Transportation Committee
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of November 18, 2020

Subject: Adopt 2020 Update of the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan and Accept Public Comment Report

Proposed Action
That the Metropolitan Council:
- Accept the Public Comment Report on the 2020 update of the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan,
- Adopt the revised final 2020 update of the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions
Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning & Finance Deputy Director Amy Vennewitz presented this item. Chamblis expressed gratitude for the comprehensive TPP and the ongoing studies on how we provide transportation services and how those results can provide more equity throughout the system. Fredson asked about the industrial mapping tool. Vennewitz stated this will be led by the Community Development division but that three years ago staff mapped available industrial land and the possibilities of freight/rail. Vennewitz continued that we’d want to keep that interactive tool up to date – asking cities and counties to help edit data as land gets developed for freight/rail and making the tool available to our partners to identify parcels that have good access to rail/freight. Chair Barber thanked Vennewitz and staff for their work on the update.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Sterner. Motion carried.
Transportation Committee  
Meeting date: November 9, 2020  
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of November 18, 2020

Subject: Adopt 2020 update of the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan and accept Public Comment Report  
District(s), Member(s): All  
Policy/Legal Reference: M.S. 473.399 & 23 CFR 450.104; MAP 21  
Staff Prepared/Presented: Nick Thompson, Director MTS, 651-602-1754; Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director MTS, 651-602-1058  
Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action  
That the Metropolitan Council:  
- Accept the Public Comment Report on the 2020 Update to the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan, and  
- Adopt the revised final 2020 update to the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan.

Background  
Under federal transportation planning law, the Council is required to develop a long-range transportation plan that is updated at least every five years. The plan must be multimodal and identify transportation system goals and investment priorities over at least a 20-year period. The plan is required to identify regionally significant transportation investments that will be implemented within the timeframe of the plan and must maintain fiscal balance between anticipated project costs and funding.

In order to avoid a conflict in future timing and keep a long-range plan with a 2040 planning period, it was determined that the best course of action would be to have a minor update to the Transportation Policy Plan in 2020. This minor update will be followed by a major update and development of a 2050 Transportation Policy Plan in 2022-2024, concurrent with the creation of the 2050 Regional Development Guide (Thrive MSP 2040 update).

The TPP update changes are limited primarily to changes that have occurred between 2018 and 2020, particularly incorporating the results of planning and corridor studies that have concluded or changes to major projects funding and implementation. In addition, the Work Program chapter has been significantly updated to remove studies that have concluded and add new major planning studies focused on pressing issues facing the region. The study additions include studies to incorporate learning and changes in travel and transportation finances due to the COVID-19 outbreak; an Equity Evaluation of Regional Transportation Investment to assess equity within our regional transportation funding, planning and programming processes; a Regional Travel Demand Management study; and two climate change related studies to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles within the region and to develop a tool for local governments to measure greenhouse gas emissions under alternative scenarios.

The Council kicked off this update to the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan in January 2020. Agency and local government stakeholders provided comments.
through the TAB and TAC committee processes prior to the release for public comment. The draft plan was released for a 45-day public comment period in June and a public hearing held on July 27th. Public comment concluded on August 10th. Comments were received from approximately 215 individuals and organizations resulting in over 400 comments.

The Public Comment Report (linked here) lists the commenters, summarizes the comments received and provides a response to the comments. The full text from comments received are shown in the appendix of the Public Comment Report (linked here). The changes made to the draft 2040 TPP in response to public comment are summarized in the document titled TPP Changes in Response to Public Comment (linked here).

The full text of the TPP Overview, Chapters and Appendices can be found at the links below:

Public Comment Report

Full Comments

Tracked Changes Document in Response to Public Comment

Overview

Chapter 1 THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM VISION AND PERFORMANCE-BASED PLANNING
Chapter 2 TRANSPORTATION POLICY PLAN STRATEGIES
Chapter 3 LAND USE AND LOCAL PLANNING
Chapter 4 TRANSPORTATION FINANCE
Chapter 5 HIGHWAY INVESTMENT DIRECTION AND PLAN
Chapter 6 TRANSIT INVESTMENT DIRECTION AND PLAN
Chapter 7 BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN INVESTMENT DIRECTION
Chapter 8 FREIGHT INVESTMENT DIRECTION
Chapter 9 AVIATION INVESTMENT DIRECTION AND PLAN
Chapter 10 EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
Chapter 11 ENVIRONMENT AND AIR QUALITY
Chapter 12 CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS
Chapter 13 PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES
Chapter 14 WORK PROGRAM

Appendix A GLOSSARY
Appendix B TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
Appendix C LONG-RANGE HIGHWAY AND TRANSIT CAPITAL PROJECT LIST
Appendix D FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA AND CHARACTERISTICS, AND MNDOT ACCESS GUIDANCE
Appendix E ADDITIONAL AIR QUALITY INFORMATION
Appendix F PRELIMINARY INTERCHANGE APPROVAL PROCESS
Appendix G REGIONAL TRANSIT DESIGN GUIDELINES AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS
Appendix H NATIONAL AND STATE AIRPORT CLASSIFICATION
Appendix I REGIONAL AIRSPACE
Appendix J AIRPORT CAPITAL INVESTMENT REVIEW PROCESS
Appendix K AIRPORT LONG TERM COMPREHENSIVE PLANS
Appendix L AVIATION LAND USE COMPATIBILITY GUIDELINES
**Rationale**
This draft update to the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan meets the federal law and rules requiring a long-range metropolitan transportation plan that is updated at least every five years and covers a 20-year planning time frame. It identifies the regionally significant projects expected to be implemented under reasonably expected revenues (fiscally constrained) over the time period of the plan and meets federal requirements for a performance-based plan.

**Thrive Lens Analysis**
The draft 2040 Transportation Policy Plan addresses all of the Thrive MSP 2040 outcomes and principles. The plan establishes six transportation system goals along with objectives and strategies that align and coordinate with the Thrive MSP 2040 outcomes and principles. The plan Overview and first chapter, Transportation System Vision and Performance-Based Planning, describe and contain a matrix demonstrating the relationship between Thrive MSP 2040 and the TPP’s goals and objectives.

**Funding**
This action does not directly require or involve funding. However, under federal law regionally significant transportation projects and the expected funding for the projects must be identified in the fiscally constrained long-range plan before being included in the region’s Transportation Improvement Program, allowing projects to move forward with implementation.

**Known Support / Opposition**
The proposed final 2020 update to the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan was reviewed by the Transportation Advisory Board and recommended for adoption on October 21, 2020.