

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 23, 2015

Subject: 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to adopt the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.
2. Certify that the Twin Cities Metropolitan Planning Process is addressing major issues facing the metropolitan planning area and is being carried on in conformance with all applicable federal requirements of:
 - a. 23 U.S.C. 134 and 49 U.S.C. 5303, and this subpart;
 - b. Sections 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act as amended (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506 (c) and (d)) and 40 CFR part 93;
 - c. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 USC 2000d-1) and 49 CFR part 21;
 - d. 49 USC 5332, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age in employment or business opportunity;
 - e. Sections 1101(b) of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (Pub. L. 112-141) and 49 CFR Part 26 regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in US DOT funded projects;
 - f. 23 CFR part 230, regarding the implementation of an equal employment opportunity program on Federal and Federal-aid highway construction contracts;
 - g. The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and 49 CFR Parts 27, 37, and 38;
 - h. The Older Americans Act, as amended (42 U.S.C 6101), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance;
 - i. Section 324 of title 23, U.S.C regarding the prohibition of discrimination based on gender; and
 - j. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) and 49 CFR 27 regarding discrimination against individuals with disabilities.
3. Certify the TIP conforms to the provisions of 49 CFR part 20 regarding lobbying restrictions on influencing certain federal activities.
4. Find that the TIP is consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan, which is in conformance with applicable federal transportation and air quality regulations.
5. Find that the TIP meets all applicable federal requirements.
6. Find that the TAB provided adequate opportunity for involvement from the public, agency and transit operators through its regular process and public comment period.
7. Transmit the 2016-2019 TIP along with these comments to the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Transportation and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Metropolitan Transportation Services Senior Planner Joe Barbeau presented this item.

CM Letofsky asked whether the TIP is updated every year despite the regional solicitation occurring every two years. Barbeau replied that the TIP is updated every year, though this is not the practice at some MPOs. CM Commers asked whether air quality modeling has been done in the past and whose role it is to adhere to federal air quality requirements. Barbeau replied that the Council has completed air quality models when it was in non-attainment and that Mark Filipi and Jonathan Ehrlich from MTS will respond to him on the question of roles.

Motion by CM Elkins, seconded by CM Letofsky and carried.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: September 14, 2015

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 23, 2015

Subject: 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: TAB Action

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

Mark Filipi, MTS Technical Services Manager (651-602-1725)

Joe Barbeau, Senior Planner (651-602-1705)

Division/Department: Transportation / Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

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3. Certify the TIP conforms to the provisions of 49 CFR part 20 regarding lobbying restrictions on influencing certain federal activities.

4. Find that the TIP is consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan, which is in conformance with applicable federal transportation and air quality regulations.
5. Find that the TIP meets all applicable federal requirements.
6. Find that the TAB provided adequate opportunity for involvement from the public, agency and transit operators through its regular process and public comment period.
7. Transmit the 2016-2019 TIP along with these comments to the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Transportation and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Background

The TIP is a four-year list of transportation projects funded in whole or part with federal funding. The 2016-2019 TIP is a multi-modal program of highway, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian projects in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The TIP includes \$3.5 Billion in projects, with the inclusion of Regional Solicitation and Highway Safety Improvement Program projects. The TIP contains congressional high priority projects, routine projects and projects selected through solicitations for the following funds:

- Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ)
- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
- Surface Transportation Program (STP)
- Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

The region revises its TIP every year. The inclusion of a specific project in the TIP does not imply an endorsement of the specific design alternative or engineering details. Inclusion in the TIP is a funding commitment assuming the individual project development process has or shall have addressed all applicable local, state, and federal requirements. The TAB adopted the 2016-2019 TIP at its August 19, 2015, meeting. The 2016-2019 TIP is attached.

Rationale

The Transportation Advisory Board approves the TIP, and the Metropolitan Council concurs with the action of the TAB. The TIP is consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan adopted by the Metropolitan Council on January 14, 2015, with FHWA/FTA air quality conformity determination established on March 13, 2015. The Minnesota Interagency Air Quality and Transportation Planning Committee identified regionally-significant projects as part of its conformity analysis, which is included as Appendix B of the 2016-2019 TIP. The analysis in the attachment has resulted in conformity findings that the projects included in the 2016-2019 TIP meet all relevant regional emissions analysis and budget tests. The 2016-2019 TIP conforms to the relevant sections of the Federal Conformity Rule and to the applicable sections of Minnesota State Implementation Plan for air quality. Public input was provided during a 45-day public comment period.

Funding

The federal, state, and local funds are sufficient to fully fund the projects included in the 2016-2019 TIP.

Known Support / Opposition

Action supported by TAB. TAB held a 45-day public comment period and reviewed and accepted the public comment report, which included changes made by MnDOT in the final TIP. No opposition to the adoption of the TIP was noted.