



Highway 61
North Shore of Lake Superior

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

The Metropolitan Council

2020 TMA Certification Review Results

TAB Presentation – 6/17/21



Background

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

- Every four years, FHWA and FTA jointly review the Transportation Planning Process for MPOs with over 200,000 in population.
- Over 200,000 = TMA (Transportation Management Area)
- A Review Consists of:
 - Three Month Desk Review
 - “On-site Visit” (Virtual)
 - Final Report



Risk-Based Approach

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

- Congestion Management Process
- Consultation & Coordination
- Environmental Mitigation
- Management & Operations
- Organizational Structure
- Public engagement
- Title VI, EJ & LEP
- UPWP
- Financial Planning
- Functional Classification
- Land Use & Livability
- Transportation Policy Plan (TPP)
- Safety
- TIP
- Transit Planning
- Opt-Out Transit Providers



On Site Visit

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

- In Depth Two Day Meeting (Held Virtually)
 - Met Council Staff Interviewed on each Topic Area
- Public Presentation & Open Comment Period
 - 64 Written Comments
- Comment Themes:
 - Met Council Structure
 - Transit Investment vs. Highway Investment
 - Transparency & Appearance that Decisions are Pre-Determined



Findings



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

- **Commendation:** A Noteworthy Practice
- **Recommendation:** Regulatory Compliance Could be Improved
- **Corrective Action:** Failure to Meet Federal Requirements



Results



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

- Commendations: 4
- Recommendations: 12
- Corrective Actions: 0





Certification

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

- The Met Council's Transportation Planning Process was Certified
- Final Report completed 3/19/21
- Report Filed with U.S. D.O.T. in Washington, D.C.



Commendations

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

- **2020 TPP Update**
 - Thorough Public Comment Response & Consideration

- **Travel Demand Forecasting**
 - Travel Behavior Inventory is thorough
 - Data updated regularly to stay relevant



Commendations

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

- **Travel Demand Forecasting**
 - Quick effort to develop a COVID-19 survey to determine impacts on travel demand
- **Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning**
 - Regional Bicycle Barriers Study
 - Regional Bicycle Transportation Network



Recommendations

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

- **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**
 - **(4) Recommendations:**
 1. Clarify and document internal processes for project selection
 2. Ensure UPWP study names remain consistent
 3. Improve estimates of consultant project costs
 4. Provide a clearer link between UPWP projects and the TPP



Recommendations

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

- **Transit Planning**

- **(3) Recommendations**

1. Execute a written agreement with all public transit providers that formalizes their role in the planning process
2. Work with all public transit providers to establish a regular meeting schedule
3. Update the Council's website so that information on all public transit providers is more prominently displayed



Recommendations

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

- **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

- **(1) Recommendation**

1. The TIP financial plan does not provide the process for determining the allocation of federal funds among area transit providers. Clarify how these funds are distributed





Recommendations

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

- **Public Participation Plan (PPP)**

- **(3) Recommendations**

1. Evaluate the effectiveness of engagement strategies and update metrics for improvement where applicable; establish a periodic timeline for effectiveness reviews
2. Identify an update cycle for the PPP
3. Update the PPP to include tribal governments and tribal consultation strategies



Recommendations

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

- **Environmental Mitigation**

- **(1) Recommendation**

- The TPP discusses mitigation in a single sentence describing a strategy to avoid, minimize, and mitigate. A more robust discussion of environmental mitigation strategies is needed





Conclusion

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

- The Met Council's Transportation Planning Process is Certified
- Only Recommendations - No Action Plan Requirements
- FHWA & FTA will work with the Council to address the recommendations (already underway)
- The next TMA Certification is due 3/19/25





Questions?

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



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