

Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

ACTION TRANSMITTAL 2016-05

DATE: January 11, 2016

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: 2016 Regional Solicitation Application Category Minimum and Maximum Funding Amounts.

REQUESTED ACTION: Recommend approval of minimum and maximum funding amounts for the 2016 regional solicitation.

RECOMMENDED MOTIONS: That TAB approve the minimum and maximum funding amounts, shown in Table 1, for the 2016 regional solicitation.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: The Regional Solicitation for federal transportation projects is part of the Metropolitan Council’s federally-required continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation planning process for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

Recommended minimum and maximum federal funding amounts for the 2016 Regional Solicitation, by application category, are shown in the below table, with changes from the 2014 Regional Solicitation indicated via strikethroughs and underlines.

Table 1.

Modal Categories	Modal Application Categories	Minimum Federal Award	Maximum Federal Award
Roadways Including Multimodal Elements	Roadway Expansion	\$1,000,000	\$7,000,000
	Roadway Reconstruction/ Modernization	\$1,000,000	\$7,000,000
	Roadway System Management	\$250,000	\$7,000,000
	Bridge Rehabilitation/ Replacement	\$1,000,000	\$7,000,000
Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities	Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities	\$125,000 <u>\$250,000</u>	\$5,500,000 <u>\$3,500,000</u>
	Pedestrian Facilities	\$125,000 <u>\$250,000</u>	\$1,000,000
	Safe Routes to School	\$125,000 <u>\$150,000</u>	\$1,000,000
Transit and TDM Projects	Transit Expansion	\$500,000	\$7,000,000
	Travel Demand Management (TDM)	\$75,000	\$300,000
	Transit System Modernization	\$100,000	\$7,000,000

RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY: TAB develops and issues a Regional Solicitation for federal funding.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND ACTION: TAC Funding & Programming Committee members felt that the maximum federal amount for Multiuse Trails and Bicycle facilities should be reduced from \$5.5 million to \$3.5 million in order to facilitate funding more projects. Previous Regional Solicitations had a \$1 million maximum for Transportation Enhancements, though STP funds could be used in larger amounts. The \$5.5 million maximum was based on the previous maximum for STP.

In addition, based on past project estimates, the committee concluded that a \$3.5 million award (plus the local share) would likely be enough money to fund even large trail grade-separation projects. The increased minimum amounts from \$125,000 to \$250,000 for the three Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities applications is recommended to avoid funding projects that have a disproportionately high federal compliance cost compared to the project cost.

TAC F&P members unanimously recommended the amounts as shown in Table 1.

Based on the potential for costly bridges that would not be well-funded by the new maximum, TAC had discussion on retaining the \$5.5 million maximum for Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities, but the decision was to leave it at the recommended \$3.5 million as discussed at previous F&P and TAC meetings. A motion was made that TAC recommend to TAC approval of the minimum and maximum funding amounts, shown in Table 1, for the 2016 regional solicitation. The motion passed with 24 in favor and three dissenting votes.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
TAC Funding & Programming	Review & Recommend	December 17, 2015
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	January 6, 2016
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Approve	