

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: October 23, 2017

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of October 25, 2017

Subject: Revised 2018 Unified Planning Work Program

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: MAP-21

Staff Prepared/Presented: Nick Thompson, Director MTS 651-602-1754

Amy Vennewitz, Dep. Dir. Finance & Planning, 651-602-1058

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Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Adopt the proposed 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with a budget of \$6,046,291.
- Adopt the attached resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for a planning grant under MAP-21.
- Authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, for distribution of FHWA and FTA planning funds.

Background

The UPWP is a program required by federal law through which Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) receive federal funds to conduct transportation and land use planning activities. It includes work proposed by the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC). There are five planning activities (Planning and Programming Process, Comprehensive and Land Transportation Planning, Research and Travel Forecasting, Operations and Management, and Aviation Transportation Planning) in the proposed 2018 UPWP with an overall budget of \$6,046,291.

On September 11, 2017 this item was passed by the Transportation Committee. However after that date the Council received feedback from FHWA that necessitated changes to the document. The changes are reflected in the attachment in redlined formatting and can be summarized as follows:

- 1) Minor typos and URL changes throughout.
- 2) On page 5 a section has been added to tie the 14 recommendations from the spring 2017 Transportation Management Area (TMA) Certification Review to the activities in the 2018 UPWP.
- 3) On page 12 the text regarding the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) has been edited to better reflect the changes anticipated to the 2040 TPP Update for its adoption in mid-2018.
- 4) On page 14 there have been significant edits to the Congestion Management Process (CMP) work description and narrative to better reflect the volume of work to be done in this area.

As the redlined version of this document became available, MnDOT also requested some changes to the new language which are relatively minor. For example, in one instance they have requested the term “low-cost” to be revised to “lower-cost.” MnDOT has also asked that references to the StreetLight Insight dataset indicate its pilot nature and lack of secured funding for future use. These changes have been incorporated.

Rationale

The main purpose of the UPWP is to serve as an application to the US DOT for federal transportation planning funds and to ensure coordination of planning activities among the various agencies involved in the transportation planning process.

Funding

The proposed UPWP is based on the assumption that \$4,017,362 will be available in 2017 from the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration for the proposed Council work. If the final approved grant amounts are different, the Council reserves the right to reconsider the work program. The local funding consists of \$1,157,908 from the Metropolitan Council and \$106,400 from MAC. The remainder is covered by drawing on unspent funds from previous years.

Page 27 of the document also shows additional federal dollars being used in 2017 beyond the allocated UPWP dollars for the Travel Behavior Inventory. The FHWA and FTA require the Council to show these funds in the UPWP.

Known Support / Opposition

The 2018 UPWP was reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee and approved by the Transportation Advisory Board on August 16, 2017. Information items about the revised document have been presented to TAC-Planning, TAC, and the TAB. There is no known opposition.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

390 Robert Street North, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1805

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-19

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION, FOR A CONSOLIDATED PLANNING GRANT
UNDER THE MOVING AHEAD FOR PROGRESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY
(MAP-21)

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Transportation is authorized to make grants for mass transportation projects and transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, the contract for financial assistance will impose certain obligations upon the applicant, including the provision by it of the local share of project costs; and

WHEREAS, it is required by the U.S. Department of Transportation in accord with the provisions of the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, that in connection with the filing of an application for assistance under the Federal Transit Act of 1991, as amended, the applicant give an assurance that it will comply with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the U.S. Department of Transportation requirements thereunder; and

WHEREAS, Title 23, U.S. Code requires that a continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative (3-C) transportation planning process be carried out between the state and local governments in urbanized areas; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council is eligible to receive Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration grant funds for the 2018 transportation planning work program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Regional Administrator is authorized to file an application with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, on behalf of the Metropolitan Council, for a consolidated planning grant to aid in financing the Council's 2018 transportation work program;
2. THAT the Metropolitan Council enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, for distribution of Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration Planning Funds;
3. THAT the Regional Administrator is hereby authorized to execute the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation agreement(s) and amendment(s) for Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration planning funds;
4. THAT the Regional Administrator is authorized to furnish such additional information as the Minnesota Department of Transportation or the U.S. Department of Transportation may require in connection with applications, projects, or agreements.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2017.

Alene Tchourumoff, Chair

Emily Getty, Recording Secretary
