

**T** Transportation Committee  
Meeting date: December 10, 2012  
For the Council Meeting of January 9, 2013

**ADVISORY INFORMATION**

**Date:** December 4, 2012  
**Subject:** "A" Minor Arterial System Evaluation Study  
**District(s), Member(s):** All  
**Policy/Legal Reference:** *2030 Transportation Policy Plan Policy 9: Highway Planning and Policy 11: Highway System Management and Improvements*  
**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Arlene McCarthy, MTS Director (651-602-1754)  
Amy Vennewitz, MTS Dep. Dir. Planning & Finance (651-602-1058)  
Carl Ohrn, Planning Analyst (651-602-1719)  
Mary Karlsson, Planning Analyst (651-602-1819)  
**Division/Department:** Transportation – Metropolitan Transportation Services

**Proposed Action**

That the Metropolitan Council accept the "A" Minor Arterial System Evaluation Study Report with the following eight revisions to the September 28, 2012 draft:

Study Recommendation 1:

1. Include the text from the Regional Development Framework & 2030 Transportation Policy Plan in an attachment to clearly demonstrate the cause and effect relationship of the policy. (Draft Report p. 5)
2. Give an example of how the TPP can more fully explain the purpose of the "A" Minor Arterial system and the difference between "A" and "B" Minor Arterials. (Draft Report p. 6)

Study Recommendation 2:

3. The four types should be maintained and definitions updated, including revisiting the definitions of developed and developing areas as part of Thrive MSP 2040 and update the "A" Minor Arterial definitions as part of the TPP Update in 2014. (Draft Report p. 7)

Study Recommendation 3:

4. Strike, "... as appropriate within the context of all transportation system needs." from the recommendation. (Draft Report p.11)

Study Recommendation 5:

5. Revise the recommendation to include metrics to be used in the allocation of federal funding among the Regional Solicitation categories including vehicle miles traveled, average daily traffic, bus miles traveled, person throughput, and freight use (using data that can be identified for these metrics). (Draft Report p. 17)
6. Revise the table in the study findings to include bus miles traveled. (Draft Report p. 17)

## Study Recommendation 10:

7. Revise Recommendation 10 to include transit and specify collection of sidewalk/trail and ADA-compliant bus stop location data. (Draft Report p. 28)
8. Revise the study findings to explicitly mention and include a map of the 2030 Arterial Bus Rapid Transit system plan and explicitly mention the Council's upcoming Regional Bicycle System Master Study. (Draft Report p. 28)

## **Background**

The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) to the Metropolitan Council developed, and in partnership with local road authorities implemented, the "A" Minor Arterial classification system in the early 1990s, more than 20 years ago. Given the amount of time passed since the last comprehensive study of the system, the availability of new data and analysis tools, and the new policy directions set in the *2030 Transportation Policy Plan* (Nov. 2010), the Metropolitan Council (Council) initiated the "A" Minor Arterial System Evaluation Study in early 2011. The study was performed under the advisement of a Project Management Team, Technical Steering Committee, the MnDOT Capital Improvements Committee, and the TAB Policy Committee. The study's Draft Final Report was made available to TAB, TAB's technical advisory committees, and the Council's Transportation Committee for review and comment on September 28, 2012. Council staff presented the report, answered questions, and accepted comments at TAC, TAB, and Council Transportation Committee meetings in September, October, and November 2012.

Consistent with the recommendations of all of its technical advisory committees, the TAB accepted the report on November 28, 2012 and recommended Metropolitan Council accept it with revisions 1, 2, 3 (without reference to the TPP update in 2014), 4, and 7. The TAB was made aware of revisions 3 (with reference to the TPP update in 2014), 5, 6, and 8 as recommended by Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee on October 22, 2012 and did not state opposition to them.

In addition to its recommended revisions, TAB members shared several general thoughts and comments:

- Concern the study did not include data demonstrating the system's support of regional land use goals.
- Funding for all transportation is the biggest challenge.
- Jurisdictional realignment done on a large scale without supporting funding is an unfunded mandate.
- Any redefinition of developed and developing areas needs to be as clear and easy to understand as the current reference to Interstate 494 and 694.
- Interest in seeing the study's underlying data, including the trend line of vehicle-miles traveled and road mileage data by type and county.
- Interest in completing collection of the "A" Minor Arterial pedestrian investment and use data soon, preferably before the next Regional Solicitation if possible.
- Interest in regularly reporting vehicle-miles traveled and road mileage data by type and county to the TAB.

**Rationale**

The "A" Minor Arterial classification system was developed and implemented to help prioritize state and local investments in these interconnected, multimodal roads. The *2030 Transportation Policy Plan* (Nov. 2010) directs local authorities to provide the "A" Minor Arterial system to support the Metropolitan Highway (Principal Arterial) and local street systems. From 1993 to 2009, the TAB dedicated approximately \$22 million per year (not adjusted for inflation) of the Regional Solicitation's federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding to "A" Minor Arterials.

**Funding**

This action has no funding impact.

**Known Support / Opposition**

The Transportation Advisory Board to the Metropolitan Council accepted the report on November 28, 2012 and recommended Metropolitan Council accept it with the revisions noted.