

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: March 27, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: April 12, 2023

Business Item: 2023-71

2023 Transportation Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment 1

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the proposed amendment to the 2023 Unified Planning Work Program as shown in the attached document titled 2023 Transportation Unified Planning Work Program for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Amendment 1.

Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

Ms. Vennewitz presented this item. Councilmember Dolkar inquired how Justice40 requirements of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) affects investment and implementation of the UPWP. Ms. Vennewitz explained that Justice40 pertains to transportation investment funds, which are detailed in the Transportation Policy Plan. Councilmember Chamblis asked if the Regional STOPS Model Update will update data to better address travel and needs of disadvantaged geographic areas. Ms. Vennewitz and MTS Director Carlson commented that the STOPS model will work to update the transit ridership data and is used for corridor level forecasting. The Activity Sim regional travel model is used to forecast transit ridership and transportation at the regional level. The data inputs for this model come from both the Transit On-Board Survey and the Travel Behavior Inventory Household Survey. The regional Activity Sim travel model will be updated with both these data sources and used for travel forecasting for the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan update which will be adopted in 2024.

Motion by Toni Carter, seconded by Tenzin Dolkar. Motion carried. Hearing no opposition, Chair Barber noted the item can go Consent to the Council.



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2023 Transportation Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment 1

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

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the proposed amendment to the 2023 Unified Planning Work Program as shown in the attached document titled 2023 Transportation Unified Planning Work Program for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Amendment 1.

Background

The Unified Program Work Program (UPWP) is prepared annually and describes the transportation planning activities to be undertaken by the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the Metropolitan Airports Commission. It identifies budgeted expenditures, funding sources, and the allocation of staff resources for transportation planning activities on an annual basis. The 2023 UPWP was adopted by the Council on October 12, 2022, and subsequently approved by MnDOT and USDOT.

Annually, the UPWP is developed for the following calendar year and moved through the TAB and Council committees four to five months before the end of the current calendar year. At the time of UPWP development in mid-summer, project managers must estimate when projects in the current year will get underway, how much of the total budget will be spent and how much will carry into subsequent years. Some 2022 UPWP projects began later than expected or were unable to be initiated in 2022 and are now carrying forward in entirety into 2023. This amendment adjusts the expected start and end dates of these consulting studies and adjusts the 2023 consultant study budgets to reflect the new schedules. In addition, four new studies are proposed to be added to the 2023 work program along with the necessary budget for this additional work.

All the budget adjustments appear in the consultant studies budget line item as shown in the revised Appendix A-UPWP Budget of the 2023 UPWP Amendment 1 document. In total, the proposed changes add \$356,000 to the 2023 consultant studies budget. The amendment proposes adding \$356,000 in local match funds to cover these increased costs, leaving the 2023 federal planning funds total unchanged from the adopted 2023 budget of \$5,109,512.

The 2023 UPWP was adopted by the Council on October 12 of 2022. The 2023 Transportation Unified Planning Work Program Amendment 1 shows the adopted UPWP in black with the proposed amendment changes shown in red underline for new language and strikeout for deleted

language. The most significant changes are described below.

Summary of Proposed UPWP Changes:

- Pages 7-8 adjust consultant study start dates.
- Pages 8-9 add language to clarify funding of the Travel Behavior Inventory program.
- Page 11 adds an activity to reflect the release of the Regional Solicitation during calendar year 2023.
- Pages 9-31 reflect changes to consultant study schedules and budgets.
- Page 32, Appendix A UPWP Budget, revises consultant study budgets and adds \$356,000 in total local match funds to cover these changes.
- Pages 35-47, Appendix C, details various changes to consultant study scopes of work, schedules, and budgets.
- Page 36 adds tasks to the Regional Solicitation Evaluation study to include the incorporation of 2050 Transportation Policy Plan Goals and Objectives and a task to analyze ways to incorporate performance measures into the decision-making process.
- Pages 38-39 updates the proposed work tasks for the Electric Vehicle Public Charging Needs Analysis study.

The amendment also adds four new consultant studies to the 2023 UPWP, summarized below:

- Page 36 describes the 2024 Regional Solicitation Engagement work which will develop an online tool to collect public input during the 2024 Regional Solicitation.
- Pages 37-38 add a new consultant study, Electric Vehicle Public Engagement and City Support, which will provide information and programs to help cities and individuals make decisions related to charging infrastructure and vehicle investment.
- Page adds a consultant contract, Transportation Policy Plan Graphics & Editing Support, which will assist in creating user-friendly and visually appealing graphics for the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan update.
- Pages 39-40 add a new study, the Regional STOPS Model Update, to update the transit forecasting STOPS modeling program to incorporate data from the 2022 transit on-board survey.

At its March 15, 2023 meeting, the Transportation Advisory Board unanimously recommended adoption of the proposed 2023 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment 1. There is no known opposition to this item.

Rationale

The UPWP is a federally required description and documentation of proposed transportation and transportation-related planning activities proposed to be undertaken by the Council and partners in the metropolitan area. This action will amend the UPWP to include updated project descriptions, total project costs, and timelines for planning studies as shown in 2023 UPWP Amendment 1.

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 Amendment 1 includes additional work items that focus on electric vehicle charging needs, the development of a survey tool to collect public input on the Regional Solicitation process, and modeling work that will incorporate 2021 transit on-board survey data. These additional tasks support the sustainability, equity, and livability goals, respectively.

Funding

This amendment will alter the 2023 UPWP budget by adding \$356,000 to the total budget, bringing it from \$6,386,890 to \$6,742,890. Federal funding levels do not change.



Small Business Inclusion

The amended 2023 UPWP has a total budget of \$6,742,890, of which \$2,358,000 is identified for consultant studies. All consultant studies are evaluated by the Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firm opportunities and assigned a DBE goal.

