

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: September 23, 2019

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 25, 2019

Subject: 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Resolution 2019-22

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: MAP-21, FAST Act

Staff Prepared/Presented: Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director, Finance & Planning (651-602-1508)
David Burns, Senior Highway Planner (651-602-1887)

Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Adopt the proposed 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with a budget of \$7,286,830.
- Adopt the attached resolution (2019-22) authorizing the filing of an application with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for a planning grant under the FAST Act.
- Authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation, for distribution of FHWA and FTA planning funds.

Background

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) serves as the Council's application for USDOT transportation planning funds. The UPWP is prepared annually and describes metropolitan-area transportation planning activities being undertaken by four agencies. Participants in the UPWP include the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the Metropolitan Airports Commission.

The UPWP includes activities required by federal regulation that address planning priorities of the metropolitan area. The document identifies budgeted expenditures, funding sources, and allocation of staff resources for transportation planning activities of many participants. Projects with Metropolitan Council participation are detailed with staff hours and consultant costs that detail how the estimated \$4.7 million of federal planning money will be spent, along with a required 20 percent local match. In 2020 the Council is committing to "overmatching" the federal grant to approximately 34 percent in order to support a robust transportation planning program.

New this year is a more detailed listing of consultant projects with estimated dollar values and staff hours attached. Many of the tasks are required by state or federal law and are ongoing, including the TAC/TAB committee process, or repeat on an annual or biennial cycle, such as the preparation of the TIP and the regional solicitation.

The draft 2020 Unified Planning Work Program document was available on the Metropolitan Council website from August 5, 2019 to September 9, 2019 for the public to submit comments. The Council promoted and encouraged public comment through the Council's social media platforms, by posting a web event, and through a GovDelivery email blast.

The attached table summarizes the comments received, identifies the entity who made the comment, the response to the comment, and any related changes to the text of the draft UPWP. Six commenters, including representatives of partner

agencies and interested members of the public, provided feedback on the draft UPWP. All changes recommended by these entities were either incorporated into the final UPWP or discussed in further detail with the agency representative and acknowledged. A written record of all comments made via letter, email, in person, or telephone is available from the Metropolitan Council upon request.

Rationale

The UPWP is a federally required description and documentation of proposed transportation and transportation-related planning activities in the metropolitan area.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The 2020 Unified Planning Work Program positively impacts all five Thrive regional outcomes. In particular the on-going coordinated, continuing and cooperative planning process led by the Council and TAB provides a process and forum to identify and discuss transportation issues of regional importance. In addition, in 2020 there are a number of proposed consultant studies that will assist in further refining regional transportation investment policies to help work towards the Thrive outcomes.

Funding

The proposed UPWP is based on the assumption that \$4,783,070 will be available in 2020 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 Council is proposing to overmatch the federal funds in order to facilitate more long-range planning work for the region in 2020.

Page 30 includes the overall budget for the 2020 Unified Planning Work Program. In addition, it also shows additional federal dollars being used in 2020 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

TAB reviewed and recommended the proposed 2020 UPWP. No known opposition.

Attachment 1: List of Public Comments and Response

Comment	Comment Type	Commenter	Subject	Comment Summary	Staff Response
1	Email	Public comment	Automated, Connected, and Electric Vehicles	Is there a way to stay informed on the Council's long-term vehicle electrification planning program? Is the Council strictly focused on battery electric vehicles, or will other types of electric vehicles, such as hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, be included in your planning studies? Given the challenges of deploying battery-powered electric vehicles in cold climates, the Council should consider hydrogen fuel cell electric buses.	The Proposed Regional Electrification study is focused on all public and private vehicle fleets and the regional infrastructure and energy needs that will be necessary to allow this to occur. Decisions specifically related to electrifying the Council's bus fleet are transit operational decisions that will be made as part of the development of Metro Transit's capital improvement program and are dependent on funding availability. Metro Transit fleet staff are charged with researching, identifying needs and implementing the regional fleet plan.
2	Online submittal	Public comment	Transit/General	The Council should initiate a corridor study for intercity passenger rail between Minneapolis and Northfield.	Comment acknowledged. Current law prohibits study of the Dan Patch Corridor.
3	Review of draft document	Federal Highway Administration	General	Suggested edits, clarifications, and grammatical corrections on draft document.	Comments discussed with agency representative and incorporated in final document as necessary.
4	Review of draft document	MnDOT Central Office	General	Suggested edits, clarifications, and grammatical corrections on draft document.	Comments discussed with agency representative and incorporated in final document as necessary.
5	Review of draft document	MnDOT Metro District	General	Suggested edits, clarifications, and grammatical corrections on draft document.	Comments discussed with agency representative and incorporated in final document as necessary.
6	Review of draft document	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)	General	Suggested edits, clarifications, and grammatical corrections on draft document.	Comments discussed with agency representative and incorporated in final document as necessary.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-22

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 2020 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 2020 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 September 25 of 2019.

Nora Slawik, Chair

Elizabeth Sund, Recording Secretary