

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 25, 2013

Subject: Authorization to release 2013 Transportation Demand Management (TDM) CMAQ Solicitation

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the release of a 2013 Transportation Demand Management CMAQ Solicitation.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planner Katie White presented this item.

There was a question from Councilmember Elkins about what kinds of projects might be proposed. Council staff are not aware of specific projects yet since most potential applicants are keeping their plans to themselves. It is anticipated that at least one application will be for a new technology or smart phone app. Munt commented that she hoped we “dared to fail” by selecting truly innovative projects.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Munt and passed.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: September 23, 2013

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 25, 2013

Subject: Authorization to release 2013 Transportation Demand Management (TDM) CMAQ Solicitation.

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: MAP-21

Staff Prepared/Presented: Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS, 651-602-1754

Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director Finance & Planning, 651-602-1058

Katie White, Planner, 651-602-1716

Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the release of a 2013 Transportation Demand Management CMAQ solicitation.

Background

In the 2009 Regional Solicitation, TAB set-aside \$7 million in CMAQ funds for TDM activities in FFY 2013-2014. The funding was meant to support both the baseline TDM activities of the TMOs and Metro Transit, and also to fund new innovative TDM activities. Based upon an analysis completed by Council staff it appeared that \$5.8 M would be needed for the baseline TMO and Metro Transit activities in calendar years 2013 and 2014, and that \$1.2 M would be available for a solicitation for new and innovative TDM projects. The concept of new and innovative TDM projects has been advanced by the TAB and the results of the *2010 TDM Evaluation and Implementation Study*.

However, upon the passage of MAP-21 in June 2012 and a preliminary analysis of the available funds, it appeared that the 2013-2014 CMAQ funds were potentially over-programmed. Met Council's Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS) staff then requested that TAB distribute the 2013-2014 CMAQ funds only to fund baseline TDM activities and that the TDM solicitation for new projects be deferred until future funding was available. The TAB passed an Action Item on December 19, 2012 suspending the TDM solicitation.

Since that action, it has become evident that sufficient CMAQ funding is available in 2013-2014 for both the TDM baseline activities and to proceed with a solicitation for new TDM projects for \$1.2 million. It is proposed that the solicitation for new and innovative projects be released in the fall of 2013 and funds made available for selected projects beginning in 2014.

The proposed solicitation and selection criteria have been developed. The minimum federal award for this solicitation is \$25,000, with a maximum of \$300,000. Selection criteria include: (1) project clarity and readiness; (2) integration and coordination; (3) innovation; (4) effect on congestion mitigation; and (5) effect on emissions reduction.

Rationale

The purpose of CMAQ funds is to improve congestion mitigation and air quality issues throughout the metropolitan area. TDM provide alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle use. This first-time solicitation will be used to promote activities beyond the existing capacity of our TMO partners.

Same week action is requested given the federal funds are for 2014 and an expedited timeline will allow selected projects additional time to implement prior to the federal deadline.

Funding

The proposed solicitation is based on the amount of funds confirmed by MnDOT to be available through the CMAQ program to the metropolitan area.

Known Support / Opposition

The TDM solicitation was created with significant input from the region's TMOs and other interested non-profits and researchers. This solicitation package was reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee and approved by the Transportation Advisory Board on September 18, 2013. There is no known opposition.