

### Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of October 26, 2016

**Subject:** Draft Transportation Public Participation Plan

#### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council release the draft Transportation Public Participation Plan for the purposes of obtaining public comment.

#### Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Metropolitan Council Communications Outreach Coordinator Mai Thor presented this item. Thor answered questions from committee members as follows: Metro Council does offer assistance to local governments (smaller cities) who don't have outreach staff. Explanation of the difference between Engagement and Participation Plans - (Engagement Plan is broader while the Participation Plan builds off the Engagement Plan and specific to transportation that doesn't apply to broader engagement). Staff is open to suggestions about obtaining public comment. Barber stated the need to proactively go out to the smaller cities to inform them of how they can assist in this process.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Rodriguez and passed.

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: Oct. 24, 2016

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of Oct. 26, 2016

**Subject:** Draft Transportation Public Participation Plan

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** 23 §CFR450.316, Thrive MSP 2040, Transportation Policy Plan, Public Engagement Plan

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Mai Thor, Outreach Coordinator, 651-602-1588; Michelle Fure, Manager of Public Involvement, 651-602-1545

**Division/Department:** Communications

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council release the draft Transportation Public Participation Plan for the purposes of obtaining public comment.

### Background

The Metropolitan Council is federally required to develop a plan that outlines how the public will be informed and engaged in transportation planning and policy. The purpose of the Transportation Public Participation Plan is to establish a framework for the Metropolitan Council to encourage the active participation of community members at all levels of decision making. Following the lead of *Thrive MSP 2040* and influenced by the Transportation Policy Plan and the Council's Public Engagement Plan, the Transportation Public Participation Plan is aimed not just at adding public comments at the end of the development of a planning product, but to leverage the voices of the people who live throughout the region to shape and influence planning as early as possible.

### Rationale

The Transportation Public Participation Plan is mainly descriptive in nature so that it can be applied broadly across all of the Metropolitan Council's transportation plans and programs, minimizing the need for updates. This also creates the opportunity for the Metropolitan Council to examine how the transportation planning products and processes can be improved by examining how public participation and engagement can be done differently.

The Transportation Public Participation Plan applies to the following transportation plans and programs:

- Transportation Policy Plan
- Transportation Improvement Program
- Unified Planning Work Program
- Air Quality Conformity Determination
- Regional Solicitation

### Funding

Not applicable

### Known Support / Opposition

This item has passed at TAB, TAC and the TAC-Planning Committee.