

Action Transmittal

Transportation Advisory Board



Committee meeting date: June 4, 2025

Date: May 28, 2025

Action Transmittal: 2025-17

Release of Draft 2050 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) Amendment 1 for Public Comment

To: Technical Advisory Committee
From: TAC Planning Committee
Prepared by: Bradley Bobbitt, Senior Planner, phone 651-602-1724

Requested action

That the draft 2050 TPP Amendment 1, changing the alignment and funding for the Blue Line Extension transitway and adding the Gold Line Extension transitway to the fiscally constrained plan, be released for public comment.

Recommended motion

That the Technical Advisory Committee recommend that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend that the Metropolitan Council release the draft 2050 TPP Amendment 1 for public comment.

Background and purpose

The Met Council develops a long-range transportation plan, called the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP), and updates it at least every five years as required under federal law. The plan identifies the region's transportation system goals and multimodal investment priorities over a 25-year period. The Met Council adopted the most recent update to the TPP, the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan, on February 12, 2025. The plan identifies and lists regionally significant transportation investments that will be implemented within its timeframe and maintains fiscal balance between anticipated project costs and funding.

Plan amendments involving changes to, or additions of, regionally significant projects in the fiscally constrained plan must go through a 45-day public comment period. The proposed action would recommend that the draft 2050 TPP Amendment 1 (attached to this action item) be released for the required public comment period, planned for July 10 through August 27, with a public hearing at the August 13 meeting of the Metropolitan Council. Attachment 1 contains the amendment text that will be posted on the Met Council's website for public review. The attached text also references project websites, hosted by Metro Transit, and has basic information about the projects.

Relationship to regional policy

All transitway projects are considered regionally significant projects under federal guidance. These projects must be identified as funded in a region's long-range transportation plan, in order to qualify for Federal Transit Administration capital investment grants and to meet regional requirements in the Council's adopted Transitway Advancement Policy. The proposed amendment, if adopted, will incorporate changes to the Blue Line Extension and add the Gold Line Extension to the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) fiscally constrained plan.

Staff analysis

According to the region's Transitway Advancement Policy, outlined on pages 41 through 44 in the Transit Investment Plan chapter of the TPP, transitway projects can be added to the fiscally constrained plan when the originating agency has provided:

1. Documentation of transitway type, alignment and station locations, and selection process.
2. Resolutions of support from relevant government bodies and agencies.
3. Documentation of fiscal constraint.
4. Documentation of public engagement and feedback.

Metro Transit has provided the appropriate information to meet these criteria above for incorporating the Blue Line Extension changes and adding Gold Line Extension to the 2050 TPP with the understanding that all required resolutions of support from relevant governments for Gold Line Extension will be received prior to release for public comment. To date, resolutions of support for Gold Line Extension have been received from the City of Minneapolis, City of St. Paul, and Hennepin County. One additional required resolution of support is pending from Ramsey County. Staff also anticipate a resolution of support from Washington County and a letter of support from MnDOT. Blue Line Extension completed the municipal consent process in fall of 2024, fulfilling the Transitway Advancement Policy's resolutions of support requirement.

Committee Comments and Action

At its May 8, 2025, meeting, the TAC Planning Committee voted to recommend that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend that the Metropolitan Council release the draft 2050 TPP Amendment 1 for public comment.

Routing

To	Action Requested	Date Completed (Scheduled)
TAC Planning Committee	Review and recommend	May 8, 2025
Technical Advisory Committee	Review and recommend	<i>June 4, 2025</i>
Transportation Advisory Board	Review and recommend	<i>June 18, 2025</i>
Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee	Review and recommend	<i>June 23, 2025</i>
Metropolitan Council	Review and release for public comment	<i>July 9, 2025</i>

