

ACTION TRANSMITTAL 2021-23

DATE: August 25, 2021

TO: TAC

PREPARED BY: David Burns, Planning Analyst, david.burns@metc.state.mn.us

SUBJECT: Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director, MTS Finance and Planning
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2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

REQUESTED ACTION: The Metropolitan Council requests that the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) recommend adoption of the 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That TAC recommend adoption of the 2022 Unified Planning Work Program.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: 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 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 \$4.4 million of federal planning money will be spent, along with a required 20 percent local match to the federal funds. In 2022 the Council is committing the use of the federal funds and local match to support the transportation planning program and begin to prepare for the 2024 update of the region's Transportation Policy Plan.

Many of the tasks described are required by state or federal law and are ongoing activities, such as the TAC/TAB committee process, or repeat on an annual or biennial cycle, such as the preparation of the TIP and the Regional Solicitation. Other tasks include studies that help to inform the region's transportation policies and improve processes.

As the UPWP goes through the review process there may be minor edits to the work program and/or budget based upon feedback from committees or as part of the public review process.

RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY: 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: The item was presented to the TAC Planning Committee at its August 12, 2021 meeting. The Committee commented that partner agencies are still reviewing the document and requested that these changes be incorporated into the draft document as it moves through the approval process. The motion to recommend approval of the 2022 Unified Planning Work Program with the understanding that changes will be made as comments from partner agencies and the public roll in was approved.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE SCHEDULED/COMPLETED
TAC Planning Committee	Review & Recommend	8/12/21
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	9/1/21
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Recommend	9/15/21
Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee	Review & Recommend	9/27/21
Metropolitan Council	Review & Adopt	10/13/21