

# Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee meeting date: Oct 9, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: Oct 25, 2023

## Business Item: 2023-228

2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

### Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Adopt the proposed 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with a budget of \$7,332,756.
- 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 via the signing of Resolution 2023-21.

### Summary of Transportation Committee discussion/questions

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Dave Burns presented this item. Chamblis asked why the Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) resulted in a large increase in funding to transportation planning and operations. Burns stated that this year's federal transportation bill included additional funds to transportation in general and that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) did receive overall more funds than in previous transportation bills.

Motion by Carter, Toni, seconded by Vento. Motion carried, consent to Council.



# Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: Oct 9, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: Oct 25, 2023

## Business Item: 2023-228

2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

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

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Adopt the proposed 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with a budget of \$7,332,756.
- 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 via the signing of Resolution 2023-21.

### Background

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) serves as the Council's application for USDOT transportation planning funds. Federal regulations require that every metropolitan planning organization (MPO) submit the UPWP for consideration by the USDOT on an annual basis. The UPWP is prepared annually and describes the transportation planning activities that the Council will conduct for the coming year. Participants in the UPWP include the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Metropolitan Airports Commission, regional transit providers and local cities, counties, and other stakeholders.

The UPWP includes activities required by federal regulation that address planning priorities of the metropolitan area. The document identifies budgeted expenditures, funding sources, and the allocation of staff resources for the transportation planning activities of the MPO. Projects with Metropolitan Council participation include staff hours and consultant costs that detail how the estimated \$5.6 million of federal planning money will be spent, along with a required minimum 20 percent local match to the federal funds. In 2024, the Council is committing to use federal planning funds and local match to support the regional transportation planning process and continue the significant work to update the 2050 Regional Development Guide and 2050 Transportation Policy Plan.

Many of the tasks described in the UPWP are ongoing activities. Examples include staff support of the TAB/TAC committee process, the annual preparation of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and support of the Regional Solicitation. Other tasks are focused planning studies that help to move forward the region's transportation policies and knowledge, identify regional investments and fulfill the transportation system vision as outlined in the Transportation Policy

Plan. The 2024 UPWP includes over \$2 million in planned consulting costs to complete these planning studies.

The 2024 UPWP was released for public review on August 21 and accepted comments through September 8. Both the 2024 UPWP and the Public Comment Report is available on the agenda link.

### **Rationale**

The UPWP is a federally required description and documentation of proposed transportation and transportation-related planning activities in the metropolitan area. The activities include both activities required for the MPO to operate as well as projects that reflect the regional transportation vision.

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 2024 UPWP includes work items that focus on furthering engagement with historically disadvantaged populations and increasing equity in transportation planning and investment processes.

### **Funding**

The proposed planning work is funded with approximately \$5.6 million in federal transportation planning grant funds distributed through MnDOT and \$1.8 million in Council match funds.



METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

390 Robert Street North, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1805

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-21

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION, FOR A CONSOLIDATED PLANNING GRANT  
UNDER THE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT (IIJA)

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Transportation is authorized to make grants for mass transportation projects and transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, the contract for financial assistance will impose certain obligations upon the applicant, including the provision by it of the local share of project costs; and

WHEREAS, it is required by the U.S. Department of Transportation in accord with the provisions of the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that in connection with the filing of an application for assistance under the Federal Transit Act of 1991, as amended, the applicant give an assurance that it will comply with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the U.S. Department of Transportation requirements thereunder; and

WHEREAS, Title 23, U.S. Code requires that a continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative (3-C) transportation planning process be carried out between the state and local governments in urbanized areas; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council is eligible to receive Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration grant funds for the 2024 transportation planning work program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Regional Administrator is authorized to file an application with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, on behalf of the Metropolitan Council, for a consolidated planning grant to aid in financing the Council's 2024 transportation work program;
2. THAT the Metropolitan Council enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, for distribution of Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration Planning Funds;
3. THAT the Regional Administrator is hereby authorized to execute the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation agreement(s) and amendment(s) for Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration planning funds;
4. THAT the Regional Administrator is authorized to furnish such additional information as the Minnesota Department of Transportation or the U.S. Department of Transportation may require in connection with applications, projects, or agreements.

Adopted this October 25 of 2023.

---

Charlie Zelle, Chair

---

Bridget Toskey, Recording Secretary