

ACTION TRANSMITTAL – 2021-51

DATE: November 10, 2021

TO: Transportation Advisory Board

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SUBJECT: 2022 Regional Solicitation Public Comment Report and Approve Release of the 2022 Regional Solicitation

REQUESTED ACTION: Accept the public comments for the 2022 Regional Solicitation and approve release of the 2022 Regional Solicitation

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Transportation Advisory Board accept the public comments for the 2022 Regional Solicitation and approve release of the 2022 Regional Solicitation

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: The Regional Solicitation for Federal Transportation Projects is part of the Metropolitan Council’s federally required continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation planning process for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The Twin Cities Metropolitan Area selects projects for funding from two federal programs: the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program. Following completion of the 2020 Regional Solicitation, staff worked with the TAC Funding & Programming Committee, TAC, and TAB on updating measures and scoring guidelines. A draft Solicitation with approved changes was subsequently released for public review. The attached materials include the Public Comment Report, the applications, introduction, forms, and qualifying criteria for the 2022 Regional Solicitation. Approximately \$180 million is expected to be available in this solicitation. Most of the funding is for fiscal years 2026 and 2027. The exception is for the travel demand management application, which will solicit about \$1.2 million for 2025 and 2026, and the unique projects application, which will solicit about \$4.0 million for 2025 and 2026.

RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY: TAB develops and issues a Regional Solicitation for transportation funding.

COMMENTS AND ANALYSIS: The public review period ended on October 18, 2021. Comments were received from 58 unique commentors including counties, cities, stakeholder groups and individuals. There were 92 total comments (1 blank).

Major themes within the comments:

- 40 comments related to modal funding ranges with 35 of these requesting that investment be shifted away from roadway expansion (Strategic Capacity) to

investments in transit, bicycle and pedestrian improvements. Five of the modal funding comments did support increased investment in roadways.

- Most of the modal funding comments also commented on the need to reduce the impacts of climate change by reducing our investment in roads and reliance on the automobile
- Eight comments specifically related to investing in safety such as safe bicycle and pedestrian facilities and intersection improvements
- Four comments related to simplifying the Solicitation application process
- A number of comments supporting specific projects within the region

At the meeting, it is TAB's opportunity to determine whether they want to make any additional changes to the 2022 Solicitation based upon the public comment.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	8/19/2021
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	9/1/2021
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Release (for comment)	9/15/2021
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Approve	11/17/2021
Transportation Committee	Review & Recommend Concurrence	12/13/2021
Metropolitan Council	Concur	12/22/2021