

Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

ACTION TRANSMITTAL No. 2020-03

DATE: December 20, 2019
TO: TAC
FROM: TAC Planning
PREPARED BY: Dave Burns, Senior Highway Planner (651-602-1887)
SUBJECT: 2020 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment
REQUESTED ACTION: Recommend amending the 2020 Unified Planning Work Program as proposed for adoption by the Metropolitan Council, pending review and comment by the committees.
RECOMMENDED MOTION: Recommend the proposed amendments to the 2020 Unified Planning Work Program for Council adoption

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is prepared annually and describes the metro area transportation planning activities to be undertaken by the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the Metropolitan Airports Commission. It identifies budgeted expenditures, funding sources, and the allocation of staff resources for transportation planning activities. This proposed action item will amend the 2020 UPWP, adopted by the Metropolitan Council on September 25th, 2019, to update the work items that will be undertaken in 2020 and the 2020 UPWP budget.

Since the UPWP is written six months before the year begins, occasionally work items emerge that were not anticipated during its creation. MnDOT and FHWA require amendments to document changes to the UPWP after it has been adopted.

Shortly after the 2020 UPWP was adopted, it became apparent that in order to coordinate with the upcoming work for, and adoption of a 2050 Regional Plan and 2050 Transportation Policy Plan in 2024, that the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) would require an interim update. The TPP is required by federal law to be updated on a five-year cycle. The most recent update was adopted in October of 2018, thereby requiring a plan update by October 2023. However, during 2022 and 2023, the Council will be well into the work of preparing the 2050 Regional Plan and a 2050 TPP that aligns with the new regional plan. Adopting an interim 2040 TPP update in 2020 appears to be the best option to avoid overlapping with this significant work effort. In addition, updating the TPP in 2020 will allow the region to keep the current 2040 time period and also maintain a 20-year planning horizon.

Additionally, as the UPWP is developed months before its start, some consultant studies are not fully scoped or yet anticipated. The attached UPWP amendment also shows proposed changes to the 2020 consultant studies and includes an updated budget. MnDOT also recently provided the Council with \$666,677 of previously unspent transportation planning funds for use in 2020. These funds will allow additional spending on the 2020 consultant studies and also a decrease in the Council's committed local match from 34% to 27% of the total program funding.

RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY: The proposed amendment to the 2020 UPWP is consistent with the *2040 Transportation Policy Plan*.

STAFF ANALYSIS: Federal law requires the adoption of a Unified Planning Work Program. This amendment to the 2020 UPWP reflects changes in the work tasks to be completed, better reflects the 2020 consultant studies, and accounts for the additional \$666,667 in federal funds provided to the Council.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND ACTION:

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
TAC Planning	Review & Recommend	12/12/19
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Recommend	
Transportation Committee	Review & Recommend	
Metropolitan Council	Review & Adopt	