

Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

ACTION TRANSMITTAL

No. 2012-26

DATE: June 15, 2012
TO: Transportation Advisory Board
FROM: Technical Advisory Committee
PREPARED BY: Ann Braden, Metropolitan Council MTS (651-602-1705)
James Andrew, Metropolitan Council MTS (651-602-1721)
Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB (651-602-1728)
SUBJECT: 2011 Regional Solicitation Funding Options and Contingency Plans.

MOTION: That the TAB consider two options at 100% of the SAFETEA-LU funding levels used in 2009 and two contingency plan options.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION:

Funding Options

The TAB directed the technical committees to forward funding options using 100% of the funds assumed to be available under SAFETEA-LU in the 2009 regional solicitation, with contingency plans should reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU provide less funding than programmed. For the TAB's consideration, the TAC forwards two options and two contingency plans to allocate funds in the Surface Transportation Program-Urban Guarantee (STP) Program, the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program, the Transportation Enhancements (TE) Program and the Bridge Improvement and Replacement (BIR) Programs.

The first funding option funds projects proportionate to the amount of funding requested per STP-UG category. Option 1 would allocate \$95.2 million to 19 projects under STP-UG and \$167.4 million for 57 projects in all four programs combined. Option 1 would overprogram the regional solicitation by \$3.6 million, or 2.2%.

The second option funds more projects in a category that was revised to emphasize reconstruction rather than increased through-capacity. Option 2 would allocate \$93.2 million to 19 projects under STP-UG and \$165.4 million for 57 projects in the four programs combined. Option 2 would overprogram the regional solicitation by \$1.6 million, or 1.0%.

The recommended selection of projects in the Transportation Enhancements, Congestion Mitigation Air Quality and Bridge Improvement programs is the same in both options.

Contingency Plans

The TAC discussed contingency plans that are based on an assumed 30% reduction in federal funds. The first contingency plan would either reduce the federal funding for all projects selected for 2015 and 2016 by a percentage amount that would meet available funding levels, or applies an inflation factor at the time of award with the stipulation that the inflation amount may be removed if reauthorization provides less funding than programmed. The second contingency

plan would defer projects programmed in 2013 and 2014 into 2015 and require the TAB to program projects from this solicitation in 2016, 2017 and 2018. This option would likely delay the next regional solicitation to 2014 and would delay when the TAB could program new projects, but it would give more time to develop a reformed solicitation package.

Attached to this action transmittal is a memo that explains how the federal funding targets are developed, describes the contingency plans, illustrates the selection of projects at a 30% funding reduction, and describes the two funding options forwarded by the TAC.

Other federal programs

MnDOT solicits for projects under the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and the Rail Crossing Safety Program (RRX), evaluates the proposals and provides the TAC and TAB with ranked lists of projects. The TAB then awards funds from a pool of funds dedicated to those two programs. The recommended lists of projects in these two programs are not part of this action. MnDOT will bring these lists of projects to the TAB with a TIP amendment at a later date.

RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY: The regional solicitation is a key biennial responsibility of the TAB. Through this process federal funds can be directed to a variety of locally-initiated projects that address transportation problems and help implement regional transportation and development policies. The regional solicitation is part of the Metropolitan Council's federally required continuing, comprehensive and cooperative transportation planning process for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	May 31, 2012
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	June 6, 2012
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Approve	
Metropolitan Council	Information	