

ACTION TRANSMITTAL No. 2015-51

DATE: December 1, 2015
TO: Technical Advisory Committee
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SUBJECT: Regional Solicitation Funding by Roadway Functional Classification
REQUESTED ACTION: Request policy guidance from TAB regarding competitiveness of all A-minor roadway classifications in the 2016 Regional Solicitation.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: Prior to 2014, roadway applications in the Regional Solicitation were divided by Roadway functional classifications (Principal Arterial and the four A-minor classifications: Augmentor, Connector, Expander, and Reliever). This allowed same-classification roadways to compete with each other, resulting in funding for at least one project in each of the A-minor classifications.

The 2014 Regional Solicitation rearranged roadway project applications into new categories: Expansion, and Reconstruction/Modernization. Within these categories, projects from all classifications competed against each other in either the Expansion or Reconstruction/Modernization application categories. As a result of these changes, three of the four classifications were funded in the 2014 Regional Solicitation with no Connector projects funded. Five Connector projects applied in the Roadway Reconstruction/Modernization category. Of 21 applications in that category, the five Connector projects ranked 14th, 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st. The 2014 Regional Solicitation survey results indicated a desire to revisit the issue to consider whether all parts of the A-Minor system should be funded.

Options discussed:

1. Guarantee that a minimum of one project will be funded in each A-minor classification. In 2014 this would have entailed funding the 14th-ranked Roadway Reconstruction/Modernization project, "leap-frogging" five projects with higher scores.
2. Adjust the scoring to better equalize the classifications. This could be done by scoring projects only against their own classification in several measures related to traffic volumes and population, allowing for multiple projects to receive maximum scores.
3. Make no changes in the solicitation application with TAB making a decision after project applications have been received, scored, and ranked as to whether it will fund a project in each A-minor classification.

Recommendation: Request policy guidance from TAB on funding decisions by roadway classification.

RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY: The Regional Solicitation is a key responsibility of the TAB. Through this process, federal funds can be directed to a variety of locally-initiated projects that address transportation needs and help implement

regional transportation and development policies. The Regional Solicitation is part of the Metropolitan Council's federally required continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation planning process for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Adopt	