

**ACTION TRANSMITTAL No. 2020-36**

**DATE:** October 9, 2020  
**TO:** Transportation Advisory Board  
**FROM:** MTS Staff  
**PREPARED BY:** Amy Vennewitz, MTS Deputy Director (651-602-1058)  
**SUBJECT:** 2020 Update of the *2040 Transportation Policy Plan*  
**REQUESTED ACTION:** Recommend Council adoption of the 2020 update to the *2040 Transportation Policy Plan*  
**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Transportation Advisory Board recommend that the Metropolitan Council adopt the 2020 update of the *2040 Transportation Policy Plan*

**BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION:** The current *2040 Transportation Policy Plan* was adopted in October 2018. Under federal requirements (and given the region's new carbon monoxide attainment status), the plan must be updated at least every five years to reflect current demographic and fiscal forecasts and expected major transportation projects. This federal timeline would require an update by 2023. However, the region also prepares the regional transportation plan in conformance with state law, which requires an update in 2024, concurrently with the update of the Regional Development Guide (*Thrive MSP 2040*). In order to accommodate both the federal and state requirements, the Council and TAB approved a minor plan update to occur in 2020, thereby allowing for the next major plan update to occur in 2024.

The TPP update changes are limited primarily to changes that have occurred between 2018 and 2020, particularly incorporating the results of planning and corridor studies that have concluded or changes to major projects funding and implementation. In addition, the Work Program chapter has been significantly updated to remove studies that have concluded and add new major planning studies focused on pressing issues facing the region. The study additions include studies to incorporate learning and changes in travel and transportation finances due to the COVID-19 outbreak; a Regional Transportation Investment Equity Evaluation to assess equity within our regional transportation funding and planning processes; a Regional Travel Demand Management study; and two climate change related studies to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles within the region and to develop a tool for local governments to measure greenhouse gas emissions under alternative scenarios.

The Council kicked off this update to the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan in January 2020. Agency and local government stakeholders provided comments through the TAB and TAC committee processes prior to the release for public comment. The draft plan was released for a 45-day public comment period in June and a public hearing held on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Public comment concluded on August 10<sup>th</sup>. Comments were received from approximately 215 individuals and organizations resulting in over 400 comments.

The attached Public Comment Report lists the commenters, summarizes the comments received and provides a response to the comments. The full text from comments received are shown in the appendix of the Public Comment Report. The changes made to the draft TPP in response to public comment are shown in the attached document titled TPP Changes in Response to Public Comment.

The proposed final 2040 TPP Overview, Chapters and Appendices are shown in the documents linked on the agenda.

**RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY:** The Metropolitan Council and its Transportation Advisory Board are required, under both state and federal law, to develop a multimodal long-range regional transportation plan that identifies transportation system goals, needs, and investment priorities over at least a 20-year period. The plan must be updated at least every five years. This update fulfills these requirements and allows for the next major plan update to occur in 2024, along with the next update to the Regional Development Guide (2050 Regional Plan).

**STAFF ANALYSIS:** The update to the 2040 TPP is proposed for recommendation for Council adoption. The document provides a vision for development of the regional transportation system based upon the outcomes and principles expressed in the regional development guide, *Thrive MSP 2040* (adopted May 2014). The document also meets federal requirements for performance-based metropolitan transportation plans, by including transportation system goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures to achieve the desired outcomes for the regional transportation system.

**COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND ACTION:** At its April 9, 2020, meeting, the TAC Planning Committee voted unanimously to recommend the release of the draft update of the *2040 Transportation Policy Plan* for public review and comment. At its May 6, 2020, meeting, the Technical Advisory Committee voted unanimously to recommend the release of the draft update of the *2040 Transportation Policy Plan* for public review and comment. TAB recommended release for public comment on May 20. As specified in the regional Planning and Programming Guide, upon conclusion of the public comment period, the proposed final plan is brought directly to TAB to provide a recommendation to the Council.

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**ROUTING**

| <b>TO</b>                                     | <b>ACTION REQUESTED</b>              | <b>DATE COMPLETED</b> |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| TAC Planning Committee                        | Review & Recommend                   | April 9, 2020         |
| Technical Advisory Committee                  | Review & Recommend                   | May 6, 2020           |
| Transportation Advisory Board                 | Recommend Release for Public Comment | May 20, 2020          |
| Transportation Advisory Board                 | Recommend Adoption                   | October 21, 2020      |
| Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee | Recommend Adoption                   |                       |
| Metropolitan Council                          | Adopt                                |                       |