



Highway 61  
North Shore of Lake Superior

U.S. Department of Transportation (FHWA/FTA)

# The Metropolitan Council

## 2020 TMA Certification Review

TAB Meeting – 12/16/20



# TMA Certification Purpose

U. S. Department of Transportation (FHWA/FTA)

- 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

U. S. Department of Transportation (FHWA/FTA)

- 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**



FHWA & FTA





# Review Methodology

U. S. Department of Transportation (FHWA/FTA)

- **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



# Topic Area Findings

U. S. Department of Transportation (FHWA/FTA)

- **Best Practices**
  - Stellar examples that can be showcased for other MPOs
- **Recommendations**
  - Areas for improvement, but not in violation of regulations
- **Corrective Actions**
  - Areas in violation of regulations
  - Requires an action plan





# Best Practices

U. S. Department of Transportation (FHWA/FTA)

- **2016 Example**
  - TIP – Incorporation of equity as project selection criteria





# Recommendations

U. S. Department of Transportation (FHWA/FTA)

- **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

U. S. Department of Transportation (FHWA/FTA)

## 2016 Example

None!

(Congestion  
Management Process  
was very close)







# 2020 - Risk-Based Approach

U. S. Department of Transportation (FHWA/FTA)

- 2016 TMA Certification explored 26 Topics
- 2020 transitioned to a risk-based approach
- Focus on roughly 10 areas





# “On-Site” Review

U. S. Department of Transportation (FHWA/FTA)

- Took place Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>
- All virtual – WebEx
- Representatives from Met Council, FHWA, FTA, & MnDOT in attendance
- Relatively smooth

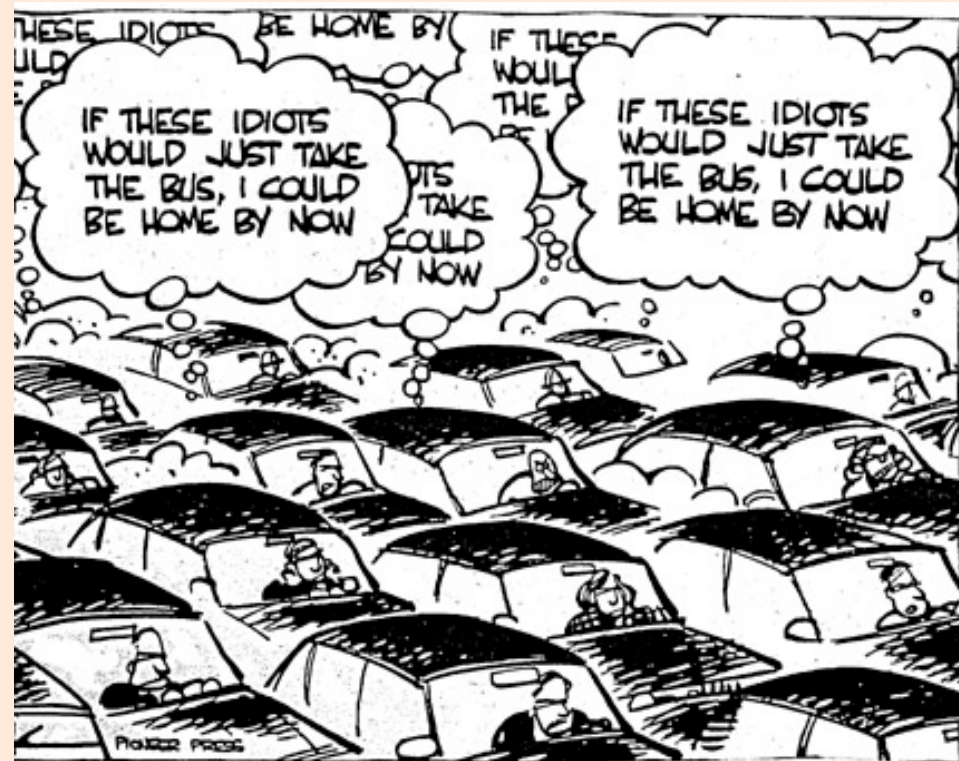




# Focus Area - CMP

FHWA Minnesota Division

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





FHWA Minnesota Division

# Focus Area - UPWP

- Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
  - Project prioritization
  - Description of funding allocation
  - Internal process/procedures documentation







# Focus Area – Public Participation Plan

FHWA Minnesota Division

- Public Participation Plan (PPP)
  - Evaluation of effectiveness
    - Timeline for assessment
    - Metrics used
- Tribal Involvement
  - Process description





# Certification

- 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

U. S. Department of Transportation (FHWA/FTA)

- **Public Comment Period**
  - Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> – Jan 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Short presentation
  - Short survey w/ open-ended comments
  - Public comments will be summarized and inform final federal report
- [See Met Council website to comment](#)





# Review Outcome

U. S. Department of Transportation (FHWA/FTA)

- 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

U. S. Department of Transportation (FHWA/FTA)



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