

# Urban Sustainability Accelerator Participation





# Overview

- 12-14 month program
- USA will work with DRCOG and its partners
  - Provide facilitation and technical assistance to help improve the TIP process
- Program engages a cohort of peer communities
  - Possible:
    - Puget Sound Regional Council
    - Wasatch Front Regional Council
    - Centralina Council of Governments
- Participation cost: \$50,000

# Possible Pros/Cons

- Pros

- Consistent with the Board's desire to take a fresh look at the TIP process
- Participation would augment the work the TIP Review Work Group will be doing over the next year to further explore the recommendations of the 2016-2021 TIP Review White Paper
  - *Create a project selection process that places more emphasis on project benefits, overall value, and return on investment*
- There is value in having outside third-party assistance: new thinking, perspective/validation/constructive input
- Customizable menu of potential assistance – can be tailored to our needs – not boilerplate, rigid assistance
- Offers the opportunity to work with peer MPOs (PSRC and Wasatch Front)

# Possible Pros/Cons (cont.)

- Cons

- Customized facilitation does not allow every specific initiative to be identified going into the process
  - i.e., What are we truly getting for our money? Could the funds be better spent elsewhere? Is it possible to replicate the effort at less cost?
- Difficult to predict the level of staff time
- Requires ongoing oversight and coordination to avoid redundancy with the efforts of the TIP Review Work Group



# Recommendations

- DRCOG staff recommends participating in the program contingent on the participation of peer MPOs in order to receive the best possible value.



# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

