

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: September 28, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of October 14, 2020

Subject: 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Resolution 2020-18

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 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) with a budget of \$6,134,275;
- Adopt the attached resolution (2020-18) authorizing the filing of an application with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for a planning grant under the FAST Act; and
- 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 the federally-funded metropolitan area transportation planning activities that will be undertaken by the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in the upcoming year.

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 the participants. Projects with Metropolitan Council participation are detailed with staff hours and consultant costs that detail how the estimated \$4.5 million of federal planning money will be spent, along with a required 20 percent local match to federal funds. In 2021 the Council is committing to "overmatching" the federal grant to approximately 25 percent to support a robust transportation planning program.

Many of the tasks described are required by state or federal law and are ongoing activities, such as the TAC/TAB committee process, or repeat on an annual or biennial cycle, such as the preparation of the TIP and the Regional Solicitation.

Rationale

The Metropolitan Council may enter into agreements with other governments and organizations which provide income/grants to the Council which are consistent with the Council's mission and priorities. Policy 3-2-2 requires Council approval for grants exceeding \$500,000.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This item supports all of the Goals and Outcomes of *Thrive MSP 2040*. In particular during 2021 planning staff will conduct an Equity Evaluation of Regional Transportation Investment in support of the Equity goal and

Funding

The approximately \$4.5 M in federal planning grant funds and \$1.5 M in Council match funds are incorporated into and anticipated in the planned MTS 2021 budget.

Known Support / Opposition

The TAB recommended approval of the UPWP on September 16, 2020 and there is no known opposition.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-18

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION, FOR A CONSOLIDATED PLANNING GRANT
UNDER THE FIXING AMERICA'S SURFACE TRANSPORTATION (FAST)
ACT

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 2021 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 October 14 of 2020.

Charlie Zelle, Chair

Elizabeth Sund, Recording Secretary