

ACTION TRANSMITTAL No. 2015-51

DATE: December 16, 2015
TO: Transportation Advisory Board
FROM: Technical Advisory Committee
PREPARED BY: Joe Barbeau, Senior Planner (651-602-1705)
Steve Peterson, Planning Analyst (651-602-1819)
Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator (651-602-1717)
SUBJECT: Regional Solicitation Funding by Roadway Functional Classification
REQUESTED ACTION: Adjust the scoring of some measures to make all A-minor roadway classifications competitive in the 2016 Regional Solicitation.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: Prior to 2014, roadway applications in the Regional Solicitation were divided by roadway functional classifications (Principal Arterial and the four A-minor classifications: Augmentor, Connector, Expander, and Reliever). This allowed same-classification roadways to compete with each other, resulting in funding for at least one project in each.

The 2014 Regional Solicitation rearranged roadway project applications into two new categories: Expansion and Reconstruction/Modernization. Within these categories, projects from all classifications competed against each other. Three of the four classifications were funded in the 2014 Regional Solicitation with no Connector projects being funded. Five Connector projects applied in the Roadway Reconstruction/Modernization category. Of 21 applications in that category, the five Connector projects ranked 14th, 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st. The 2014 Regional Solicitation survey results indicated a desire to revisit the issue to consider whether all parts of the A-Minor system should be funded.

Options considered by TAC at its December 2 meeting:

1. Guarantee that a minimum of one project will be funded in each of the four A-minor classifications. For the 2014 solicitation this would have entailed funding the 14th-ranked Roadway Reconstruction/Modernization project, "leap-frogging" five projects with higher scores.
2. Adjust the scoring of some of the measures so that the top performing project in each functional classification (Principal Arterial and the four A-minor classifications: Augmentor, Connector, Expander, and Reliever) receives the maximum score in selected measures (e.g., forecast traffic volume). For the 2014 solicitation, this type of scoring would have resulted in one different Reconstruction/Modernization project being funded and four different Expansion projects being funded. The top A-Minor Connector project would have been much more competitive than before, but still would not have been funded.
3. Make no changes in the solicitation application with TAB making a decision after project applications have been received, scored, and ranked as to whether it will fund a project in each A-Minor classification.

TAC recommendation: Option 2 – Adjust some of the measures so that the top performing project in each functional classification receives the maximum score in selected measures. TAC felt that Option 1 could lead to discomfort if a project is funded ahead of better-scoring projects and that Option 3 would cause uncertainty among potential applicants regarding whether to submit Connector projects given uncertainty in funding. If TAB selects Option 2, then TAC Funding and Programming at its December 17 meeting and TAC at its January 6 meeting will discuss specific scoring options.

RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY: The Regional Solicitation is a key responsibility of the TAB. Through this process, federal funds can be directed to a variety of locally-initiated projects that address transportation needs 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.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND ACTION: At its December 2, 2015, meeting, TAC discussed this item extensively and did consider it to be a policy decision. Initially TAC discussed seeking guidance from TAB on which way to proceed, but at the end did vote on Option 2 and unanimously recommended adjusting some of the measures so that the top performing project in each functional classification receives the maximum score in selected measures.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	12/2/2015
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Adopt	