

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 27, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 12, 2020

**Subject:** Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment

**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:** Transportation/Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the proposed amendments to the 2020 Unified Planning Work Program.

### Background

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is prepared annually and describes the metro area transportation planning activities to be undertaken by the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the Metropolitan Airports Commission. It identifies budgeted expenditures, funding sources, and the allocation of staff resources for transportation planning activities. This proposed action item will amend the 2020 UPWP, adopted by the Metropolitan Council on September 25th, 2019, to update the work items that will be undertaken in 2020 and the 2020 UPWP budget.

Since the UPWP is written six months before the year begins, occasionally work items emerge that were not anticipated during its creation. MnDOT and FHWA require amendments to document changes to the UPWP after it has been adopted.

Shortly after the 2020 UPWP was adopted, it became apparent that in order to coordinate with the upcoming work for, and adoption of a 2050 Regional Plan and 2050 Transportation Policy Plan in 2024, that the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) would require an interim update. The TPP is required by federal law to be updated on a five-year cycle. The most recent update was adopted in October of 2018, thereby requiring a plan update by October 2023. However, during 2022 and 2023, the Council will be well into the work of preparing the 2050 Regional Plan and a 2050 TPP that aligns with the new regional plan. Adopting an interim 2040 TPP update in 2020 appears to be the best option to avoid overlapping with this significant work effort. In addition, updating the TPP in 2020 will allow the region to keep the current 2040 time period and also maintain a 20-year planning horizon.

Additionally, as the UPWP is developed months before its start, some consultant studies are not fully scoped or yet anticipated. The attached UPWP amendment also shows proposed changes to the 2020 consultant studies and includes an updated budget. MnDOT also recently provided the Council with \$666,677 of previously unspent transportation planning funds for use in 2020. These funds will allow additional spending on the 2020 consultant studies and also a decrease in the Council's committed local match from 34% to 26% of the total program funding.

## **Rationale**

The UPWP is a federally required description and documentation of proposed transportation and transportation-related planning activities in the metropolitan area. This action will amend the UPWP to include the outlined changes to the work program and budget.

## **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**

This action will increase the federal planning funds of the 2020 UPWP budget from \$4,783,070 to \$5,449,737 and adjust the overall budget from \$7,286,830 to \$7,507,330. The local funds, provided by MVST, decreased from \$2,394,760 to \$1,948,593.

## **Known Support / Opposition**

This proposed action was reviewed and recommended by the Transportation Advisory Board. No known opposition.