

ACTION TRANSMITTAL – 2021-52

DATE: November 10, 2021

TO: Transportation Advisory Board

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SUBJECT: Release of 2022 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Application and Acceptance of Public Comments

REQUESTED ACTION: MnDOT requests that TAB approve the release of the 2022-2023 HSIP Solicitation and accept public comments

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Transportation Advisory Board approve the release of the 2022-2023 HSIP Solicitation for the Metro District and accept related public comments

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: The Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) is a core federal program defined in FAST Act. HSIP is designed to achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads, including non-state-owned public roads and roads on tribal lands. HSIP requires a data-driven, strategic approach to improving highway safety on all public roads that focuses on performance.

MnDOT conducts the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) solicitation, and the proposed projects are evaluated by a selection committee comprised of transportation professionals that includes members of the TAC. With guidance from its technical committees and a recommendation from this selection committee, the TAB's role is to approve the Solicitation criteria and selection of projects to be awarded HSIP funds. The draft district program criteria are attached for review and comment. Note this this solicitation encompasses all of MnDOT Metro District, which includes Chisago County. TAB will approve projects selected in the seven-county area.

RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY: The region's Transportation Policy Plan includes transportation safety policies strategies, and the HSIP solicitation is consistent with that plan.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND ACTION: At its August 19, 2021, meeting, the TAC Funding & Programming Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the draft 2022 HSIP Solicitation for release for public comment.

At its September 1, 2021, meeting, the Technical Advisory Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the draft 2022 HSIP Solicitation for release for public comment.

At its September 15, 2021, meeting, the Transportation Advisory Board released the 2022 Regional Solicitation for public comment. Two comments specific to the HSIP Solicitation were received:

1. HSIP / Regional Solicitation and Non-Safety Scoring Measures
 - a. Organization: Scott County
 - b. Comment: The Highway Safety Improvement Program should be kept separate from the regional solicitation scoring and factoring into the regional solicitation funding distribution. The HSIP criteria should be based on safety alone. However, a number of the criteria have nothing to do with safety benefit which results in the application being more time consuming and costly to fill out and score diluting the federal intent of the program
 - c. Response: According to MnDOT, the scoring criteria for the HSIP program in Metro District are all safety related. Scoring criteria for Proactive and Reactive projects include safety measures and cost-benefit criteria, and applicants are asked to demonstrate how the project connects to the Minnesota Highway Safety Plan and the intent of the HSIP program. The scoring criteria was last updated in the HSIP program evaluation in 2018, which included engagement and input with local partners.

2. MnDOT Participation in HSIP Solicitation
 - a. Organization: Scott County
 - b. Comment: Prioritize local agency projects to receive federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding. In 2020, MnDOT selected to fund six (6) of their own projects as part of this funding solicitation while eighteen (18) projects from counties and cities were unfunded. MnDOT receives a separate allocation of HSIP funding apart from this funding solicitation.
 - c. Response: The Metropolitan Council does not receive federal HSIP funding as part of the appropriation as a Transportation Management Area (TMA) and most state DOTs do not allocate HSIP funding to TMAs (MPOs of greater than 200,000 population). However, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has an established collaborative process of an HSIP solicitation open to Metro District communities (7-counties plus Chisago Co) and MnDOT-initiated projects. HSIP projects are selected by a panel of MnDOT and local partner agencies. MnDOT does apply for the HSIP solicitation and competes under the same criteria as local agencies, with the highest scored projects awarded HSIP funding. The HSIP program also undergoes a frequent evaluation and update process which last was in 2018. Over the last five solicitations, MnDOT has received 20% of awarded HSIP funds. This Regional HSIP program is above and beyond MnDOT-specific HSIP funding in Metro District of about \$4-5M/year.

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	Release for Public 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