The Metropolitan Council

2020 TMA Certification Review

TAB Meeting – 12/16/20
TMA Certification Purpose

- Federally certify the Met Council’s planning process
  - Conducted every four years
- Focuses on metropolitan transportation planning areas over 200,000 in population (TMAs)
- TMA = Transportation Management Area
  - In Minnesota, Met Council is only TMA
Federal Agencies

• Jointly conducted by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) & Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

• Support from MnDOT, the Met Council and other regional planning partners

• Review is not project specific – Focus is overall planning process
Review Methodology

- **Three-Month Desk Review**
  - All relevant documents – TPP, UPWP, MOU’s, CMP, etc.
  - Pertinent questions sent to Met Council

- **Interviews**
  - MnDOT Central Office, MnDOT Metro District, Metro Transit, Opt-Out Transit Providers, other stakeholders as appropriate

- **On-Site Review Meeting (two days)**

- **Final Report**
  - Stored to DC database
• **Best Practices**
  o Stellar examples that can be showcased for other MPOs

• **Recommendations**
  o Areas for improvement, but not in violation of regulations

• **Corrective Actions**
  o Areas in violation of regulations
  o Requires an action plan
• **2016 Example**
  o TIP – Incorporation of equity as project selection criteria
• 2016 Example
  ○ Update and Enhance the Public Participation Plan (PPP):
    ▪ Discuss stakeholder engagement methods
    ▪ Demonstrate a clear process for considering public comments
    ▪ Document a process for evaluating the PPP’s overall effectiveness
Corrective Actions

2016 Example

None!

(Congestion Management Process was very close)
2020 - Risk-Based Approach

- 2016 TMA Certification xxplored 26 Topics
- 2020 transitioned to a risk-based approach
- Focus on roughly 10 areas
“On-Site” Review

- Took place Dec. 8th & 9th
- All virtual – WebEx
- Representatives from Met Council, FHWA, FTA, & MnDOT in attendance
- Relatively smooth
Focus Area - CMP

- Congestion Management Process (CMP)
  - Overall process improvements from 2016
  - Data source and usage
  - Public-facing website
  - Local agency user guide
  - 5-10 year plan
Focus Area - UPWP

- Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
  - Project prioritization
  - Description of funding allocation
  - Internal process/procedures documentation
Focus Area – Public Participation Plan

- Public Participation Plan (PPP)
  - Evaluation of effectiveness
    - Timeline for assessment
    - Metrics used

- Tribal Involvement
  - Process description
Met Council’s transportation planning process will be either:

- Certified
- Certified subject to fixing corrective actions
- Not certified – federal funding may be in jeopardy
Public Input

• Public Comment Period
  o Dec. 8th – Jan 20th
  o Short presentation
  o Short survey w/ open-ended comments
  o Public comments will be summarized and inform final federal report

• See Met Council website to comment
Final report will be issued in early 2021, summarizing the discussions of the review

Met Council staff may review prior to finalization

Report uploaded into a database in D.C.

FHWA & FTA will return to TAB in April/May of 2021 with the results
Contacts / Questions

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