

Regional Solicitation Evaluation

Information Item for TAC



Purpose of this Information Item

 Preview future action items on the Regional Solicitation



Regional Solicitation Action Items

Proposed Actions

- 1. Approve application categories
- 2. Approve minimum/maximum awards
- 3. Approve category funding targets
- 4. Approve qualifying requirements
- 5. Approve application criteria, measures, and scoring guidance
- 6. Approve score weighting
- 7. Approve overall solicitation package and release for public comments

November TAC

December TAC

Qualifying Requirements and Rules



Application Process

Project Category Selection

- In the 2026 solicitation, projects may apply for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding in addition to the Regional Solicitation/Active Transportation Solicitations. However, applicants **may not submit** the same project for multiple categories within the Regional Solicitation/Active Transportation Solicitations. Instead, applicants should select the application category that best aligns with the primary objectives of the project. Each project submitted should be unique and not have overlapping project elements with another project submitted by the same agency. This rule may be revisited for future solicitation cycles.
- Projects can only be awarded funds from one of the three programs (i.e., HSIP, Regional Solicitation, and Active Transportation) for the same or overlapping project elements.

New Qualifying Requirement

1. The Metropolitan Council and the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) reserve the right to utilize a **share** of the greenhouse gas and vehicle miles traveled offsets of any awarded projects **proportionate to the total project cost funded through the Regional Solicitation Program** to fulfill state requirements for the Greenhouse Gas Impact Assessment (473,145) enacted in 2023. Offsets can only be used one time. By accepting these funds, sponsors are giving up their rights to use the offsets for themselves. If the offsets are not needed by the Metropolitan Council and TAB, then ownership of them, in whole or in part, will revert to the original project sponsor. Based on inputs provided in the application, Met Council staff will calculate the magnitude of the offsets.



Other New Qualifying Requirements

Roadway Projects

- Interchange projects in the New Interchanges application category only: The project is
 identified as a high priority in the Metropolitan Council and MnDOT's jointly led Intersection Mobility
 and Safety Study and have completed a planning document/corridor study that suggests a gradeseparation is a potential solution.
 - For the 2026 solicitation, there are only four potential locations that meet these requirements (and they are identified in the 2050 TPP). In the future, there may be additional locations that are eligible.

Regional Bicycle Facilities

 The proposed project must be identified on the Regional Bicycle Transportation Network (RBTN), Regional Bike Barrier Study (RBBS), or council-approved regional trail plan

Other New Qualifying Requirements 2

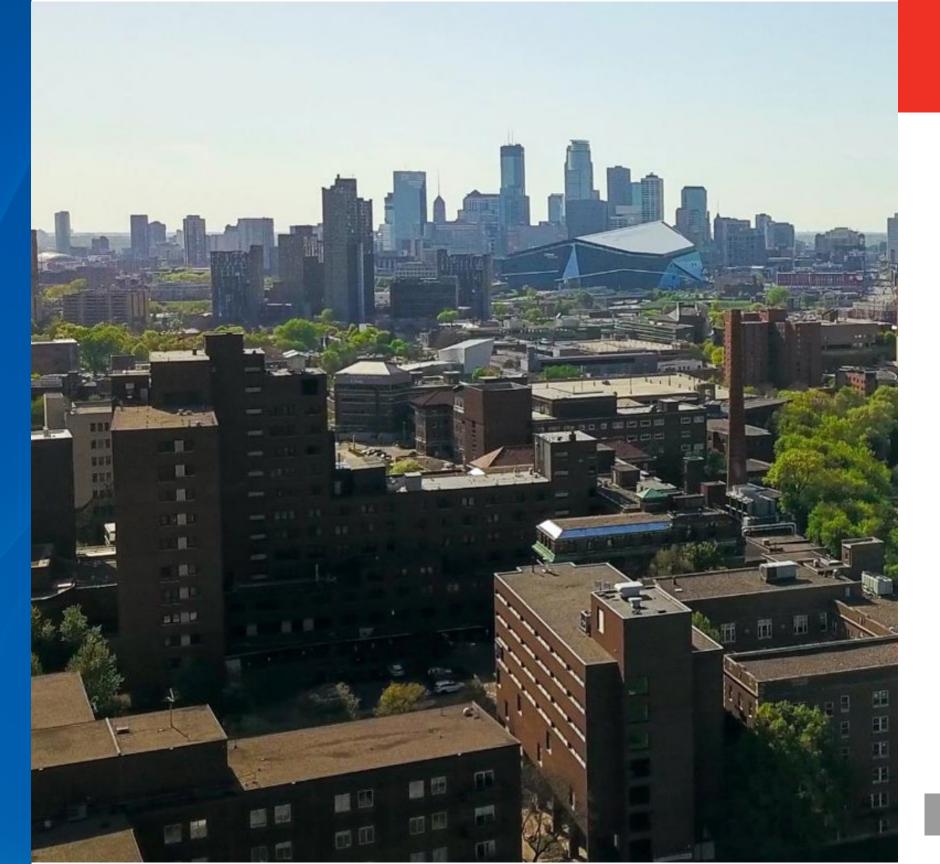
Local Bike and Pedestrian Facilities

• Projects must exclude right-of-way costs. Projects within these categories are eligible to include costs for studies, preliminary engineering, design, or construction engineering.

Active Transportation Planning

- Active Transportation Planning: In order to apply in this planning application category, the applicant must <u>not</u> have an existing equivalent plan, or the existing plan must be more than 10 years old.
- Active Transportation Planning: The proposed plan must address active transportation at a
 system level. The plan must not be used to advance design for a single corridor or facility. At a
 minimum, the funded plan must identify recommended projects which may be eligible for future
 infrastructure funding, and must address strategies to maintain and operate active transportation
 facilities on a year-round basis.

Criteria, Measures, and Scoring Guidance



Criteria, Measures and Scoring Guidance

Key Changes and Updates

- Criteria, measures and scoring guidance drafted with assistance from Special Issue Working Groups, Technical Steering Committee, and MTS staff (100+ people involved)
- Applications currently undergoing second review by technical groups
- Major goal was to simplify both reducing number of measures and simplifying the information requested
- Criteria developed based on tying back to TPP goals
- Community considerations criteria is common across all applications

Proposed Measures



1. Community Data and Context

 Strong applications show a clear picture of who the community is and how their needs shape the project.

2. Community Engagement

Engagement must demonstrate that community voices guided the project's direction.

3. Community Benefits

Projects must deliver meaningful benefits to nearby communities and reduce harms.

Measure B: Community Engagement

Describe engagement activities that occurred, the specific communities that were engaged and how this engagement contributed to identifying and confirming the project need. Describe how input and feedback from engagement was used to inform the project purpose and scope and how community engagement will continue. Reference the engagement spectrum on page 55 of the Imagine 2050 *Regional Vision, Values, and Goals* chapter of the Regional Development Guide. Describe and link (if possible) documented organizational structures that support future engagement on the project; these structures could include policies, procedures, financial or staff resources, or other documents. (400 words or less)

Community Considerations Scoring & Training



How Projects Are Scored & Supported

- Community Considerations is 20% of points across all application categories
- Scoring using 5 ratings: Low, Medium-Low, Medium, Medium-High, High ratings on 3 measures
- High ratings will be focused only on those projects documenting full use of best practices
- Annual training for scorers and agency staff: build understanding of measures and best practices to achieve a High
- Funding Priority = for projects rated High-High-High on all three measures
 - Substitutes for a separate application category for this goal area
- Scoring committee meets to set expectations, reviews and agrees upon projects proposed for a funding guarantee

Scoring rewards high community alignment, and training equips staff with understanding of best practices and expectations.

Score Weighting



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Proposed Modal+ Hybrid Structure

Safety

Proactive Safety (All Modes):

Small Projects (HSIP)

Large Project

(Reg Sol Federal Funding)

Reactive Safety (All Modes):

Small Projects (HSIP)

Large Projects

(Reg Sol Federal Funding)

Dynamic and Resilient

Federal Reg Sol Funding

Bicycle/Pedestrian

Regional Bike Facilities

Reg Active Transportation Funding

Local Bike Facilities

Local Pedestrian Facilities

Active Transportation Planning

Transit

Transit Expansion (Including Microtransit)

Transit Customer Experience

Arterial Bus Rapid
Transit

Roadway

Roadway Modernization

Congestion
Management
Strategies

New Interchanges

Bridge Connections

Environment

EV Charging Infrastructure

Travel Demand Management (TDM)

Regional Data

Regional Modeling/Travel Behavior Inventory

The goal area, Our Region is Equitable and Inclusive, is being proposed as a scoring measure called Community Considerations.

Safety Categories

Criteria and Measures	Proactive	Reactive
Connection to Existing Planning Efforts	35%	20%
Expected Reduction/System Risk Reduction in Fatal or Serious Injury Crashes (5-year)	15%	35%
Fatal and Serious Injury Crash History (10-year)	5%	5%
Improvements for People Outside of Vehicles	25%	20%
Community Considerations	20%	20%
Total	100%	100%

Bicycle/Pedestrian Categories

Criteria and Measures	Regional Bike	Local Bike	Local Ped	AT Planning
Regional Bicycle Priorities	30%			
Connection to Key Destinations*	10%	30%	30%	
Context Sensitive Design	20%			
Safety*	20%	20%	20%	30%
Complete Streets*		5%	5%	
Identified Gaps, Barriers, or Deficiencies*		25%	25%	
Proposed Project Description				50%
Community Considerations*	20%	20%	20%	20%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

^{*} Direct connection to legislative requirements

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Transit Categories

Criteria and Measures	Expansion	Customer Service
Service/Facility Provided Must be Effective for Transit Market Area	30%	
New Ridership/Ridership Affected	20%	20%
New Coverage	10%	
Connections to Key Destinations	10%	
Transit Needs-based Determination	10%	
Existing Transit Service		15%
Access to Transit Facilities		15%
Safety and Security		15%
Customer Comfort and Ease of Use		15%
Community Considerations	20%	20%
Total	100%	100%

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Roadway Categories

Criteria and Measures	Modernization	Congestion Management	New Interchanges	Bridge Connections
Multimodal/Complete Streets Connections	40%	5%	5%	20%
Safety	30%	20%	30%	20%
Freight	5%	5%	5%	5%
Natural Systems Protection and Restoration	5%	5%	5%	5%
Anticipated Delay Reduction		20%	15%	
Regional Priorities		25%	20%	
System Resilience				30%
Community Considerations	20%	20%	20%	20%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Environment Categories

Criteria and Measures	TDM
Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Reduction	30%
Connection to Jobs, Educations, and Opportunity/Destinations	25%
Project Effectiveness Evaluation	20%
Innovation	5%
Community Considerations	20%

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)



HSIP

Proposed Application Changes

- Will be offering two HSIP training sessions for potential applications.
- Added more scoring guidance for improvements for People Outside of Vehicles to clarify how points would be awarded.
- Added scoring guidance for Connection to Existing Plan to clarify how points would be awarded.
- Updated recommended service life to include most recent guidance from FHWA.

Active Transportation Solicitation Timing



Geographic Balance

TAB Active Transportation Working Group Recommendation

Geographic Balance options discussed at 10/27 TAB AT Work Group Meeting

The AT Work Group recommended:

- to continue with current geographic balance process (i.e. not establish a specific policy or process, but consider balance during project selection);
- for Council staff to evaluate and report on the results of the 2026 Solicitation to understand if further
 policy will be required in the future to ensure active transportation funds are balanced throughout the
 region.

Active Transportation Solicitation Schedule

Active Transportation Solicitation Beyond 2026

- TAB Active Transportation Work Group sought technical feedback on timing of future AT project solicitations:
- Options include:
 - Annually, or
 - Biennially
 - In-line with the federal Regional Solicitation
 - On an off-year cycle
- Technical Steering Committee recommends solicitation occur concurrent with Regional Solicitation in 2026, then biennially on an off-year cycle (2027, 2029, etc.).
 - Helps lessen workload for applicants, and allows agencies to apply for both programs if necessary

Next steps



Next steps:

- 1. First Package of Action Items Oct-Nov
 - Oct TAC Planning (info), Oct F&P, Nov TAC, Nov TAB
- 2. Second Package of Action Items to Release for Public Comment– Nov/Dec
 - Nov TAC Planning (info), Nov F&P, Dec TAC, Dec TAB
- 3. Policymaker Working Group November 19

Appendix



Proactive Safety

Criteria and Measures	%
1. Connection to Existing Safety Planning Efforts Measure A – Connection to existing safety planning efforts	35%
2. Expected System Risk Reduction in Fatal or Serious Injury Crashes Measure A – Crash Reduction Factor(s) (CRFs) for proposed project	15%
3. Fatal and Serious Injury Crash History Measure A –10-year crash history of fatal and serious injury crashes	5%
4. Improvements for People Outside of Vehicles Measure A – Project-Based Pedestrian Safety Enhancements and Risk Elements	25%
5. Community Considerations Measure A – Community Data and Context Measure B – Community Engagement Measure C – Community Benefits	20%
Total	100%

Reactive Safety

Criteria and Measures	%
1. Expected Reduction in Fatal and Serious Injury Crashes Measure A – 5-year crashes reduced (Benefit/Cost ratio)	35%
2. Connection to Existing Safety Planning Efforts Measure A – Connection to existing safety planning efforts	20%
3. Fatal and Serious Injury Crash History Measure A –10-year crash history of fatal and serious injury crashes	5%
4. Improvements for People Outside of Vehicles Measure A – Project-Based Pedestrian Safety Enhancements and Risk Elements	20%
5. Community Considerations Measure A – Community Data and Context Measure B – Community Engagement Measure C – Community Benefits	20%
Total	100%

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Regional Bike Facilities (Federally Funded)

Criteria and Measures	%
1. Regional Bicycle Priorities Measure A – Identified network priorities	30%
2. Connection to Key Destinations Measure A – Connection to key destinations	10%
3. Context Sensitive Design Measure A – Appropriate facility type Measure B – Design features and roadway crossings	20%
 4. Safety Measure A – Connection to existing safety planning efforts Measure B – Safety improvements for people outside of vehicles 	20%
5. Community Considerations Measure A – Community Data and Context Measure B – Community Engagement Measure C – Community Benefits	20%
Total	100%

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Local Bike Facilities (Active Transportation Regional Sales Tax Funded)

Criteria and Measures	%
1. Complete Streets* Measure A – Complete streets planning, design, and construction	5%
2. Connection to Key Destinations* Measure A – Connections to key destinations Measure B – Connection to K-12 schools Measure C – Active transportation demand	30%
3. Identified Gaps, Barriers, or Deficiencies* Measure A – Gaps, barriers or deficiencies addressed	25%
 4. Safety* Measure A – Connection to existing safety planning efforts Measure B – Safety improvements for people outside of vehicles 	20%
5. Community Considerations Measure A – Community Data and Context Measure B – Community Engagement Measure C – Community Benefits	20%
Total * Direct connection to legislative requirements	100%

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Local Pedestrian Facilities (Active Transportation Regional Sales Tax Funded)

Criteria and Measures	%
1. Complete Streets* Measure A – Complete streets planning, design, and construction	5%
2. Connection to Key Destinations* Measure A – Connections to key destinations Measure B – Connection to K-12 schools Measure C – Active transportation demand	30%
3. Identified Gaps, Barriers, or Deficiencies* Measure A – Gaps, barriers or deficiencies addressed	25%
 4. Safety* Measure A – Connection to existing safety planning efforts Measure B – Safety improvements for people outside of vehicles 	20%
5. Community Considerations Measure A – Community Data and Context Measure B – Community Engagement Measure C – Community Benefits	20%
Total * Direct connection to legislative requirements	100%

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Active Transportation Planning (Active Transportation Regional Sales Tax Funded)

Criteria and Measures	%
1. Proposed Project*Measure A – Project identificationMeasure B – Complete streets planning, design, and construction	50%
2. Safety* Measure A – Safety improvements for people outside of vehicles	30%
3. Community Considerations* Measure A – Community Considerations	20%
Total	100%

Transit Expansion

Criteria and Measures	%
1. Service/Facility Provided Must be Effective for Transit Market Area Measure A – Transit Market Area Alignment Measure B – Regional Transit Performance Guidelines	30%
2. New Ridership Measure A – New annual riders	20%
3.New Coverage Measure A – New service hours by population within service area	10%
4.Connections to Key Destinations Measure A – Connection to key destinations	10%
5.Transit Needs-based Determination Measure A – Demographic and roadway delay/reliability data.	10%
6. Community Considerations Measure A – Community Data and Context Measure B – Community Engagement Measure C – Community Benefits	20%
Total	100%

Transit Customer Experience

Criteria and Measures	%
Ridership Affected Measure A – Total existing annual riders	20%
2. Transit Service Measure A – Travel times and/or reliability of existing transit service	15%
3. Access to Transit Facilities Measure A – Multimodal connections to and ADA accessibility	15%
4. Safety and Security Measure A –Safety and security for transit riders and people accessing transit facilities	15%
5. Customer Comfort and Ease of Use Measure A – Comfort for transit riders and overall ease of use of the transit system	15%
6. Community Considerations Measure A – Community Data and Context Measure B – Community Engagement Measure C – Community Benefits	20%
Total	100%

Roadway Modernization

Criteria and Measures	%
1. Multimodal/Complete Streets Connections Measure A – New or improved multimodal connections (transit, bicycle, pedestrian, TDM elements)	40%
 2. Safety Measure A – Connection to existing safety planning efforts Measure B – Safety improvements for people outside of vehicles Measure C – Safe System approach 	30%
3. Freight Measure A – Connection to Regional Truck Corridor Study tiers	5%
4. Natural Systems Protection and Restoration Measure A - Flood mitigation, stormwater treatment, other environmental benefits, etc.	5%
5. Community Considerations Measure A – Community Data and Context Measure B – Community Engagement Measure C – Community Benefits	20%
Total	100%

Congestion Management Strategies

Criteria and Measures	%
Anticipated Delay Reduction Measure A – Cost effectiveness of delay reduced	20%
2. Regional Priorities for Reliability & Excessive Delay Measure A – 2050 TPP map for Reliability Measure B – 2050 TPP map for Excessive Delay Measure C – Intersection Mobility and Safety Study priorities	25%
 3. Safety Measure A – Connection to existing safety planning efforts Measure B – Safety improvements for people outside of vehicles Measure C – Safe System approach 	20%
4. Multimodal/Complete Streets Connections Measure A – New or improved multimodal connections (transit, bicycle, pedestrian, TDM elements)	5%
5. Freight Measure A - Connection to Regional Truck Corridor Study tiers	5%
6. Natural Systems Protection and Restoration Measure A - Flood mitigation, stormwater treatment, other environmental benefits, etc.	5%
7.Community Considerations (3 Measures – see previously applications)	20%
Total	100%

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New Interchanges

Criteria and Measures	%
Anticipated Delay Reduction Measure A – Cost effectiveness of delay reduced	15%
2. Regional Priorities for Reliability & Excessive Delay Measure A – 2050 TPP map for Reliability Measure B – 2050 TPP map for Excessive Delay	20%
 3. Safety Measure A – Connection to existing safety planning efforts Measure B – Safety improvements for people outside of vehicles Measure C – Safe System approach 	30%
4. Multimodal/Complete Streets Connections Measure A – New or improved multimodal connections (transit, bicycle, pedestrian, TDM elements)	5%
5. Freight Measure A - Connection to Regional Truck Corridor Study tiers	5%
6. Natural Systems Protection and Restoration Measure A - Flood mitigation, stormwater treatment, other environmental benefits, etc.	5%
7. Community Considerations (3 Measures – see previously applications)	20%
Total	100%

Bridge Connections

Criteria and Measures	%
1.System Resilience Measure A – Detour length Measure B – Bridge posting for load restrictions	30%
2. Multimodal/Complete Streets Connections Measure A – New or improved multimodal connections (transit, bicycle, pedestrian, TDM elements)	20%
 3. Safety Measure A – Connection to existing safety planning efforts Measure B – Safety improvements for people outside of vehicles Measure C – Safe System approach 	20%
4. Freight Measure A – Connection to Regional Truck Corridor Study tiers	5%
5. Natural Systems Protection and Restoration Measure A - Flood mitigation, stormwater treatment, other environmental benefits, etc.	5%
 6. Community Considerations Measure A – Community Data and Context Measure B – Community Engagement Measure C – Community Benefits 	20%
Total	100%

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EV Charging Infrastructure (2028 application)

Criteria and Measures	%
 1. Improve Access to EV Charging Measure A - Serves EV drivers in areas with few public EV chargers per capita Measure B – Serves EV drivers far from public EV charging options 	45%
2. Destinations Measure A - Infrastructure size and location	25%
3. Address Public Health Through Siting Measure A - Near areas with lower-than-average air quality	10%
4. Community Considerations Measure A – Community Data and Context Measure B – Community Engagement Measure C – Community Benefits	20%
Total	100%

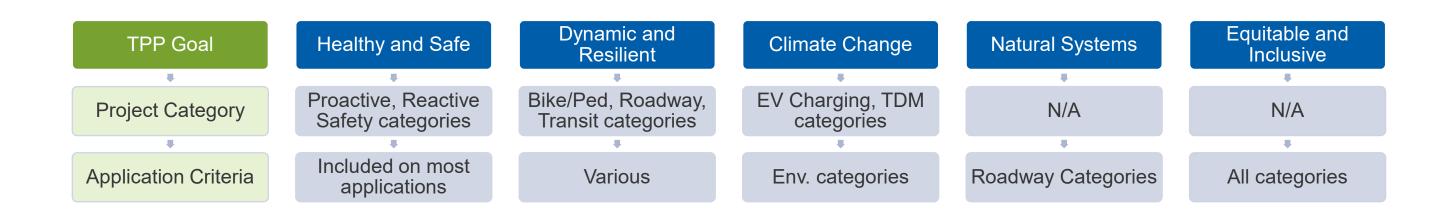
Travel Demand Management (TDM)

Criteria and Measures	%
1. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Reduction Measure A – Average weekday users and miles shifted to non-single occupancy vehicle travel or trip reduction	30%
2. Connection to Jobs, Educations, and Opportunity Measure A – Connections to jobs, education and other opportunities	25%
3. Project Effectiveness Evaluation Measure A – Plan and methods to evaluate project outcomes	20%
4. Innovation Measure A - Completely new, new to the region or serving new communities	5%
5. Community Considerations Measure A – Community Data and Context Measure B – Community Engagement Measure C – Community Benefits	20%
Total	100%

Addressing our 2050 Goals

TPP Goal Alignment

- Regional Solicitation addresses all major TPP Goals in varying ways
- Project categories include a majority of points from the primary TPP goal, but other goals may be evaluated too
- Community Considerations provides Equitable and Inclusive evaluation for all application categories



Safety Categories

TPP Goal	Proactive Safety	Reactive Safety
Healthy and Safe	80%	80%
Dynamic and Resilient		
Climate Change (performance measure)		
Natural Systems		
Equitable and Inclusive	20%	20%
Total	100%	100%

Bicycle/Pedestrian Category

TPP Goal	Regional Bike Facilities
Healthy and Safe	20%
Dynamic and Resilient	60%
Climate Change (performance measure)	
Natural Systems	
Equitable and Inclusive	20%
Total	100%

Legislation Alignment for Active Transportation

Bicycle/Pedestrian Categories

Legislation Requirements	Local Bike Facilities	Local Pedestrian Facilities	Active Transportation Planning
Inclusion in plan	Qualifying	Qualifying	40%*
Complete streets	5%	5%	10%
Community connections	30%	30%	40%*
Address barriers and deficiencies	25%	25%	40%*
Safety or health benefits	20%	20%	20%
Geographic equity (community considerations)	20%	20%	20%
Ability to maintain infrastructure	Qualifying	Qualifying	Qualifying
Total	100%	100%	100%

^{*}One question worth 40% asks for information related to three legislative requirements

Transit Categories

TPP Goal	Transit Expansion	Transit Customer Service
Healthy and Safe		
Dynamic and Resilient	80%	80%
Climate Change (performance measure)		
Natural Systems		
Equitable and Inclusive	20%	20%
Total	100%	100%

Roadways Categories

TPP Goal	Roadway Modernization	Congestion Management	New Interchanges	Bridge Connections
Healthy and Safe	30%	25%	30%	20%
Dynamic and Resilient	40%	50%	45%	55%
Climate Change (performance measure)				
Natural Systems	10%	5%	5%	5%
Equitable and Inclusive	20%	20%	20%	20%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Environment Categories

TPP Goal	EV Charging	TDM
Healthy and Safe	10%	
Dynamic and Resilient		30%
Climate Change (and performance measure)	70%	50%
Natural Systems		
Equitable and Inclusive	20%	20%
Total	100%	100%