

PUBLIC COMMENT REPORT

2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

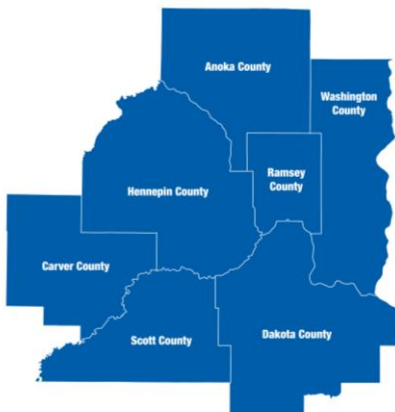


September 2023

The Council's mission is to foster efficient and economic growth for a prosperous metropolitan region

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The Metropolitan Council is the regional planning organization for the seven-county Twin Cities area. The Council operates the regional bus and rail system, collects and treats wastewater, coordinates regional water resources, plans and helps fund regional parks, and administers federal funds that provide housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. The 17-member Council board is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the governor.

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Background

The Metropolitan Council sought public comments on the region's draft 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) between August 21 and September 8, 2023. The Met Council proactively promoted availability of the comment draft and public meeting, advertising them through social media and other means.

The 2024 Unified Planning Work Program outlines and documents the transportation-related planning activities in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area for the upcoming year. The Metropolitan Council serves as the [Metropolitan Planning Organization](#) for the region and facilitates the cooperative, continuing, and comprehensive transportation planning process for the region.

The following report includes a table of comments received and responses from Met Council staff. One commenter participated and provided three topical comments.

People engaged

- Web page
 - 174 unique visitors
- Facebook Post
 - Impressions: 372
 - Reach: 362
 - Engagement: 23
- Twitter Post
 - Impressions: 436
 - Engagement: 15

Methods used

- Web announcement and web page notice
- GovDelivery email announcement and reminder
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Star Tribune classified advertising
- Public meeting (virtual)

Comments received through:

- Email

Comments and Responses

The table below contains written comments as received, along with a response from Met Council staff and any recommended change to the UPWP.

Commenter	Topic	Comment	Response
Lyndon Robjent, Carver County	Regional Solicitation Evaluation Project	Does the regional solicitation evaluation project include suggestions for new criteria or funding categories? It seems as a region we are sometimes a step behind current issues when it comes to the regional solicitation. For example there are no criteria for resiliency to the effects of climate change. This should be addressed in most categories. Will the CRP funds be available to more than ped/bike projects?	<p>Thank you for your comment. The Regional Solicitation Evaluation consultant study has work tasks to further examine new funding sources and programs including PROTECT (resiliency), the Carbon Reduction Program, and the Active Transportation funding coming to the Council's Transportation Advisory Board (TAB). The Carbon Reduction Program has unallocated funding available starting in 2026. The state is currently completing the federally required Carbon Reduction Strategy and, once completed, will be the point in which a regional conversation will convene about the best use of these funds given federal eligibility, the Carbon Reduction Strategy, and the highest needs for the region.</p> <p>In addition, the consultant will work with stakeholders to identify if the current Regional Solicitation structure, including application categories, is sufficient or if different ones are needed to meet the regional goals and objectives in the 2050 Transportation Policy Program.</p>
Lyndon Robjent, Carver County	Active Transportation Program	Task A-3 mentions the Active Transportation program. This should be its own program and not run through the regional solicitation. Add this as its own Task?	Thank you for your comment. Because the Active Transportation funding is new and its distribution process is going to be designed as part of the Regional Solicitation Evaluation, staff thinks it is most appropriate to leave it within Task A-3 at this time. Note that the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Solicitation, which is also a different process, is also included in this task. Changing the name of this task, along with whether to split it into multiple tasks, may be examined for future UPWPs.
Lyndon Robjent, Carver County	Greenhouse Gas Assessment	Can the Council assist with the greenhouse gas impact assessment required by the legislature if necessary? An impact measurement tool will likely be needed for both greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles travelled along with a mitigation tool.	Thank you for your comment. A statewide greenhouse gas emissions impact mitigation working group is currently meeting to determine the scope of required analysis under HF 2887 and the roles, responsibilities, and timelines for that analysis. When that process is complete, the roles of Council staff and potential consultants will be incorporated into the UPWP.



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