

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: November 26, 2018

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of November 28, 2018

Subject: Release Public Comment Draft Amendment to the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan to Add Riverview Modern Streetcar Locally Preferred Alternative

District(s), Member(s): All

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

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

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Division/Department: Transportation/MTS

Proposed Action

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

- Release the attached draft amendment to the [2040 Transportation Policy Plan](#) to add Riverview Modern Streetcar locally preferred alternative for public review and comment.
- Authorize a public comment period from Nov. 29, 2018 to Jan. 21, 2019, including a public hearing on the draft document to be held on Jan. 9, 2019 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 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) was adopted on October 24, 2018.

The 2040 TPP includes a fiscally constrained list of major projects for investment in the region by 2040, known as the Current Revenue Scenario. All fixed-guideway rail transit projects are considered major projects under federal guidance. These projects must be identified as funded in a region's long-range transportation plan, which for this region is the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan, in order to qualify for Federal Transit Administration capital investment grants. Transitway projects generally originate as locally led projects to recommend a locally preferred alternative (LPA) for adoption. This amendment proposes to add the Riverview Modern Streetcar LPA to the TPP's Current Revenue Scenario at the request of Ramsey County following the conclusion of its Riverview Corridor Pre-Project Development Study.

The attached text for the amendment is a new format being proposed by MTS staff to simplify how amendments are presented. Previously, amendments resulted in red-lined versions of chapters of the TPP for public comment with the final text resulting in reposting of updated chapters affected by an amendment to the Council's website. This revised approach provides all necessary information on the amendment in one document

that will be posted on the website as an addition to the full plan. The attached text also references the project website, hosted by Ramsey County, and some basic information about the Riverview Modern Streetcar LPA.

Rationale

Transitway projects can be added to the fiscally constrained Transportation Policy Plan when the following criteria are met.

- A locally preferred alternative (LPA) designating the mode and alignment is identified and adopted by a lead agency and the LPA report is submitted to the Council documenting the planning process including a summary of the project's public input process and content
- Local affected governments adopt resolutions of support for the LPA, validating their support for the project moving forward
- A reasonable project timeline is submitted with key milestones for federal action and construction and opening dates for the project
- A reasonable financial plan is submitted documenting how the project can be built and operated with revenues in the fiscally constrained plan (or reasonable proposed additional revenues)

Ramsey County has provided the appropriate information to meet these criteria for the Riverview Modern Streetcar LPA.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The draft 2040 TPP amendment addresses all of the *Thrive MSP 2040* outcomes and principles as part of the broader Plan's six transportation system goals and their corresponding objectives and strategies. The text specifically discusses how the amendment supports the goals of Access to Destinations, Competitive Economy, and Land Use and Local Planning through strategies and any associated performance measures that are impacted by the added project. These impacts are strongly aligned with the Thrive outcomes of Prosperity and Livability. The text also specifically discusses impacts to transportation finance, equity, and the environment, supporting the Thrive outcomes of Stewardship, Equity, and Sustainability.

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 eligible for federal funding and included in the region's Transportation Improvement Program. There is a discussion on the impacts on transportation finance in the amendment text.

Known Support / Opposition

The draft 2040 Transportation Policy Plan update has been presented to the Technical Advisory Committee and its planning subcommittee for action, and is scheduled for consideration by the Transportation Advisory Board on November 21. MTS staff work closely with Ramsey County staff to review the requirements for a TPP amendment and to draft the necessary materials for this action.

Public Comment Opportunities for the Draft 2040 Transportation Policy Plan Amendment

Public Hearing

The Council will host a public hearing to receive formal testimony on the draft 2040 Transportation Policy Plan amendment on Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2019 at 4 p.m., in the Metropolitan Council chambers, 390 N. Robert St., St. Paul.

Public comment period from November 29, 2018 to January 21, 2019

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
- **Recorded line:** 651-602-1500
- **TTY:** 651-291-0904