Recommended Revisions for 2020 Regional Solicitation

Transportation Committee
August 26, 2019
Regional process to allocate federal transportation funds to locally-initiated projects that support regional transportation goals and objectives.

- Solicit and select projects every two years for implementation four-to-five years into the future (e.g., 2020 Regional Solicitation will fund projects in 2024 and 2025)
- Use a transparent and technically-driven scoring system to select projects
- Federal awards pay up to 80% of total project cost or approved maximum award amounts
Strong Linkage to Regional Policy

- Qualifying criteria ask applicants to document consistency with regional policy
- Geographic balance is a secondary lens
2018 Regional Solicitation

- 57 Projects
- Projects in all 7 counties
- Projects in 37 different cities and townships
- Geographic balance can be influenced through:
  - Selection of funding program options (i.e., where to draw the lines across categories)
  - Number of projects funded
  - Funding guarantees
Policy Work Group

• Policy Work Group established to provide recommendations for 2020 Solicitation changes
• Major topics included equity, transit, and unique projects
• Met 6 times from May to August
• Work Group included a mix of TAB members and Councilmembers
  – CM Barber and CM Cummings
• Work Group recommendations presented to TAB on 8/21
Policy Work Group Recommendations
Application Categories

**Regional Solicitation**

**Unique Projects** (2.5% of federal Funds: $4M to $5M) Including the Regional Travel Behavior Inventory/Modeling Program

**MODAL CATEGORIES**

- **Roadways Including Multimodal Elements**
  - 48% - 68% of Funds

- **Transit and Travel Demand Management (TDM) Projects**
  - 22% - 32% of Funds

- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities**
  - 10% - 20% of Funds

**APPLICATION CATEGORIES**

- **Traffic Management Technologies**
- **Spot Mobility and Safety**
- **Strategic Capacity**
- **Roadway Reconstruction/Modernization**
- **Bridges**

- **Bus Rapid Transit**
- **Transit Expansion**
- **Transit Modernization**
- **Travel Demand Management**
  - Base Level
  - Innovative

- **Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities**
- **Pedestrian Facilities**
- **Safe Routes to School (Infrastructure)**
Roadways Rec’s #1- #6

1. New Roadways application category, Spot Mobility and Safety; Maximum award of $3.5M
2. New measure for pedestrian safety improvements
3. Modernization/Reconstruction and Bridges stay as separate application categories
4. Eliminate the $10M minimum set-aside for Bridges
5. Traffic Management Technologies applications decrease maximum award from $7M to $3.5M
6. Strategic Capacity (Expansion) applications increase maximum award from $7M to $10M
Bicycle and Pedestrian Recommendation

• Decrease the Multiuse Trail and Bicycle Facilities Maximum award from $5.5M to $4M
• Requested input from TAC on potential to lower the maximum federal funding percentage from 80% to 70% to fund more projects
• TAC unanimously approved a motion to recommend to keep the federal percentage at 80%
  – All application categories remain consistent
  – Potential financial burden for cities in this application category
Equity and Housing Performance

• Reduce Housing Performance total score from 70 points to 50 points across all application categories
• Include a new measure on Affordable Housing Access
  – Qualitative measure describing how the project improves access to affordable housing within ¼ mile of the proposed project
  – 10 out of 50 points
• Increase Equity score by 20 points shifted from Housing Performance; total points varies across application categories
  – 50 points in Roadways; 70 points in Bicycle and Pedestrian categories; 100-150 points in Transit; 50 points in TDM
  – 40% of Equity points for demonstrated engagement and outreach
  – 60% of Equity points for identified benefits and mitigation of negative impacts
Equity and Housing Performance Cont.

• Replace the multiplier for Areas of Concentrated Poverty with Bonus points
  – Bonus point only for projects scoring at least 80% on Equity measures
  – 25 points for Areas of Concentrated Poverty with 50% people of color
  – 20 points for Areas of Concentrated Poverty
  – 15 points for census tracts above regional average for poverty or people of color
  – 10 points for all other areas

• Provide applicant workshops and learning sessions on Equity, engagement and identifying project needs and solutions

• Convene a regional policy work group on Transportation and Equity
  – Council and Equity Advisory Committee, TAB, MnDOT, cities and counties
  – Investigate expanding beyond transportation issues
# Equity and Housing Performance Scoring

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Category</th>
<th>3A: Housing</th>
<th>3B: Socio-Economic Equity</th>
<th>Total Possible Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HPS</td>
<td>Affordable Housing</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roadway Expansion</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>50 (4.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roadway Reconst/Mod</td>
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<td>Traffic Mgmt Technologies</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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Unique Projects

• Create a Unique Projects application category
• Set aside 2.5% of total funding in 2020 Solicitation for Unique projects
• Select Unique projects in the 2022 Solicitation
• Identify the Unique Projects criteria and evaluation process after the 2020 Solicitation
## Modal Funding Ranges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Roadways</th>
<th>Transit and TDM</th>
<th>Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities</th>
<th>Unique</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2020 Solicitation</strong></td>
<td>48%-68% $84M-$119M</td>
<td>22%-32% $39M-$56M</td>
<td>10%-20% $18M-$35M</td>
<td>2.5% $4M-$5M</td>
<td>100% $180M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Transit Recommendations

• Create a bus rapid transit program, two options still being considered:
  – $25-$28 million for new bus rapid transit projects in the TPP that are not New or Small Starts expansion projects; improvements to existing lines also excluded
  – $25-$31 million for all forms of bus rapid transit projects in the TPP, including New or Small Starts expansion projects and improvements to existing lines

• Process for determining projects in BRT program to be developed in coordination with TAB

• Create a guarantee to fund a transit project outside of Transit Market Areas I and II (similar to A Minor collector guarantee)
Transit Market Areas
Qualifying Requirement Changes

• Applicant must have completed an ADA Transition Plan
• Letter committing to snow and ice control on Multiuse Trail and Bicycle Facility projects
Schedule

- September 23-Nov 6, 2019, application out for public review
- November 2019: TAB approves application packet
- December 2019: Council concurs on application packet
- Feb 2020: Application released
- April 2020: Applications due
- Nov/Dec 2020: TAB approval and Council concurrence on project selection
Questions

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