

# Regional Project Evaluation Committee

October 25, 2024



Puget Sound Regional Council



*We are leaders in the region to realize equity for all. Diversity, racial equity and inclusion are integrated into how we carry out all our work.*

[psrc.org/equity](https://psrc.org/equity)

# Board-Directed Policy Topics

Two topics deferred by the board in January adoption of the *Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds*

1. Potential limit or restriction to funding projects that would increase general purpose lane capacity
2. Potential application of a score threshold for funding eligibility



# How we got here...

<b>January</b>	Board directed staff to compile/evaluate data to support discussion of these topics later this year
<b>July</b>	Preliminary data compiled and presented to RPEC
<b>August</b>	RPEC members provided input on additional data needs via survey
<b>September</b>	RPEC members reviewed & discussed additional data and provided initial feedback
<b>October</b>	RPEC/countywide forum members provided additional input via survey



# Plan for Today

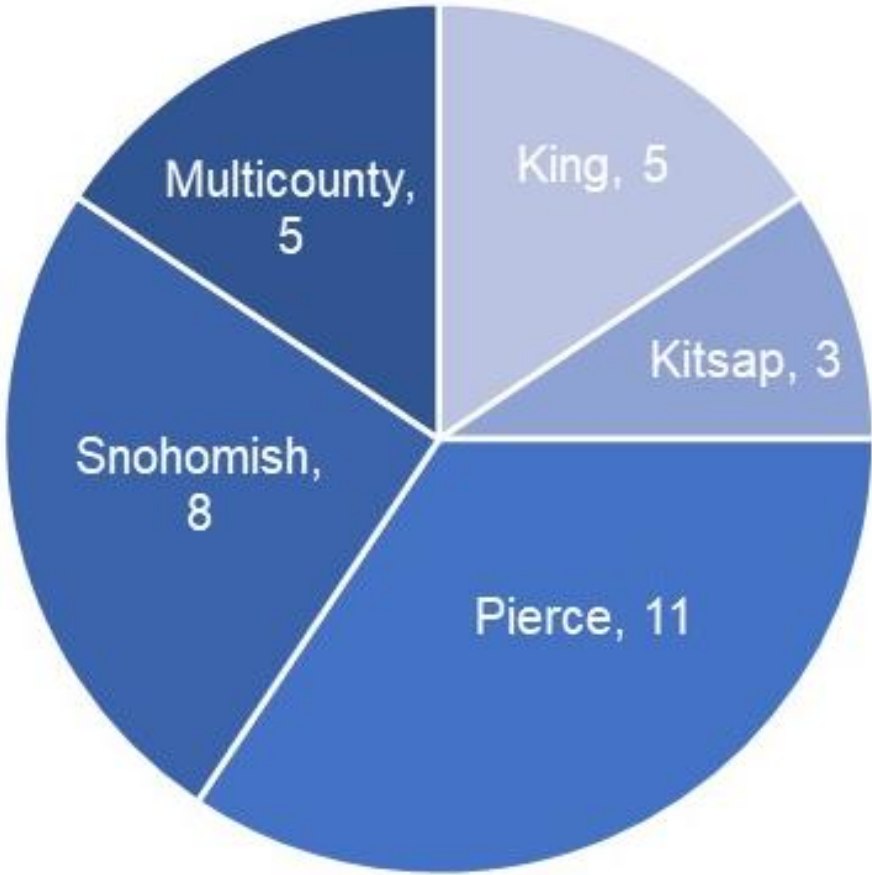
For each topic:

- Review findings – from September RPEC discussion and follow-up survey
- Discuss – any additional feedback or suggestions?
- Determine if ready for RPEC recommendation
  - ✓ If yes, vote(s) will be taken today
  - ✓ If no, topic(s) will be brought back to December RPEC meeting

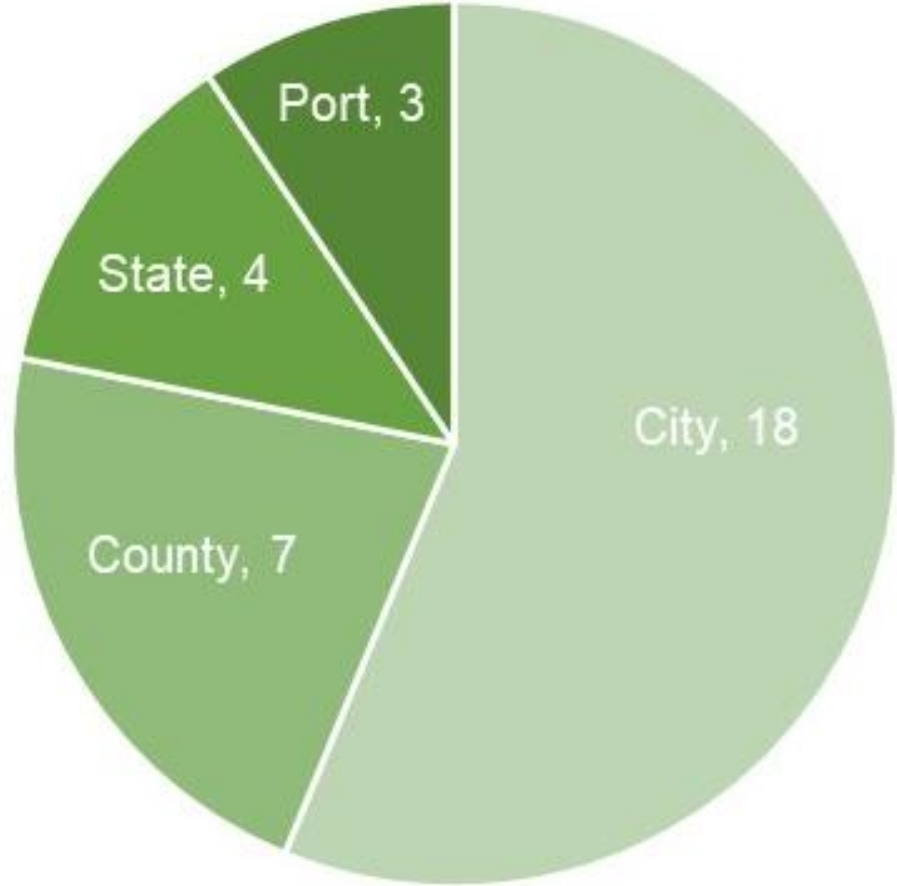


# Follow-Up Survey

Responses by County Forum

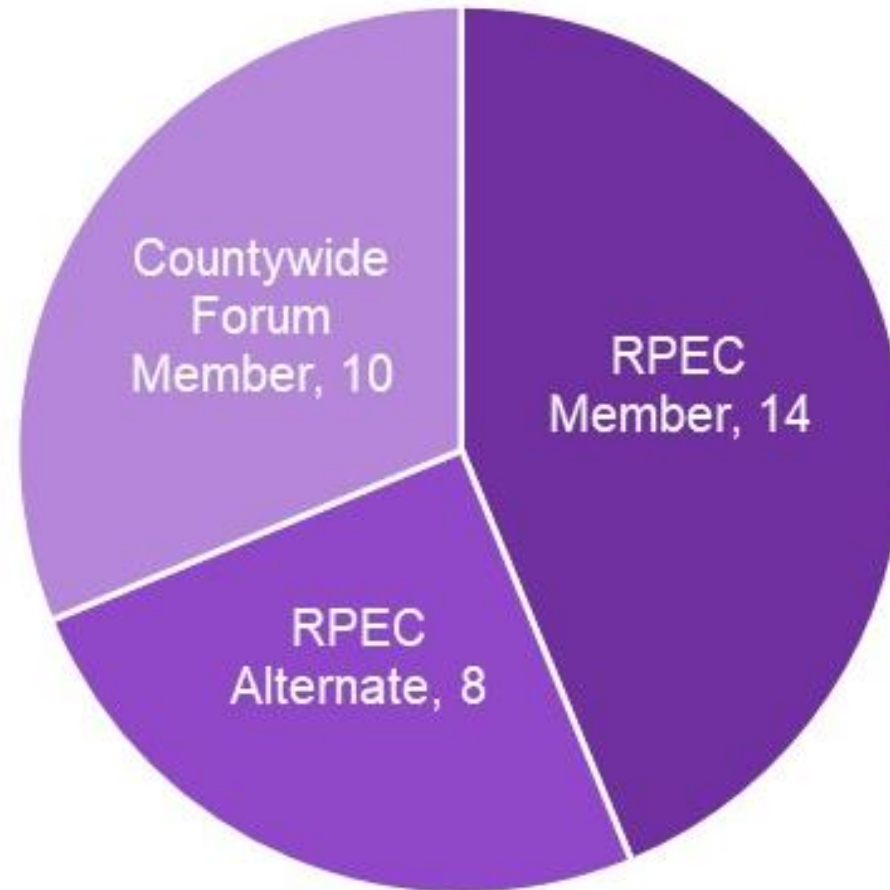


Responses by Agency Type



# Follow-Up Survey

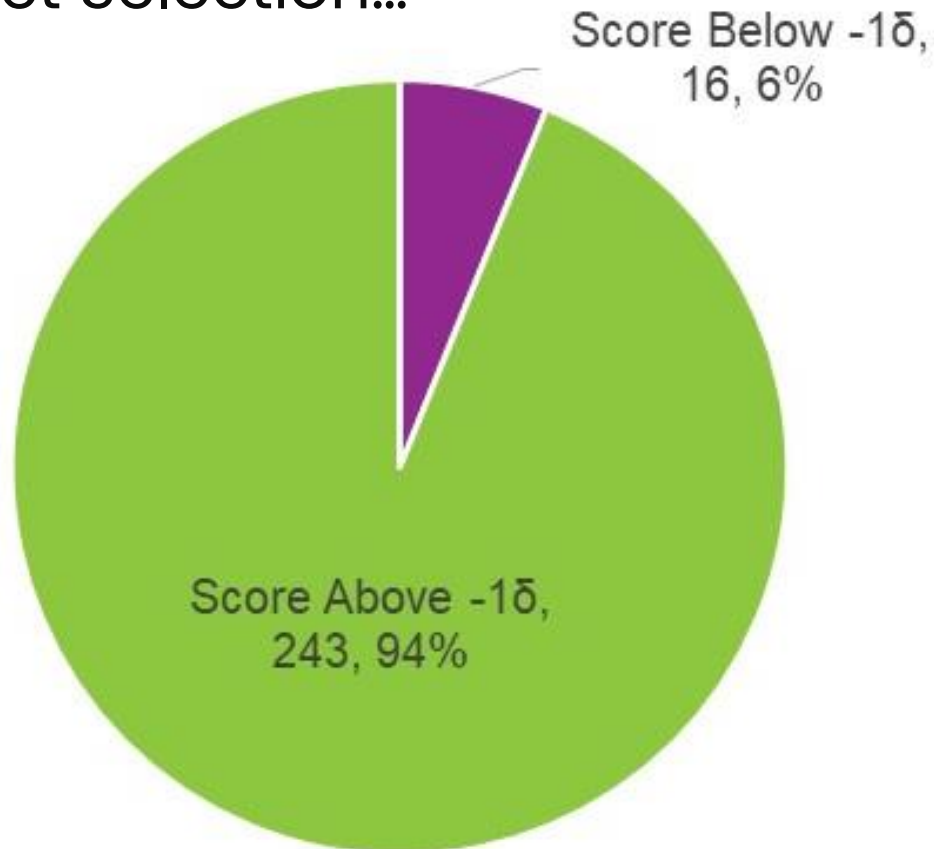
## RPEC/Countywide Representation



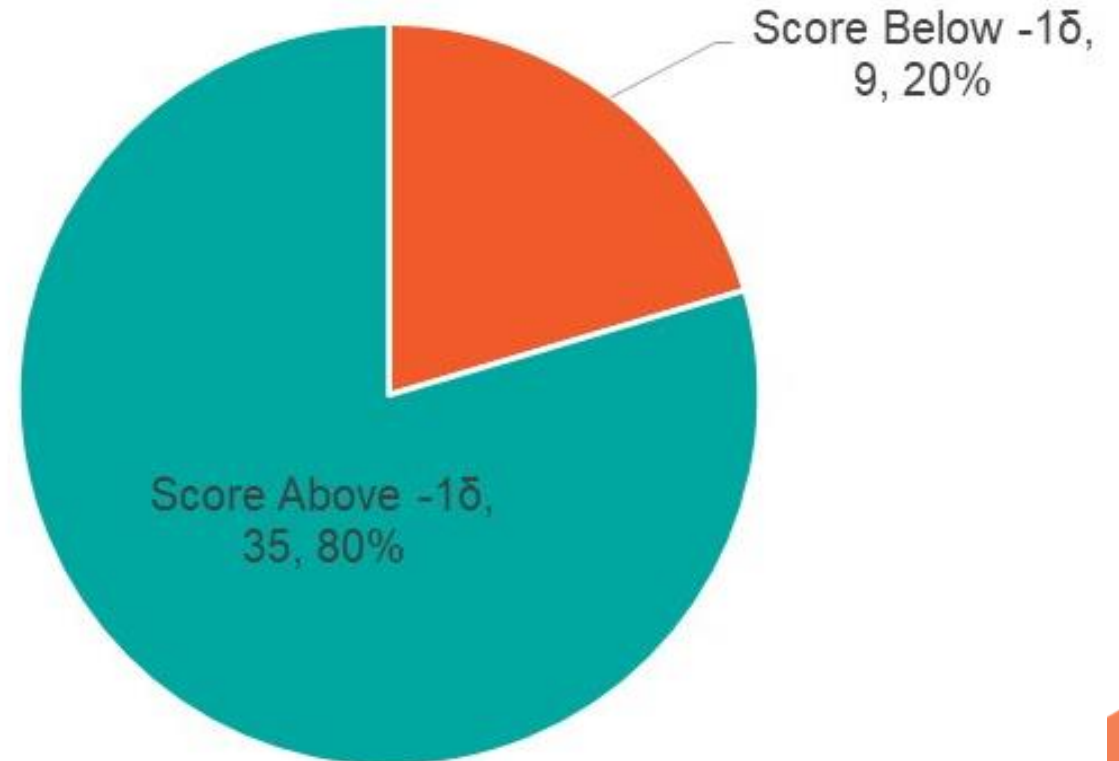
# Score Data Previously Presented

## Proportion of Funded Projects with Lower Scores (2018–2023)

Of 259 projects awarded in Project Selection...



Of 44 projects awarded supplemental funding...

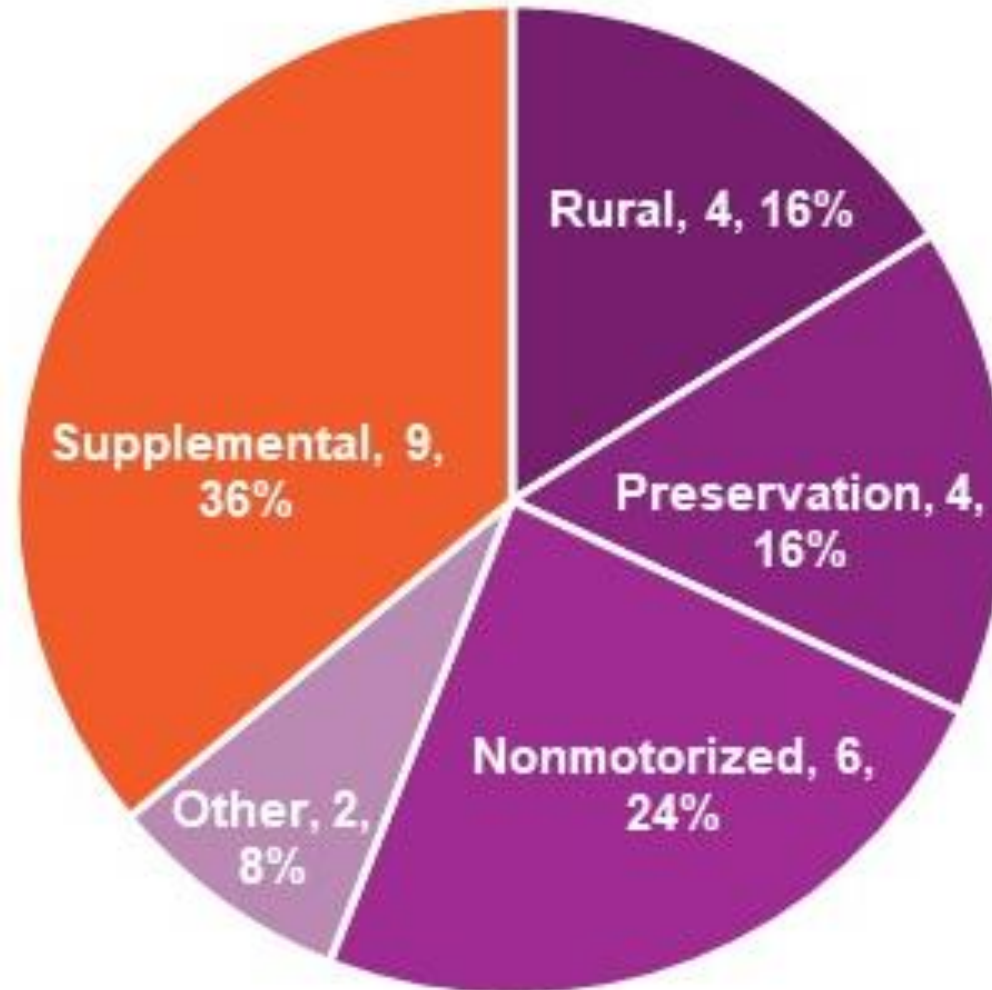


-1σ = 1 std deviation below mean



# Score Data Previously Presented

Of the 25 lower scoring projects that received funding, 2018 through 2023...



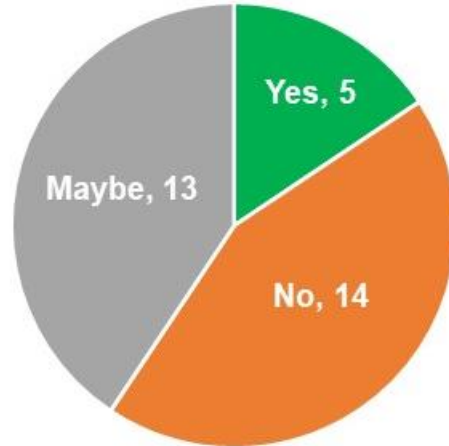
\*Note, both "Other" projects were funded in King Countywide's "Small Cities" program



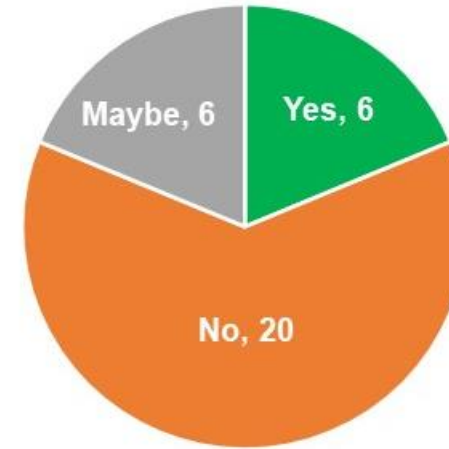


# Feedback from Survey – Potential Thresholds

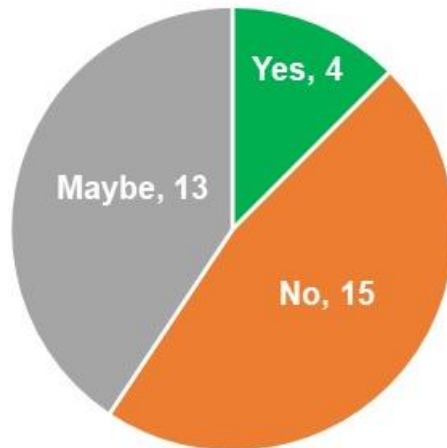
Support in general?



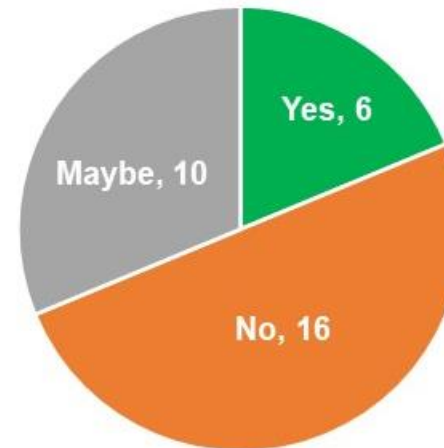
Apply to supplemental funding only?



Apply to very low score? (e.g.  $< -2\delta$ )



Apply to low score PE/Design only?



# Threshold Question – Summary of Rationales

## Reasons for “Do Support”

- Feel that projects that do not align well with PSRC criteria should not be funded, regardless of phase
- Some openness voiced for potentially limiting award to lower scoring PE phases – concern that it could set up a project for failure later



# Threshold Question – Summary of Rationales

## Reasons for “Do Not Support”

- Feel the data shows that
  - Existing policies, criteria and recommendation processes are working and that relatively few low scoring projects are being funded
  - Score has been the primary consideration in funding recommendations
    - But it’s not the only one – process allows recommendation committees to take other factors into account that may not be reflected in solely in a score
  - Award to lower scoring projects has primarily been applied to meet set-aside goals



# Threshold Question – Summary of Rationales

## Reasons for “Do Not Support”

- Feel that given the data, application of a threshold would add complication out of proportion with potential benefit
  - Concern that it could undermine efforts to meet set-aside goals, geographic balance goals
  - Concern that consistency across forums would still be a challenge



# Threshold Question – Summary of Rationales

## Reasons for “Do Not Support”

- Regarding low score awards via supplemental funding action
  - Feel that the reordering rebalancing steps will dampen the occurrence – desire to let this policy change play out
  - Outside rebalancing process, supplemental funding decisions are already prioritized according to score ranking








# Threshold Question – Summary of Rationales

## Reasons for “Do Not Support”

- Regarding low score awards to PE phases
  - Feel that agencies will “self regulate” due to risk of federalizing a project that has poor chance of progressing
    - Suggestion that this could be further minimized through agency education
  - Recognize that agencies may still opt to seek funding from other sources



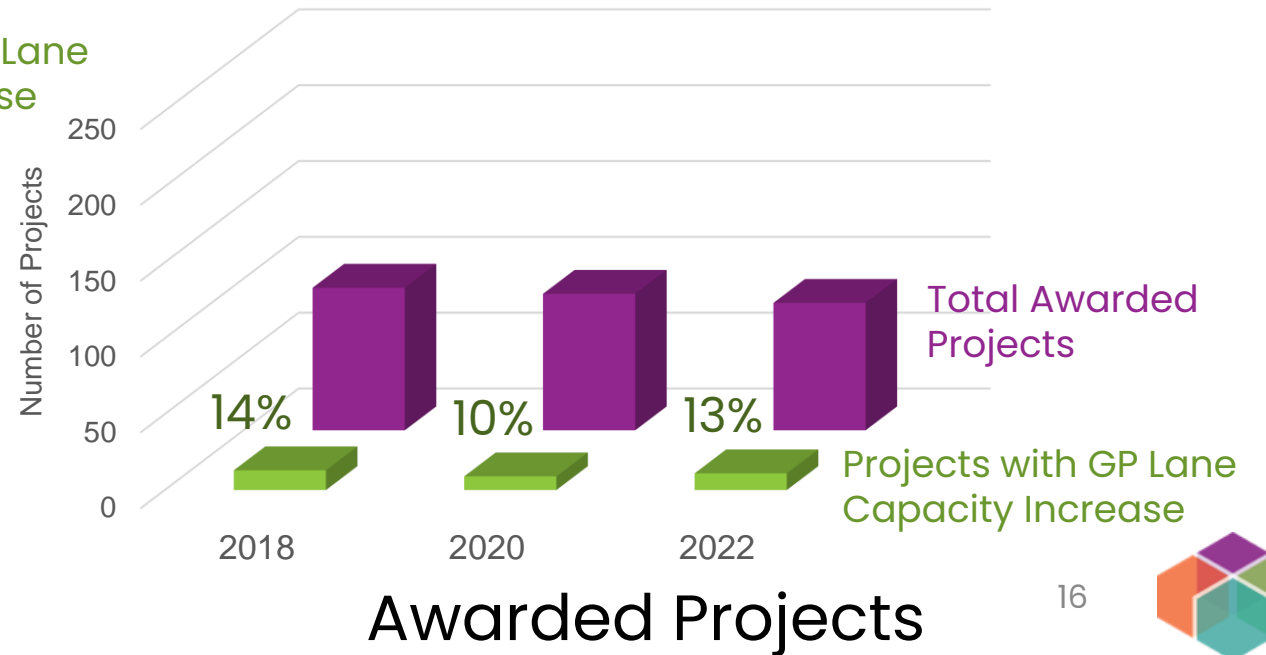
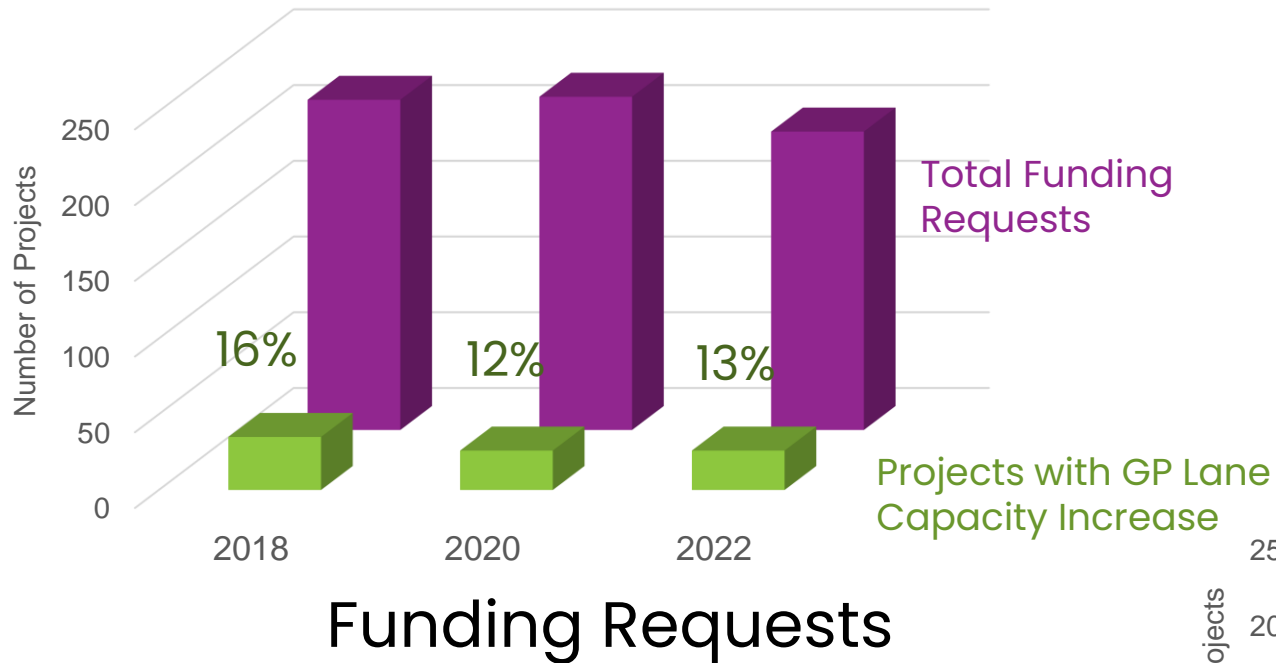
# Scoring Threshold Question

- Summary of feedback overall
  - Support threshold in general? 
  - Support only for very low scoring projects? 
  - Support only for supplemental funding? 
  - Support only for PE phase?   ?
- Additional discussion and RPEC recommendation?



# GP Lane Project Data Previously Presented

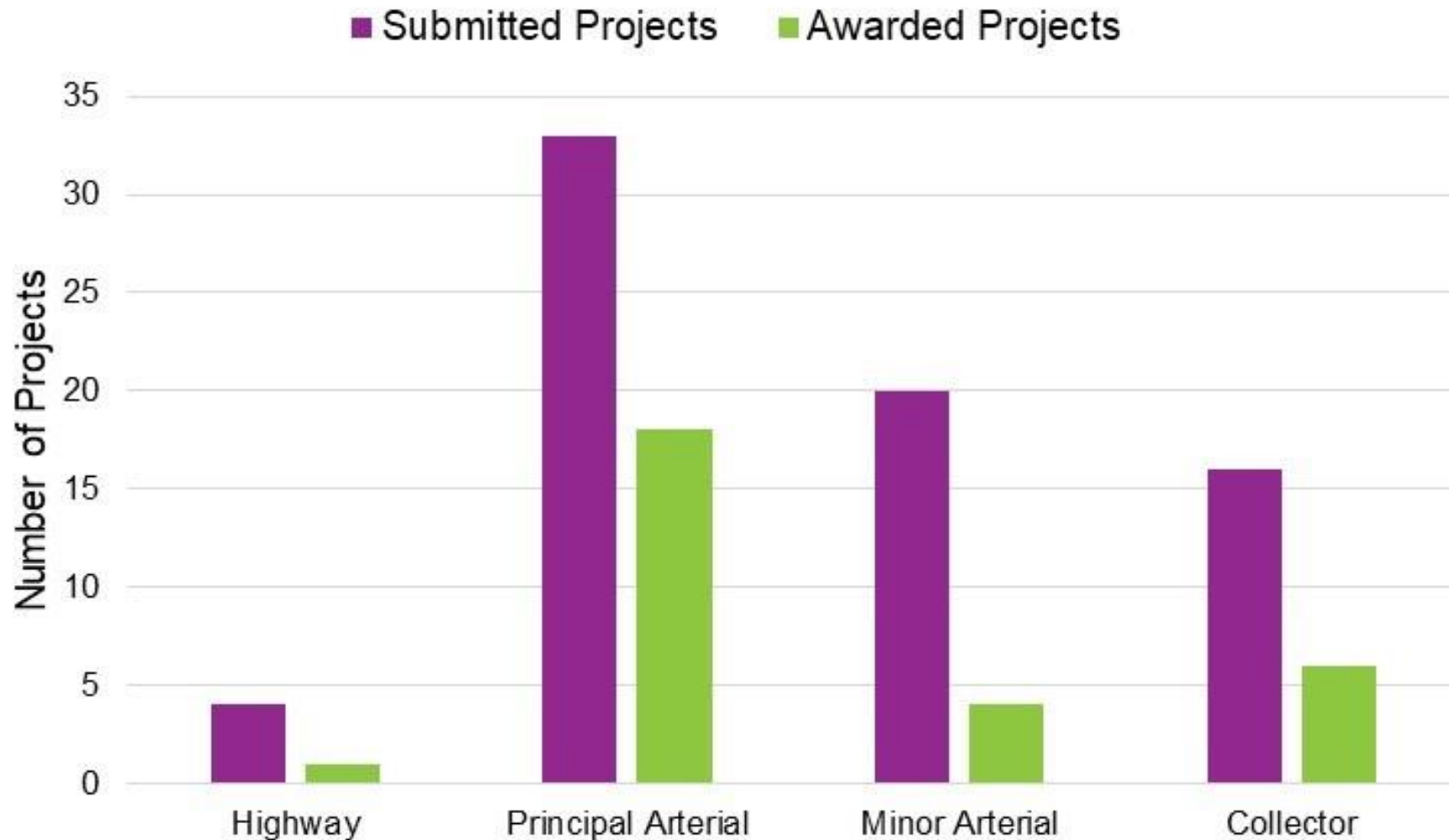
## Projects with GP Lane Capacity Component, 2018-2022





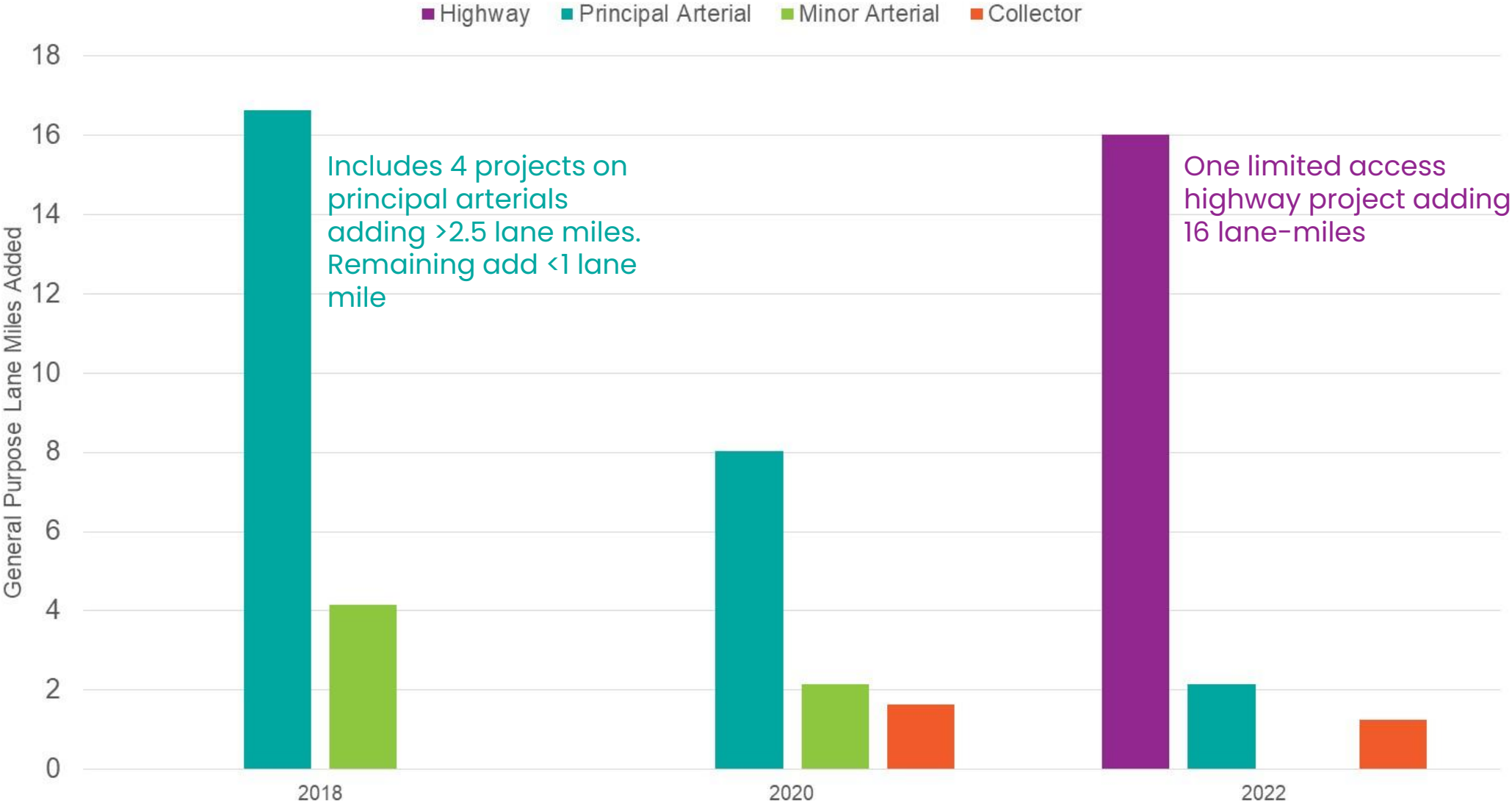
# GP Lane Project Data Previously Presented

## Function Classification Summary



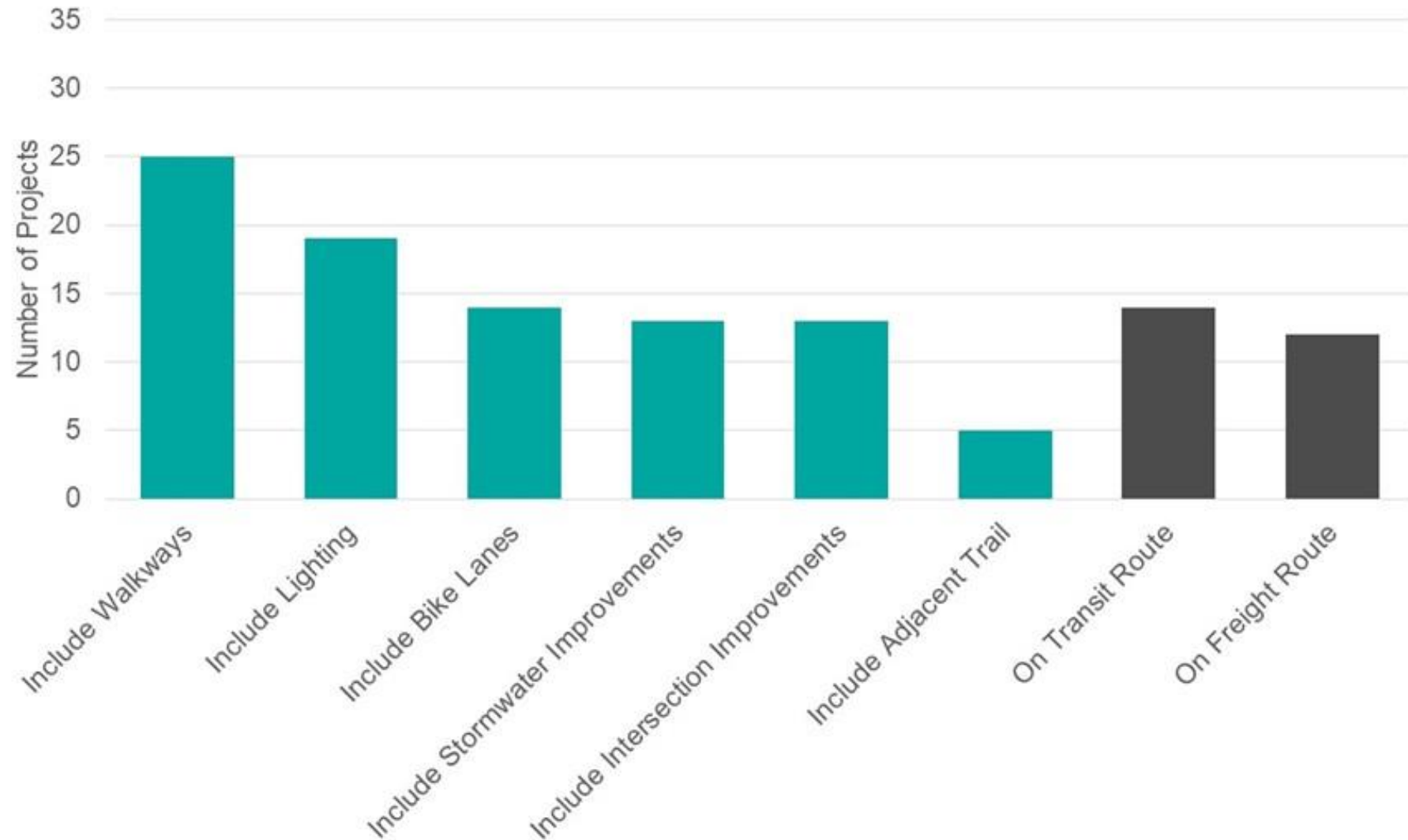
# GP Lane Project Data Previously Presented

About 52 lane miles added through funded projects, 2018-2022



# GP Lane Project Data Previously Presented

Of 31 funded projects with GP lane capacity element, scope also includes...



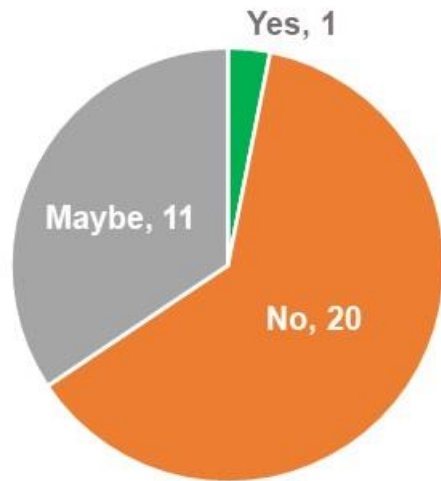
# GP Lane Project Data Previously Presented

## Issues Addressed by GP Lane Component

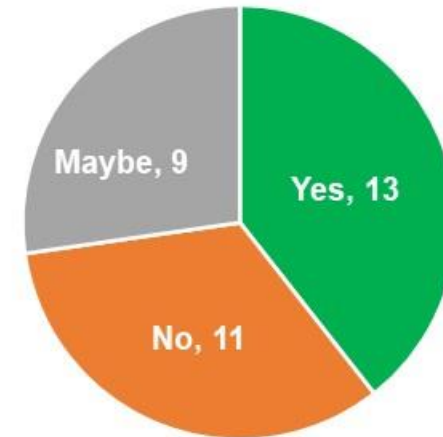


# Feedback from Survey – GP Lane Capacity Restriction

Support applying to limited access highway project ?



Add GP lane capacity question(s) to funding applications?



# GP Lane Question – Summary of Rationales

## Reasons for “Do Support”

- Some general policy support that funding should be limited or restricted
  - In support of climate goals
  - Some support for limiting projects that would increase capacity farther away from centers
- Feel that most limited access highway projects have access to other funding sources and do not need to rely on PSRC funds



# GP Lane Question – Summary of Rationales

## Reasons for “Do Support”

- Some openness for additional questions/additional scrutiny in funding applications for projects with GP capacity element
  - Suggestion that projects that increase specifically capacity for SOV traffic to outlying areas should receive lower scores
  - Some support that additional scrutiny is warranted



# GP Lane Question – Summary of Rationales

## Reasons for “Do Not Support”

- Feel the data shows that
  - Existing policies, criteria and recommendation processes are working and that relatively projects that include GP lane capacity are being funded
  - Projects that have been funded have competitive scores because they’re generally doing a lot of other things
  - Projects that solely or primarily consist of GP lane capacity do not score well





# GP Lane Question – Summary of Rationales

## Reasons for “Do Not Support”

- Feel that given the data, restriction raises concerns out of proportion with potential benefit
  - The region is large and diverse, and feel there are still areas where additional GP capacity is needed
  - Transportation system is complex and interconnected – concern that limiting this one type of improvement could impede projects that would benefit multiple modes
    - Feel that balanced approach to addressing transportation deficiencies is necessary
    - Feel that local agency is in best position to determine mix of projects that will best address issues






# GP Lane Question – Summary of Rationales

## Reasons for “Do Not Support”

- Regarding additional questions in applications for projects with GP lane capacity element
  - Current applications already ask for justification – feel that additional questions are not necessary
  - Feel this adds more complexity to the application for limited additional benefit



# Scoring Threshold Question

- Summary of feedback overall
  - Support in general? 
  - Add GP lane capacity question(s) to funding applications?   ?
- Additional discussion and RPEC recommendation?



# GP Lane Capacity Question

- Additional discussion
- RPEC recommendation?

