

Action Transmittal

Transportation Advisory Board



Committee Meeting Date: August 6, 2025

Date: July 28, 2025

Action Transmittal: 2025-26

Release of Draft 2050 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) Amendment 2: Aviation System Plan Update for Public Comment

To: TAB Technical Advisory Committee

From: TAC Planning Committee

Prepared By: Joe Widing, Senior Transportation Planner, 651-602-1822

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Requested Action

That the attached draft 2050 TPP Amendment 2: Aviation System Plan Update, replacing the existing aviation elements of the TPP, be released for public review and comment.

Recommended Motion

Recommend to the Transportation Advisory Board that the Metropolitan Council release the draft 2050 TPP Amendment 2: Aviation System Plan Update for public review and 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 Met Council adopted the most recent update to the TPP, the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan, on February 12, 2025. In the past, the Aviation System Plan was a standalone legislatively required state plan that was updated on a different schedule than the TPP, but with the adoption of the 2030 TPP in 2010 the 2 plans were merged together.

Aviation is not a federally required element of the region's long-range plan but is required under state statute. A minor update to the Aviation System Plan was included in the adopted 2050 TPP, however in 2024, Council staff also began working on a parallel process to more fully update the Aviation Plan and allow for a more thorough technical process with the appropriate regional partners. This technical process resulted in the attached proposed 2050 TPP Amendment 2, Aviation System Plan Update, as a replacement for the minor update that was adopted with the 2050 TPP.

Plan amendments involving changes to sections of the TPP must go through a 45-day public review and comment period. The proposed action would recommend that the draft 2050 TPP Amendment 2 Aviation System Plan Update (attached) be released for the required public comment period, to occur September 25 through November 8, with a public hearing at the October 29 meeting of the Metropolitan Council. Attachment 1 contains the amended text for the 2050 TPP Aviation System Plan and Attachment 2 contains the amended text for the 2050 TPP Aviation Supporting Information. Both documents are part of the public review and comment and will be posted on the Met Council's website.

Relationship to Regional Policy

The Aviation System Plan outlines regional policies, identifies and classifies the regional airports, establishes aviation activity forecasts through the planning horizon, establishes the aviation planning process in the region, analyzes industry trends to monitor growth and changes in the industry, and maintains land use compatibility with regional airports. This update to the Aviation System Plan will replace the existing plan in full and align regional aviation policies with the adopted regional development guide, Imagine 2050.

Staff Analysis

In 2024 and 2025, Met Council staff worked on a full update of the 2050 TPP Aviation System Plan with consultant support with the intention to replace the existing aviation sections of the 2050 TPP adopted in February 2025. The plan development process included research and drafting of aviation industry and agency trends, reviewing and drafting updated regional aviation policies and actions to align with Imagine 2050, developing 2050 aviation forecasts for regional airports, updating regional airport classifications, and updates to maps, graphics and text. Council staff worked with aviation and community partners throughout the region to review and develop regional policies, and review and solicit feedback on the updated document through the committee review process prior to releasing the document for public comment. The process also included forming a Technical Working Group specific to aviation topics, similar to the process used for the broader 2050 TPP development.

The updated Aviation System Plan meets all state statute requirements for aviation planning in the region, aligns regional aviation policies and actions with Imagine 2050, responds to feedback from regional partners and considers issues and opportunities of industry trends for the region.

Committee Comments and Action

At its July 10, 2025, meeting, the TAC Planning Committee reviewed and discussed the 2050 TPP Amendment 2: Aviation System Plan Update. Committee members voted to recommend acceptance of the staff analysis and that the Metropolitan Council release the draft 2050 TPP Amendment 2: Aviation System Plan Update for public review and comment.

Routing

To	Action Requested	Date Completed
TAC Planning Committee	Review & recommend	July 10, 2025
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & recommend	<i>August 6, 2025</i>
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & recommend	<i>August 20, 2025</i>
Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee	Review & recommend	<i>September 8, 2025</i>
Metropolitan Council	Review & release for public comment	<i>September 24, 2025</i>

