

Action Transmittal

Transportation Advisory Board



Committee Meeting Date: September 21, 2022

Date: September 14, 2022

Action Transmittal: 2022-31

2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

To: Transportation Advisory Board
From: Technical Advisory Committee
Prepared By: David Burns, Planning Analyst, 651-602-1887
Amy Vennewitz, MTS Deputy Director, 651-602-1058

Requested Action

Recommend that the Metropolitan Council adopt the 2023 Unified Planning Work Program.

Recommended Motion

That the Technical Advisory Committee recommend that TAB recommend adoption of the 2023 Unified Planning Work Program.

Background and Purpose

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) serves as the Council's application for USDOT transportation planning funds. It is required that every metropolitan planning organization (MPO) submit the UPWP for consideration by the USDOT. The UPWP is prepared annually and describes the transportation planning activities that the Council will conduct for the coming year. Participants in the UPWP include the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Metropolitan Airports Commission, and local cities, counties, and other stakeholders.

The UPWP includes activities required by federal regulation that address planning priorities of the metropolitan area. The document identifies budgeted expenditures, funding sources, and allocation of staff resources for transportation planning activities of the MPO. Projects with Metropolitan Council participation include staff hours and consultant costs that detail how the estimated \$5.4 million of federal planning money will be spent, along with a required 20 percent local match to the federal funds. In 2023, the Council is committing the use of the federal funds and local match to support the transportation planning program and continue the 2024 update to the 2050 Regional Development Guide and 2050 Transportation Policy Plan.

Many of the tasks described are required by state or federal law and are ongoing activities. Examples include staff support of the TAC/TAB committee process, the preparation of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and support of the Regional Solicitation. Other tasks are focused studies that help to move forward the region's transportation planning process and fulfill the vision as outlined in the Transportation Policy Plan. The 2023 UPWP includes slightly over \$2 million in policy and planning studies that will utilize consultants as detailed in Appendix C.

The draft 2023 UPWP was provided to the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration on July 26. This draft does not yet incorporate the feedback from these agencies. In addition, the 2023 budget as currently shown has a remaining \$477,511 yet to be allocated. Council staff are in discussion with MnDOT to identify additional eligible activities or to allow these funds to be carried forward for future expenditure. The budget will be finalized prior to the TAB recommendation. The draft UPWP will be available for public comment from August 15 to September 2.

Staff Analysis

The UPWP is a federally required description and documentation of proposed transportation and transportation-related planning activities in the metropolitan area. The activities include both activities required for the MPO to operate as well as projects that reflect the regional transportation vision.

Committee Comments and Action

At its August 11, 2022, meeting, the TAC Planning Committee recommended adoption of the 2023 Unified Planning Work Program.

At its September 7, 2022, meeting, the Technical Advisory Committee recommended adoption of the 2023 Unified Planning Work Program.

Routing

To	Action Requested	Date Scheduled / Completed
TAC Planning	Review & Recommend	August 11, 2022
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	September 7, 2022
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Recommend	September 21, 2022
Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee	Review & Recommend	September 26, 2022
Metropolitan Council	Review & Adopt	October 10, 2022

