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SHERRY BROECKER.....District 12

RICK AGUILAR.....District 13

KIRSTIN BEACH.....District 14

DANIEL WOLTER.....District 15

WENDY WULFF.....District 16

General Phone:

(651) 602-1000

Data Center:

(651) 602-1140

TTY:

(651) 291-0904

E-mail:

data.center@metc.state.mn.us

Web Site:

www.metrocouncil.org

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Preface

Purpose

This document presents the Metropolitan Council's policies and plans to guide development of the region's transportation system to the year 2030. It addresses problems and issues in preserving the region's mobility and describes actions which will be undertaken to preserve, improve and expand the region's highways, transit and other transportation modes.

Authority

This *Transportation Policy Plan* fulfills provisions of federal and state law.

As the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) of the Twin Cities seven-county region, the Metropolitan Council conducts transportation planning to meet the requirements of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). It does so with the involvement of local elected officials through the Council's Transportation Advisory Board and the participation of the region's residents. The *2030 Transportation Policy Plan* conforms to the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) as required by TEA-21.

State law (Minn. Stat. sec. 473.145 and 146) directs the Council to prepare a comprehensive development guide for the seven-county Twin Cities region. The guide consists of the 2030 Regional Development Framework and regional plans for water resources, regional parks and transportation, including aviation. This policy plan fulfills this state requirement for transportation.

Public Participation Process

The Council provided a variety of methods for interested parties and the public to participate in the formulation of the region's Transportation Policy Plan. Described below are the specific activities undertaken to encourage public participation in the development of this regional transportation plan. These activities are consistent with the Council's Public Participation Plan, found in Appendix C of this plan.

The plan adopted in 2009 committed the Council to an update of the plan in 2010 to incorporate changes from the Metropolitan Highway System Investment Study (MHSIS). In conjunction with that study, 10 public outreach meetings were conducted during April and May 2010 throughout the region. In addition, staff and Council members made several presentations about the highway study to county boards, corridor commissions and other stakeholder groups, upon request.

Presentations identified the issues the draft update would address, as well as the schedule for preparation of the draft update.

- Preliminary plan drafts were presented and discussed with the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) and their subcommittees.
- The draft policy plan was presented to the TAC Planning and Funding and Programming Committees, the TAC, and the TAB Policy Committee and TAB.
- July 26, 2010 – Council adopted the draft plan for purpose of public hearing. Notice of the hearing was provided in the State Register, two daily newspapers, seven Council designated county newspapers, and on the Council website.
- August and September 2010 - Four additional public open houses were held throughout the region to present the draft plan.
- Sept. 27, 2010 – Public hearing on draft plan.
- Oct. 7, 2010 – Record closed on public comments.
- Copies of the draft plan and background material were posted on the Council's Web site, and hard copies were provided free upon request. The draft plan was sent to the Legislative library, St. Paul, Minneapolis and five county libraries for public access.
- Comments were accepted at the public hearing, at open houses via comment cards, mail, facsimile, a comment telephone line, and email.
- Copies of all comments received are available for review at the Council's Data Center.
- The Council's Transportation Committee considered the public hearing comments and report at its Oct. 25 meeting.
- The Council accepted the public hearing report at its Nov. 10 meeting and adopted the plan with recommended changes.