

Action Transmittal

Transportation Advisory Board



Committee Meeting Date: July 3, 2024

Date: June 27, 2024

Action Transmittal: 2024-30

Release of the Draft 2050 Transportation Policy Plan for Public Comment

To: Technical Advisory Committee
From: TAC Planning Committee
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Requested Action

Recommend that the draft update of the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan be released for public review and comment (see attachments linked in the agenda).

Recommended Motion

Recommend that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend release of the draft 2050 Transportation Policy Plan for public review and comment.

Background and Purpose

The Met Council is required to produce a regional long-range transportation plan under both federal and state law.

- Minn. Stat. § 473.146 requires a transportation chapter of the regional development guide for all transportation modes, including aviation.
- 23 U.S.C. § 134 and 49 U.S.C. § 5303 require the development of long-range transportation plans for all metropolitan regions in the country that addresses all surface transportation modes.

Every ten years, the Met Council updates the regional development guide and the Transportation Policy Plan to align with state and federal law. The Met Council must collaborate with the Transportation Advisory Board in the development of the Transportation Policy Plan.

2050 Transportation Policy Plan Development Process

The Met Council began development of the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan in early 2022. The Met Council used two primary advisory groups to inform the development of the Plan:

- The 2050 TPP Advisory Work Group (AWG) was a group of Met Council and TAB members along with representatives from state agencies and transit providers. They met 15 times to advise on the plan content.
- The 2050 TPP Technical Working Group (TWG) included staff from agencies that were represented on TAC Planning Committee and other perspectives like the University of

Minnesota, Department of Health, and the Twin Cities Shared Mobility Collaborative. They met 23 times to advise on the plan content.

There were several phases of the plan development that contributed to the draft being considered:

- [Transportation System Performance Evaluation](#) – a comprehensive look back at system performance over the past decade using performance metrics from the 2040 TPP for insights and trends.
- Contributing studies and plans – conducted over many years on a wide range of topics that helped inform policy direction, investment needs, and evaluation of the plan. See an early overview and preview [presentation of this work from the June 2022 TPP Technical Working Group](#).
- Early 2023 listening sessions – over 50 listening sessions and interviews with a variety of stakeholders on the transportation system vision and needs going forward. See a [summary presentation from April 2023 Met Council Committee of the Whole](#).
- Policy development teams – eight policy development teams were formed to advise on topically specific policies and actions. This work resulted in over 25 meetings on content development and culminated in 3 workshops to provide additional review across all the policy topics. Additional review was conducted with discussions with community partners.
- Document drafting and circulation for informal review – The content for the draft 2050 TPP was circulated to the AWG and TWG for informal review in late 2023-early 2024 and revisions were made to improve the drafts based on the feedback received. Drafts were also shared with Met Council members, TAB members, and TAB’s Technical Advisory Committee members for further review. Over 3,000 comments were generated during this informal review process.

Met Council staff also worked with other advisory committees to review specific parts of the draft 2050 TPP. These groups include the Transit Planning Technical Working Group, the Bicycle-Pedestrian Planning Technical Working Group, and the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee. The documents put forth for public consideration are the culmination of this work and the direction from Met Council members.

2050 Transportation Policy Plan Public Comment Release Purpose

The Met Council is required to provide an opportunity for public comment on the TPP. This action is to recommend the release of the TPP for public comment. After the public comment period closes, the Met Council and TAB will review and respond to the comments and prepare a revised final plan for consideration of adoption.

As the document progresses through the action to release for public comment, it is possible that some content will change. There are three contributing factors to what might change:

- Committee comments forwarded as part of the action to recommend the plan for release,
- Content coordination or language alignment with Imagine 2050 and other system plans,
- Corrections to errors or additions of content that was not ready but is reflected with placeholders in the draft.

In addition to the maps within the document, staff is producing an interactive map with the same data. A link to the draft interactive map will be included with the public comment materials.

Relationship to Regional Policy

The 2050 Transportation Policy Plan provides direction for the regional transportation planning process that is facilitated by the Met Council and supported by all regional transportation partners. This process includes other federally required documents like the Unified Planning Work Program and the Transportation Improvement Program including the Regional Solicitation.

The public comment process will be delivered consistent with The Met Council Public Participation Plan, including the Transportation Policy Plan addendum.



Staff Analysis

The Met Council has reviewed the plan for all necessary state and federal requirements. The Met Council also shared drafts with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration. There are a few documents still under federal review and any edits will be incorporated ahead of TAB action. FHWA staff indicated general support for the approach to all federal requirements in the draft.

Met Council staff solicited feedback from the 2050 TPP Technical Working Group and Advisory Work Group on the process to develop the 2050 TPP which will be used to inform and improve future planning efforts. The feedback reflected the following key points:

- The process was efficient, effective, and well managed.
- Virtual meetings provided easy access to the process for most participants.
- The policies and actions development teams provided valuable additional insights beyond the committees' perspectives.
- The interactive document review process was helpful, including the ability to see comments from others.
- Some in-person meetings would have provided a more interactive experience for some members and may have facilitated better discussion at times.

Committee Comments and Actions

The TAC Planning Committee unanimously recommend that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend release of the draft 2050 Transportation Policy Plan for public review and comment. The committee also unanimously recommended that staff review the draft 2050 Transportation Policy Plan for consistency with recent legislative changes. The Overview/Imagine 2050 Transportation Chapter, Highway Investment Plan, and Transit Investment Plan contain changes in response to this direction. The Long-Range Project List was also updated to add a project that was accidentally missing from the list on I-35W in the south metro. Figure references were also corrected in the Highway Investment Plan in response to a written comment. These changes are all reflected in redline edits. Committee discussion covered the conflict between Imagine 2050 goals and Congestion Management Process goals; future regional sub-allocation of state greenhouse gas emissions targets; the lack of a mode shift target; and next steps in plan review and adoption.

The Environmental Justice analysis document included in this action transmittal was not reviewed by the TAC Planning committee as it was not complete prior to their June meeting; the version attached is mostly complete, and an update on the availability of additional data will be provided to TAB before their action.

Routing

To	Action Requested	Date Completed
TAC Planning	Review & Recommend	June 13, 2024
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	July 3, 2024
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Recommend	July 17, 2024
Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee	Review & Recommend	July 22, 2024
Metropolitan Council	Review & Approve	August 14, 2024

