

# Recommended Revisions for 2020 Regional Solicitation

Transportation Committee  
August 26, 2019



# What is the Regional Solicitation?

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

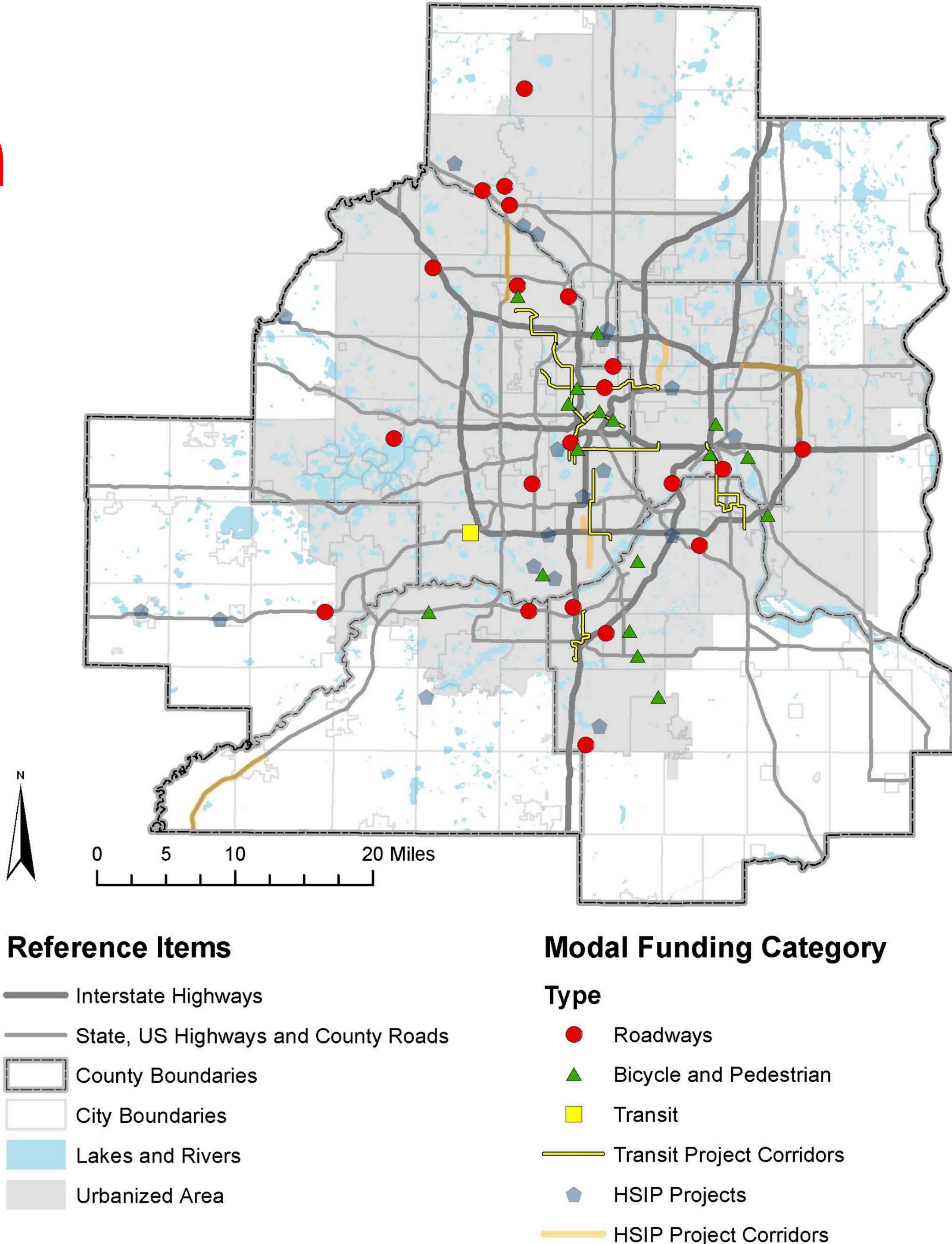


- Qualifying criteria ask applicants to document consistency with regional policy
- Geographic balance is a secondary lens



# 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

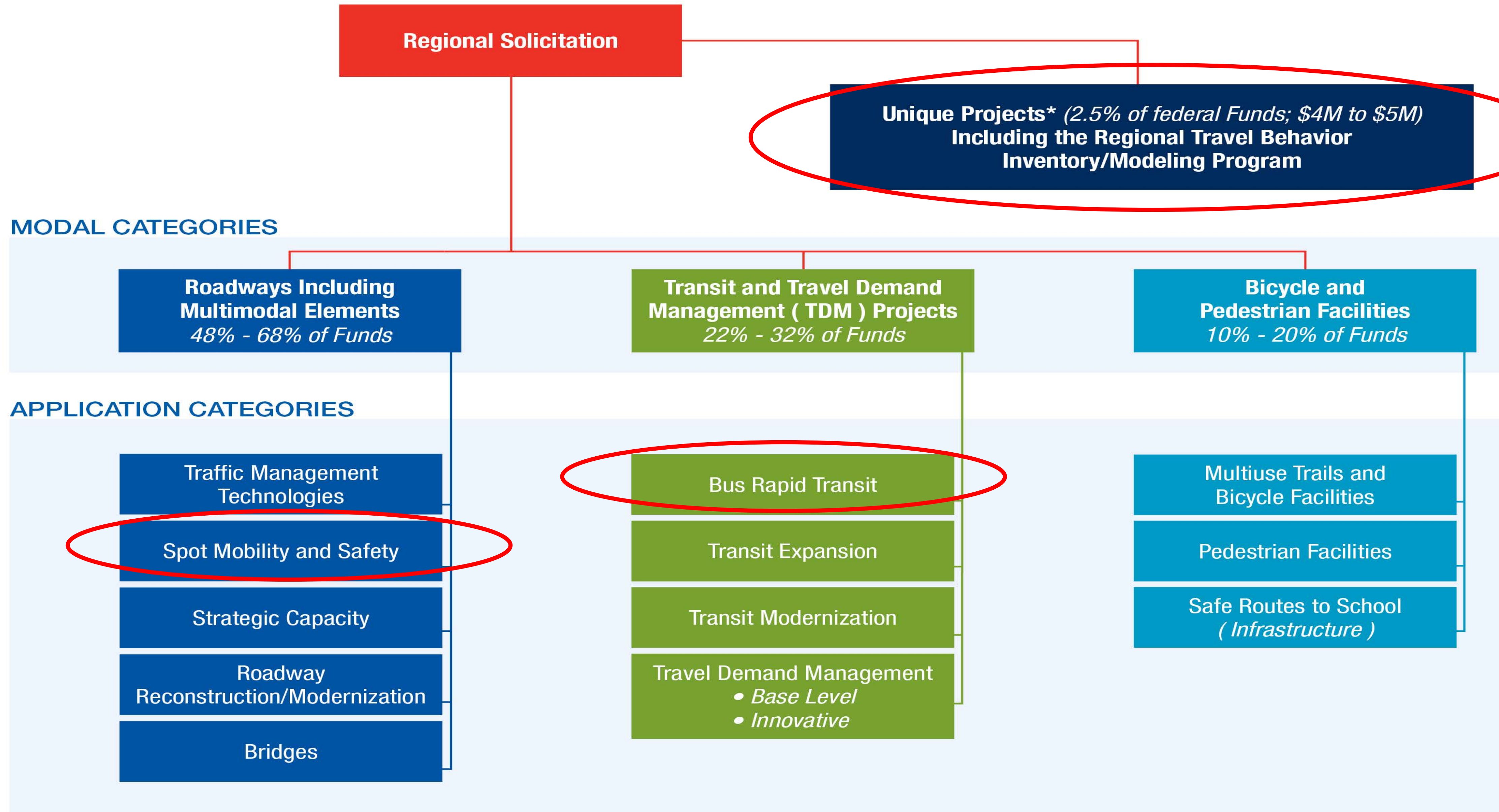
- Policy Work Group established to provide recommendations for 2020 Solicitation changes
- Major topics included equity, transit, and unique projects
- Met 6 times from May to August
- Work Group included a mix of TAB members and Councilmembers
  - CM Barber and CM Cummings
- Work Group recommendations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

# Policy Work Group Recommendations





# Application Categories



# 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

Traffic Management  
Technologies

Spot Mobility and Safety

Strategic Capacity

Roadway  
Reconstruction/Modernization

Bridges



# 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

Application Category	3A: Housing			3B: Socio-Economic Equity			Total Possible Points
	HPS	Affordable Housing	Total	Community Engagement	Benefits / Impacts	Total	
Roadway Expansion	40	10	50 (4.5%)	20	30	50 (4.5%)	100
Roadway Reconst/Mod	40	10	50 (4.5%)	20	30	50 (4.5%)	100
Traffic Mgmt Technologies	40	10	50 (4.5%)	20	30	50 (4.5%)	100
Bridge	40	10	50 (4.5%)	20	30	50 (4.5%)	100
Spot Mobility	40	10	50 (4.5%)	20	30	50 (4.5%)	100
Transit Expansion	40	10	50 (4.5%)	60	90	150 (14%)	200
Transit Modernization	40	10	50 (4.5%)	50	75	125 (11%)	175
Travel Demand Management	40	10	50 (4.5%)	40	60	100 (9.1%)	150
Multiuse Trails / Bicycle	40	10	50 (4.5%)	30	40	70 (6.3%)	120
Pedestrian Facilities	40	10	50 (4.5%)	30	40	70 (6.3%)	120
Safe Routes to School	40	10	50 (4.5%)	30	40	70 (6.3%)	120



# 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

	Roadways	Transit and TDM	Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities	Unique	Total
2020 Solicitation	48%-68% \$84M-\$119M	22%-32% \$39M-\$56M	10%-20% \$18M-\$35M	2.5% \$4M-\$5M	100% \$180M

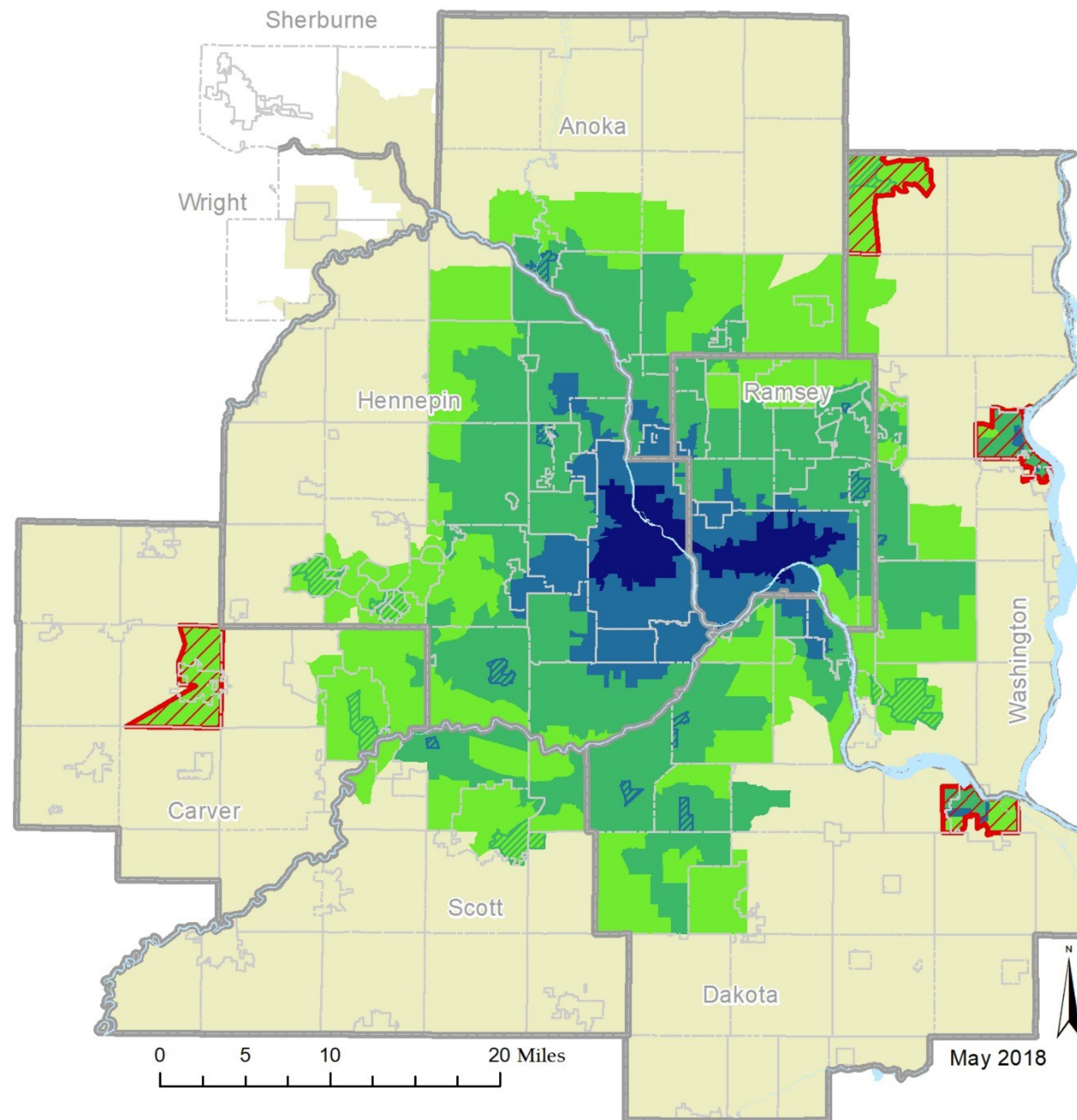


# Transit Recommendations

- 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



- |   |                         |   |                          |
|---|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | Market Area I           |  | Emerging Market Area III |
|  | Market Area II          |  | Market Area IV           |
|  | Emerging Market Area II |  | Market Area V            |
|  | Market Area III         |  | Freestanding Town Center |





# 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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