

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: June 11, 2018

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 27, 2018

**Subject:** Recommendation of Release of Draft 2040 Transportation Policy Plan for Public Comment

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

**Policy/Legal Reference:** MN Statutes Sec. 473.175 and 473.176; FAST Act

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director MTS, 651-602-1058

Michelle Fure, Manager, Public Involvement, 651-602-1545

**Division/Department:** Transportation/MTS

### Proposed Action

That, for the purposes of holding a public hearing and receiving public comment, the Metropolitan Council:

- Release the draft update to the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) for public review and comment [www.metrocouncil.org/tppupdate](http://www.metrocouncil.org/tppupdate); and
- Authorize a public comment period from June 28, 2018 to August 13, 2018, including a public hearing on the draft document to be held on August 1, 2018 at 4:00 PM.

### Background

Under federal transportation planning law, the Council is required to develop a long-range transportation plan that is updated at least every four years. The plan must be multimodal and identify transportation system goals and investment priorities over at least a 20-year period. The plan is required to identify regionally significant transportation investments that will be implemented within the timeframe of the plan and must maintain fiscal balance between anticipated project costs and funding. The current 2040 TPP was adopted in January 2015 and approved by the U.S. DOT in March 2015, thereby requiring a new plan at a minimum by March 2019.

Council transportation planning staff has worked closely with a Councilmember Work Group that met on a bi-monthly basis and held monthly meetings with the TAC Planning committee since February 2017 to develop the update to the 2040 TPP. The draft plan has been presented to the Council Committee of the Whole, Transportation Advisory Board and the TAB Technical Advisory Committee for review and comment. Changes have been incorporated in response to the comments provided.

In addition, Council, MnDOT, and local government staff engaged thousands of people in the region as part of planning studies, which led to findings and resulting policy included in this plan update.

Because the regional development guide, *Thrive MSP 2040*, is unchanged since the current TPP was adopted in 2015, this plan update contains limited and focused changes that have occurred since including:

- Updating the fiscal outlook for expected revenues and expenditures to meet the federal requirements of a fiscally constrained long-range plan.
- Incorporating the results of planning studies that have been completed since 2015 including the Principal Arterial Intersection Conversion Study,

Highway Truck Corridors Study, Regional Bicycle Barriers Study, MnPASS III, Congestion Management Safety Plan and other corridor specific transit and highway studies.

- Incorporating major highway and transit investment projects that are now funded through programs such as Corridors of Commerce and the Freight Investment program or that have selected a locally preferred alternative and provided a funding plan to move forward.
- Continuing to respond to federal FAST Act and previous MAP 21 requirements for a performance-based regional plan and identifying regional transportation system goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures, along with responding to federal performance target requirements.

Staff provided the Council with information items on the contents of the plan through Committee of the Whole meetings in February 2017, November 2017 and February 2018. Most recently the staff presented revisions made to the draft document resulting from comments received from TAB and other partner agencies.

### **Rationale**

This draft *2040 Transportation Policy Plan* update meets the federal law and rules requiring a long-range metropolitan transportation plan that is updated at least every four years. It identifies the regionally significant projects expected to be implemented under reasonably expected revenues (fiscally constrained) over the time period of the plan and meets federal requirements for a performance-based plan.

### **Thrive Lens Analysis**

The draft *2040 Transportation Policy Plan* addresses all of the *Thrive MSP 2040* outcomes and principles. The plan establishes six transportation system goals along with objectives and strategies that align and coordinate with the Thrive outcomes and principles. The plan Overview and first chapter, Transportation System Vision and Performance-Based Planning, describe and contain a matrix demonstrating the relationship between *Thrive MSP 2040* and the plan's goals and objectives.

### **Funding**

The action does not directly require or involve funding. However, under federal law regionally significant transportation projects and the expected funding for the projects must be identified in the fiscally constrained long-range plan before being included in the region's Transportation Improvement Program and allowing the project to move forward with implementation.

### **Known Support / Opposition**

The draft *2040 Transportation Policy Plan* update has been presented to the TAC Planning and TAC committees and the Transportation Advisory Board, and many changes were incorporated into the draft in response to their comments. MTS staff met with each of the seven county boards, the Minneapolis and St. Paul city councils and representatives from the Wright and Sherburne county urbanized area to present the details of the draft plan. At each of these meetings staff responded to questions and comments, and changes were made to the draft as a result of those comments. General support and no major opposition to the plan was expressed at each meeting. In addition, the feedback from thousands of people who participated in outreach related to the transportation planning studies has been included in this draft.

# Public Comment Opportunities for the Draft 2040 Transportation Policy Plan Update

## *Public comment period from June 28 to Aug. 13, 2018*

The Metropolitan Council will also receive public comments via the following methods:

- **Mail:** Public Information, Metropolitan Council, 390 N. Robert. St., St. Paul, MN 55101
- **Email:** [public.info@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:public.info@metc.state.mn.us)
- **Recorded line:** 651-602-1500
- **TTY:** 651-291-0904

## *Online Interactive Site*

A web-based, interactive site will be available for constituents to learn about the changes in the plan update, to discuss related topics, and to provide direct comment on the plan itself. The site will be live throughout the public comment period, beginning June 28 at [www.metrocouncil.org/tppupdate](http://www.metrocouncil.org/tppupdate).

## *Public Hearing*

The Council will host a public hearing to receive formal testimony on the draft 2040 Transportation Policy Plan update on Wednesday, Aug. 1, at 4 p.m., in the Metropolitan Council chambers, 390 N. Robert St., St. Paul.