

Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

ACTION TRANSMITTAL – 2020-16

DATE: March 17, 2020
TO: Transportation Advisory Board
PREPARED BY: MTS Staff
SUBJECT: Extension of 2020 Regional Solicitation Application Deadline
REQUESTED ACTION: MTS staff recommends an extension of the Regional Solicitation Application Deadline from April 16 to May 15, 2020.
RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Transportation Advisory Board approve extension of the 2020 Regional Solicitation Application Deadline to May 15, 2020

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: The COVID-19 pandemic has placed additional strain and the requirement to develop new work operating procedures on the agencies and staff members likely to apply to the Regional Solicitation. Several agency representatives have inquired about extending the deadline, currently set at Friday, April 16, 2020, to allow for additional time to prepare and submit the applications.

RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY: The TAB develops and issues a Regional Solicitation for federal Transportation Funding.

STAFF ANALYSIS: The deadline for applications for the Regional Solicitation was designed with the two following objectives: 1) to allow TAB to vote on the final list of projects prior to January 2021, when there may be significant membership turnover, and 2) to allow the selected program of projects to be placed into the draft Transportation Improvement Program prior to its release for public comment.

Staff believes that both objectives will be able to be met by extending the application deadline by one month to Friday, May 15. This would move TAB's final approval from November to December, and would still enable the program of projects to be included in the draft TIP. An extension of two months would cause TAB to approve the program in January and most likely lead to including the selected projects in an appendix of the draft TIP, a less than ideal scenario when it is released for public comment.

Therefore, staff recommends an extension of the application deadline to Friday, May 15, If there is need for another extension, this action could be considered at the April 15 TAB meeting.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
Transportation Advisory Board	Approval of Deadline Extension	