The Metropolitan Council

2020 TMA Certification Review Results

TAB Presentation – 6/17/21
• Every four years, FHWA and FTA jointly review the Planning Process for MPOs with over 200,000 in population.

• Review Consists of:
  o Three Month Desk Review
  o “On-site Visit” (Virtual)
  o Public Presentation w/ Comment Period (Virtual)
  o Final Report
Risk-Based Approach

- 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

- **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

• **Commendation:** A Noteworthy Practice

• **Recommendation:** Regulatory Compliance Could be Improved

• **Corrective Action:** Failure to Meet Federal Requirements
Results

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

• **2020 TPP Update**
  o Thorough Public Comment Response & Consideration

• **Travel Demand Forecasting**
  o Travel Behavior Inventory is thorough
  o Data updated regularly to stay relevant
Commendations

• **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
• 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
• 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

• 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
• **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

• 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