# TPO List of Priority Projects (LOPP)

On an annual basis, the TPO works collaboratively with the cities of Belleview, Dunnellon, Ocala, Marion County and the Florida Department of Transportation to annually develop a List of Priority Projects (LOPP). The LOPP is a process undertaken to identify the highest priority projects in Marion County to receive consideration for federal and state funding through the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Work Program.

As outlined in the LOPP Fact Sheet (https://ocalamariontpo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/LOPP-Infographic.pdf), this process serves as the connection or bridge between the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The primary goal of the LOPP is to finalize a **Top 20 List** of projects eligible to receive funding.
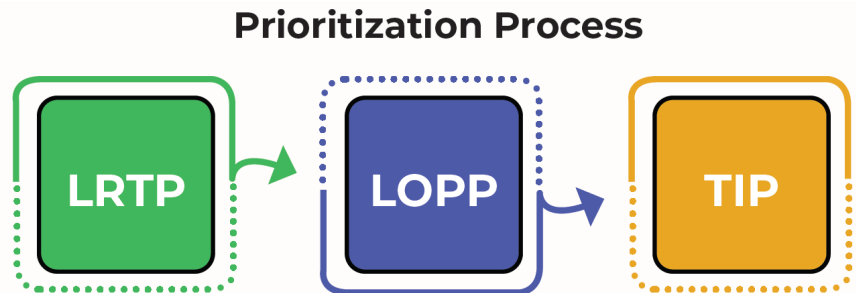
LOPP Process

The LOPP is an ongoing, dynamic process. TPO staff serve as the manager and facilitator. The following summary provides an overview of the LOPP process currently followed by the TPO. The LOPP development is conducted from March to June.

The development of the annual LOPP involves twelve (12) key steps.

1. Review the current TIP and FDOT Tentative Work Program to determine eligible projects, including project phases
2. Identify in the Cost Feasible Plan of the 2045 LRTP all roadway and intersection/interchange projects eligible for consideration
3. Review the Multimodal and ITS Boxed Fund projects lists in the 2045 LRTP for eligibility
4. TPO requests individual meetings with staff members of the four jurisdictions to discuss projects and respective priorities (March, April)
5. Development of an initial list of all eligible priority projects based on input from jurisdictions
6. Analyze and score all eligible projects through the adopted LOPP ranking process
7. Present initial draft LOPP list to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) (May)

8. Present initial draft LOPP list to the TPO Board with CAC and TAC comments (May)
9. Based on feedback and direction from the committees and TPO Board, development of a proposed Top 20 LOPP
10. Present the Top 20 LOPP to the TAC, CAC and TPO Board (June)
11. TPO Board adoption of the final Top 20 LOPP (June)
12. TPO submits Top 20 LOPP to FDOT no later than June 30

LOPP Ranking Methodology

In May 2019, the TPO Board approved a revised process to annually rank transportation projects in Marion County to support the development of one comprehensive prioritized list for submission to FDOT. The ranking criteria developed is grouped by the following six categories. A project may receive a maximum of **10** possible points.

1. **Multimodal**: The ranking criteria looks at whether a project incorporates different modes of transportation or is multimodal. If a project incorporates bike lanes, sidewalks, transit options, or offers a new alternative such as a trail, it receives one (1) point for being multimodal. **1 Point**.

2. **Performance Measure(s)**: Based on federal requirements, MPO/TPOs must measure the performance of projects. This is done by measuring projects based on safety, pavement/bridge condition, system performance, transit asset management and transit safety. Therefore, one (1) point is awarded to any project that meets one of the performance measures, and an additional one (1) point if the project meets two. Please note: most off-system local projects can only obtain up to one point, as most performance measures require a project to either be on or demonstrates improvements to the National Highway System (NHS). **1 Point or 2 Points**.

3. **Project Development**: This ranking criteria looks at the status of projects in their development phase. For example, if a project is in the Project Development & Environmental (PD&E) or Planning phase it receives one (1) point. Projects then receive an additional point for each phase it advances up to construction, which receives four (4) points. Please note: projects can only qualify for one of the phases at a time, with one to four points possible. **1 to 4 Points** (PD&E/Planning 1 pt; Design 2 pts; ROW 3 pts; Construction 4 pts).

4. **Funding Availability**: Federal and state transportation is highly competitive and limited. Therefore, if a project has funding already programmed and/or a lower overall cost (e.g. operations, system preservation) or a lower cost is needed to complete the project or specific phase, one (1) point may be awarded. **1 Point**.

5. **Local Revenue/Funding Source**: If a project has local revenue being invested, it receives one (1) point. **1 Point**.

6. **Local Partnership**: The ranking criteria considers whether a project has a formal partnership between two or more agencies. For example, a project could be a Local Agency Program (LAP) project, or a project that FDOT manages or helps manage for another jurisdiction. In this case, the project would receive an additional point. **1 Point**.

The ranking criteria developed by TPO staff was based on several discussions with various staff from local municipalities, FDOT and internally at the TPO staff level. In addition, the ranking criteria is integrated with the 2040 and 2045 LRTP and how the Cost Feasible and Boxed Funds projects were developed and adopted. The 2045 LRTP goals as weighted in order of significance are as follows:

1. Optimization and Preserve Existing Infrastructure
2. Focus on Improving Safety and Security of the Transportation System
3. Provide Efficient Transportation that Promotes Economic Development
4. Promote Travel Choices that are Multimodal and Accessible
5. Protect Natural Resources and Create Quality Places
6. Ensure the Transportation System Meets the Needs of the Community.

Based on the development of a revised Congestion Management Plan (CMP) and anticipated Safety Action Plan in 2021 and 2022, the TPO expects to revise this ranking methodology in 2022 for the next LOPP process to ensure a greater emphasis is placed on improving both congestion and safety. Any modifications to the methodology will be reviewed by all partners, committees and the TPO Board.