

Business Item

Metropolitan Council



Committee Meeting Date: Transportation Committee (info item) **For the Metropolitan Council:** November 30, 2022

Business Item: 2022-315

Transitway Advancement Policy

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minnesota Statutes sections 473.146 and 473.371 to 473.449
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Charles Carlson, Executive Director Metropolitan Transportation Services
Division/Department:	Metro Transit, Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council: (1) adopt the attached RF 1-7 Transitway Development Policy; (2) prepare a proposed modification to the Transportation Policy Plan to incorporate this policy into the Plan; and (3) direct staff to develop procedures to implement this policy.

Background

This proposed policy provides a framework for transitioning proposed transitway projects from project sponsors (typically counties and local governments) to the Council for advancing transitway projects through final environmental review, engineering and construction, operations, and ongoing maintenance. This policy also applies to transitway projects initiated by the Council. The proposed policy will help ensure the Council identifies and manages project and system risks, makes informed decisions when advancing proposed regional transitway projects, and identifies funding commitments for ongoing operation and maintenance of the transitway projects. The policy applies to both the Council's role as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and its role developing and operating transitway projects. If a transitway project is implemented by another regional transit provider without implementation or operations involvement by the Council, only the MPO role applies. In these cases, project implementation, operations, and maintenance are not the responsibility of the Council.

If this proposed policy is adopted by the Council, staff will draft amendments to the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) that will include detailed information the Council should consider when adopting or amending a transitway project into the TPP. For the Council's transitway implementation and operations role, staff will develop an administrative procedure to detail the risk management process when a project advances.

This proposed policy was presented as an information item at the Transportation Committee's November 14, 2022 meeting.

Rationale

Minnesota Statutes section 473.123, subdivision 4(d), authorizes the Council to adopt policies and procedures governing its operations. This proposed policy aligns with best practices and legal requirements.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The proposed action supports the Thrive Stewardship Outcome by providing for effective risk management guiding the effective use of public resources in transitway decision making.

Funding

No funding is tied to the proposed action.

Small Business Inclusion

This item does not involve contracting; small business inclusion is not applicable.

