

Evaluation of Unique Projects

Transportation Advisory Board Meeting

November 16, 2016



Approved Application Categories



MODAL CATEGORIES

Roadways Including Multimodal Elements
**48% - 68% of Funds

Transit and Travel Demand Management (TDM) Projects
**22% - 32% of Funds

Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities
**10% - 20% of Funds

APPLICATION CATEGORIES

Expansion

Reconstruction / Modernization

Roadway System Management

Bridges

Transit Expansion

Transit System Modernization

Travel Demand Management

- Base Level
- Innovative

Multise Trails and Bicycle Facilities

Pedestrian Facilities (Sidewalks, Streetscaping, and ADA)

Safe Routes to School (Infrastructure Projects)

TAB Direction (7/20/16)

- TAB directed TAC to review and recommend criteria to evaluate unique projects in the solicitation

Unique Project Submissions

Project	Applicant	Federal Request	Comments
1. Travel Behavior Inventory	Metropolitan Council	\$1,000,000 in 2018 \$850,000 in 2019 \$850,000 in 2021	Being addressed separately
2. Electric Vehicle Charging Stations	University of MN	\$250,000	Meets qualifying requirements
3. Jackson Street Reconstruction	Ramsey County	\$7,000,000	B-Minor Arterial
4. Technician Training	MPCA	\$40,000	Requested lower than min. fed. award for other app. categories
5. Travel Behavior Inventory	Metropolitan Council	\$1,000,000	Remove: New request submitted
6. Diesel Retrofit	MPCA	\$1,166,633	Some project elements are federally ineligible
7. Bike Corridor Slope Restoration	Hennepin County	\$1,420,800	Remove: Submitted this project in Multiuse Trail category

Projects #1-3 are newly submitted unique projects whereas #4-7 were submitted originally, but not funded with the excess 2017 funds.

General TAC Feedback (11/2/16)

- By definition, unique projects are difficult to compare and TAC does not have a technical recommendation for how to objectively differentiate projects.
- TAC suggests that unique project status should not be given to projects that do not at least meet the qualifying criteria of the Regional Solicitation (e.g., roadways must be A-minor arterial or higher).
- TAC recommends that the Council staff do not solicit for unique project applications in the future. Similar to past practice, unique projects requests should be sent directly to TAB for consideration and be decoupled from the Regional Solicitation timeline.

Questions

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