

Thanks, Becca - I really appreciate your response and clarifications.

I'm happy for you to share my comments with the commission if it would be helpful in improving the process moving forward.

In addition to my earlier note, I would add a few other observations. With the division of the LCCMR leading to an inability to come to a recommendation to the legislature, a decision to apply again feels more risky (i.e. should we resubmit with the chance that the same thing is going to happen again next year, do we have time to sufficiently improve our proposal 3 days before the deadline, should we build this funding into the other proposal we were preparing, etc.). If the lack of a formal recommendation gives the legislature more grounds (or incentive) to move funding around, add projects, cut projects, etc., those of us who have written proposals and followed every step of the process for more than a year are now completely disheartened by the amount of time we have spent on this in the past year, now having to delay our work at least another year and having no ability to strengthen our next proposal with what we hoped would be a successful initial proposal. Minimally, it presents a major challenge to prepare another proposal for the current RFP when a decision on the previous round of funding has not yet been made.

Furthermore, I have had discussions with other applicants across the state, and a recurring theme is that the process often feels like it favors the larger, more well-known institutions in the state and/or the individual interests of committee members.

Best,

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Hi Becca,

Thank you for the regular updates. I'm disappointed to see so many proposals being cut that have waited with hope for so long (and now it being largely too late to try again to incorporate projects we hoped would be funded into the current RFP).

Is it common that funds are allocated to projects that didn't go through the LCCMR process, and that select projects can be given more money than they requested? If that is the case, this may be something applicants should become more aware of, as in my opinion it is not an equitable process.

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