

Transportation Advisory Board of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

TO: Transportation Advisory Board
FROM: Kevin Roggenbuck, Transportation Coordinator
DATE: February 13, 2013
RE: Schedule and Public Involvement Process for the Transportation Improvement Program Amendment to include the projects selected in the 2011 regional solicitation.

On June 20, 2012, the Transportation Advisory Board completed the 2011 regional solicitation selection process by voting to select 58 projects to receive \$170 million in federal transportation funding. The TAB selected projects to receive funds through four federal programs defined in SAFETEA-LU: the Surface Transportation Program – Urban Guarantee, Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program, the Transportation Enhancements Program and the Bridge Improvement and Replacement Program.

Typically, the selection of projects would be completed in January in time to be added to the draft Transportation Improvement Program that goes through a public hearing process. The TAB suspended the 2011 regional solicitation process twice which delayed the selection of projects until June 2012 when the draft 2013-2016 TIP was already released for public comment.

Shortly after the TAB selected projects in June, Congress passed a new federal transportation funding act, MAP-21, and it was signed into law by President Obama in July. Before the selected projects could be amended into the 2013-2016 TIP, MnDOT and the TAB needed to more fully understand the funding levels that could be assumed for 2015 and 2016.

Regarding funding levels, in general terms, MAP-21 provides more funding to the federal programs allocated and managed by state departments of transportation and less funding to programs typically allocated and managed by Metropolitan Planning Organizations. MnDOT developed a funding transition plan for all federal projects programmed in the 2013-2016 State Transportation Improvement Program. MnDOT will guarantee the federal share for all projects programmed in the 2013-2016 STIP in the years they are currently programmed. Projects that move from their current program year to a future or later program year will not be guaranteed funding. For the program years 2015 and 2016, MnDOT will fund up to the set aside amounts for STP, Bridge, CMAQ and Enhancements identified in the 2013-2016 TIP and STIP. Approximately \$13 million in STP funds must be programmed in 2017 through the 2014-2017 TIP development process this spring and summer.

Because only set aside amounts were identified in the 2013-2016 TIP, there has not been an opportunity for public review of the 2011 solicitation projects. On the back of this page is a suggested schedule and public involvement process that would follow a similar public involvement process as the TIP, but modified to be appropriate for this regionally significant amendment. The schedule was developed in consultation with Federal Highway Administration.

2011 regional solicitation projects TIP amendment schedule:
once through TAC and TAB end in May

DATE	ITEM	ORGANIZATION	ACTION/TOPIC
February 1, 2013	List of projects selected to receive federal funds in the 2011 regional solicitation.	MC staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Start conformity review for the 2011 solicitation projects.
February 15	Draft 2013-2016 TIP amendment for 2011 regional solicitation projects, including the Railroad Highway Crossing Safety projects.	MC Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Mail to TAC F&PC.
February 20, 2013	TAB announces TIP amendment for 2011 solicitation projects and opens public comment period.	TAB	<input type="checkbox"/> Post projects on Council website; provide public meeting notice to area newspapers; advertise through all Council publications including social media.
February 21	Draft 2013-2016 TIP amendment	TAC – F&PC	<input type="checkbox"/> Offer opportunity for public comment; Recommend adoption to TAC with any public comments.
March 6	Draft 2013-2016 TIP amendment	TAC	<input type="checkbox"/> Offer opportunity for public comment; Recommend adoption to TAB with any public comments. <input type="checkbox"/> MPCA letter of comment included.
March 13	21-day public comment period closes.	TAB	<input type="checkbox"/> Close of public comment period.
March 15	Public comment report.	MC staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Staff prepares a public comment report and forwards to TAB with the TIP amendment.
March 20	Draft 2013-2016 TIP amendment	TAB	<input type="checkbox"/> If no public comments are received that affect the draft TIP amendment, the Board may vote to adopt the amendment and forward to MC. <input type="checkbox"/> If public comments require more than editorial changes to the amendment, TAB may revise the amendment and then adopt.
April 8	Final TIP amendment	MC Transportation Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Review and recommends to MC.
April 24	Final TIP amendment	Met Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopts, forwards to MnDOT.