GO! Transit Capital Program

Informational Webinar

presented to

Prospective GOTCP Applicants & Recipients

presented by

GOTCP Staff & Cambridge Systematics

SRTA

CAMBRIDGE SYSTEMATICS

GO! Transit Capital Program Webinar

Presenters:

- » David Cassell

  GRTA - Program Manager

- » Merryl Mandus

  SRTA - General Counsel

- » Marc Simmons

  SRTA - Program Manager

- » Cambridge Systematics – GOTCP Consultant

Webinar Agenda

- Background, Eligibility & Key Rules

- Program Goals & Evaluation Framework

- Application Process

- Legal Considerations & Next Steps

- Question and Answer

CAMBRIDGE SYSTEMATICS

Background, Eligibility & Key Rules

GO! Transit Capital Program Background

- $75 million allocated by General Assembly for transit capital projects in 2015 legislative session

- Final project awards by SRTA Board

- SRTA to administer payments

- GRTA to assist in criteria development and application review

CAMBRIDGE
SYSTEMATICS

GOTCP Applicant Eligibility

- **Eligible applicants** include:
  - » *Existing* public transportation operators that are government units
  - » Local, regional, state government units, Community Improvement Districts (CIDs)

- Applicants do not have to be recipients (can apply on behalf of one or more existing public transportation operators), however:
  - » Project must be operated/maintained by existing public transportation operator that is a government unit
  - » Applicant must get recipient to agree to operate and maintain asset per the legal agreement

CAMBRIDGE SYSTEMATICS

GOTCP Project Eligibility

Eligible projects must:

» Be a capital project

» Have a useful life of at least 10 years

- Use FTA definition if available, otherwise applicant must "make the case" for the useful life

» Allow SRTA to have legally sufficient ownership interest

- Deed

- Easement in perpetuity ⟶ More details on ownership at end of presentation

- Bill of Sale

» Streetcar projects are not eligible*

O.C.G.A. Section 32-10-77

CAMBRIDGE SYSTEMATICS

GOTCP Eligible Costs

Eligible capital costs include, but are not limited to:

» Professional services (e.g. engineering and architectural)

» Acquisition of land

» Construction of new buildings/facilities/amenities

» Renovation of existing buildings/facilities/amenities

» Purchase of major equipment of a long-term nature used in an operation or activity

» Purchase of permanently attached fixtures/improvements or machinery that cannot be removed without impairing the facility

» Construction of parking lots, park and ride lots, etc.

CAMBRIDGE
SYSTEMATICS

GOTCP Eligibility Flow Chart
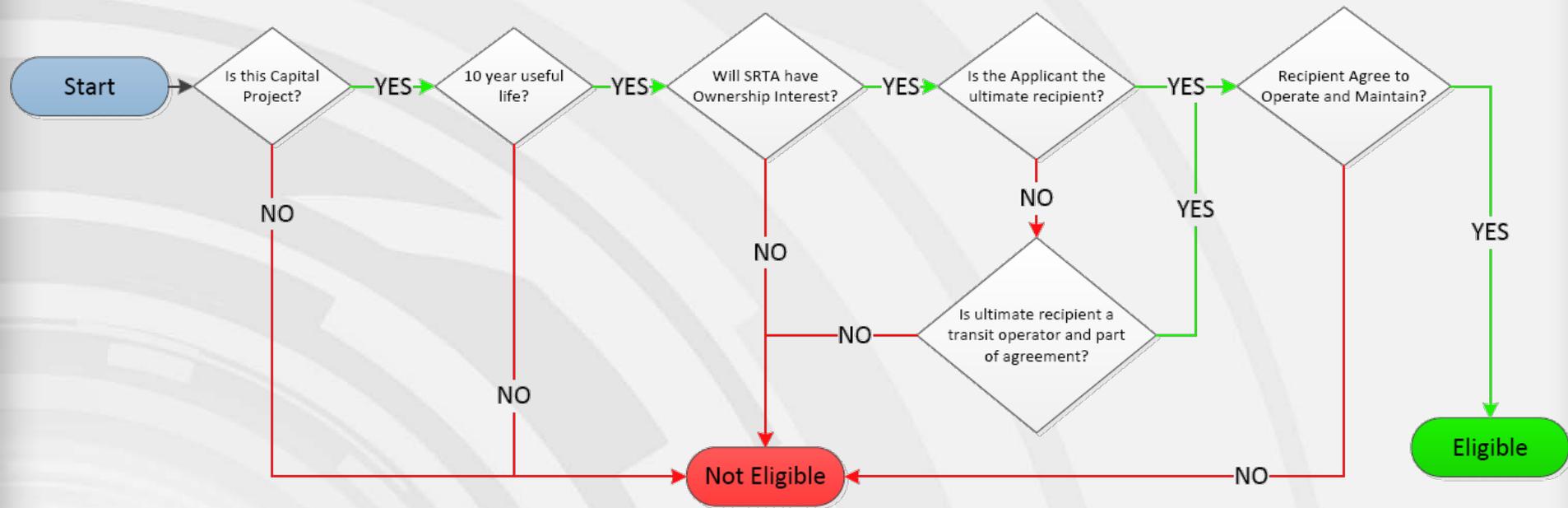
GOTCP Additional Key Rules

◉ **All applicants will be classified as either urban or rural**:

» Applicants only eligible for FTA 5311 funds are rural

» Applicants only eligible for FTA 5307 funds are urban

» Applicants eligible for both 5307 and 5311 may choose

◉ **Applicants are encouraged to submit their best project**:

» No applicant may receive more than $37.5 million (half of the program appropriation)

GOTCP Additional Key Rules

- **Matching Rules**:
  - » No match is required
  - » Applicants providing more <u>total</u> match (local, other state, federal) AND more <u>local</u> match will be given greater consideration

- **Projects already under way** may be submitted for funding:
 - » Phases already <u>completed</u> as of application date cannot count as matching funds – funds for phases <u>under way</u> may be counted
  - » GOTCP funds may only reimburse expenses incurred after July 9, 2015

CAMBRIDGE
SYSTEMATICS

Program Goals and Evaluation Framework

CAMBRIDGE SYSTEMATICS

GOTCP Goals

◉ Increase Economic Competitiveness

◉ Strengthen Access and Connectivity

◉ Improve Mobility and System Integration

◉ Maintain and Optimize System Assets

◉ Improve Safety

◉ Promote Cost Efficiency and Project Readiness

Technical Evaluation

Cost Efficiency and Readiness Evaluation

CAMBRIDGE
SYSTEMATICS

GOTCP Project Evaluation Framework
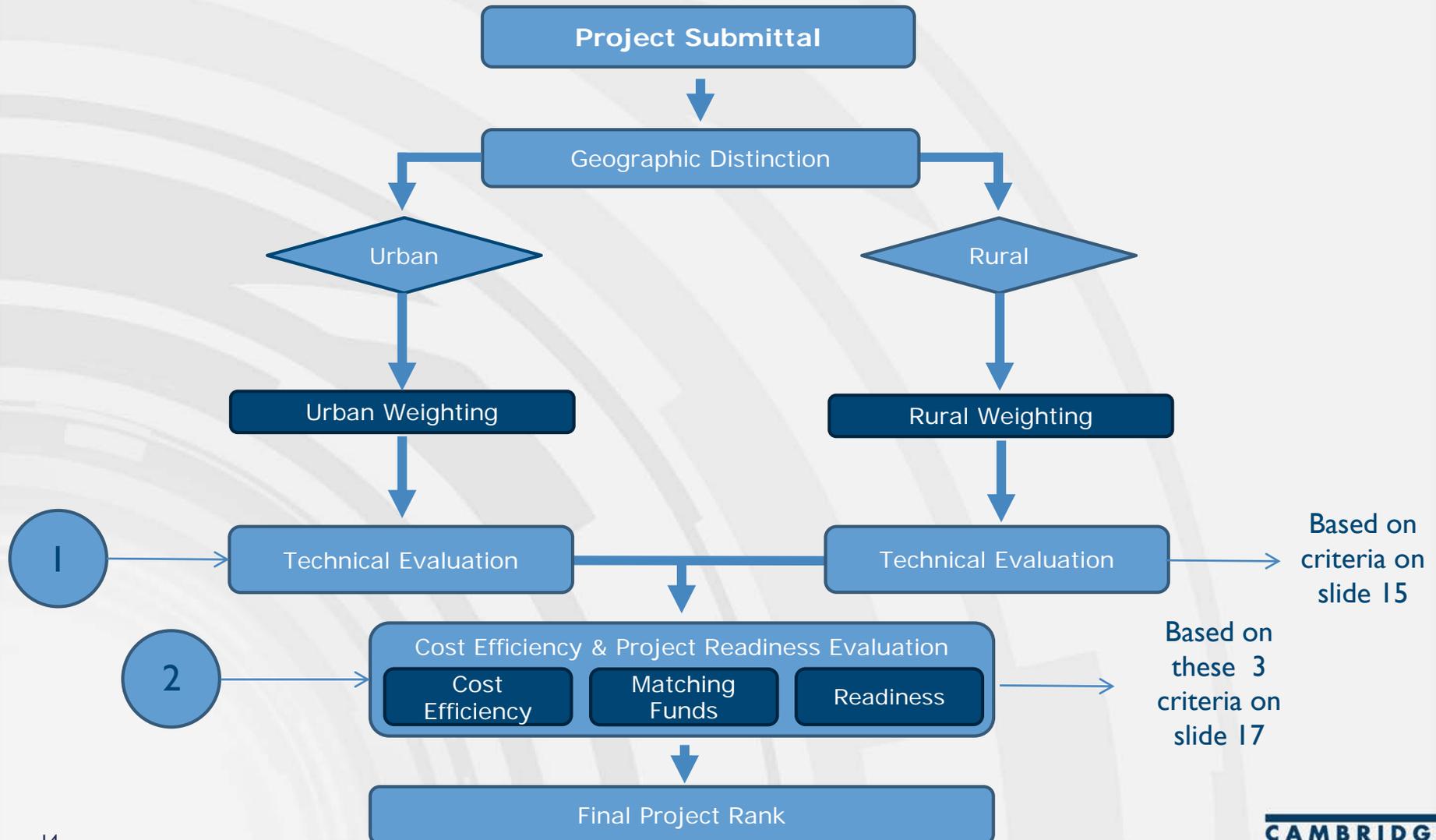
Technical Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Urban Weighting	Rural Weighting
Project enhances connection to employment or activity center	High	Low
Project enhances coordination across service area and/or service providers	Med	Med
Project improves transit ridership or system utilization	High	Med
Project improves access and connectivity to community resources (e.g. educational, medical, recreational)	Med	High
Project enhances mobility for low income, minority, disabled, and / or elderly persons	Med	High
Project improves fleet or facility condition	Med	High
Project addresses safety need	Med	Med
Project includes innovative features, technologies, or service delivery systems	Low	Low

Technical Evaluation Criteria and Goals

Criteria	Increase Economic Competitiveness	Strengthen Access and Connectivity	Improve Mobility and System Integration	Maintain and Optimize System Assets	Promote Funding and Financial Efficiency	Improve Safety
Project enhances connection to employment or activity center	✓	✓	✓			
Project enhances coordination across service area and/or service providers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Project improves transit ridership or system utilization	✓		✓	✓		✓
Project improves access and connectivity to community resources (e.g. educational, medical, recreational)	✓	✓	✓			✓
Project enhances mobility for low income, minority, disabled, and / or elderly persons	✓	✓	✓			✓
Project improves fleet or facility condition	✓			✓	✓	✓
Project addresses safety need				✓		✓
Project includes innovative features, technologies, or service delivery systems	✓		✓	✓	✓	

Cost Efficiency & Readiness Criteria

Evaluation will be based on three criteria:

» **Cost Efficiency** – Technical Evaluation score/requested GOTCP funds

» **Matching Funds:**

- Greater consideration given for more total matching funds (all non-GOTCP)

- Greater consideration for more local funds (non-state/federal)

» **Readiness:**

- Greater consideration for projects closer to being in service (from date of GOTCP award)

- Greater consideration for projects with all necessary permits (environmental, planning requirements, other compliance) and strong capital/operating financial plan

CAMBRIDGE
SYSTEMATICS

Elements that Strengthen Applications

- **To strengthen the technical evaluation:**

  - » Focus on benefits to transit system users and cost efficiency benefits

  - » Quantify stated benefits or existing conditions that are being improved wherever possible

- **To strengthen the cost efficiency and readiness evaluation:**

  - » Smaller GOTCP funding requests will improve cost efficiency criterion

  - » More total match and local match will be given more consideration

  - » Projects that are closer to being in service for end users and have cleared compliance requirements (e.g., environmental permitting, planning requirements, etc.) and have a strong capital/operating financial plan will be given more consideration

CAMBRIDGE SYSTEMATICS

Application Process

Key Application Entities and Roles

- GOTCP Staff (SRTA and GRTA staff) will receive applications, screen for eligibility and develop initial ranking

- Advisory Panel will review project evaluations and make recommendations for award to the SRTA Board – members of Panel include:

  » Assoc. City County Governments (ACCG)

  » GA Assoc. of Regional Commissions (GARC)

  » GA Department of Transportation (GDOT)

  » GA Municipal Assoc. (GMA)

  » Office of Planning and Budget (OPB)

  » GA Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA)

  » GA Transit Association (GTA)

Application Review and Selection Process
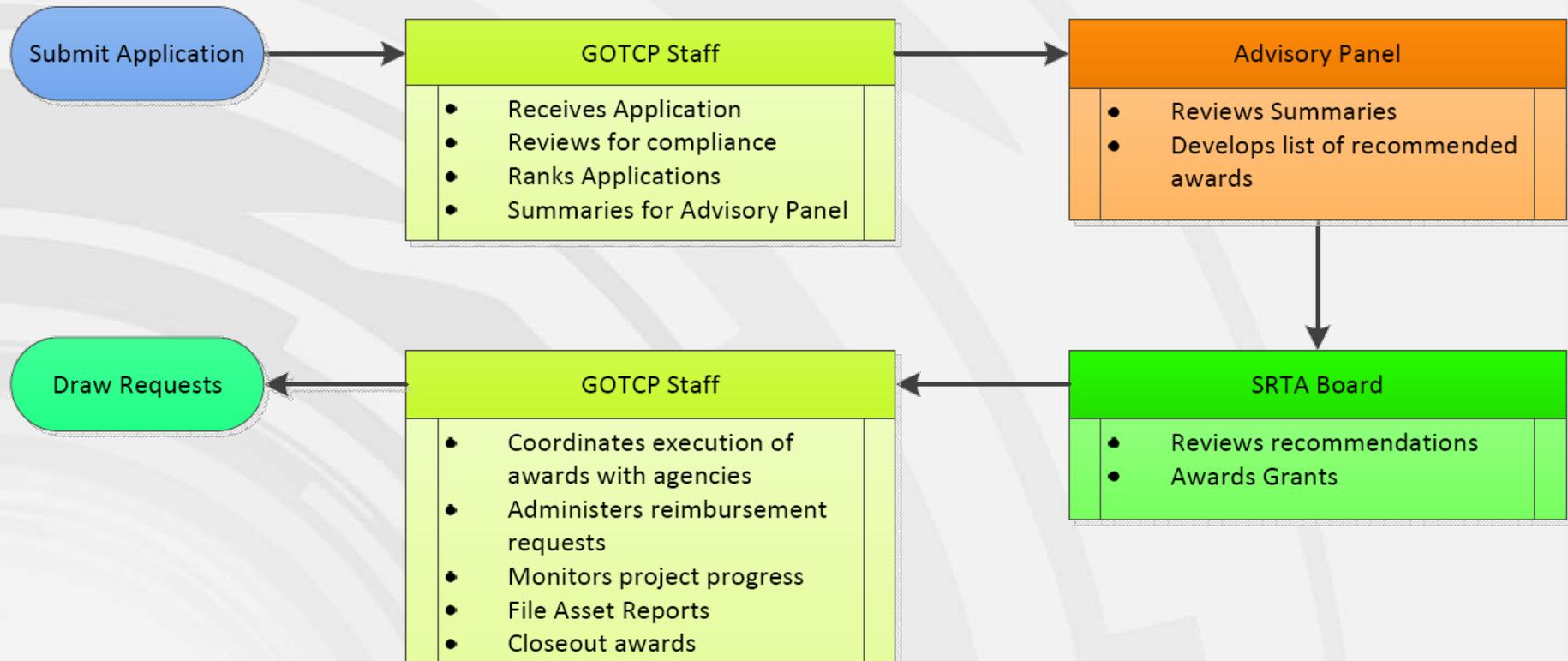
Legal Considerations & Next Steps

Distribution of Funds (methods to establish state ownership in transit asset)

1. Reimbursement of new capital asset purchase/expense along with transfer of ownership to SRTA

2. Transfer of fee simple ownership to SRTA of real property to be improved and then SRTA reimburses (or directly pays) invoices for capital expenses of eligible labor & materials for the awarded project

3. Awardee provides an easement in perpetuity to SRTA for the project site and then SRTA reimburses (or directly pays) invoices for capital expenses of eligible labor & materials for the awarded project

4. Awardee sells to SRTA a related capital asset whose fair market value (FMV) meets or exceeds the award amount and Awardee uses the sale proceeds to accomplish the awarded project

CAMBRIDGE
SYSTEMATICS

Distribution of Funds (methods to establish state ownership in transit asset), cont.d

- Option 4 could allow an applicant to utilize funds for assets with less than a 10 year useful life or operating expenses **however**:

  » The applicant would have to sell the state an existing transit asset with a minimum 10 year useful life, and

  » SRTA would have to approve the sale (i.e., desire/agree to own the asset)

- This option would likely be utilized sparingly and only after significant discussions with the applicant, and key state stakeholders

  » GOTCP staff encourage interested applicants to discuss this and other options prior to the application window opening (staff will be available after the window opens as well)

CAMBRIDGE SYSTEMATICS

Next Steps

- Feedback on the GOTCP is encouraged – **please provide comments by 10/2**
  - » GOTCP staff will use this feedback to finalize the program by mid October

- GOTCP **website will be live mid October**
  - » Site will have all relevant information including application, eligibility rules, FAQ's. etc.

- GOTCP staff are available to address questions - please send them to GOtransit@georgiatolls.com

- **Application window** expected to open in **late October 2015** and remain open into **January 2016**

CAMBRIDGE
SYSTEMATICS

Question and Answer Session