

Regional Solicitation Evaluation

Discussion of Key Tasks



Regional Solicitation Evaluation



Project Context

- The Council plans to undertake a major evaluation of the Regional Solicitation to ensure that the projects being selected align with the updated 2050 Regional Development Framework and 2050 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP).
- This was a major past work item for Council staff and committees that last took place from 2012 to 2014.
- The next Evaluation will start summer 2023 and conclude in 2025. The Evaluation will overlap with the 2024 Regional Solicitation funding cycle and the development of the 2050 TPP.
- Changes resulting from the Regional Solicitation Evaluation will impact the 2026 Regional Solicitation (program years 2030 and 2031) and set the framework for the next 10 years of funding.
- Today, we are asking for your input on the Evaluation's key tasks.

Draft Key Tasks



Regional Solicitation Evaluation (2023-2025)

- 1. Complete a Before-and-After Study: How did we invest Regional Solicitation funding over the past 10 years and what were the outcomes relative to 2040 TPP Goals and Objectives?
- 2. Complete a peer review of other MPOs and how they distribute their federal funding, including the online software used.
- 3. Define the focus of the Regional Solicitation: What Goals and Objectives in the 2050 TPP do policy makers want to advance with this federal funding source?
- 4. Incorporate the 2050 TPP Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Actions (and other regional plans) into the Regional Solicitation: How will any new TPP changes affect the modal funding ranges, application categories, qualifications, criteria, point weighting, or measures.
- 5. Establish the best way/method and timing to select projects and allocate federal funding (e.g., currently doing a call for proposals every two years).
- Simplify the process for allocating funding.
- 7. Engage with stakeholders and the public in the development of a new application.
- 8. Document findings and develop revised Regional Solicitation application materials (pdf an**ਡੋ** online submittal).

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Connecting the 2050 TPP and Regional Solicitation



Safety Goal: Options to Incorporate into the Regional Solicitation

- 1. Create a new safety application category
- 2. Change the amount of money going to safety as an application category
- 3. Create a safety criterion
- 4. Create a safety scoring measure
- 5. Change the point distribution for safety criterion or measure within an application category like Pedestrian Facilities
- 6. Change the qualifying requirements so that all projects submitted must improve safety in some manner, for example

Other Questions for the Group



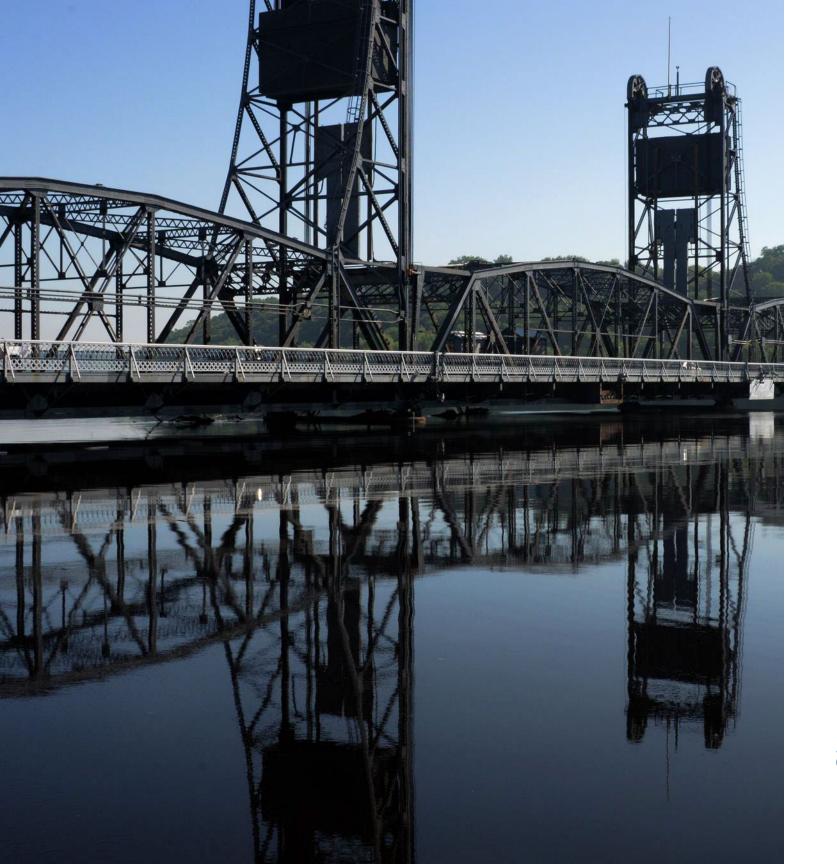
- 1. Do you have any other key tasks that should be added to the scope?
- 2. What is the best way to ensure that that 2026 Regional Solicitation is addressing the 2050 TPP Goals and Objectives?
- 3. Do you know of other MPOs that are effective in allocating federal funding that we should document?
- 4. What is the best way to engage you as a technical expert in this multi-year effort?
- 5. What is the best way to engage your policymakers?

2024 Regional Solicitation Cycle



Overlapping Study Efforts

- Careful planning is needed to ensure that stakeholders have adequate time to participate in 3 major MPO study efforts over the next two plus years: 2024 Regional Solicitation, 2050 TPP, Regional Solicitation Evaluation leading into the 2026 Regional Solicitation
- Council staff is developing a schedule that would advance the 2024 Regional Solicitation funding cycle up by 4 months. We anticipate limited changes for the 2024 cycle and instead will put our committee time and effort toward changes for 2026.
- Key points in this updated 2024 schedule include:
 - Open application period (fall 2023 and closing in early Dec)
 - Scoring (early 2024)
 - Funding scenarios (spring/summer 2024 during TPP public comment period)
 - TAB decision (July 2024 moved up from Nov 2024 to avoid overlap with the TPP approval)



Steve Peterson

Senior Manager of Highway Planning and TAB/TAC Process 651-602-1819

Steven.Peterson@metc.state.mn.us

