Federal Discretionary Grants Process

Transit Committee

June 14, 2012

For Information and Discussion

Background

- Discretionary transit grants available from Federal Transit Administration annually since 2008
- Increased coordination between member agencies and MAG/City of Phoenix/RPTA
- Projects were evaluated last year for submission
- Formalize Process for future grant opportunities
- ONLY for discretionary grant funds– not formula funds

Goals

- Recommend a formal Process to MAG Regional Council
- Rank and select projects to be submitted to FTA as part of a regional application.
  - Goals and Objectives
  - Qualifying Criteria
  - Program Evaluation Criteria
    - State of Good Repair
    - Bus Livability
    - Clean Fuels

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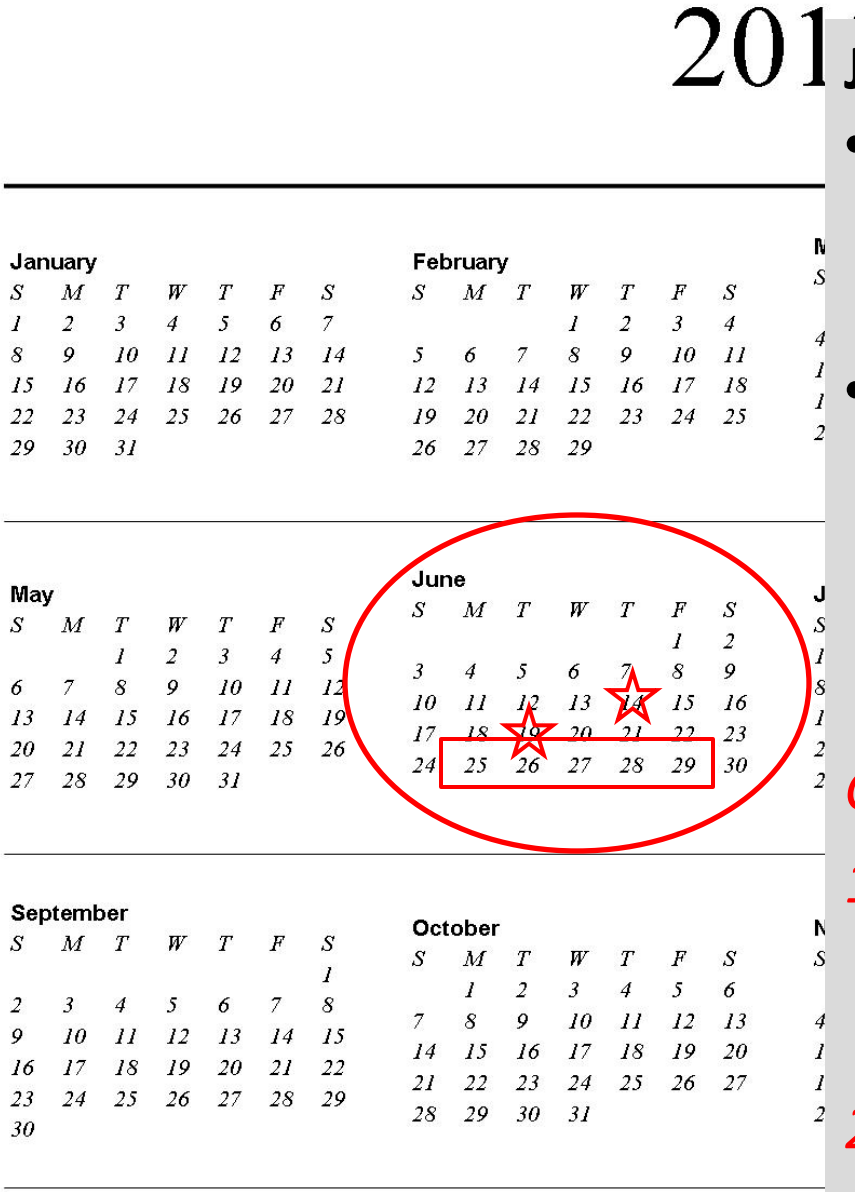


June 2012 (*Current*)

- Transit and Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee for feedback and comment
- Set up Transit Operators Working Group (TOWG), including a representative from Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

GOALS:

1. *Feedback from Transit and Bike and Pedestrian Committee*
2. *TOWG to review and establish evaluation criteria*

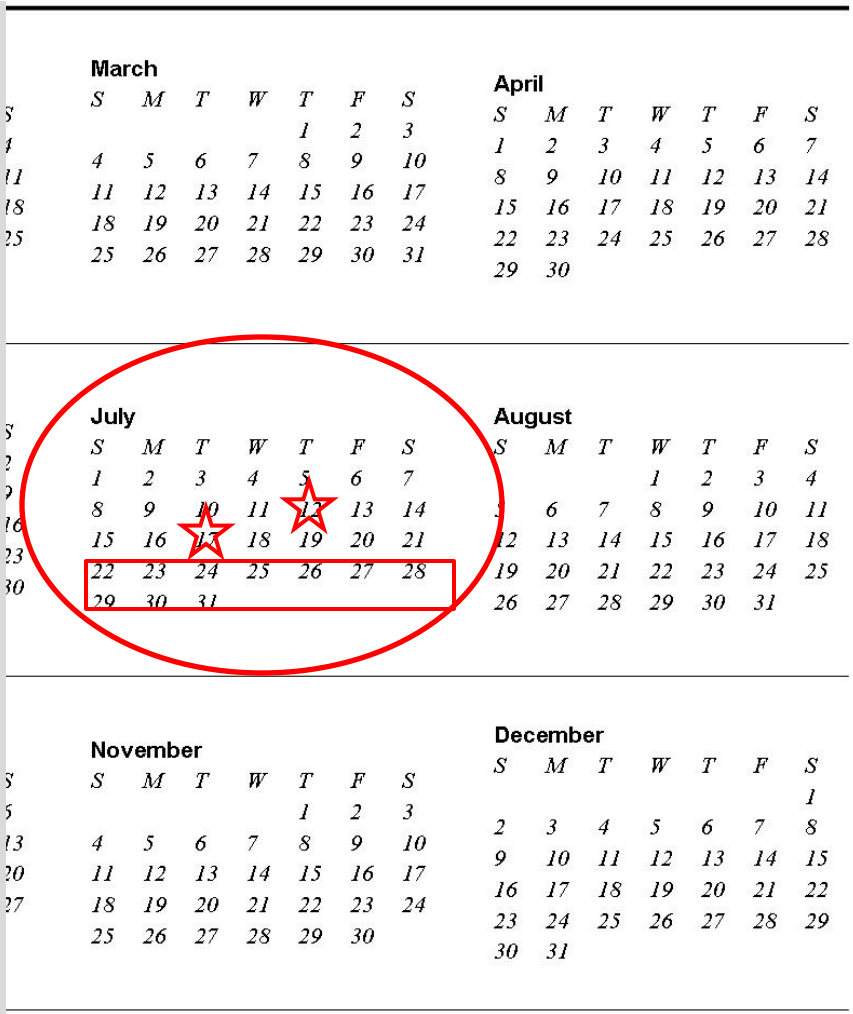
2012

July 2012

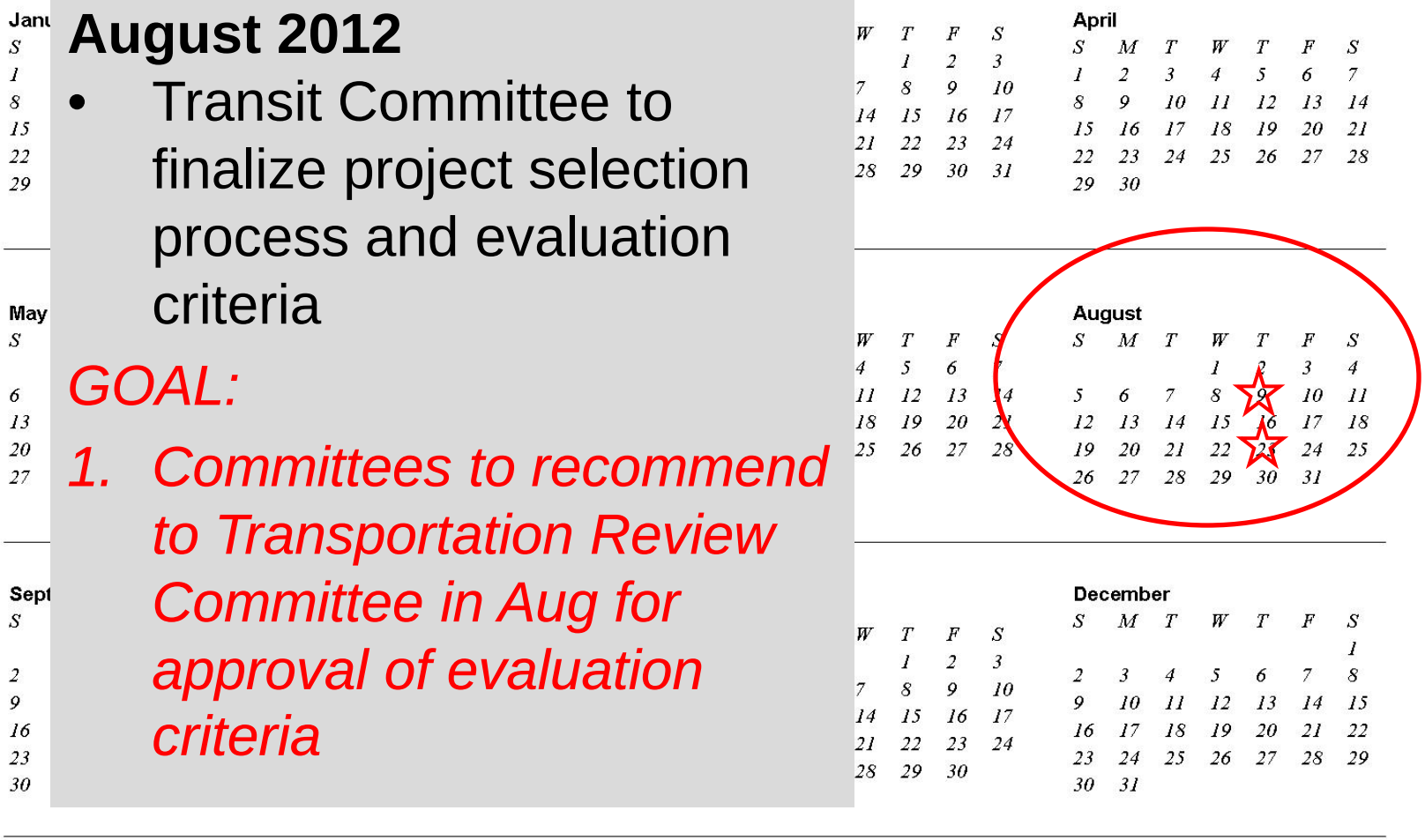
- Transit/Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee- Present draft Evaluation Criteria from Transit Operators Working Group
- TOWG Meet again if necessary

GOAL:

1. *TOWG to finalize evaluation criteria based on Committee feedback*



2012



August 2012

- Transit Committee to finalize project selection process and evaluation criteria

GOAL:

1. *Committees to recommend to Transportation Review Committee in Aug for approval of evaluation criteria*

2012

September 2012

- Final Recommendations for:
  - Goals and Objectives
  - goes through MAG committee process

Goal

1. *Approval process from MAG Regional Council*

Goals

- Recommend a formal Process to MAG Regional Council
- Rank and select projects to be submitted to FTA as part of a regional application.
- Including:
  - Goals and Objectives
  - Qualifying Criteria
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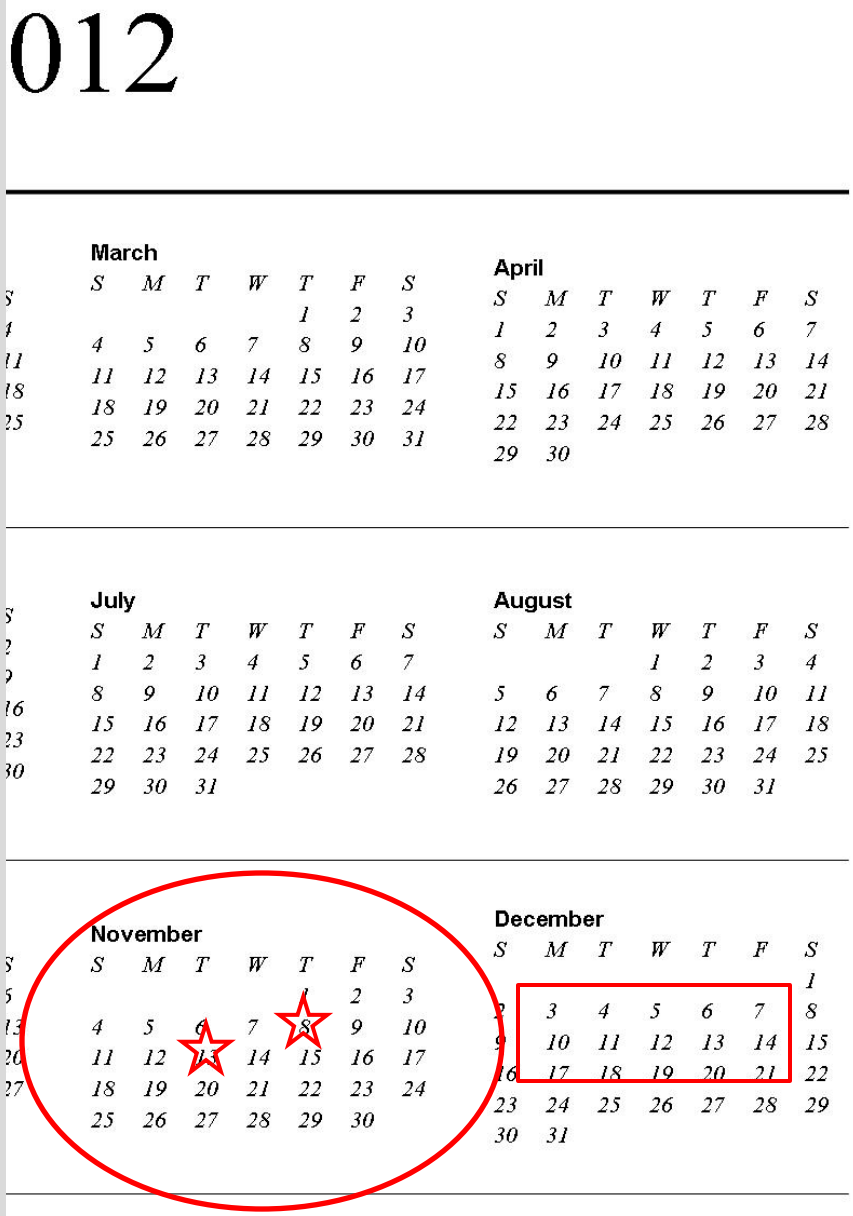
Month #1 –November/ December (Tentative):

- Introduce project selection process to Transit and Bike/Pedestrian committees
- Set up Operators Working Group Meeting (TOWG) to compile list of “qualifying” regional projects

Goal

1. *Operators and member agencies produce list of qualifying projects*



2013

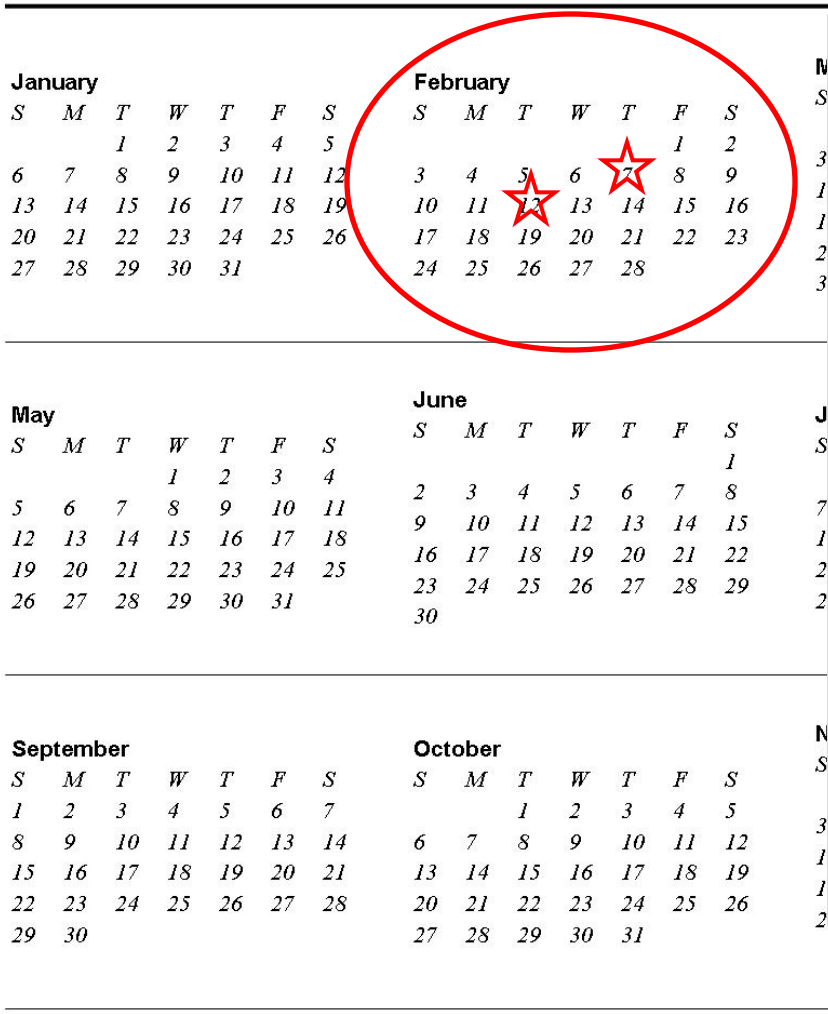
Month #2 – January (Tentative):

- Transit Committee (date tentative) categorize projects into grant programs and approve final list of projects to move forward with *Project Selection* process
- Transit Operators Working Group rank projects utilizing feedback and *Evaluation Criteria*

Goal

1. *Projects are categorized and ranked*

2013



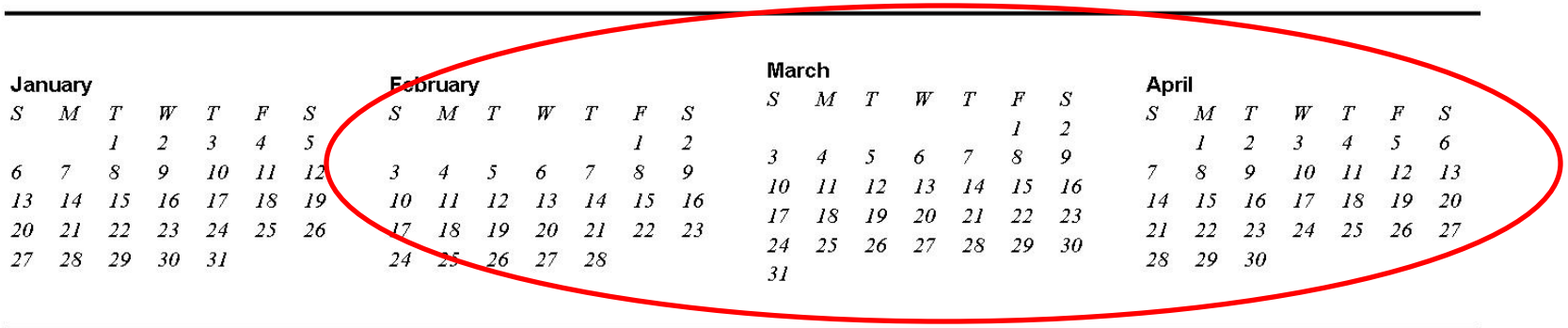
Month #3 – February (Tentative):

- Transit and Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee reviews ranked list of projects and accepts recommendations

Goal

1. *Project rankings are reviewed and accepted by Technical Committees*

2013



January						
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February						
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March						
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April						
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28	29	30				

Month of NOFA Release:

- List of recommended projects approved by MAG Regional Council
- MAG/RPTA/COP Staff collaborate to compile final draft for submission

Goal

1. *Projects are approved by Regional Council for submission.*
2. *Staff completes final applications for submittal*

Goals

- Recommend a formal Process to MAG Regional Council
- Rank and select projects to be submitted to FTA as part of a regional application.
  - Program Goals and Objectives
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Proposed Goals and Objectives

- Achieve maximum funding for the region;
- Provide funding for projects that have the most benefit to the most number of people – either directly or indirectly.

Goals

- Recommend a formal Process to MAG Regional Council
- Rank and select projects to be submitted to FTA as part of a regional application.
  - Goals and Objectives
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Proposed *Qualifying Criteria*

- Demonstrates requirements of the program
- Local Match as demonstrated by either the:
  - CIP Budget or
  - Letter of Commitment
- Project Scope
- NEPA Started (non-CE projects) or Demonstration of CE

Goals

- Ranking and Selection of projects to be submitted to FTA as part of a regional application.
- Recommend a formal Discretionary Grant Selection Process to MAG Regional Council
- Including:
  - Goals and Objectives
  - Qualifying Criteria
  - Program Evaluation Criteria
    - State of Good Repair
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Evaluation Criteria

<u>State of Good Repair</u>

- Section I: Demonstration of Need
- Section II: Planning and Local & Regional Prioritization/Project Readiness

Evaluation Criteria

<u>Bus Livability</u>

- Section I: Linkage to Livability Principles
- Section II: Planning and Local & Regional Prioritization/Project Readiness
- Section III: Leveraging of Public and Private Investments

Evaluation Criteria

<u>Clean Fuels</u>

- Section I: Demonstration of Need/Technological Advancement
- Section II: Planning and Local & Regional Prioritization/Project Readiness

Questions?

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