

ACTION TRANSMITTAL No. 2019-39

DATE: September 5, 2019
TO: Transportation Advisory Board
FROM: Technical Advisory Committee
PREPARED BY: Joe Barbeau, Senior Planner (651-602-1705)
Steve Peterson, Manager of Highway Planning and TAC/TAB
Process (651-602-1819)
Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator (651-602-1717)
SUBJECT: 2020 Regional Solicitation: Funding Categories
REQUESTED ACTION: Approval of the funding categories for the 2020 Regional Solicitation.
RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Transportation Advisory Board approve the funding categories for the 2020 Regional Solicitation.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: In 2014, the Regional Solicitation was modified to include ten funding categories. While a few names of the categories have changed to better-reflect the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP), these categories were used in the 2014, 2016, and 2018 Regional Solicitations. They are:

- Roadways:
 - Traffic Management Technologies (originally titled Roadway System Management)
 - Strategic Capacity (Originally titled Roadway Expansion)
 - Roadway Reconstruction and Modernization
 - Bridges
- Transit and TDM:
 - Transit Expansion
 - Transit Modernization
 - Travel Demand Management (TDM)
- Bicycle and Pedestrian
 - Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities
 - Pedestrian Facilities
 - Safe Routes to School

Three new funding categories are proposed for 2020. First, under the Roadways category, a new “Spot Mobility & Safety” category is proposed. This would focus on lower-cost intersection projects meant to enhance mobility and safety. Examples of project types include at-grade intersection improvements, turn lanes, roundabouts, and reduced conflict intersections that can serve as cost-effective improvements to regional mobility and tie directly to the TPP.

Second, within the Transit modal category, there is a new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) program, **pending Policy Work Group input.** A proposal will be made to TAB on the project(s) to be funded and for between \$25M and \$28M to be allocated for this program.

Third, unique projects are proposed as a recognized category with specific funds attached for the first time. Unique projects are defined as projects that do not fit into the established categories. The process of setting aside funding is discussed in item 2019-40.

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

COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND ACTION: At its August 22, 2019, meeting, the TAC Funding & Programming Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the funding categories for the 2020 Regional Solicitation, acknowledging that TAB is still determining to details of the category eligibility.

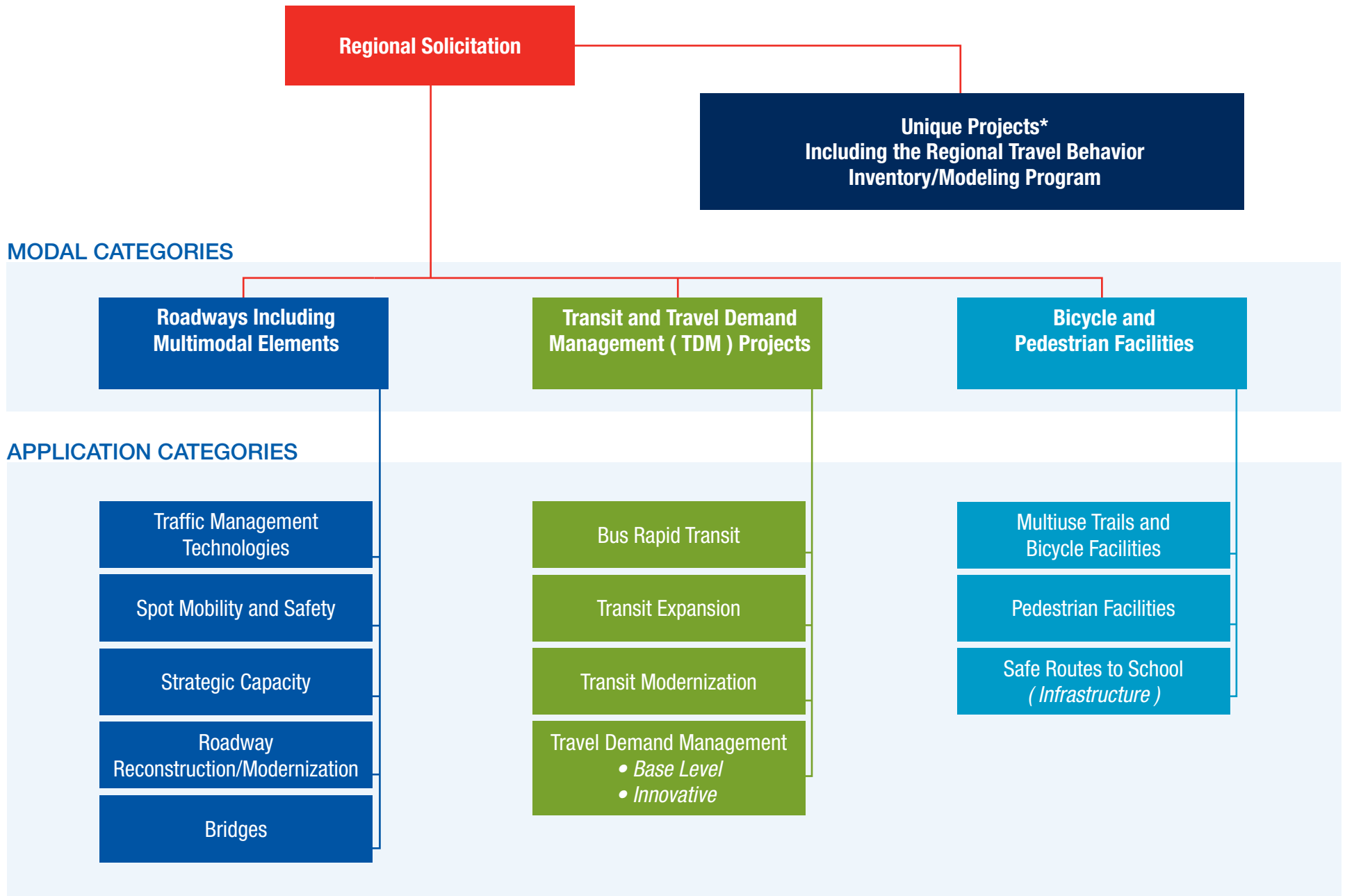
Members expressed concerns regarding the Unique Projects category related to whether infeasible projects might be funded and whether project competition could threaten the Travel Behavior Inventory (TBI) being funded.

Concern was also expressed that there has been lacking technical review in development of the BRT program, along with its accompanying Transit New Market funding guarantee.

At its September 4, 2019, meeting, the Technical Advisory Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the funding categories for the 2020 Regional Solicitation, acknowledging that TAB is still determining to details of the category eligibility.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	COMPLETION DATE
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	8/22/2019
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	9/4/2019
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Adopt	
Transportation Committee	Review & Recommend	
Metropolitan Council	Concurrence	



*Unique projects are projects that do not fit in the scoring measures for other application categories. TAB will accept applications in the 2022 Solicitation for Unique projects to be funded with federal funds in 2024 and 2025.