

## Community Development and Transportation Committees

Meeting date: April 15, 2013

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**Subject:** Regional Solicitation Evaluation Background and Discussion

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** 23CFR450.306; Minn. Statutes 473.146

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS (651/602-1754); Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator (651/602-1728)

**Division/Department:** Transportation / Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

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### **Proposed Action**

Information only.

### **Background**

The distribution of federal transportation funds through the Metropolitan Planning Organization has been accomplished by the TAB and Council since 1993 through a process known as the Regional Solicitation. The process is biannual, awarding two years of federal funding in each solicitation. The process strives to advance regional policies and priorities, and to address transportation needs through the allocation of the funds to a variety of locally-initiated projects. The process has a foundation in being objective, data-driven, transparent and performance-based.

While the process is reviewed and modified after each solicitation with the goal of continual improvement, it has not had a wholesale review since its inception. The TAB and the Council initiated an evaluation of the Regional Solicitation process to provide an opportunity for greater review and improvement.

TAB and Council members, along with other stakeholders, are invited to participate in a Regional Solicitation Evaluation Policymaker Workshop on Monday, May 6, 2013. This workshop will provide policymakers the opportunity to share their perspective on the principles that should guide the allocation of these federal transportation funds.

### **Rationale**

In advance of the May 6 workshop, staff will present information to assist Council members in understanding the federal funding categories and amounts, project eligibilities for each category, and the influence of the 2012 federal transportation bill - Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (MAP-21). Staff will also summarize what Council members can anticipate to be asked at the workshop and highlight some of the items anticipated to be raised at the workshop.

### **Funding**

While the funding levels have fluctuated year-to-year, per MAP-21, it is anticipated that approximately \$75 million in annual federal transportation funds will be provided for distribution by the TAB and Council in 2017 and beyond. Federal funds through 2016 have been fully programmed.

### **Known Support / Opposition**

N/A