

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: August 22, 2022

For the Metropolitan Council: September 14, 2022

Business Item: 2022-223

Transportation Addendum to the Metropolitan Council Public Engagement Plan

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	23 US Code § 134(i)(5) and 134(j)(1)(B), 49 US Code § 5303(i)(5) and 5303(j)(1)(B) ; 23 CFR § 450.316(a) and (b)
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Charles Carlson, MTS Executive Director, 651-602-1761 Sara Maaske, Senior Communications Consultant, 651-602-1588
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the Transportation Addendum to the Metropolitan Council Public Engagement Plan, and receive the public comment report.

Background

In March 2021, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) jointly released the [Transportation Management Area Planning Certification Review](#) results for the Met Council. This review is conducted every four years to assess how the Council's transportation planning processes align with federal planning requirements. The review found that Council satisfies most of the federal requirements related to public participation, however FHWA and FTA identified three recommendations:

- Update the Transportation Public Participation Plan to include tribal governments and tribal consultation strategies.
- Identify an update cycle for the Transportation Public Participation Plan. Ideally, this would occur the year before each Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) update.
- Evaluate the Council's transportation public participation efforts using effectiveness measures and include the measures and findings in the updated the document.

As part of this update, staff is recommending that the federally required transportation participation plan document be adopted as an Addendum to the [Met Council's Public Engagement Plan](#) rather than as a stand-alone document. The draft plan was released for public comment and comments were collected over a 45-day public comment period that started on May 25 and ended on July 11, 2022. There was a public hearing at the Met Council Transportation Committee on June 25. The Public Comment Report, including responses to comments received, is attached.

The final, updated Transportation Addendum to the Metropolitan Council Public Engagement Plan is also attached.

Rationale

23 US Code § 134(i)(5) and 134(j)(1)(B), and 49 US Code § 5303(i)(5) and 5303(j)(1)(B) require

that MPOs provide adequate opportunity for the public to participate in and comment on the MPO's products and planning processes. Public involvement requirements are detailed in 23 CFR § 450.316(a) and (b), which require MPOs to develop and use a documented public participation plan that includes explicit procedures and strategies to include the public and other interested parties in the transportation planning process. Specific requirements include:

- Giving adequate and timely notice of opportunities to participate in or comment on transportation issues and processes.
- Using visualization techniques to describe Metropolitan Transportation Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP).
- Making public information readily available in electronically accessible formats and means such as the world wide web.
- Holding public meetings at convenient and accessible locations and times.
- Demonstrating explicit consideration and response to public input.
- Periodically reviewing the effectiveness of the public participation plan.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The Transportation Addendum to the Metropolitan Council Public Engagement Plan advances the Thrive MSP 2040 equity outcome by setting methods and expectations for engaging a full cross-section of the community in decision-making.

