

# Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: October 10, 2022

For the Metropolitan Council: October 12, 2022

## Business Item: 2022-269 SW

2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Council Policy 3-2-2
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director, MTS (651-602-1058) David Burns, Planning Analyst, (651-602-1887)
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Metropolitan Transportation Services

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Adopt the proposed 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with a total budget of \$6,386,890 and including \$5,109,512 in federal funds; and,
- Authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, for distribution of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) planning funds.

### Background

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) serves as the Council's application for USDOT transportation planning funds. It is required that every metropolitan planning organization (MPO) submit the UPWP for consideration by the USDOT. The UPWP is prepared annually and describes the transportation planning activities that the Council will conduct for the upcoming year. Participants in the UPWP include the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Metropolitan Airports Commission, local cities, counties, and other stakeholders. The 2023 UPWP can be found linked in the October 10, 2022, Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee Agenda.

The 2023 UPWP document includes both MPO planning activities required by federal law and planning priorities of the metropolitan area. The document identifies budgeted expenditures, funding sources, and allocation of staff resources for transportation planning activities of the MPO. Projects with Metropolitan Council participation include staff hours and consultant costs that detail how the estimated \$5.1 million of federal planning money will be spent, along with a required 20 percent local match to the federal funds. In 2023, the transportation planning work is focused on completing a number of studies that began in 2022 and continued work on the 2050 Regional Development Guide and 2050 Transportation Policy Plan to be adopted in 2024.

Many of the tasks described are required by state or federal law and are ongoing activities. Examples include staff support of the TAC/TAB committee process, the preparation of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and support of the Regional Solicitation. Other tasks

are focused studies that help to move forward the region’s transportation planning process and fulfill the vision as outlined in the Transportation Policy Plan. The 2023 UPWP includes over \$2 million in planned consulting studies.

The 2023 draft UPWP was open for public comment from September 2, 2022, to September 23, 2022. During the public comment period, the Council received feedback from two parties, summarized below:

- The City of Minneapolis Public Works provided several comments and feedback in support of the planned and ongoing studies. Council staff will be in contact with staff from the City of Minneapolis to provide additional details on the studies and potentially incorporate the suggested considerations.
- One individual commentator suggested avoiding the use of the phrase “Black, Indigenous, and People of Color” and the acronym “BIPOC” as it may not be the appropriate phrase. The commenter provided feedback stating that terms such as “BIPOC” may not be consistent with efforts by Metro Transit and the Metropolitan Council to use respectful and inclusive language. These terms have been used by the Council in similar contexts, and staff will continue to work with Council Communications to develop policy on the most appropriate and consistent use of terms in federally required documents.

### **Rationale**

The Metropolitan Council may enter into agreements with other governments and organizations which provide income/grants to the Council which are consistent with the Council’s mission and priorities. Policy 3-2-2 requires Council approval for grants exceeding \$500,000.

### **Thrive Lens Analysis**

This item supports all the Goals and Outcomes of Thrive MSP 2040, as it includes work tasks associated with each goal and outcome. The 2023 UPWP includes work items that focus on furthering engagement with historically disadvantaged populations and increasing equity in transportation planning and investment processes. Planned work also includes studies that will evaluate the impact and burdens on communities living near freeways and work supporting the update to the 2050 Regional Development Guide and the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan.

### **Funding**

The proposed planning work is funded with approximately \$5.1 million in federal planning grant funds distributed through MnDOT and \$1.3 million in Council match funds.

### **Small Business Inclusion**

All consulting studies funded under the UPWP follow Council procurement policies and include an opportunity assessment and goal for disadvantaged business inclusion as required under federal law.

