Decision Support Tool Overview

- The Decision Support Tool helps the MBTA prioritize projects for capital investment and inclusion in that year’s CIP (Capital Investment Program)

- The tool was created two years ago via a group exercise in which MBTA Senior Managers discussed and determined criteria and weights

- Since then, departments give their list of projects to Capital Budget each year and an assigned Subject Matter Expert is responsible for rating each projects for their respective criteria

- The weighted list of projects is then optimized for total score within the financial constraints. After some manual manipulation, the list of projects is finalized

Source: “Rating Scale for Decision Support Tool”, “Decision Support Tool Criteria Tree and Definitions”
The tool ranks projects based on four key criteria: 1) Impact on the Environment/Alignment to GreenDot Objectives 2) System Preservation 3) Financial Considerations 4) Operations Impact

Each parent criteria is assigned a weight with Operations Impact carrying the most weight (40%) and Impact on Environment/Alignment to GreenDot Objectives carrying the least (10%)

Within each Parent Criteria, there are Child Criteria with their own weights that sum up to the Parent Criteria

Legal or Regulatory Compliance is included in the project application and the DST, but if a project is found to be legally required it is automatically put into the CIP

Safety is not included in the application process as any projects with a potential negative impact on rider safety are dealt with outside the DST process

Source: “Rating Scale for Decision Support Tool”, “Decision Support Tool Criteria Tree and Definitions”