

November 6, 2019

Metropolitan Council
Transportation Advisory Board
390 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Draft 2020 Regional Solicitation Comments

To Whom it May Concern:

The City of Cottage Grove appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the draft 2020 Regional Solicitation. In reviewing the proposed changes, the City's specific comments are as follows:

- It appears the first change the Regional Solicitation Policy Workgroup is recommending is a reduction in Multituse Trails and Bicycle Facilities funding from \$5.5 million to \$4 million in order to increase Transit funding. While Cottage Grove supports the continued expansion of transit, the City also places great importance on trail facilities and would request a lesser reduction to the proposed maximum funding level.
- The second Regional Solicitation Policy Workgroup recommendation involves setting aside \$25 million for one arterial BRT project, Cottage Grove supports this change.
- The third Regional Solicitation Policy Workgroup recommendation change talks about BRT competing in the transit expansion and transit modernization categories. This is seen as a benefit to all BRT projects as it gives a place to compete against other transit projects.
- The fourth change limits the BRT funding to ensure other transit projects will still receive funding. Cottage Grove supports these recommended changes.
- The fifth Regional Solicitation Policy Workgroup recommendation guarantees that at least one project that is outside transit Market Areas 1 and 2 will be funded. Being in the Emerging Market Area III, Cottage Grove supports this change.
- The 2020 Regional Solicitation Policies, Qualifying Criteria, and Project Eligibility will be changed to require that ADA Transition Plans are completed. As a City that has placed great importance on achieving ADA compliance for pedestrian facilities located within right-of-way, along with public and park buildings, Cottage Grove supports this change.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft 2020 Regional Solicitation. We look forward to the 2020 Regional Solicitation as an opportunity to assist in meeting local and regional transportation needs.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Levitt, P.E.
City Administrator