

INFORMATION ITEM

DATE: July 15, 2021
TO: Transportation Advisory Board
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SUBJECT: 2022 Regional Solicitation: Funding Guarantees and Limitations

Following the 2014 Regional Solicitation, TAC and TAB discussed the difficulty that applications along some roadway classifications, specifically A-minor connectors, had in scoring high enough to be funded. Therefore, starting with the 2016 Regional Solicitation, TAB has had a policy stating that at least one project from each of the five eligible functional classifications must be funded to ensure that all parts of the system receive investment. The five eligible roadway classifications are:

- Non-freeway principal arterials
- A-minor augmentors
- A-minor connectors
- A-minor expanders
- A-minor relievers

During the Policy Work Group Process prior to the 2020 Regional Solicitation, an arterial bus rapid transit (ABRT) program was added, providing a maximum of \$25M to a regional bus rapid transit project. Along with this came a \$32M total bus rapid transit (includes ABRT) cap and a guarantee that at least one “new market” Transit Expansion project will be funded. A “new market” project serves Transit Market Area III, IV, or V or a freestanding town center, as defined in the TPP. Projects that serve Downtown Minneapolis, Downtown St. Paul, or the University of Minnesota are not considered new market projects.

While there is no guarantee related to the Roadway Bridges category, there is a \$10M “target” to provide TAB with flexibility in project selections.

Summary of current guarantees and limitations:

1. Roadways: minimum of one funded project in each roadway classification.*
2. \$25M Arterial Bus Rapid Transit (ABRT) project award.
Includes a \$32M maximum total for ABRT/BRT (see transit memo for further discussion).*
3. Transit “new market” guarantee to fund a project in Transit Market Area III, IV, or V.*
4. Bridge “target” of \$10M.

* could lead to skipping higher-scoring applications in favor to lower-scoring applications

TAB will be asked to act on whether to retain these guarantees.

As discussed within other topics, TAB may consider other guarantees as well, such as funding at least one project located in each county.

Technical Committee Discussion:

Technical Committees generally agreed with the current approach and did not suggest any changes were needed