

INFORMATION ITEM

DATE: May 8, 2018
TO: TAC Funding and Programming Committee
PREPARED BY: Joe Barbeau, Senior Planner (651-602-1705)
SUBJECT: Scope Change Work Group Update

Scope change work Group Chair Paul Oehme provided an update on the Work Group's progress at the April 18 TAB Executive Committee meeting. The Executive Committee had the following feedback:

1. A key point for TAB will be to ensure that scope changes still retain the major intents and purposes of the originally awarded projects.
2. Is there a circumstance where a rescoring is appropriate/needed, or can we assess scope change requests in another way without doing rescoring?
3. Members were concerned with the rationale for not reducing awards for scope changes that are less than \$100,000 for roadway/transit projects and \$50,000 for other projects. They want to see a sound reason not only for the concept of a threshold but for the specific funding amounts.
4. Members were curious as to whether any of the proposed scope change policy changes impact other TAB policies (e.g., reallocation policy) or potential over-programming amounts.
5. TAB would like to hear about any disagreements on the proposed changes that happen at F&P or TAC.

In response to item #3, staff has suggested making a small change to the Federal Funds Management Process. Currently, the process includes a step in which MnDOT State Aid must pro-rate available funds among all projects with capacity to receive funds. This is a large administrative effort and tends to distribute small amounts of funding to a high number of projects. The proposed change would distribute all funds to one project (e.g., the lowest-cost project that could accept more federal funds), which would ease MnDOT's administrative burden.