

# 2014 TRANSPORTATION UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM FOR THE TWIN CITIES METROPOLITAN AREA

This document was prepared in part by a grant from the US DOT.



Metropolitan Council

390 Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

## Metropolitan Council Members

Susan Haigh	Chair
Roxanne Smith	District 1
Lona Schreiber	District 2
Jennifer Munt	District 3
Gary Van Eyll	District 4
Steve Elkins	District 5
James Brimeyer	District 6
Gary L. Cunningham	District 7
Adam Duininck	District 8
Edwardo Reynoso	District 9
John Đoàn	District 10
Sandy Rummel	District 11
Harry Melander	District 12
Richard Kramer	District 13
John Commers	District 14
Steven T. Chávez	District 15
Wendy Wulff	District 16

<b>General Phone</b>	<b>651-602-1000</b>
<b>Data Center</b>	<b>651-602-1140</b>
<b>TTY</b>	<b>651-291-0904</b>
<b>Email</b>	<b><a href="mailto:data.center@metc.state.mn.us">data.center@metc.state.mn.us</a></b>
<b>Website</b>	<b><a href="http://www.metrocouncil.org">www.metrocouncil.org</a></b>

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>I. INTRODUCTION TO THE UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM.....</b>	<b>1</b>
A. Introduction.....	1
B. Organization of the UPWP .....	2
C. Related Studies.....	3
D. Explanation of Fund Allocation, Indirect Costs and Local Contributions.....	3
<b>II. 2014 WORK ACTIVITIES .....</b>	<b>4</b>
A. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS .....	4
B. TIP DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT .....	7
C. COMPREHENSIVE AND SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING.....	9
D. RESEARCH AND TRAVEL FORECASTING .....	18
E. OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT.....	21
F. AVIATION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING .....	23
<b>III. APPENDICES.....</b>	<b>24</b>
A. 2014 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM BUDGET .....	24
B. 2014 PRODUCT LISTING .....	25
C. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTICIPANTS.....	28
D. FEDERAL FACTORS CONSIDERED BY PROGRAM ELEMENT .....	29
E. 2030 Transportation Policy Plan – Chapter 12: Work Program.....	30

## ACRONYMS

3-C - Continuing, Comprehensive, Cooperative  
AA – Alternatives Analysis  
ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act  
AMPO – Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations  
APP – Aviation Policy Plan  
ATM – Active Traffic Management  
ATP – Area Transportation Partnership  
BRT – Bus Rapid Transit  
CAA – Clean Air Act  
CAD – Clean Air Dialog  
CAM – Clean Air Minnesota  
CIMS – Corridor Investment Management Strategy  
CIP – Capital Improvement Plan  
CMP – Congestion Management Process  
CPG – Consolidated Planning Grant  
CSAH – County State Aid Highway  
CTIB – Counties Transit Improvement Board  
CTS – Center for Transportation Studies  
DBE – Disadvantaged Business Enterprise  
EA – Environmental Assessment  
EAW – Environmental Assessment Worksheet  
EIS – Environmental Impact Statement  
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency  
FAA – Federal Aviation Administration  
FHWA – Federal Highway Administration  
FTA – Federal Transit Administration  
HOT – High Occupancy Toll  
HOV – High Occupancy Vehicle  
ISTEA – Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act  
ITS – Intelligent Transportation System  
JARC – Job Access Reverse Commute  
LRT – Light Rail Transit  
LTCP – Long-term Comprehensive Plan  
MAC – Metropolitan Airports Commission  
MAP-21 - Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
MHSIS – Metropolitan Highway System Investment Study  
MnDOT – Minnesota Department of Transportation  
MNIAQTPC – Minnesota Interagency Air Quality and Transportation Planning Committee  
MPCA – Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
MPO – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
MTS – Metropolitan Transportation Services  
NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act  
NHS – National Highway System  
RTMC – Regional Traffic Management Center  
SAFETEA-LU – Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users  
SAM – Safety and Mobility  
SIP – State Implementation Plan  
SPR – State Planning and Research  
STIP – State Transportation Improvement Plan  
STP – Surface Transportation Program  
TAAC – Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee  
TAB – Transportation Advisory Board  
TAC – Technical Advisory Committee  
TBI – Travel Behavior Inventory  
TED – Transportation and Economic Development  
TH – Trunk Highway  
TIP – Transportation Improvement Plan  
TOD – Transit Oriented Development  
UPWP – Unified Planning Work Program

# I. INTRODUCTION TO THE UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

## A. Introduction

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is a description and documentation of proposed transportation and transportation-related planning activities in the Metropolitan Area for 2014. The Metropolitan Council jurisdiction includes seven counties (see map on next page).

The participants in the UPWP include four agencies: the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC). (See Appendix C for roles and responsibilities of the participants.) Since the 2014 UPWP also serves as the Metropolitan Council's application for US DOT transportation planning funds, the projects with Metropolitan Council participation are detailed with staff hours and consultant costs to detail how \$3.8 million of federal planning money will be spent, along with 20 percent local match. The activities of the other agencies are shown in narrative form only.

Many of the tasks are required by state or federal law, and are ongoing, including the TAC/TAB committee process and corridor studies, or repeat on an annual or biennial cycle, such as the preparation of the TIP and the regional solicitation. The Council's *Transportation Policy Plan* was adopted at the end of 2010 and updating that plan will be a major focus in 2014. This long range transportation plan complements the region's overall development plan, the *Thrive MSP 2040*, which is mandated by state law and also being updated in 2014.

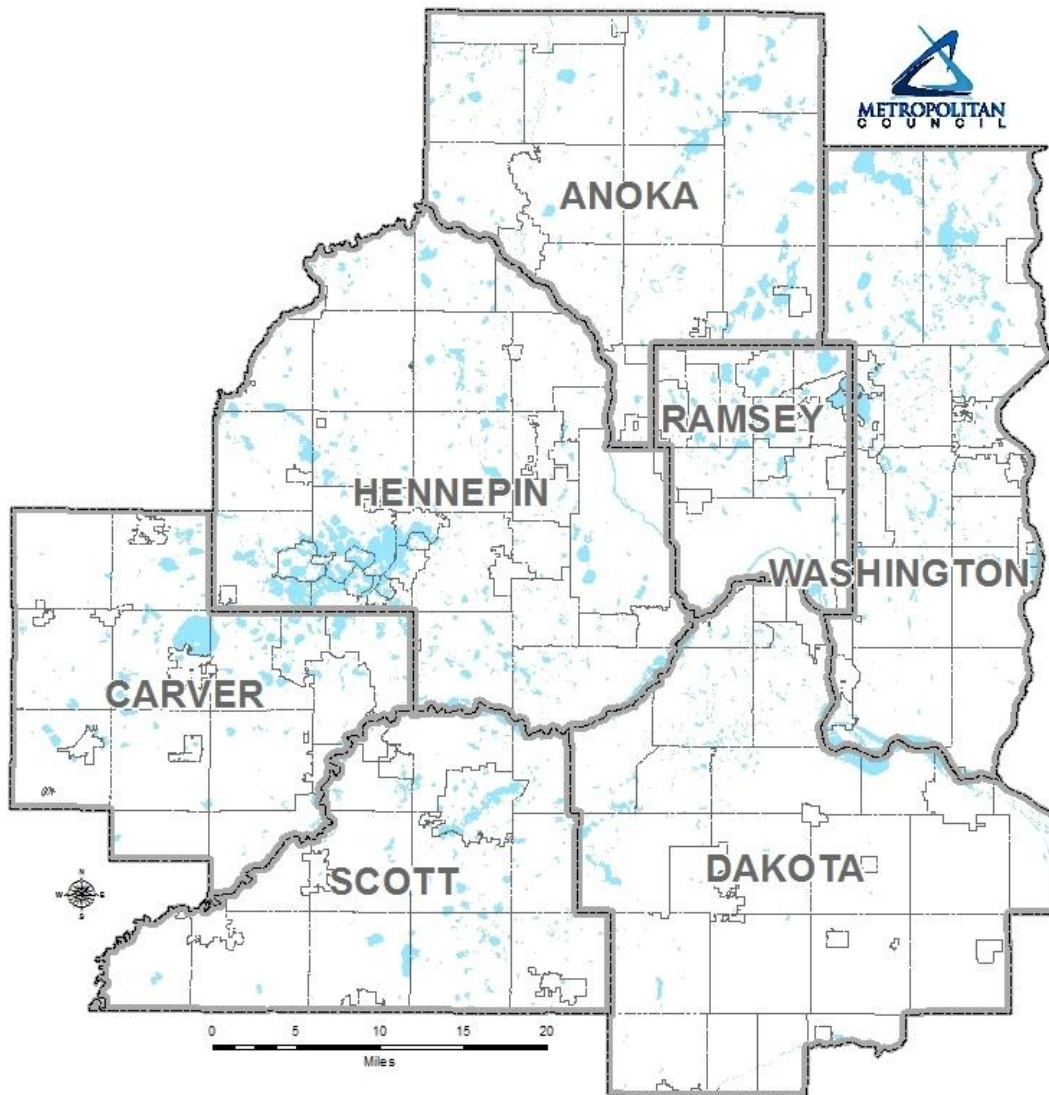
Several other studies that were begun in 2013 or earlier will continue into 2014. These include:

- Regional Bicycle System Master Study
- Analysis of the 2010 Travel Behavior Inventory (TBI)
- Regional Transit Service Implementation Plan
- Implementing Performance Based Planning, as required by MAP-21

Other major activities include many corridor/AA/DEIS studies. The UPWP projects have been reviewed for consistency with the existing Transportation Policy Plan/Aviation Policy Plan.

The Metropolitan Council is committed to a pro-active, effective public participation process, and will use a variety of internal and external strategies including newsletters, telephone comment lines, e-mail, website, on-line forum, media relations, social media, community meetings, public hearings, and public information campaigns, in carrying out all of the work program activities. An updated public participation process was adopted in 2007.

## Metropolitan Council Jurisdiction



### *B. Organization of the UPWP*

The individual work activities and projects are divided into six major activities. The six activities are:

- Transportation Planning Process
- TIP Development and Management
- Comprehensive and Surface Transportation Planning
- Research and Travel Forecasting
- Operations and Management
- Aviation Transportation Planning

A comparison of the federal planning factors that apply to each element of the Unified Planning Work Program is located in Appendix D.

### *C. Related Studies*

In some years there are transportation studies underway in the region that are not included in the UPWP since the federally funded transportation staff of the planning agencies are not involved to a significant level. No major transportation studies are expected to be conducted in 2014 that are not mentioned in this UPWP.

### *D. Explanation of Fund Allocation, Indirect Costs and Local Contributions*

#### 1. Allocation of Federal Funds:

Since 2002 the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds have come to the Metropolitan Council in the form of a "Consolidated Planning Grant" (CPG) which recognizes the intermodal nature of urban transportation and allows flexibility in planning for issues that frequently result in multimodal solutions. These CPG funds are not used for aviation planning, which is conducted almost entirely with local (nonfederal) dollars except for periodic special studies funded by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grants.

#### 2. Statement of Metropolitan Council Regarding Audits as required by OMB Circular A-128. U.S. DOT requires that the following statements be included in the UPWP.

"Arrangements have been made for the required financial and compliance audit and the audit will be made within the prescribed audit reporting cycle. Failure to furnish an acceptable audit as determined by the cognizant federal audit agency may be a basis for denial and/or refunding of federal funds." (FHPM Vol. 1, Chap. 9, Sec. 1, Subsec. 1, #6)

#### 3. Metropolitan Council Cost Allocation Plan:

Indirect costs budgeted in the Unified Planning Work Program for the Metropolitan Council activities were developed in accordance with the Metropolitan Council's cost allocation plan. The cost allocation plan is in accordance with the provision of OMB Circular A-87, "Cost Principles for State and Local Government". The Metropolitan Council's cognizant agency is the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration. The Metropolitan Council annually submits a cost allocation plan.

#### 4. Local Contributions:

The local costs shown with the activity descriptions in the following sections refer to contributions of regional and state agencies to match the federal CPG grant. The UPWP budget does not include the dollar contributions made by counties, cities and other agencies that regularly participate in the 3-C process through the TAB and TAC advisory committees. Staff, elected officials and citizen members of the TAB and TAC committees number more than 150 persons, most of whom meet monthly in regular committee working sessions. Such representatives put in additional hours dealing with written material prepared for their review and response. It is impossible to accurately calculate the tens of thousands of dollars value thus contributed to state and federal project planning for the region. The participation of such persons has been freely given by their respective employers as their contribution to local-regional cooperation. Because these local contributions of time and consultation help to advance federal and state funded highway and transit projects, it is appropriate to acknowledge this further contribution to the 3-C process for the region.

## II. 2014 WORK ACTIVITIES

### A. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS

#### TASK A-1 PLANNING PROGRAM SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATION

**PURPOSE:** To provide planning and administrative support to the metropolitan transportation planning process of the Council, MnDOT, and others pursuant to state and federal statutes and regulations. The process is required to certify the region for continued federal transportation funding.

**APPROACH:** The transportation planning process provides a forum for regional decision making and produces plans and programs for all transportation modes. Process participants are the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), local units of government, transit providers and private citizens. The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) and its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) are the main forums where the various transportation agencies and interests participate in regional transportation discussions, as well as transportation plan preparation and implementation. The Transportation Advisory Board meets monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. and TAC on the first Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. Meeting dates and times are subject to change. For specific information of the TAB, TAC, or Transportation Committee meetings, go to [www.metrocouncil.org/Council-Meetings/Committees](http://www.metrocouncil.org/Council-Meetings/Committees). Details on roles and responsibilities are further spelled out in the Transportation Planning and Programming Guide (June, 2012) (<http://www.metrocouncil.org/Transportation/Publications-And-Resources/TransportationPlanningGuide-pdf.aspx>).

Agency staffs are in daily contact on issues, actions proposed by their own agencies, and on upcoming agendas. Key facilitators for coordination are the TAC subcommittee chairs who carry out formal and informal coordination. The responsibilities of the transportation coordinator, who staffs the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), are part of this activity. The coordinator advises the TAB chair on the Board's agenda and follows through on Board decisions, prepares background materials, and monitors the transportation planning process. The Metropolitan Council provides staff support and technical input to all TAB and TAC committees and other special technical advisory committees and task forces. Staff also provides necessary assistance to the transportation coordinator.

Other products prepared by the Metropolitan Council and MnDOT under this activity include state or federally mandated reports such as Title VI, project approvals and quarterly UPWP progress reports. Council staff is in the process of implement a new digital grants management software solution. This project will improve efficiency, simplify the Regional Solicitation grant application process, enhance grant reporting, and allow better grants management. Council staff will prepare the 2015 UPWP in cooperation with MnDOT, MPCA, and MAC. Staff will attend the quarterly statewide MPO Directors meetings and the annual MPO Conference.

The 2010 Census showed the Twin Cities urbanized area had expanded into Wright and Sherburne Counties sand a small portion of Wisconsin. In 2014 the Council staff will continue to work to integrate transportation planning for this area into the Twin Cities MPO plans and programs.

**RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK:** Ongoing: In 2013 agency staff participated in meetings of TAC, TAB and their subcommittees, as well as work on the grants management software and expanded MPO area planning as noted above. The US DOT conducted a certification review of the 3-C planning process for the region in June, 2012 and the region is awaiting recommendations which will be implemented when received.



**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK:** MnDOT is involved in the planning process as an ongoing participant. MnDOT staff provides technical input, serves as committee members on several TAB and TAC committees, and is in frequent contact with Council staff regarding many issues. MnDOT plays a major role in administering and managing the federal planning funds that finance a majority of the planning work done by the Council. MnDOT staff also provides guidance to ensure that federal planning requirements are met. The MPCA staff participates in the ongoing interagency coordination activities to administer the Clean Air Act and MAP-21 by participating in the review of the TPP, TIP and the UPWP; participating in the work of the TAB and TAC; serves as committee members on TAB and TAC committees; by providing needed technical assistance; and categorizing projects for air quality conformity purposes.

**PRODUCTS**

Committee Agendas, Minutes, Reports  
 TAC and TAB Progress Reports  
 Submittal of Functional Classification Changes  
 Audited 2013 (Consolidated Planning Grant) Fund Statements  
 Annual Update of Title VI and DBE Goals  
 2015 Unified Planning Work Program  
 UPWP Progress Reports to MnDOT

**COMPLETION DATES**

Ongoing  
 Monthly  
 Ongoing  
 April  
 July  
 October  
 Quarterly

**TASK A-2 RESPOND REVISIONS IN FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION LAW**

**PURPOSE:** Respond to revised funding levels and policy direction in the MAP-21 federal transportation law concerning funding eligibility and roles and responsibilities of MPOs, which affect how MnDOT, the Council, and TAC/TAB function in the future.

**APPROACH:** Council staff will continue to work with MnDOT, TAC/TAB and the Council on interpret and implementing any changes resulting from MAP-21, as well as reviewing and responding to any new DOT guidance resulting from MAP 21 .

**RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK:** Council staff has worked with MnDOT, federal agencies, and organizations such as AMPO since the second half of 2012 to analyze changes in MAP-21, adopted in July 2012.

**PRODUCTS**

Revise Policies/Procedures

**COMPLETION DATES**

Ongoing

**TASK A-3 TRANSPORTATION FINANCE**

**PURPOSE:** To research and implement funding options to implement the Transportation Policy Plan to provide financial oversight for transportation planning activities.

**APPROACH:** Constraints placed on the TPP and the TIP are more demanding on the planning process than ever. Council transportation staff will undertake programming and budgeting activities, as well as activities necessary to obtain additional funding sources as needed for implementation of the 2030 TPP adopted in 2010.

Staff will continue to collaborate with the Counties Transportation Improvement Board (CTIB), coordinating with counties and regional rail authorities for transit planning, visioning, and financing. The Board’s vision is a network of interconnected transitways that allows users to move efficiently and safely, while mitigating congestion, enhancing economic development and improving environmental stability for the region.

**RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK:** The Council prepares an operating budget and 6-year transit CIP annually. Council staff also has been working with MnDOT on studying and planning

for alternative roadway financing such as HOT lanes and congestion pricing for many years. Council staff and MnDOT worked with the Governor appointed Transportation Finance Advisory Committee to examine current funding gaps and future funding and financing alternatives to implement a globally competitive transportation system.

**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK:** The Council is the lead agency. Council staff works with the transit operating agencies and Suburban Transit Providers on transit capital planning. MnDOT works in cooperation with the Council on alternative roadway financing such as HOT lanes and congestion pricing.

**PRODUCTS**

Internal Financial Statements  
 Analysis of Financing Methods  
 Selection of Projects for Regional Transit Capital Funding  
 Unified Operating Budget  
 Unified Capital Budget  
 Implement New Digital Application Procedures for Grants  
 Management Software

**COMPLETION DATES**

Monthly  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter  
 December  
 December  
 December  
 Ongoing

<b>Activity A</b>	<b>2014 Budget</b>
ACTIVITY STAFF WEEKS:	262
Estimated Task Breakdown:	
A-1	197
A-2	7
A-3	58
CONSULTANT:	\$0
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES:	\$1,309,238
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS:</b>	
FEDERAL: (CPG)	\$1,047,391
LOCAL:	\$261,848
TOTAL	\$1,309,238

## **B. TIP DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT**

### **TASK B-1 TIP DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT**

**PURPOSE:** Federal law requires preparation and approval of the four-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), including projects selected through the regional solicitation process.

**APPROACH:** In 2014 a 2015-2018 TIP will be prepared. The draft 2015-2018 TIP will be prepared beginning in March to allow for air quality conformity analysis and citizen input prior to adoption in August/September. The TIP also fulfills the FTA requirement for a Program of Projects (POP). The TIP will be recommended for adoption by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to the TAB, adopted by the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), and approved by the Metropolitan Council. Any TIP amendments received during the year are processed in a similar manner. In 2014, an annual listing of obligated projects will be published showing projects with federal funds obligated in the previous year. The TIP itself includes a list of projects authorized in the previous fiscal year, in compliance with federal law.

In 2014, the regional solicitation, for projects to be funded with federal funds will be released and project applications will be evaluated. Projects selected during this funding cycle will be programmed for inclusion in the TIP in 2017 and 2018. The 2014 regional solicitation will include changes that were recommended through the Regional Solicitation Evaluation, conducted in CY 2013. The 2014 air quality activities related to this task will focus on the regional process for conformity determination of the 2015-2018 TIP. The latest EPA regional air quality model will be used.

**RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK:** The 2015-2018 TIP preparation will build on the 2014-2017 TIP. A Regional Solicitation Evaluation Study was conducted in 2013, which will guide future Regional Solicitations.

**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK:** MnDOT staff works cooperatively with Council staff and TAB/TAC to develop revenue assumptions. Staff from the Metropolitan Council, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, TAC and TAB representatives will be involved in the 2014 TAB Solicitation Process. MnDOT coordinates and monitors TIP data for all federally funded projects, and MnDOT Trunk Highway projects. MnDOT has a significant role in the development of the TIP providing at least one full time position devoted to the coordination and management of data and fiscal analysis of the document. In addition, MnDOT staff plays an active role in the development and presentation of amendment requests at the TAC Funding and Programming Committee. MnDOT also administers STIP amendments, as needed. MPCA will continue to attend committee meetings of TAC and TAB, assist in TIP development reviews, evaluate projects for federal funding, and participate in project selection and air quality conformity analysis.

#### **PRODUCTS**

Prepare Draft 2015-2018 TIP  
Release Regional Solicitation  
Adopt TIP Incl. Certification of 3-C Process, Major Projects  
Completed/Obligated in Previous Year, and an Air Quality Conformity  
Analysis  
Annual Listing of Obligated Projects  
Process TIP amendments  
Incorporate MAP-21 Requirements into Regional Solicitation Grant  
Application Process and Enhance Reporting Capabilities

#### **COMPLETION DATES**

March  
2014  
September  
  
December  
As needed  
Ongoing

<b>Activity B</b>	<b>2014 Budget</b>
ACTIVITY STAFF WEEKS:	34
CONSULTANT:	\$0
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES:	\$97,069
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS:</b>	
FEDERAL: (CPG)	\$77,655
LOCAL:	\$19,414
TOTAL	\$97,069

## C. COMPREHENSIVE AND SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

### TASK C-1 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN/ THRIVE MSP 2040

**PURPOSE:** To ensure implementation of the Council's long-range transportation policy plan and Thrive MSP 2040, both chapters in its overall metropolitan development guide.

**APPROACH:** In 2014 this activity will include updating of the Transportation Policy Plan and the Regional Development Framework into the Thrive MSP 2040, as well as ongoing transportation division participation in efforts to implement the long range plans and policies for the region.

- Transportation planning staff will continue to work with Community Development Department staff on the update of the Regional Development Framework, begun in 2012, into Thrive MSP 2040, expected to be completed by the end of 2014.
- Staff will continue work on the Update of the Transportation Policy Plan to be completed by the end of 2014.
- Staff will continue to work with MnDOT on alternative roadway financing issues including the I-35E Value Pricing grant project and other MnPASS and dynamic shoulder pricing projects. Consistent policy and design decisions are needed as the region implements more managed lane MnPass projects.
- Transportation planning staff works with other Council staff to ensure transportation policy is considered in ongoing planning and grant activities of other departments, such as parks, natural resources and the Livable Communities grants program.
- Staff will continue to review Comprehensive Plan Amendments and environmental documents when submitted by cities and counties
- Staff will continue to evaluate requests for additional interchanges as submitted, and to review environmental documents and project reports for consistency with Council plans.
- Staff will also review and approve changes to controlled access highways, as required by state law.
- Staff will continue to work with University of Minnesota (U of M) researchers on Center for Transportation Studies (CTS) and Hubert H. Humphrey (HHH) Institute activities in transportation research.
- Transportation planning staff will continue to work with other Council staff on transit-oriented development policy and guidance activities. A majority of the work will be completed along with the THRIVE MSP 2040 plan.

The Council will provide opportunities to the public for participation in the planning process through the Council website, open houses, public hearings, citizen advisory committees, and other means listed in the citizen participation process in Appendix C.

**RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK:** The Regional Development Framework was adopted in January 2004; the Transportation Policy Plan was last updated December 2010. The long-range transportation plan must be updated every four years to meet federal requirements; the RDF is typically updated once every 10 years. Transportation staff reviews updates and amendments to local comprehensive plans, which must be prepared by local units of government under state law. These reviews ensure consistency of local comprehensive plans with regional land use and transportation plans.

**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK:** Council staff will work closely with MnDOT to coordinate efforts to implement the TPP and MnDOT's Highway Investment Plan. MnDOT serves as the lead agency for Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) activities in Minnesota, including the Regional ITS architecture; Council staff continues to participate in MnDOT ITS activities. Council staff will contribute efforts to the University of Minnesota Center for Transportation

Studies Transitways Impacts Research Program and participate on research on Traffic, Parking, and Travel Behavior Impacts; Land Use Impacts; and Economic and Business Impacts.

**PRODUCTS**

Transportation Policy Plan Update  
 Thrive MSP 2040  
 Performance-Based Planning Study  
 Various Managed Lane Implementation Studies  
 Local Comprehensive Plan Reviews  
 Participate in Various Team Activities (Including Livable Communities, Referrals and Sector Reps)  
 Review of Livable Communities Demonstration Grants  
 TOD Policy and Guidance activities

**COMPLETION DATES**

2014  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2014  
 3rd Quarter  
 Ongoing  
 As Needed  
 As Appropriate  
 Semi-annually  
 2015

**TASK C-2 TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR STUDIES**

**PURPOSE:** To participate in major corridor studies to ensure implementation of the regional transportation and development policies of the Council.

**APPROACH:** Metropolitan Council, regional rail authorities, and MnDOT staffs participate on corridor study management teams, advisory committees, and task forces for many trunk highway and transit corridors. The scale of each corridor study will be consistent with the investment priorities identified in the TPP and MnDOT’s Highway Investment Plan. For instance, some studies may focus primarily on access management and operational activities; while other corridors will be considered for additional investments, such as managed lanes and strategic capacity. Metropolitan Council is the lead agency for design, engineering of, and applications for funding of light rail transit (LRT) in the Southwest Transitway. Metropolitan Council is the lead agency for studies in the Midtown Greenway and Broadway in Minneapolis. Council planning staff also provides input on transit corridor studies and station area land use planning lead by other agencies, primarily the county regional rail authorities. For each corridor study, the lead agency assumes responsibility for public participation, which typically includes newsletters, meetings, open houses, special outreach to affected businesses and communities and websites. Studies will also consider environmental justice impacts at a corridor level. Staff will also provide data to municipalities and agencies upon request to support ongoing planning and environmental studies. This may include travel forecasts or review of forecasts prepared by others. Specific corridor studies known in July 2013 are included in the product list.

**RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK:** This is part of the ongoing effort to implement regional plans at the corridor level. Most corridor studies take several years and may progress from feasibility studies to alternative analysis, environmental documentation/preliminary engineering, and land use planning. Council planning staff is typically involved through many early stages until final design and construction of a project, while staff from other agencies such as MnDOT may transition from planning to other departments after preliminary engineering begins. The TH 10 – Ramsey/Anoka Access Management Study was completed in 2012. TH 41 EIS will be completed in 2013.

**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK:** MnDOT is usually the lead agency for highway corridors. MnDOT has developed a planning prioritization process to help in the identification and prioritization of Metro District studies. The following studies will continue in 2014: TH 41 – Tier I EIS, the TH 36 the interchange feasibility study at TH 36 and Hadley Avenue/TH 120, and TH 280/194 Interchange Feasibility Study. For many transit corridors, the regional rail authorities are the lead agencies for feasibility, AA or NEPA studies although responsibility is usually transferred to the implementing agency when PE commences. Council staff participates in station land use planning activities lead by counties or cities along transit corridors (e.g., a Southwest LRT

Community Works project has been formed by Hennepin County; and Council leadership and staff are participating in a Steering Committee and Technical Implementation Committee, in addition to leading a Southwest LRT Management Committee). MnDOT also works on transit studies, especially where the corridor utilizes a MnDOT highway, such as Cedar or I-35W BRT; or commuter rail projects, where MnDOT has responsibilities under state law. MPCA staff will provide input regarding the applicability of MAP-21 and CAAA air quality requirements, and state noise rules during environmental document development by reviewing and commenting on proposed highway and transit construction and/or reconstruction projects. The majority of corridor study costs are typically incurred by the leading agency for both staff and consultant work and are reflected in their own agency budget.

**PRODUCTS**

**COMPLETION DATES**

Review Highway Interchange Additions	As Needed
Review EAs and EISs	As Needed
Review Controlled Access Highway Revisions	As requested
Participate in ITS and CTS Activities	Ongoing
SW Transitway – Preliminary Engineering	Ongoing
Red Rock Corridor Advanced Alternatives Analysis	2014
Bottineau Blvd. Transitway – AA	1st Quarter
Rush Line Advanced Alternatives Analysis	2014
Gateway (I-94 East) Corridor Alternatives Analysis	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter
Gateway (I-94 East) Corridor DEIS	2014
I-35W Transit Access Study	2014
I-35W/I-494 Interchange and Transit Station Study	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter
Midtown Alternatives Analysis	1 <sup>st</sup> quarter
Robert Street Alternatives Analysis	December
Nicollet/Central Avenue Corridors AA (Minneapolis study)	2014
Broadway Alternatives Analysis	2014
TH 169 Highway BRT	2014
TH 36 Hadley/TH 120 Interchange Study	Fall 2015
I-35E Corridor Management Team	Ongoing
TH 77 Managed Lane Study	June
TH 212 Corridor/Safety Study	December 2014
I-494/I-94 Managed Lane Study	2014
I-35E MnPASS Extension Study	2014
Highway 10 Access Management Study	2014

**TASK C-3: FREIGHT PLANNING**

**PURPOSE:** To continue to develop an integrated regional freight planning program for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, to be implemented by MnDOT, Metropolitan Council, and our partners in the public and private sectors.

**APPROACH:** The Twin Cities Metropolitan Area is the hub of many freight transportation supply chains in the Upper Midwest not only for goods produced and consumed here, but for freight moving through the region to other areas. Freight issues include highway and rail traffic congestion, aging infrastructure, local land use conflicts and community acceptance.

The Metropolitan Council and MnDOT will continue ongoing work activities in 2013 to:

- Identify and support integration of freight considerations into land use and transportation planning activities at the Metropolitan Council, including development of the Thrive MSP 2040 initiative, updates to the regional solicitation, and analysis of the A minor arterial system, and other planning efforts underway to integrate freight planning;

- Identify and support improvements to freight transportation planning at MnDOT, including the Highway Investment Plan, CIMS, and other planning efforts underway to integrate freight planning;
- Draw on the expertise and contributions of members of the Minnesota Freight Advisory Committee. Metropolitan Council will continue to participate in MFAC and its Executive Committee;
- Participate, as appropriate, in the Mid-America Freight Coalition;
- Coordinate freight data collection and analysis within and between partner organizations.
- Continue to develop a Twin Cities Metro Area Regional Freight Strategy to serve as a freight work plan for MnDOT, Metropolitan Council, and our partners and stakeholders in the public and private sectors. The Strategy will also inform updates to ongoing planning and programming activities and processes.

**RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK:**

In 2011 and 2012 the Metropolitan Council worked with MnDOT (Metro District and the Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations) to develop a Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Regional Freight Study to identify freight-related trends and issues and to develop solutions for the high priority freight issues. The summary report of this study, completed in 2013, will be used as a guide for coordinated freight planning in the region.

**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK:** MnDOT includes an Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle operations that specializes in and conducts freight planning statewide. This office informs and works closely with MnDOT metro district planners and Metropolitan Council staff on metro area freight planning activities.

**PRODUCTS**

Twin Cities Metro Area Regional Freight Strategy

**COMPLETION DATES**

Ongoing

**TASK C-4 TRANSIT SYSTEM POLICY PLANNING**

**PURPOSE:** To conduct the mid- and long-range regional transit policy planning and implementation activities. To develop short-range implementation plans to carry out regional transit policy and ensure, through a comprehensive and coordinated review process, that proposed development plans or implementation programs are consistent with the Council’s Transportation Policy Plan and other transportation policy documents. To participate in regional transportation projects to ensure that transit alternatives are adequately addressed and considered.

**APPROACH:** Activities in this category include short-, mid- and long-range transit planning and implementation conducted by the Council’s MTS planning staff which is not related to a specific corridor.

- These include coordinating with Metro Transit staff and other transit operators and communities on specific studies, implementing completed studies, and participating in joint agency and community projects including community based transit redesign and restructuring.
- Council staff will continue to participate with MnDOT and transit operators in the multi-agency Team Transit which has been identifying and expediting bus related road improvements to improve the multimodal capability of the region’s highways for almost 20 years.
- Technical assistance will also be provided to communities on development and implementation of transit and TDM elements of comprehensive plan amendments, pedestrian and bicycle friendly land use coordination, transit-oriented development and other transit related activities as appropriate.



- A Solicitation to select projects to utilize CMAQ TDM funds for innovative uses beyond ongoing activities by TMOs will be held in the third and fourth quarters of 2013. The projects will be selected by TAB in the first quarter of 2014 and projects will begin in the second half of 2014.
- Metropolitan Council staff maintains a regional park-and-ride database, which keeps track of the capacity, usage, and physical features of each lot and analyzes whether changes are needed to the park-and-ride system.
- During 2014 cooperative activities will continue with the counties and other social service providers on transportation assistance to clients. With the JARC program evolving with MAP-21, efforts will continue to disburse JARC funds granted in previous years.
- Transit market areas defined in TPP need to be updated prior to updating the next TPP.

**RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK:** This activity implements several activities of past years such as the Transportation Policy Plan, Transit Redesign, TOD Technical Assistance, Public Transit/Human Services Coordination Plan, and other ongoing area-specific projects. In 2010 the 2030 Park-and-Ride Plan was completed. LRT, BRT, and commuter rail feasibility studies are related to this activity but fall under Task C-2, “Corridor Studies.” A solicitation and selection of projects for FTA Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funds was held in spring 2013.

**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK:** MnDOT, Met Council, Metro Transit, other transit providers, and local governments work jointly on the Team Transit effort. MnDOT has dedicated one staff person to coordinate the Team Transit responsibilities for the agency. Team Transit provides planning and coordination on bus shoulder lanes, park-and-ride lots, and HOV by-pass lanes on the Trunk Highway system, as well as the mitigation of highway construction impacts. Council staff participates in a regional TOD Advisory Group, made up of multiple jurisdictions, agencies, and nonprofits, and assisted by Center for Transit Oriented Development/Reconnecting America. MnDOT will continue to work cooperatively with the Council to provide planning and coordination on bus shoulders, and park-and-ride lots on the Trunk Highway system. The Transportation Advisory Board to the Metropolitan Council continues to implement the federally-funded regional travel demand management program, which includes promotion of transportation alternatives including bicycling and walking. Council staff will work with TDM partners at Metro Transit and the Transportation Management Organizations in the region to develop this program.

**PRODUCTS**

Regional Service Implementation Plan	<b>COMPLETION DATES</b> 2014
Project Review and Referral Memoranda Related to Transit	As Needed
Technical Assistance to Communities Regarding Transit-Oriented Development	Ongoing
CMAQ Solicitation for TDM Program	December
Access to Jobs Implementation	Ongoing
Proposals for Development Of Bus Shoulder Lanes and Other Transit-Supportive	Ongoing
Measures in Conjunction with the Trunk Highway System	
Maintain Park-and-Ride Database	Ongoing
Transit Market Areas Redefinition	2014

**TASK C-5 TRANSPORTATION PLANNING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

**PURPOSE:** To formulate plans for the coordination of specialized transportation services in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) throughout the Metropolitan Area. To conduct public policy research, identify policy issues and recommend policy actions for regional specialized transportation services. To ensure public participation of this community in the transit planning process.

**APPROACH:** Coordinate the specialized transportation services throughout the Region including Metro Mobility, other ADA transit services and community based paratransit services. Participate with review of MnDOT 5310 capital funding requests for paratransit vehicles. Provide staff support to the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC). Cooperative activities will continue with the counties and other social service providers on transportation assistance to clients. MAP-21 merged the FTA New Freedom funding with the 5310 program. Further work is needed to determine how these funds will be awarded. Efforts will continue to disburse New Freedom funds granted in previous years.

**RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK:** These work activities are a continuation of past responsibilities carried out by regional government, including the Public Transit/Human Services Coordination Plan. A solicitation and selection of projects for FTA New Freedom funds was held in spring 2013. The ADA Annual Report, written in previous years, is no longer required.

**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK:** The Council is the lead agency.

**PRODUCTS**

Coordination of Regional Specialized Transportation Services  
 Implement New Freedoms Program  
 Coordinate TAAC Meetings

**COMPLETION DATES**

Ongoing  
 Ongoing  
 Monthly

**TASK C-6 AIR QUALITY PLANNING**

**PURPOSE:** To implement long-term air quality planning required by federal law including the integration of congestion management, transportation, land use, and air quality planning with the requirements of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA).

**APPROACH:** During 2014 the Council, MnDOT and the MPCA will continue the regional and state air quality planning and coordination activity with through the interagency air quality and transportation committees and work groups formed to address the CAA conformity requirements.

- This will include participating in the update of the State Implementation Plan (SIP) through the update and implementation of the Minnesota Conformity SIP’s Memorandum of Agreement.
- Air conformity analysis will be carried out for the 2015-2018 TIP.
- The roles and responsibilities of the interagency committee and work groups are defined in the interagency consultation procedures developed by the MPCA.
- MPCA and the Council will continue to participate in activities of Clean Air Minnesota (CAM), a non-profit organization that promotes public and private partnerships to reduce emissions from criteria pollutants.
- The Minnesota Interagency Air Quality and Transportation Planning Committee (MNIQTPC) will continue to work on completing the conformity SIP revision for Minnesota. The MPCA is updating the transportation conformity-SIP. The MNIQTPC will continue to develop procedures for implementing the new EPA approved Limited Maintenance Plan for carbon monoxide. The MNIQTPC will work with the MPCA in coming up with possible control strategies for PM2.5 and ozone due to potential non-attainment with current and future PM2.5 and ozone standards. The MPCA is the lead agency in these activities.

In 2001 the region first experienced air pollution alert days resulting from high levels of ground-level ozone and fine particulate matter. Efforts are underway from a variety of agencies, environmental interest groups such as CAM, public health organizations and the region’s business community to develop effective response strategies to reduce future formation of the emission precursors to ozone and fine particulate matter. A regional component of a proactive

strategy to reduce the formation of ozone and fine particulate matter needs to be prepared and coordinated with the regional planning and implementation processes. The strategy must be prepared in partnership with the MPCA, MnDOT, Council and other stakeholders. Modeling work underway by the MPCA on the regional ozone and fine particulate matter issue will provide direction on appropriate and the most effective control measures to reduce precursor emissions from transportation sources. If non-attainment designation is made, the Council, MnDOT, and MPCA will work on updating the SIP to address the new status. The increases in air toxics in the region as studied by the MPCA also remain a concern. The Federal Highway Administration and EPA have developed new guidance for addressing mobile sources air toxics in environment review process for transportation projects.

Between March 2012 and February 2013, the MPCA and Environmental Initiative facilitated a conversation among leaders in the business, government and nonprofit sectors to seek new opportunities for emissions reduction, lay groundwork for future collaboration to improve air quality in Minnesota, and prepare for potential nonattainment designations. A new Work Group named “Minnesota Clean Air Dialogue” was formed and tasked with identifying the most efficient and effective ways to meet or exceed potential new federal standards through a process of collective problem solving and consensus decision-making. The Work group members included among others, the MPCA, MnDOT, Council, and assisted by additional technical experts, developed and came to consensus on a set of complementary initiatives to voluntarily reduce emissions associated with ozone and fine particle pollution.

**RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK:** The Council annually prepares a conformity determination of the TIP, and as needed for regionally significant amendments and prepared the most recent conformity determination of its long range TPP in 2013.

**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK:** The MPCA, Council, and MnDOT will play key roles in the development of a regional response strategy to reduce the anticipated increases in the formation of ozone and PM 2.5. The Council staff will provide assistance in travel demand and air emissions modeling. Council planning staff also works with other council divisions on this effort, such as Metro Transit staff to increase transit and carpool usage, and Environmental Services staff, who monitor air pollution from waste water treatment plants.

**PRODUCTS**

SIP Revision for Minnesota  
 Procedures to Implement SIP Limited Maintenance Plan  
 PM2.5/Ozone Emissions Reduction Strategies Effort  
 Environmental Initiatives Clean Air Dialogue Work Group  
 Conformity Analysis of 2015-2018 TIP

**COMPLETION DATES**

Ongoing  
 Ongoing  
 Ongoing  
 Ongoing  
 April

**TASK C-7 BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

**PURPOSE:** To participate in bicycle and pedestrian planning in the region and provide technical assistance/coordination to other government units.

**APPROACH:** The Council's 2030 TPP supports and encourages bicycle and pedestrian planning and staff provides regional coordination and technical assistance.

Metropolitan Council staff managed the development of Cycloplan and will coordinate its use and outreach. Verification of the regional system inventory with cities and counties is ongoing. The Cycloplan inventory will allow the Regional Bikeways map and dataset to be continuously updated. Metropolitan Council staff is collaborating with MnDOT and other agencies to maintain the regional bikeway map. Metropolitan Council staff and their consultant team commenced the Regional Bicycle System Master Study in 2013. This study is evaluating system connectivity, gaps, and opportunities for improvements in regional connectivity. The study will identify a set of

proposed regional bicycle corridors that will be added into the bicycle component of the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan. Staff is working with regional stakeholders in the development of this study. The Study will be completed by first quarter 2014.

The Council conducted a study of pedestrian and bicycle access to transit in 2009 that was funded through the Non Motorized Transportation Pilot Program and is using the recommendations from the study in identifying linkages between regional bicycle corridors and transit stations in the ongoing Regional Bicycle System study. Council transportation staff works with Council parks staff and others to plan for implementation of recommendations and work items in the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan such as the regional signing plan. Work on completing a bicycle and pedestrian wayfinding best practices document is ongoing.

**RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK:** Metropolitan Council has conducted bicycle planning since the mid 1970s, in both its TPP and its Regional Park Plan, which includes a Regional Trail Plan. The region has allocated federal funds for construction of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, including skyways, since the 1970s.

In 2011 and 2012, the Council contracted with the University of Minnesota to build and refine a planning tool (Cycloplan) that uses the trip-planning and bicycle forum geowiki cylopath.org. The regional bicycle system inventory using the planning and mapping tool “Cycloplan”, was completed in 2012.

**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK:** MnDOT’s Bicycle and Pedestrian staff works cooperatively with the Council at the regional planning level by providing data and technical information, participating on the TAC Funding and Programming Subcommittee and providing technical assistance and technical training for local governments on ADA and other elements of bike and pedestrian design, planning and operations. Minneapolis, St. Paul, and some suburban municipalities have formal bicycle and pedestrian advisory groups which include Council and MnDOT staff. Metropolitan Council staff participates on MnDOT’s State Non-Motorized Transportation Advisory Committee. MnDOT is also funding research on Safe Trail Crossings and Bicycle Counts in which Council staff is involved.

MnDOT is continuing the development of the ADA transition plan addressing services, policies, and programs to meet the needs of persons with disabilities, which includes pedestrian facilities on public rights-of-way. In 2010, the Minnesota legislature and governor passed a Complete Streets law. Metropolitan Council staff serve on the advisory committee for policy development surrounding this law, which is being coordinated by the MnDOT Office of State Aid.

MnDOT began a Statewide Bicycle Policy Plan in 2013 which will include a bicycle data management plan, an updated state bicycle map, and an updated state bicycling policies and guidelines. Council staff will serve on the Technical Advisory Committee for the duration of this project to provide input from the region’s perspective to the statewide plan. Council staff also works with county level Active Living groups in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties.

**PRODUCTS**

Maintain Bike/Pedestrian Facility Map on MetroGIS  
 Cycloplan Implementation  
 Participate in Non-Motorized Demo  
 Regional Bicycle System Master Study  
 Develop Bicycle Component to TPP

**COMPLETION DATES**

Ongoing  
 Ongoing  
 Ongoing  
 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter  
 2014

**TASK C-8 CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS**

**PURPOSE:** Federal law requires MPOs with populations of 200,000 or greater to prepare, adopt, and maintain a congestion management process.

**APPROACH:** Council staff will work with MnDOT, TAC, and TAB on implementing the Council's CMP.

**RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK:** After passage of ISTEA in 1991, the region prepared a congestion management system which was adopted in 1996. The system includes a toolbox of congestion management strategies. The system has been implemented over the last decade through incorporation into the regional solicitation criteria. MnDOT and Metropolitan Council prepared a Congestion Management Planning Study Phase I in 2007 which was used to help establish the policy basis for the CMP in the revised TPP. Phase II was developed following adoption of the 2009 TPP revision. MnDOT completed CMP III in 2012.

**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK:** MnDOT was instrumental in the development of the 1997 Congestion Management System and will continue to provide the Council congestion mapping based on ongoing data collection done by the Regional Traffic Management Center, project design, and evaluation data. MnDOT Metro District will cooperatively work with the Council to determine any revisions necessary based on MAP-21 and FHWA Guidance. Also MnDOT will provide funding for this effort. TAC/TAB assistance is anticipated in this task through standing committees (such as TAC Planning) or possibly a special task force.

**PRODUCTS**

Monitor Congestion Management Activity (RTMC)  
 Evaluation of Active Traffic Management (ATM) Applications

**COMPLETION DATES**

Ongoing  
 Ongoing

<b>Activity C</b>	<b>2014 Budget</b>
ACTIVITY STAFF WEEKS:	724
Estimated Task Breakdown:	
C-1	351
C-2	165
C-3	23
C-4	82
C-5	34
C-6	13
C-7	62
C-8	16
CONSULTANT:	\$518,127
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES:	\$2,907,687
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS:</b>	
FEDERAL: (CPG)	\$2,278,149
FEDERAL: (New Freedom)	\$60,000
LOCAL: Met Council	\$569,537
TOTAL	\$2,907,687

## D. RESEARCH AND TRAVEL FORECASTING

### TASK D-1 TECHNICAL SUPPORT

**PURPOSE:** To support Council staff in other divisions who provide data and technical products to transportation planning division.

**APPROACH:** Metropolitan Council transportation planning staff relies on the support of staff in other divisions of the Council, including GIS, Research, and Community Development. Research staff provides land use and socio-economic data and forecasts for use in the regional travel model and other analyses. GIS division maintains the regional geographic database.

**RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK:** This is an ongoing effort to provide data and technical products to support a variety of transportation activities.

**RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER AGENCY WORK:** The Council's research division works with the Census Bureau and State Demographer. The Council's GIS division works with the Metro GIS, regional geographic information systems initiative serving the seven-county Minneapolis-St. Paul (Minnesota) metropolitan area. It provides a regional forum to promote and facilitate widespread sharing of geospatial data. MetroGIS is a voluntary collaboration of local and regional governments, with partners in state and federal government, academic institutions, nonprofit organizations and businesses.

#### PRODUCTS

GIS Database

Demographic Forecasts

Land use/Transportation Model

Technical Assistance to Land Use Planners

TIP Forecast (for Use in Air Quality Conformity Finding)

TPP Forecast (for Use in Conformity Finding and Scenario Analysis)

Satisfy Data Requests

Analyze Traffic Impacts of Transportation Projects and Development Proposals

Local Transportation Plan Reviews/Technical Assistance

#### COMPLETION DATES

Ongoing

Ongoing

December

Ongoing

April

As Needed

As Needed

As Needed

As Needed

### TASK D-2 URBAN TRAVEL RESEARCH AND FORECASTING

**PURPOSE:** To maintain and apply the travel forecast models to support planning for the orderly development and operation of transportation facilities. To maintain socio-economic, travel and traffic count data, and to monitor, revise and update travel forecasts to 2030 and beyond. To provide the projections of traffic demand, air quality emissions and allied data needed to evaluate regional transportation investment alternatives. To continue a program of travel and employment data research such as the Travel Behavior Inventory undertaken every 10 years. This work coordinates travel behavior data with population and economic data and forms the factual basis for forecasting models.

**APPROACH:** The Metropolitan Council and MnDOT will continue joint efforts in developing and implementing travel forecasts and forecasting tools. During 2010-2012 the decennial Travel Behavior Inventory (TBI) surveys were conducted with model development, estimation, calibration, and validation continuing through 2013. TBI data is being gathered and analyzed in cooperation with U of M researchers. The Council will continue to perform and support research on regional travel based on the TBI. This research includes the "Travel Behavior Over Time" study conducted by U of M from 2013-16. The TBI data will be used to update the Regional Travel Demand Model. Enhanced model procedures may include an activity-based model structure, an improved time-of-day model, and improved representation of pricing policies.

Development and refinement of the 2010 base highway, transit, freight, and pedestrian/bicycle networks will continue. The Council will continue to perform additional data collection as needed to support model development and improvement. The Council will continue to investigate model improvements such as dynamic traffic assignment and more detailed bicycle/pedestrian forecasting. The Council will partner with MnDOT and local jurisdictions in acquiring data on speed and congestion for the non-freeway arterial and collector system. The Council will also provide technical assistance and satisfy data requests from other agencies, local units of government and consultants for comprehensive plans, corridor studies, or project planning. MnDOT will provide project level, and system level forecasts to support development of Trunk Highway projects, as well as the planning activities of the MnDOT Metro District. It is anticipated that the Council will experience an increase in requests for data and technical assistance as new corridor studies are initiated. The Council will continue to provide technical assistance and review of major highway and transit corridor and project forecasting. Council forecast staff also reviews the reasonableness of forecasts in local plans, EAWs, etc that are transmitted to the Council. The Council will begin planning for a post-2013 data collection and model improvement program to continue to improve the creditability of forecasts and the ability to answer policy questions of increasing complexity which will include planning for the next Travel Behavior Inventory. During CY2014 the 2010 Census Transportation Planning Product (based on 2006-2010 ACS data) will be available through the Census Bureau and AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transit Officials). This product will give us census and transportation databases for our planning region as well as 19-county area by TAZ, census tract, place, and county. Staff will be reviewing and analyzing this information and will develop a report on its findings. This is a continuation of work that is done each decade alongside the regional TBI.

**RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK:** Travel demand forecasting is an ongoing activity of the Council and region since 1967.

**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK:** The Council is the lead agency. MnDOT and the Council have a Memo of Understanding on forecasting responsibilities. MnDOT will continue to collaborate with the Council regarding any revisions to the regional model and work on the 2010 Travel Behavior Inventory. Also, Metro District and/or its consultants will provide project level, and system level forecasts to support development of Trunk Highway projects, as well as the planning activities of the district. MnDOT will also involve the Council in Metro District's review and approval of travel demand forecasts developed by consultants for Trunk Highway projects.

**PRODUCTS**

Distribute New Model Set and Provide Needed Training  
 Provide Traffic Forecasts in Support of Council and MnDOT Studies  
 TBI Model Development  
 TBI Survey Reports, Data Distribution and Data Analysis  
 Model Development Reports  
 Model Validation Reports  
 CTPP Trends Analysis

**COMPLETION DATES**

As Needed  
 As Needed  
 Ongoing  
 Ongoing  
 2014  
 2014  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter

**TASK D-3 TRAFFIC MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this program is to provide appropriate traffic data as needed to determine annual average daily traffic (AADT) on trunk highways and state aid highways and indicate travel trends and patterns. Data is also used for analysis of transportation caused air pollution and noise.

**APPROACH:** MnDOT, working through the Office of Transportation Data Analysis, the State Aid for Local Transportation Division, Traffic Management Center and District Traffic Engineer in the

Metro District, has established a cooperative counting program with the counties and municipalities. This cooperative program was undertaken for efficiency, convenience and to prevent duplication of vehicle counts, and is part of the overall statewide traffic monitoring program. Special counts will be taken as the need is identified. This work provides a database for identifying trends, and evaluating system performance. Work will continue on expanding this program to include more robust counts of trucks, bicycles, and pedestrians, and to provide better speed/operational data on roadways.

**RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK:** Traffic counting is conducted in the seven-county metropolitan area on a 2 year cycle for all Trunk Highways, County Roads, County State Aid Highways (CSAH), and a few Municipal State Aid Streets (MSAS). Most MSAS's are counted on a 4 year cycle. There are about 9000 sites where traffic counts are collected. MnDOT's Metro District personnel conduct the counts on almost all of the 1000 Trunk Highway locations. Metro county field staff collects data on all 2850 County and CSAH locations, and municipal field staff collects data on the remaining 5150 MSAS locations. Traffic volumes representing Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) are shown on traffic volume maps available online in pdf format. These maps cover the seven-county metropolitan area and include individual municipal maps showing the volumes on the Trunk Highway, County, and MSAS systems. All of these AADT estimates including Heavy Commercial AADT (HCADT) estimates are available through the interactive basemap or by using the GIS shape file product. More information about the program as well as all of the available data is located on the web:

[http://www.dot.state.mn.us/traffic/data/html/volume\\_program.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/traffic/data/html/volume_program.html)

**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK:** There is no Metropolitan Council time or funding in this activity although it is essential to the 3C process. MnDOT will continue to provide vehicle count data to the region. This work provides a database for identifying trends and evaluating system performance. This data is used by Metropolitan Council to calibrate the regional travel demand forecast model, and by many implementing agencies for STP applications on the criteria for "traffic volumes served."

**PRODUCTS**

Seven-county Metro Area Traffic Volume Maps (2013 volumes)  
 Seven-county Metro Area Flow Map (2013 volumes)

**COMPLETION DATES**

July  
 September

<b>Activity D</b>	<b>2014 Budget</b>
ACTIVITY STAFF WEEKS:	90
Estimated Task Breakdown:	
D-1	51
D-2	37
D-3	2
CONSULTANT:	\$226,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES:	\$526,175
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS:</b>	
FEDERAL: (CPG)	\$420,940
LOCAL: Metropolitan Council	\$10,151
TOTAL	\$526,175



## *E. OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT*

### **TASK E-1 TRANSPORTATION/TRANSIT SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT**

**PURPOSE:** To develop, maintain, and disseminate information on the performance of the Twin Cities transportation system to inform policy decisions and funding allocations and to comply with state law.

**APPROACH:** In 2008 state legislation was updated to require the Council to conduct a comprehensive evaluation (rather than audit) of the transportation system every four years in the year prior to the revision of the Transportation Policy Plan. It also requires that on the intervening two years, the Council conduct an evaluation of the transit system. Collection of data for this evaluation allows the Council to maintain a wide variety of current data on an on-going basis, which is used for other planning activities as well as presented for informational purposes through a wide variety of venues. In this iteration, the system will develop measures and benchmarks that assess sustainability and livability relating to transportation as well as identifying and benchmarking additional performance measures for use in the Council's and MnDOT's on-going planning and programming activities in preparation for anticipated changes in federal transportation funding reauthorization legislation.

**RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK:** In 1997, 2001, 2005, and 2013 the Council conducted transportation performance audits, and in 1999, 2003, 2007, and 2009 transit evaluations. In 2010 the 2009 transit evaluation was updated to include the most recent transit operating statistics.

**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK:** The Council is the lead agency. MnDOT Metro District, Metro Transit and the Suburban Transit Providers provide data upon request by the Council.

### **TASK E-2 TRANSIT IMPLEMENTATION & EVALUATION/PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

**PURPOSE:** To implement the transit service recommendations from the TPP and Sector Studies Redesign, including application of service planning guidelines and performance standards, achieving a regional consensus on equity and service priorities in the allocation of transit resources, and instituting service changes.

**APPROACH:** Review and develop service and capital plans to assure consistency with the Transportation Policy Plan; selection of capital projects, monitoring of system performance and financial status, and other activities to ensure coordination and review between the activities of the Metropolitan Council and its operating entities. Apply service-planning guidelines to determine service areas and types best suited for various areas of the Region. Apply performance standards to existing services to determine which services are performing well and which are not. The routes that are not performing well should be the focus of restructuring or elimination. Formulate proposed service changes (enhancement, restructure, or reduction) to take to the community for their reaction and input prior to final implementation.

**RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK:** This element represents a continuation of transit planning and implementation formerly conducted by the Metropolitan Council, Regional Transit Board, and Metropolitan Transit Commission and other providers. This work represents the implementation phase of Sector Study Redesign undertaken by the Metropolitan Council and Metro Transit since 1999 and ongoing through 2009. In 2010 Council staff implemented Transit Link, a restructuring of the metro area dial-a-ride programs.

**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK:** The Council is the lead agency.

**PRODUCTS**

2013 Regional Route Performance Analysis  
Monitor provider performance and financial status  
Transit Implementation assistance and activities  
Transportation System Evaluation

**COMPLETION DATES**

June  
Ongoing  
Ongoing  
2013

<b>Activity E</b>	<b>2014 Budget</b>
ACTIVITY STAFF WEEKS:	19
Estimated Task Breakdown:	
E-1	6
E-2	13
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES:	\$50,753
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS:</b>	
FEDERAL: (CPG)	\$40,602
LOCAL:	\$10,151
TOTAL	\$50,753

## F. AVIATION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

### TASK F-1 AVIATION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

**PURPOSE:** To maintain the long-term viability of the regional aviation system by ensuring compatible land use planning, development, system efficiency, and project effectiveness. To develop and implement long-range regional aviation policy, monitor and periodically review and update the TPP (which now includes the APP). To also ensure aviation plan consistency with current and anticipated technical, economic and political conditions. Provide for review and coordination of aviation planning activities among agencies and municipalities.

**APPROACH:** This activity will continue an aviation system planning program including an aviation database, identification of needs, and evaluation of system performance. Coordination activities continue with MnDOT Aeronautics, Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), other airport sponsors, communities, and users on the various metro aviation activities. Major work to be conducted in 2014 will be the aviation chapter of the TPP Update. Other activities include reviews/approvals of individual airport long-term comprehensive plans (LTCPs) and LTCP amendments, airport project environmental evaluations, airport annual capital improvement programs, and land use (noise, safety, and infrastructure) compatibility planning. This task also includes ongoing reviews of the aviation elements of local comprehensive plans and comprehensive plan amendments. Continued coordination will occur on review of projects to implement the MSP 2030 Long-Term Comprehensive Plan.

**RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK:** This work is a continuance of legislatively directed responsibility for the Council to develop and update a regional transportation systems plan which includes aviation. The TPP was updated in 2010 with the major work effort to incorporate new information from the 2030 System Plan Technical Update, updates of all seven reliever airport LTCPs, and the ten-year updates of all metro communities and county comprehensive plans.

**RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK:** The Council is the lead agency on metro airport system planning and works closely with Metropolitan Airports Commission, who owns and operates most of the region's public airports and MnDOT Office of Aeronautics for statewide air system planning and airport project funding. Other cities and agencies participate in planning activities through the Council's TAC/TAB process.

#### PRODUCTS

Coordination Activities (including implementation of joint airport ordinances)

Potential System Plan FAA Grant Application

Review MAC's Capital Improvement Program

Review of Local Plan Amendments and Eas

Plan Updates/Amendments for general aviation

LTCP for 3 Reliever Airports (Crystal, Airlake, Lake Elmo)

#### COMPLETION DATES

Ongoing

As needed/2015

January

As needed

Ongoing

2014

Activity F	2014 Budget
ACTIVITY STAFF WEEKS:	58
CONSULTANT:	\$0
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES:	\$182,291
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDS:</b>	
FEDERAL:	\$0
LOCAL:	\$66,764
LOCAL: MAC	\$115,527
TOTAL	\$182,291

### III. APPENDICES

#### A. 2014 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM BUDGET

##### Metropolitan Council – Metropolitan Transportation Services

	Staff Weeks 2014	Salary Cost	Consultant Cost	Overhead & Expenses	Total Cost	UPWP Federal	Local Met C	Local MAC	New Freedom	Total
A Planning Program Support & Admin	262	\$567,728		\$741,511	\$1,309,238	\$1,047,391	\$261,848			\$1,309,238
B TIP Development & Management	34	\$56,308		\$40,761	\$97,069	\$77,655	\$19,414			\$97,069
C Comprehensive & Land Transp PI	746	\$1,386,135	\$518,127	\$1,003,425	\$2,907,687	\$2,278,149	\$569,537		\$60,000	\$2,907,687
D Research & Travel Forecasting	90	\$174,125	\$226,000	\$126,050	\$526,175	\$420,940	\$105,235			\$526,175
E Operations and Management	19	\$29,441		\$21,312	\$50,753	\$40,602	\$10,151			\$50,753
<b>Federally Funded</b>	1,151	\$2,213,737	\$744,127	\$1,933,058	\$4,890,922	\$3,864,737	\$966,184	\$0	\$60,000	\$4,890,922
F Aviation Transportation Planning	58	\$106,604		\$77,171	\$183,775		\$67,308	\$116,468		\$183,775
<b>Locally Funded</b>	58	\$106,604	\$0	\$77,171	\$183,775	\$0	\$67,308	\$116,468	\$0	\$183,775
<b>Total</b>	1,209	\$2,320,341	\$744,127	\$2,010,229	\$5,074,697	\$3,864,737	\$1,033,492	\$116,468	\$60,000	\$5,074,697

## B. 2014 PRODUCT LISTING

<b>ACTIVITY A – Planning Program Support and Administration</b>	<b>COMPLETION DATES</b>
Committee Agendas, Minutes, Reports	Ongoing
TAC and TAB Progress Reports	Monthly
Submittal of Functional Classification Changes	Ongoing
Close-out 2013 Consolidated Planning Grant	April
Annual Update of Title VI and DBE Goals	July
2015 Unified Planning Work Program	October
UPWP Progress Reports to MnDOT	Quarterly
Revise Policies/Procedures	Ongoing
Internal Financial Statements	Monthly
Analysis of Financing Methods	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter
Selection of Projects for Regional Transit Capital Funding	December
Unified Operating Budget	December
Unified Capital Budget	December
Implement New Digital Application Procedures for Grants Management Software	Ongoing
<b>ACTIVITY B – TIP Development and Management</b>	
Prepare Draft 2015-2018 TIP	March
Release Regional Solicitation	2014
Adopt TIP Incl. Certification of 3-C Process, Major Projects Completed/Obligated in Previous Year, and an Air Quality Conformity Analysis	September
Annual Listing of Obligated Projects	December
Process TIP amendments	As needed
Incorporate MAP-21 Requirements into Regional Solicitation Grant Application Process and Enhance Reporting Capabilities	Ongoing
<b>ACTIVITY C – Comprehensive and Land Use Transportation Planning</b>	
Transportation Policy Plan Update	2014
THRIVE 2040	2nd Quarter
Various Managed Lane Implementation Studies	Ongoing
Local Comprehensive Plan Reviews	As Needed
Participate in Various Team Activities (Including Livable Communities, Referrals and Sector Reps)	As Appropriate
Review of Livable Communities Demonstration Grants	Semi-annually
TOD Policy and Guidance activities	2015
Review Highway Interchange Additions	As Needed
Review Eas and EISs	As Needed
Review Controlled Access Highway Revisions	As requested
Participate in ITS and CTS Activities	Ongoing
SW Transitway – Preliminary Engineering	Ongoing
Red Rock Corridor Advanced Alternatives Analysis	2014
Bottineau Blvd. Transitway – AA	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter
Rush Line Advanced Alternatives Analysis	2014
Gateway (I-94 East) Corridor Alternatives Analysis	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter
Gateway (I-94 East) Corridor DEIS	2014
I-35W North Managed Lane Preliminary Design and Environmental	Ongoing
I-35W Transit Access Study	2014
I-35W/I-494 Interchange and Transit Station Study	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter
Midtown Alternatives Analysis	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter

Robert Street Alternatives Analysis	December
Nicollet/Central Avenue corridors AA (Minneapolis study)	2014
Broadway Alternatives Analysis	2014
TH 169 BRT	2014
TH 36 Hadley/TH 120 Interchange Study	Fall 2015
I-35E Corridor Management Team	Ongoing
TH 77 Managed Lane Study	June
TH 212 Corridor/Safety Study	December
I-494/I-94 Managed Lane Study	2014
I-35E MnPASS Extension Study	2014
Highway 10 Access Management Study	2014
Twin Cities Metro Area Regional Freight Strategy	December
Regional Service Implementation Plan	2014
Project Review and Referral Memoranda Related to Transit	As Needed
Technical Assistance to Communities Regarding Transit-Oriented Development	Ongoing
Transit Joint Development Planning Activities	Ongoing
CMAQ Solicitation for TDM Program	December
Access to Jobs Implementation	Ongoing
Proposals for Development Of Bus Shoulder Lanes and Other Transit-Supportive Measures in Conjunction with the Trunk Highway System	Ongoing
Maintain Park-and-Ride Database	Ongoing
Transit Market Areas Redefinition	2014
Coordination of Regional Specialized Transportation Services	Ongoing
Implement New Freedoms Program	Ongoing
Coordinate TAAC Meetings	Monthly
SIP Revision for Minnesota	Ongoing
Procedures to Implement SIP Limited Maintenance Plan	Ongoing
PM2.5/Ozone Emissions Reduction Strategies Effort	Ongoing
Environmental Initiatives Clean Air Dialogue Work Group	February
Conformity Analysis of 2015-2018 TIP	April
Maintain Bike/Pedestrian Facility Map on MetroGIS	Ongoing
Cycloplan Implementation	Ongoing
Participate in Non-Motorized Demo	Ongoing
Regional Bicycle System Master Study	Ongoing
Develop Bicycle Component to TPP	2014
Monitor Congestion Management Activity (RTMC)	Ongoing
Evaluation of Active Traffic Management (ATM) Applications	Ongoing

**ACTIVITY D – Research and Travel Demand Forecasting**

GIS Database	Ongoing
Demographic Forecasts	Ongoing
Land use/Transportation Model	December
Technical Assistance to Land Use Planners	Ongoing
TIP Forecast (for Use in Air Quality Conformity Finding)	April
TPP Forecast (for Use in Conformity Finding and Scenario Analysis)	As Needed
Satisfy Data Requests	As Needed
Analyze Traffic Impacts of Transportation Projects and Development Proposals	As Needed
Local Transportation Plan Reviews/Technical Assistance	As Needed
Distribute New Model Set and Provide Needed Training	As Needed
Provide Traffic Forecasts in Support of Council and MnDOT Studies	As Needed
TBI Model Development	Ongoing
TBI Survey Reports, Data Distribution and Data Analysis	Ongoing
Model Development Reports	2014

Model Validation Reports	2014
CTPP Trends Analysis	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter
Seven-county Metro Area Traffic Volume Maps (2013 volumes)	July
Seven-county Metro Area Flow Map (2013 volumes)	September

**ACTIVITY E – Operations and Management**

2013 Regional Route Performance Analysis	June
Monitor provider performance and financial status	Ongoing
Transit Implementation assistance and activities	Ongoing

**ACTIVITY F – Aviation Transportation Planning**

Coordination Activities (including implementation of joint airport ordinances)	Ongoing
Potential System Plan FAA Grant Application	As needed/2015
Review MAC's Capital Improvement Program	January
Review of Local Plan Amendments and EAs	As needed
Plan Updates/Amendments for general aviation	Ongoing
LTCP for 3 Reliever Airports (Crystal, Airlake, Lake Elmo)	2014

## C. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTICIPANTS

### OVERVIEW OF THE ON-GOING 3-C PLANNING PROCESS BY THE MPO

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Twin Cities area, the Council is the lead agency responsible for administering and coordinating the activities of participants carrying out the required tasks of the transportation planning process.

Participants in the transportation planning process include the Metropolitan Council; the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT); the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA); the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC); transit operators; counties and municipalities; local officials; private citizens; and U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT).

Transportation agency staff from the agencies, counties and municipalities are involved in the policy-making process through the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which advises the Transportation Advisory Board. Other subcommittees and task forces of the TAC deal with specific transportation issues. Refer to Figure 2 in the Transportation Planning and Programming Guide, adopted June 2012, (<http://www.metrocouncil.org/Transportation/Publications-And-Resources/TransportationPlanningGuide-pdf.aspx>) for a flow-chart that delineates transportation committees of the TAB and TAC involved in the 3-C (continuing, comprehensive, cooperative) transportation planning process.

Detailed information about the roles and responsibilities of agencies and local units of government in the transportation planning process are included in the Guide. The Guide also includes information on adopted planning documents and web links for the documents.



## D. FEDERAL FACTORS CONSIDERED BY PROGRAM ELEMENT

On August 10, 2005, Congress signed in law PL 109-50, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users, which is referred to as SAFETEA-LU. This law required, under Section 6001 (h), that plans and programs address the eight elements listed below. These same elements were retained in MAP-21, Section 1201 – 134 (h)(1).

- 1) In general. – The metropolitan transportation planning process for a metropolitan area under this section shall provide for consideration of projects and strategies that will –
  - A. Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity and efficiency;
  - B. Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users;
  - C. Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users;
  - D. Increase the accessibility and mobility of people and for freight;
  - E. Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns;
  - F. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;
  - G. Promote efficient system management and operation; and
  - H. Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.

The factors that apply to each element of the Unified Planning Work Program are listed below.

<b>FEDERAL FACTORS</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>Transportation Planning Process</b>			X			X		
<b>TIP Development and Management</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Comprehensive and Surface Transportation Planning</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Research and Travel Forecasting</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Operations and Management</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Aviation Transportation Planning</b>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

## ***E. 2030 Transportation Policy Plan – Chapter 12: Work Program***

The Metropolitan Council will carry out or participate in many studies and plans over the next two to three years. These studies will be used to gather additional information and perform further analysis to inform the development of future revisions to the *2030 Transportation Policy Plan*. The next scheduled update of the *Transportation Policy Plan*, as required by state and federal law, is due in 2014.

Two categories of work program items are listed below. The first category lists and describes studies to be completed by the Metropolitan Council, working with stakeholders in the region. The second category lists important studies of interest to the Council, but these studies will likely be completed by other agencies. The Council will seek active participation on these studies.

### **Studies Led by the Metropolitan Council**

Working with stakeholders, the Metropolitan Council will lead studies that will inform plan amendments and updates, and other important regional transportation planning work. These include:

#### **Travel Behavior Inventory (TBI)**

The last TBI was conducted in 2001. A comprehensive TBI is usually done every 10 years in conjunction with the Census; therefore a complete TBI will be done in 2010 and 2011. The data collected includes information on regional travel patterns, and data on individuals' travel behavior collected through interviews and surveys. The data will be used to recalibrate the region's travel forecast model and also analyzed to provide a better understanding of travel patterns.

#### **Transit Service Improvement Plan**

Every two years, regional transit providers will prepare a short-term Service Improvement Plan that identifies their priorities for transit service expansion over the following two to four years. A regional committee will review and prioritize proposed transit expansion projects on the basis of efficiency and effectiveness in meeting regional transit goals. The committee will recommend a Regional Service Improvement Plan for approval by the Metropolitan Council.

#### **Transit Service Performance Evaluation**

All providers will review their transit service annually based on regional transit performance standards to ensure operational efficiency. Providers will annually submit their performance data to the Council for inclusion in a regional service performance analysis.

#### **Arterial Transitways Study**

A study of potential transitways identified for Arterial Bus Rapid Transit in this plan will evaluate potential improvements, costs, and benefits of BRT on arterial street corridors as identified in this document's Transit Chapter. The study will also consider strategies to integrate local bus service with BRT investments, develop a branding strategy for Arterial BRT, and prioritize system improvements and implementation.

#### **Transit System Financial Analysis**

This plan identifies preservation of existing transit service as a top priority for the region. It also sets a goal of doubling transit ridership by 2030 which will require expansion of both the bus system and implementation of a system of Transitways. The transit system has experienced substantial change and volatility in the type and level of revenues available for transit purposes over the past decade. The Council will conduct a long-term (20-year) analysis of the revenues and expenses required to both maintain and expand the regional transit system. The analysis will evaluate a number of alternative

financial scenarios, identify issues and make financial recommendations regarding the accomplishment of these two goals.

### **Commuter Rail Evaluation**

This plan recommends a re-evaluation of commuter rail corridors when Northstar Commuter Rail is operational and travel patterns resulting from commuter rail implementation are more fully understood and incorporated into the regional travel demand forecasting model. Gathering this data and incorporating relevant factors in the regional forecast model must be completed prior to a system wide evaluation of potential additional commuter rail lines. Completion of the update of the regional travel demand forecast model based on travel pattern data gathered by the Travel Behavior Inventory and the 2010 Census is scheduled for mid-2013.

### **Bicycle Route Information and Signing Plan**

The Council is updating the regional bikeways map with information from local comprehensive plans, which should provide the most current inventory of what local governments are planning and what exists today. The Council will be the lead agency in the regional mapping partnership to improve the dataset. In addition, the Metropolitan Council will work with local trail implementing agencies, Mn/DOT, the DNR, counties and cities to develop and implement a signage plan, including guidelines for sign content and placement to help bicyclists navigate the network within and between jurisdictions and to transit connections.

### **Regional Bicycle System Inventory and Regional Bicycle System Master Study**

This project includes an inventory of existing and currently planned bicycle facilities in the seven county Twin Cities metropolitan area, followed by a Regional Bicycle System Master Study that will include an analysis of existing conditions, connectivity and levels of use of the bikeway system with a special emphasis on connectivity to regional transitways and major travel generators.

### **Coordinated Action Plan for Public Transit and Human Services Update**

In 2010 and 2011, the Council is updating the Plan to establish goals, strategies and criteria for delivering efficient, coordinated services to elderly, underemployed or otherwise financially disadvantaged persons and persons with disabilities. The Council will work with regional transportation agencies, human service agencies, and Mn/DOT to update the information in the existing plan, adopted in 2007. This Plan will be used to direct future funding solicitations for FTA Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom program funding in 2012 and 2014.

### **Evaluation of Active Traffic Management (ATM) Applications**

The region has and will be implementing many ATM strategies in the I-35W South (UPA) and I-94 (between the two downtowns) corridors. While there is European data on the effectiveness of ATM strategies, there is little documentation on the North American experience and effectiveness. Comprehensive before and after studies should be carried out in these corridors to assess the costs and benefit of ATM applications both with and without a managed lane component. This evaluation will also provide input to the on-going regional Congestion Management Process.

### **Use of Additional Federal Transportation Funds**

Congress typically passes a transportation authorization bill every six years. The most recent bill expired in 2009 so a new transportation bill is expected at some future point. Since 1991, every new federal transportation authorization bill has increased the level of funds available for the regional solicitation. Some comments received during the MHSIS outreach suggested that additional federal funds received by the region should be used to support larger highway projects than are possible given

the current \$7 M regional solicitation cap. The Council proposes to work with the TAC and TAB to evaluate a modified or parallel solicitation for larger highway projects, while still attempting to provide the highest system-wide benefit at the lowest cost. This analysis will begin once a new Transportation Act is passed, reflecting the specific requirements of the bill.

### **Evaluation of Regional Solicitation Criteria**

This Policy Plan sets a new direction and vision for the expenditure of funds on the Metropolitan Highway System emphasizing ATM applications, lower-cost / high-benefit projects and the implementation of managed lanes system-wide. It emphasizes that investments on the non-freeway trunk highway system sought by local entities should also be consistent with the policy direction of this plan. However, the Regional Solicitation for highway projects to date has to a large degree emphasized funding for expansion. This policy direction should be revisited to ensure that, in accordance with this plan and federal policy, adequate preservation investments are being made on the federally eligible highway system. The Transit chapter also emphasizes system preservation as the top priority, with additional revenue (when available) used to expand the bus system and grow the system of bus and rail transitways. The Council and TAB/TAC should work to evaluate the regional solicitation criteria for all funding categories and determine whether the existing criteria and evaluation process adequately emphasizes the policies articulated in this plan and if needed, recommend modifications to the criteria and process. The recommendations will most likely be incorporated into the solicitation beginning in 2012 for funds awarded in 2017 and 2018.

### **Managed Lane Implementation Policy and Design Issues**

The managed/priced lane system development will reach a new level of implementation with the adoption of this plan. In the past, a number of policy issues have been addressed on a project-by-project basis as the I-394 and I-35W MnPASS lanes were implemented. For example, the distribution of MnPASS revenue and daily operational parameters differs between the existing projects. Another policy issue that must be addressed relates to the treatment of two-person high-occupancy vehicles. Currently these vehicles travel in the MnPASS lanes without paying a fee. As the MnPASS lanes become more congested in the future, this policy should be reevaluated to determine the appropriate treatment of these vehicles. In addition, there are managed lane design issues that directly impact transit operations and the efficiency of managed lanes for transit. As managed lane projects move toward implementation, the Council/Metro Transit and Mn/DOT must work together to assure that the lane designs provide the best advantage for transit operations. The issues enumerated above should be addressed by a joint work group and study by the Council and Mn/DOT.

### **Evaluation of RALF to Help Implement the New Transportation Policy Plan**

The RALF program has existed in relatively the same form since it was established in 1982. TPP Policy 7b supports the use of RALF funds for projects that are consistent with the policy direction of this plan. There is a need to evaluate the RALF program policies and procedures and make any necessary changes to help implement the new policy direction. The Council, working with Mn/DOT and the TAC/TAB, will review the RALF program and make recommendations for needed changes

### **Metro District Freight Study**

Mn/DOT and the Council are working with USDOT's Volpe National Transportation Systems Center on a metropolitan freight study. This will strengthen the ability of Mn/DOT and Metro Council to address the highest priority freight issues in the state's major metropolitan region, by bringing freight planning more fully into on-going statewide and metropolitan planning processes and by promoting institutional arrangements that match the complexity of and funding requirements for an efficient regional freight system.

## **Evaluation of Methods and Technology Applications for Monitoring System Aircraft Activity**

The Council is committed to improving aviation system data and forecasts. Not all airports have air traffic control towers to document aircraft operational activity, nor are all air traffic control towers open 24 hours per day. Activity is usually estimated using number of operations per based aircraft, but this methodology should be re-examined to take advantage of newer technology, such as a video imaging or a multi-lateration system. The Council proposes to work through the TAC Aviation Technical Task Force to prepare an evaluation and assess steps for improving data and forecasts before the next system plan update.

*Studies to be Conducted by Other Agencies, with Council Participation*

## **Mode and Alignment Studies - as recommended in Transit Chapter**

### **Interregional Corridor System Review – Mn/DOT lead**

The Interregional Corridor System is a priority network of trunk highways designed to provide safe and timely travel connections between the major trade centers and regions of the state. As such, it supports the continued economic vitality/competitiveness of the state in the changing global economy, serves both people and freight, and connects to or accommodates other modes of transportation. The system was established over ten years ago and was designed to help guide priority highway investments and management efforts. Mn/DOT is currently reviewing the system to determine whether modifications to the network itself or the measures and targets used to evaluate its performance should be considered in light of current trends and conditions in transportation and the future outlook for Minnesota's economy and livability. This work will be completed in approximately a year. Any proposed changes to the system will be formally considered in the next update of Mn/DOT's 20 Year Highway Investment Plan.

### **Reassess Trunk Highway Non-Freeway Principal and "A" Minor Arterial Plans – Mn/DOT lead**

Mn/DOT, working with the Council and TAC/TAB will develop a process to reassess the policy guidance and plans for improvement to these trunk highways. This work will begin once Mn/DOT Central Office has completed the IRC Study (noted above). The intent is to develop lower-cost approaches to manage and improve these trunk highways consistent with Council and Mn/DOT plans.

### **MSP Long-term Comprehensive Plan Environmental Assessment – Traffic Analysis**

The Council indicated in its review of the MSP 2030 LTCP that "The MAC shall continue to work with all appropriate agencies to implement the I-494/34th Ave, and TH5/Glumack Drive – TH5/Post Rd. interchange modifications included in the 2030 Concept Plan, including preliminary environmental scoping and analysis, since these proposed modifications are not included in the region's fiscally-constrained 2030 highway plan." MAC, MnDOT and city of Bloomington have recently agreed to share the cost of further work on traffic forecasting and concept development for these interchanges. The LTCP environmental work is estimated to take up to two years to complete.



---

390 Robert Street North  
St Paul, MN 55101-1805

651.602.1000  
TTY 651.291.0904  
[public.info@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:public.info@metc.state.mn.us)  
[metro council.org](http://metro council.org)