

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: August 28, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: September 13, 2023

Business Item: 2023-190

Release of the 2024 Regional Solicitation and Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) for Transportation Project

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	TAB Action
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director, Finance & Planning (651-602-1058) Steve Peterson, Senior Manager (651-602-1819) Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator (651-602-1717)
Division/Department:	Transportation / Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to approve the attached Regional Solicitation package, including the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Solicitation for 2028-2029 funding (2026-2027 funding for Travel Demand Management and Unique Projects) and to release the solicitation.

Background

The Regional Solicitation for federal transportation project funding is part of the Metropolitan Council's federally required continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation planning process for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The Twin Cities Metropolitan Area selects projects for funding from several federal programs, including the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP); the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program; the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP); and the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation Program (PROTECT). Following the previous Regional Solicitation, Council staff worked with applicants, scorers, the Technical Advisory Committee, and TAB to update the Regional Solicitation.

The attached Regional Solicitation includes the 12 applications, criteria, and associated weightings for the updated Regional Solicitation. TAB received 18 comments during the recent public comment period and has recommended some minor technical changes to the applications to address these public comments. The comments came from 13 unique commentors including individuals, local government, and non-profit organizations. Most comments were individual, though some common themes emerged:

- 5 commenters (mostly potential applicants) had specific comments regarding the application process, scoring criteria and guidance, and measure methodologies across several categories.
- 3 commenters offered positions on the Regional Solicitation's investment direction, including support for reducing carbon emissions and for improving safety for active transportation.
- 3 commenters mentioned support or opposition for projects in specific locations or cities.

- 4 additional comments were received on various topics.

Rationale

TAB develops and issues a Regional Solicitation for federal funding that is intended to implement regional policy and address regional and local transportation needs. The Council concurs with TAB actions regarding the Regional Solicitation.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This action promotes all outcomes highlighted in Thrive MSP 2040, as the scoring criteria and measures are derivative of that plan. Examples include the cost effectiveness measure (stewardship), the equity measure (equity), safety measures (livability), usage measures (prosperity), and air quality measures (sustainability).

Funding

The 2024 Regional Solicitation will be funded with approximately \$250 million in federal funds. Local sponsors match the federal funds at a minimum of 20 percent. The 2024 HSIP Solicitation will be funded with approximately \$42 million in federal Highway Safety Improvement Program funds and requires a local match of at least 10 percent.

