

Ranking Supplemental

FY2022-2028 COMPASS Application Guide

COMPASS issues an annual Call for Projects seeking applications for those funding sources programmed through or managed by COMPASS. COMPASS members and other eligible entities submit Phase I and Phase II applications to get their transportation projects funded. The COMPASS Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) is charged with ranking project applications received in response to the Calls for Projects. Highest-ranked projects are matched with each appropriate funding source until all available funds are programmed (budgeted). Federal-aid funds are programmed through the next five years (plus two years for preliminary development), while COMPASS funds are designated for projects for the following fiscal year only. RTAC, after agreeing on the final rankings and programming decisions, makes a recommendation to the COMPASS Board of Directors for final approval.

Paired Comparisons

Individual RTAC members rank each application eligible for:

1. Federal-aid funding
 - a. Surface Transportation Block Grant – Transportation Management Area (STBG-TMA for Boise Urbanized Area)
 - b. Transportation Alternatives Program – Transportation Management Area (TAP-TMA for Boise Urbanized Area)
 - c. Surface Transportation Block Grant – Urban (STBG-U for Nampa Urbanized Area)
2. COMPASS funds
 - a. *Communities in Motion* Implementation Grants
 - b. Project Development Program

Applications are ranked using the paired comparison method, which is completed online by individual RTAC members at their convenience.

The paired comparison process compares each project with each other project eligible for the same funding source. When deciding which of the two projects is “better,” RTAC members compare them based on predetermined selection criteria for each funding program, such as how the project helps achieve performance measure targets and how it meets the goals and vision of *Communities in Motion 2040 2.0*, the region’s long-range transportation plan.

A.	<u>3</u>	A/B	A/C	A/D	A/E	A/F
B.	<u>4</u>	B/C	B/D	B/E	B/F	
C.	<u>2</u>	C/D	C/E	C/F		
D.	<u>5</u>	D/E	D/F			
E.	<u>0</u>	E/F				
F.	<u>1</u>					

Each application’s rank is determined by the sum of the number of times it was selected over the projects it was compared against. A sample of paired comparison selections is shown above.

The following demonstrates the results of the initial comparisons and ranking of an individual RTAC member based on the example above; the “number of times selected” refers to the total number of times a project was chosen (circled) over another project.

Project Reference	No. of Times Selected	Rank
D.	5	1
B.	4	2
A.	3	3
C.	2	4
F.	1	5
E.	0	6

Once the deadline has passed for completing the paired comparisons, responses are compiled and projects are ranked based on the results. Information collected and compiled will resemble the following table, assuming six RTAC members provided comparisons (the number of RTAC members scheduled to complete the comparisons is normally closer to 35). **Red numbers** below represent the number of times each RTAC member selected that project over another project during the paired comparison process. Projects are ranked in order based on the total number of times they were selected over other projects, as demonstrated below.

Rank	Total # of Times Selected	Project Reference	RTAC Member #1	RTAC Member #2	RTAC Member #3	RTAC Member #4	RTAC Member #5	RTAC Member #6
1	20	B.	4	0	6	1	5	4
2	19	D.	5	0	3	2	5	4
3	16	A.	3	6	2	0	1	4
4	15	C.	2	3	1	5	1	3
5	12	F.	1	5	1	5	0	0
6	8	E.	0	1	2	2	3	0

Once projects are ranked, COMPASS presents the initial ranking results to RTAC for review and discussion and to break any ties. Final ranking recommendations are made to the COMPASS Board of Directors after the results are discussed and agreed upon. A similar discussion and consensus occurs prior to RTAC providing a recommendation to the COMPASS Board of Directors for programming of funding.

Paired Comparison Grouping

The number of comparisons grows exponentially as more applications are added to the list. Therefore, COMPASS staff divides the comparisons into groups by funding source to ease the efforts of RTAC members. If a project is eligible for multiple funding sources, that project is included in each applicable group. This process results in multiple sets of rankings, one for each funding source.

Paired Comparison Tools

COMPASS staff provides RTAC with a summary sheet (matrix) that provides an “at-a-glance” view of information included in each funding application to assist in the paired comparison process. Links to the full applications are also provided to ensure all the information needed to make informed decisions is readily available.

The online tool currently used to collect paired comparison selections is SurveyMonkey. RTAC members are given a window of one to two weeks to complete their comparisons before the online opportunity closes. Written comparison selections may be accepted, if requested. If an agency has multiple votes at RTAC (based on the population of their jurisdiction), an RTAC member from the agency may request that the one vote submitted be duplicated for the remaining votes the agency is allowed.