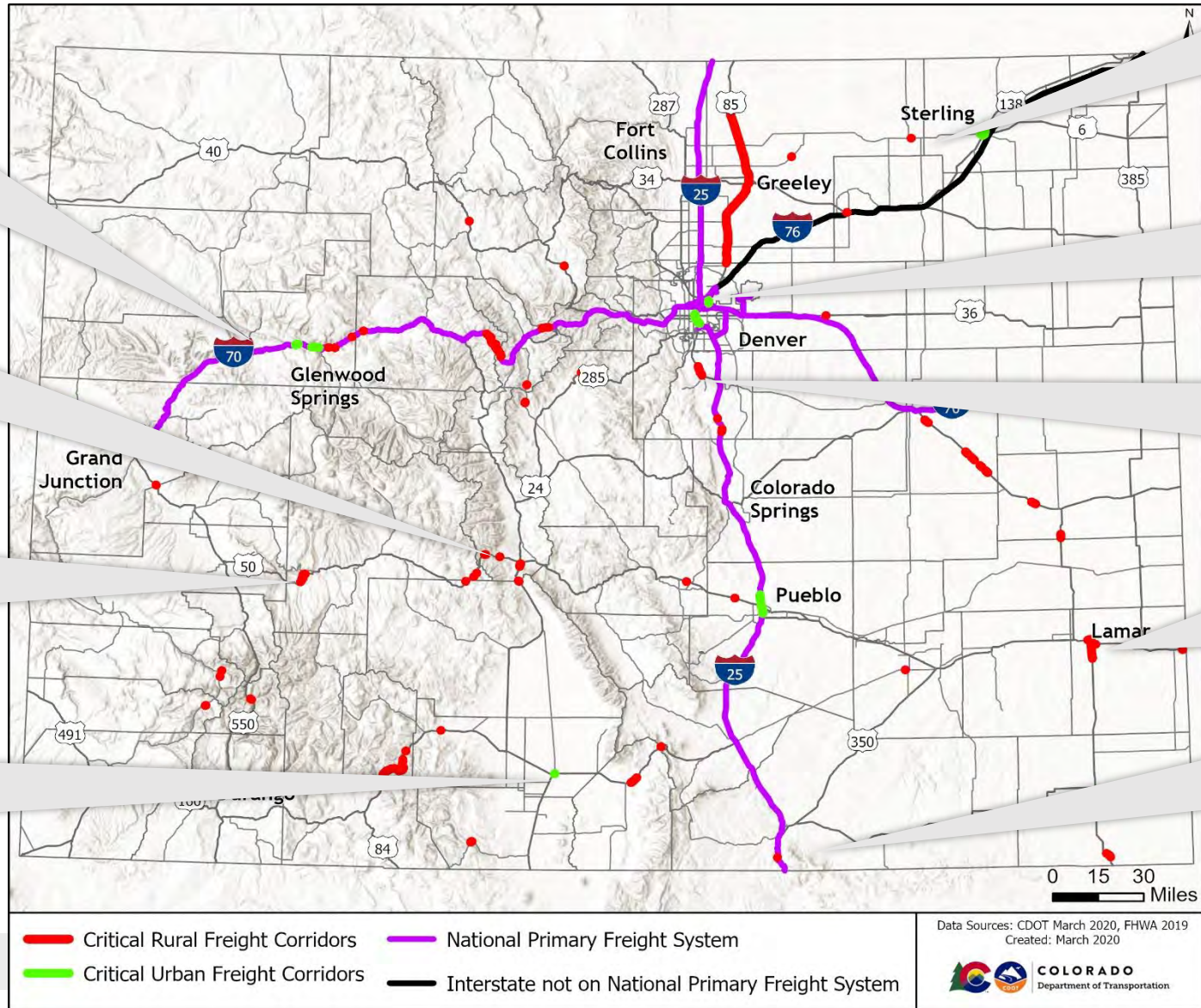
**SH 14 Sterling "S" Curve** - realignment to connect I 76 and facilitate truck movements

**US 85 Vasquez** - interchange improvements to I-270 to 62nd including truck safety needs

**US 85: Louviers to Meadows** - widening with acceleration and deceleration lanes and shoulders

**US 287 Lamar** - Construction of passing lanes in high crash areas

**I-25 Bridge Improvement** - Repair structure P-18-BP to allow overweight loads to utilize route



# Example Project Highlights

## I-70 Eisenhower Tunnel Snow Removal



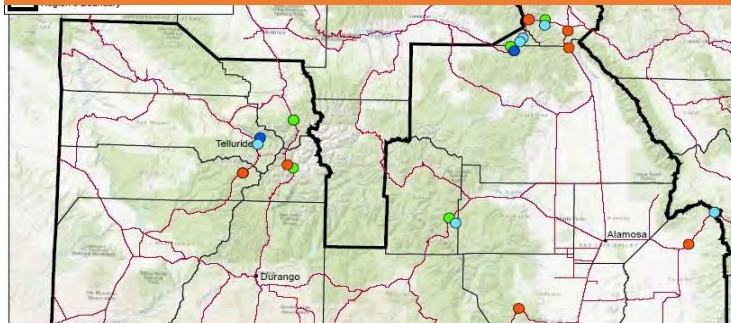
NHFP Award: \$300,000

## I-70 TPIMS Pilot and Monitoring



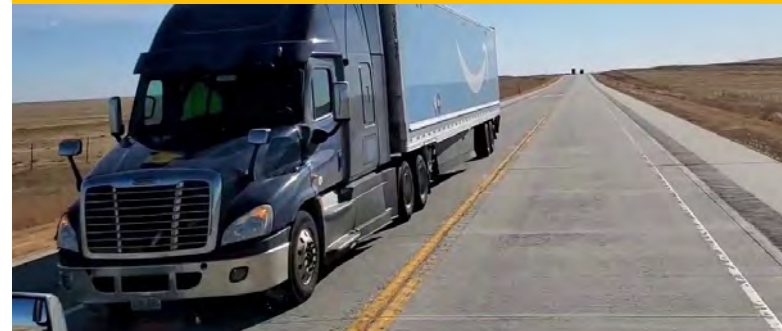
NHFP Award: \$1,200,000

## Region 5 Chain Station Improvements



NHFP Award: \$4,500,000

## US 287 Passing Lane Improvements



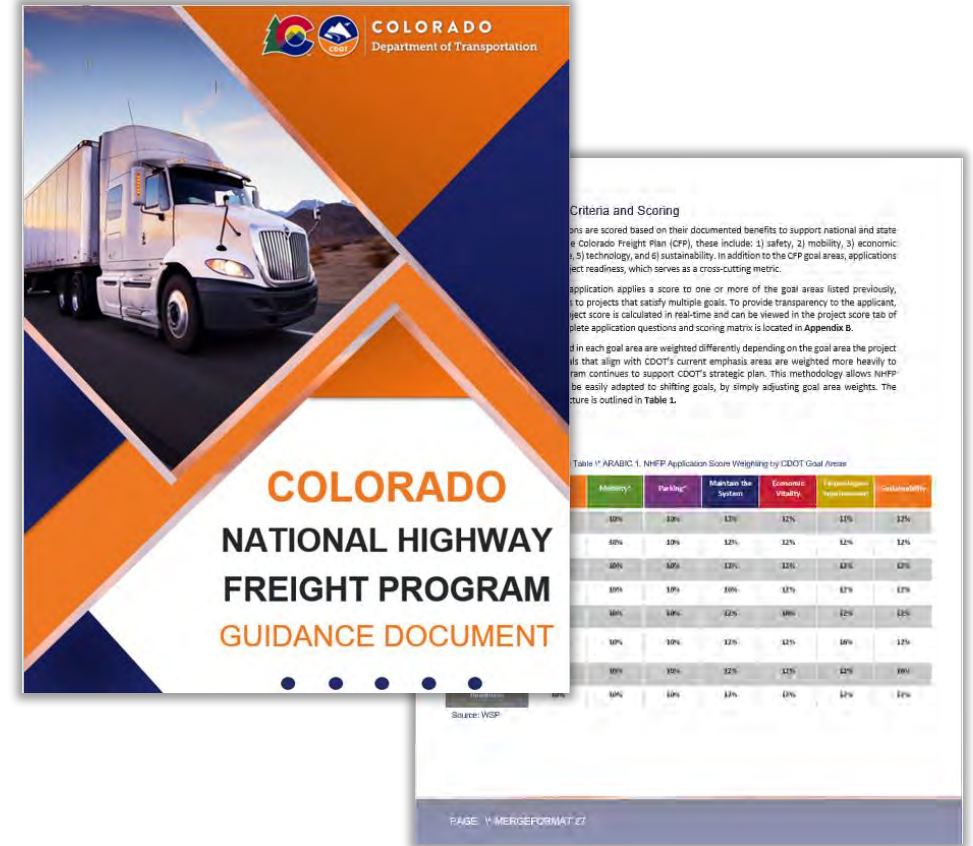
NHFP Award: \$4,500,000

# Project Decision Making Processes



# NHFP Administration and Accountability

- Continual improvement in program delivery:
  - Expanded stakeholder involvement through Freight Advisory Council
  - Streamlined corridor designation and FHWA approval processes
  - Designed prioritization process to select projects
  - Implemented project controls and progress reporting
  - Developed program manuals and training guidance



# NHFP Decision Process



# Project Selection Process



- Potential projects identified by Regions
  - Project pitches and links to freight emphasis areas demonstrated

- Project applications and performance information completed
- Prioritization model applied to identify priority projects

- Discussion and input of recommended project awards by FAC and STAC



# 1) Call For Ideas



## Eligibility Criteria

Must be within PHFS network, and an NHFP qualifying projects,



## Matched Funding

Assume a maximum of 80% in federal funds



## Goal Alignment

CDOT Emphasis Areas, PD-14, FAC priorities



## Background Information

Performance targets, cost estimates, year requested



## Partnerships

P3's, Leveraging larger projects within CDOT



**Statement of Need** Opportunity to express value of project beyond defined metrics



# Sample Call For Ideas

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Insert your project freight needs and benefits statement here. This is the opportunity to present some of the qualitative and quantitative benefits that your project provides



## CDOT FIP Emphasis Areas

### Truck Safety

Contributes to safety improvements that reduce conflicts between trucks and passenger vehicles or obstacles, add shoulders or passing lanes, implement weather-related improvements, or provide safety information to travelers.



### Truck Parking

Improves truck parking access and technologies in alignment with prioritized list of truck parking improvement projects as outlined in the CDOT truck parking needs assessment.



### Freight Mobility

Project is directly connected to the reduction of freight network congestion and physical constraints to the movement of goods.



# 2) Project Scoring

## Application (Quantitative/Qualitative)



### Right-Sized w/ Accessible Data

All criteria draws from data publicly available or within CDOT



### Objective Criteria & Transparent Scoring

Applicants can calculate score prior to submission



### Grouped by Project Phase


Studies & Planning, Design & Construction



### Linked to CDOT Goals

Truck Parking, Truck Safety, Truck Mobility

National Highway Freight Program (NHFP)  
Project Application  
Cycle Years: 2021-2022

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**Project Criteria**

18. What is the *total* LOSS in the project corridor or adjacent area of influence?  
IV

19. What is the total LOSS in the project corridor or adjacent area of influence?  
IV

20. What is the percent of crashes involving a commercial vehicle (truck)?  
80%-100%

21. Does the project implement any of the following to address issues in corridor (select all that apply)?  
 a. Improves signage or pavement markings  
 b. Improve roadway geometry or provide shoulder widening  
 c. Add centerline or shoulder rumble strips  
 d. [Widen a shoulder that is 2' or less](#)  
 e. Install systems to improve truck driver behavior

22. Does the project provide other safety improvements to address known issues in the corridor?  
Yes  
If yes, describe:

23a. Evaluate the overall impact this project has on improving safety in the corridor or adjacent area of influence (applicant):

23b. Evaluate the overall impact this project has on improving safety in the corridor or adjacent area of influence (reviewer):

24. [What is the Truck AADT within the corridor?](#)  
Urban, AADT-Med (10,000-15,000)

25. [What is the VIC ratio within the corridor?](#)  
1.05 - 1.13

26. [Does the project mitigate a low bridge vertical clearance? If yes, indicate bridge height.](#)  
Yes, Under 13 feet

27. Does the project remove any other geometric barriers for trucks?  
Yes

28. [Does the project mitigate a bridge weight limit restriction? If yes, indicate color code.](#)  
Yes, Black

29. Does the project achieve any of the following (select all that apply)?  
 a. Take action to improve congestion at a bottleneck location identified in the current Freight Plan  
 b. [Mitigate an oversize/overweight restriction](#)  
 c. Separate at-grade crossings  
 d. Add a passing lane

30. Does the project add other mobility improvements to address known issues in the corridor?  
Yes  
If yes, describe:

31a. Evaluate the overall impact this project has on improving mobility in the project area (applicant)?

31b. Evaluate the overall impact this project has on improving mobility in the project area (reviewer)?

32. [Does the project replace / rehabilitate the pavement? If yes, indicate pavement drivability life.](#)  
Yes, Low (<4 years)

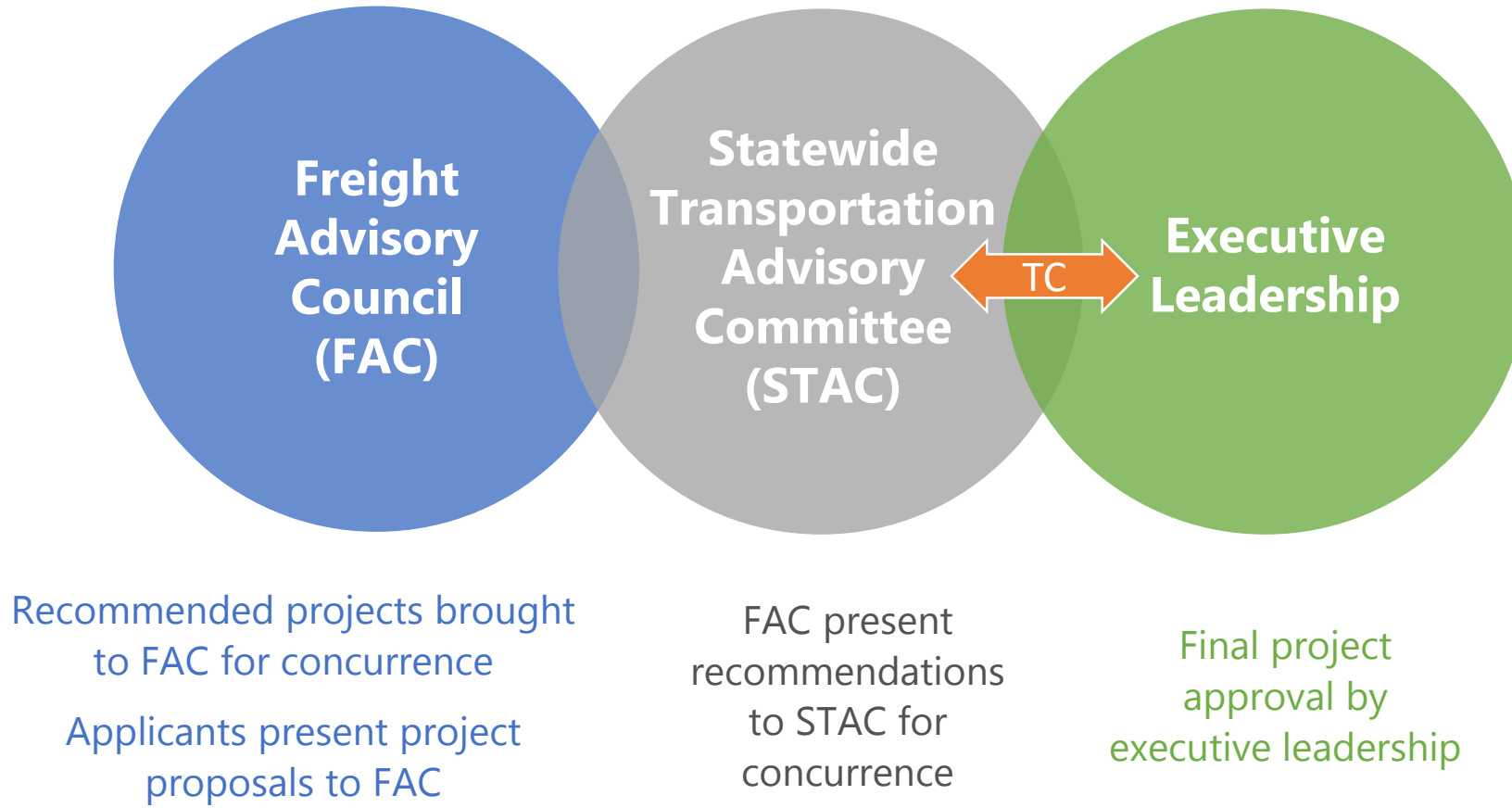


# Consistent and Streamlined Application Process

INDEX	ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION
1	Project Name	Name convention should be in accordance with the Project Development manual and be consistent through project life
2	Region	Type answer based on <a href="#">CDOT Transportation Region</a> map
3a	Project Champion / Applicant (one point of contact)	Point of contact for application; this may or may not be the project manager
3b	Phone #	Phone number for point of contact
3c	Email	Email address for point of contact
4a	Project Manager	Name of project manager
4b	Phone #	Phone number for project manager
4c	Email	Email address for project manager
5a	Route (###X)	CDOT Route Number in the format of ###X; as listed in <a href="#">OTIS Highway Data Explorer</a>
5b	Beginning Mile Post (X.XX)	Beginning reference mile post in the format of X.XX, carried to the hundredth of a mile; as listed in CDOT <a href="#">OTIS Highway Data Explorer</a>
5c	Ending Mile Post (X.XX)	Ending reference mile post in the format of X.XX, carried to the hundredth of a mile; as listed in <a href="#">CDOT OTIS Highway Data Explorer</a>
6	What phase is the project currently in?	Select most accurate statement from dropdown menu: Planning, Study, Design, Delivery
7a	Is this part of a larger project?	Select Yes/No from dropdown menu; defines if this is a stand-alone NHFP project or a component of a project
7b	If Yes, Total Project Cost Estimate	Provide Estimate of total project
7c	Project's Other Funding Source(s)	Provide additional funding sources



# 3) Stakeholder Input



# Reporting and Monitoring

- Updated project progress information to be submitted bi-annually for the duration of the project

## Pre-Construction Eval Form

### Study, Planning

- Project Status
- Contract in-place Date
- RFP Release Date
- Project Closure Date
- Significant Project Updates

## SAP

### Design & Construction

- Project Status
- FIR Date
- FOR Date
- Early Ad Date
- Late Ad Date
- Construction End Date
- Project Closure Date

# Next Steps for 2021



# FY21 Call for Projects and Next Steps

- **Conduct NHFP Guidance Document Training**
  - Presentation and Voiceover
- **Official Call for Projects in February 2021**
  - Provides an opportunity to beta test newly developed application and selection process





# Questions?

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