



2024 Unified Planning Work Program Preview



Spring 2023

metro council.org



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Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

2023 TRANSPORTATION
UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM FOR
THE TWIN CITIES METROPOLITAN AREA



Adopted Oct. 12, 2023

The UPWP is an annual plan of federally-funded and Council-involved transportation planning activities.

- Outlines and describes transportation planning activities for the calendar year
- Serves as application for federal transportation planning funds
- Includes planning studies' descriptions, schedules, costs, deliverables
- Includes partner-led studies that include Met Council staff, optional if not using federal planning funds

UPWP Development and Adoption Schedule

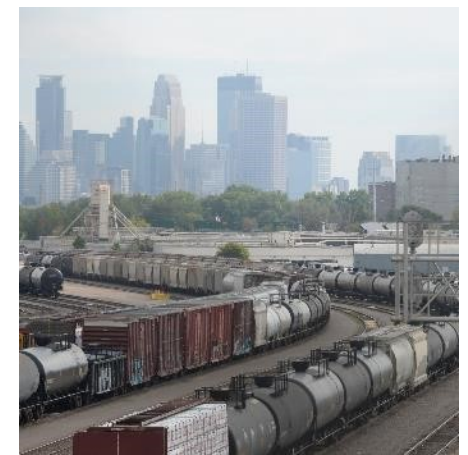


- **June:** Gather input on planning study needs and topics and write draft document
- **July:** Review of draft document by FHWA, MnDOT, other agencies
- **Aug. 10:** TAC Planning reviews and recommends draft UPWP
- **Aug. 14 – Sept. 1:** Public Comment Period
- **Sept. 6:** TAC recommends draft UPWP
- **Sept. 20:** TAB recommends draft UPWP
- **Sept. 25:** Council Transportation committee
- **Oct. 11:** Council adopts and forwards to MnDOT and FHWA for approval

Today's Goal

Review current planning studies and identify any pressing needs/topics for additional near-term (2024) planning studies

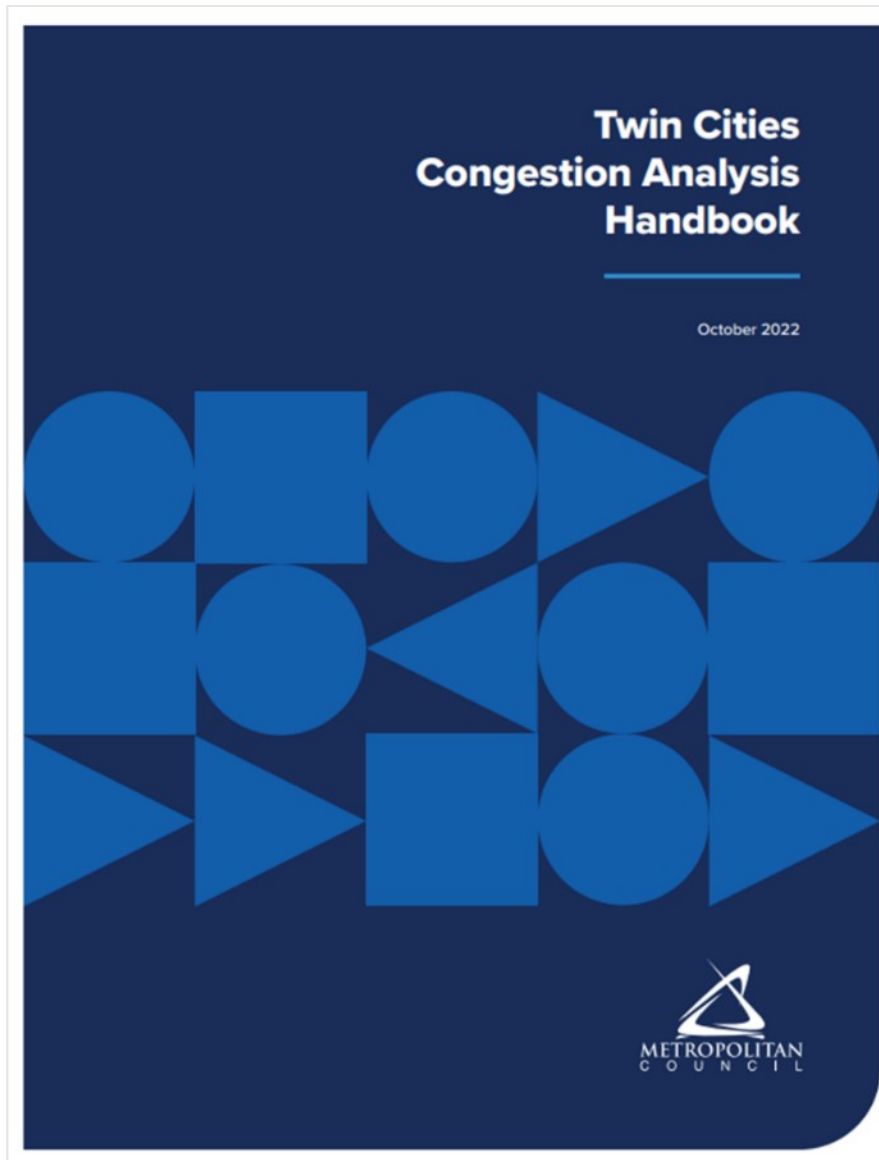
- Actions to adopt the 2024 UPWP will start in August 2023.
- All major studies must be identified in the 2024 UPWP to begin work.
- Longer-term studies/topics will be identified in the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan's Work Program (to be adopted in 2024)
- **Are there major areas of concern or interest for 2024 that are not being addressed in past or existing work program planning studies?**



Recently Completed & Ongoing Studies



Congestion Management Process



- Congestion Analysis Handbook recently completed
- 2023 new consultant study to provide technical assistance on pilot corridors analyses and gather feedback on use of the handbook
- Pilot corridor analyses will help determine how the Handbook applies to corridors within different land use/function contexts
- Work will be used refine the Handbook in the future

Equity Engagement



Master contract to supplement engagement for ongoing transportation studies

- Master contract awarded to three agencies for 2022 and 2023
 - Zan and Associates
 - SDK Communications
 - Asakura Robinson
- Three transportation studies used/using the master contract to date
 - Travel Demand Management study
 - Transportation Policy Plan Goals and Objectives engagement
 - Transportation Needs Assessment
- Amending the existing master contract to extend through 2024
- New request for proposals in I2024 for new master contract

Intersection Mobility and Safety Study

Purpose

Analyze and prioritize at-grade intersections on the principal arterial roadway system based on identified transportation needs.

Completed Tasks

- Engage with local agency partners to understand needs and vision of the PA system
- Analyze before-and-after conditions of previous projects
- Prioritize intersections (high, medium, low – similar to last study effort)

Ongoing Tasks

- Use this information to inform project scoping in the short term, and long-range investment planning
- Implement this study and other mobility studies into the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan, including their connection to TPP goals

Pedestrian Safety Action Plan



Purpose

To support the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan's safety goal and address the increase in fatalities and serious injuries for pedestrians.

Completed Tasks

- Historic crash trends for 2016-2019
- Spatial analysis
- System risk factor identification
- Network screen
- Countermeasure references
- Programmatic recommendations, including new Regional Solicitation measure used in 2022 round
- Web map coming this summer (MTS work)

Regional Safety Action Plan

Purpose

To inform short- and long-range planning decisions and identify steps to reduce fatal and serious injuries in the region.

Upcoming Tasks

- Focuses on vehicle crashes and bicyclist-vehicle crashes, emphasis on fatalities and serious injuries
- High injury streets identification for the region (including pedestrian data)
- Systemic analysis
- TPP recommendations
- Corridor recommendations for more detailed analysis
- High-level countermeasures based on regional analysis
- Programmatic recommendations



Regional Transportation and Climate Change Multimodal Measures Study

Purpose

Develop measures and methods to evaluate the emissions impacts of transportation projects, focused on mobility projects for any mode.

Tasks

- Inventory and Evaluate current methods for estimating greenhouse gases (GHGs) in Regional Solicitation (RS), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Transportation Policy Plan (TPP)
- Review and summarize national and local best practices
- Review TPP estimates against state of knowledge regarding induced demand
- Recommend new and updated methodologies to estimate GHGs
- Review and update Community Development's GHG inventory and forecasts
- Implement new and updated methodologies with past examples from the Regional Solicitation and TPP
- Identify approaches to mitigate for projects that cause added GHGs

VMT Reduction Mode Shift Study



Purpose

Identify what portion of existing travel demand can feasibly change modes away from driving, and what would be the effect on regional vehicle miles travelled (VMT)

Completed Tasks

- Reroute all (500,000+) trips in 2019 and 2021 household surveys to walk, bicycle, and transit modes
- Develop mode shift classification scheme

Ongoing Tasks

- Aggregate and analyze results
- Develop interactive visualization tool
- Explore a hypothetical improvement scenario

Equity Evaluation of Regional Transportation Investments

Purpose

Develop recommendations for improving regional transportation investment decision-making, funding and project selection processes to result in more equitable processes and project outcomes

Tasks

- Create a compensated Equity Policy Group (EPG) representing Black people, Indigenous people, and people of color to direct the study work and develop the study recommendations
- Describe and discuss the equity impacts of various project types planning, decision-making, funding and project selection processes
- Identify three specific project types to evaluate using an equity evaluation tool
- Work with the EPG to develop a transportation project equity evaluation tool
- Based upon the evaluations, develop recommendations for changing project planning, decision-making, funding and selection processes to result in more equitable processes and project outcomes
- Implement training sessions on use of the evaluation tool

Regional Travel Demand Management (TDM) Study



Purpose

To develop a strategic framework and action plan for the expansion and coordination of regional TDM strategies and actions.

Completed Tasks

- Documenting existing conditions and stakeholder interviews
- TDM state of the practice and peer examples
- Develop TDM evaluation framework
- Discuss future mobility considerations and conduct a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis
- Evaluate potential TDM strategies and make recommendations

Ongoing Tasks

- Create an action plan to implement recommendations identifying roles, timeline, costs, and key next steps.

Transportation Needs Assessment



Purpose

To understand why and how residents travel in their daily lives, to collect stories about how people travel and their attitudes, feelings, and perceptions of travel using interviews and small group discussions.

Tasks

- Review relevant work
- Develop research plan
- Conduct 30-40 focus groups and small group discussions across the region
- Analyze data for themes and policy connections

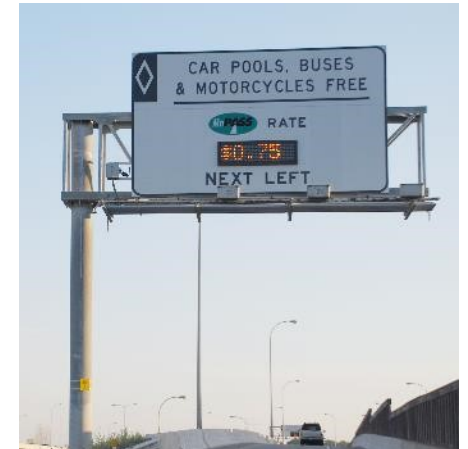
Travel Behavior Inventory



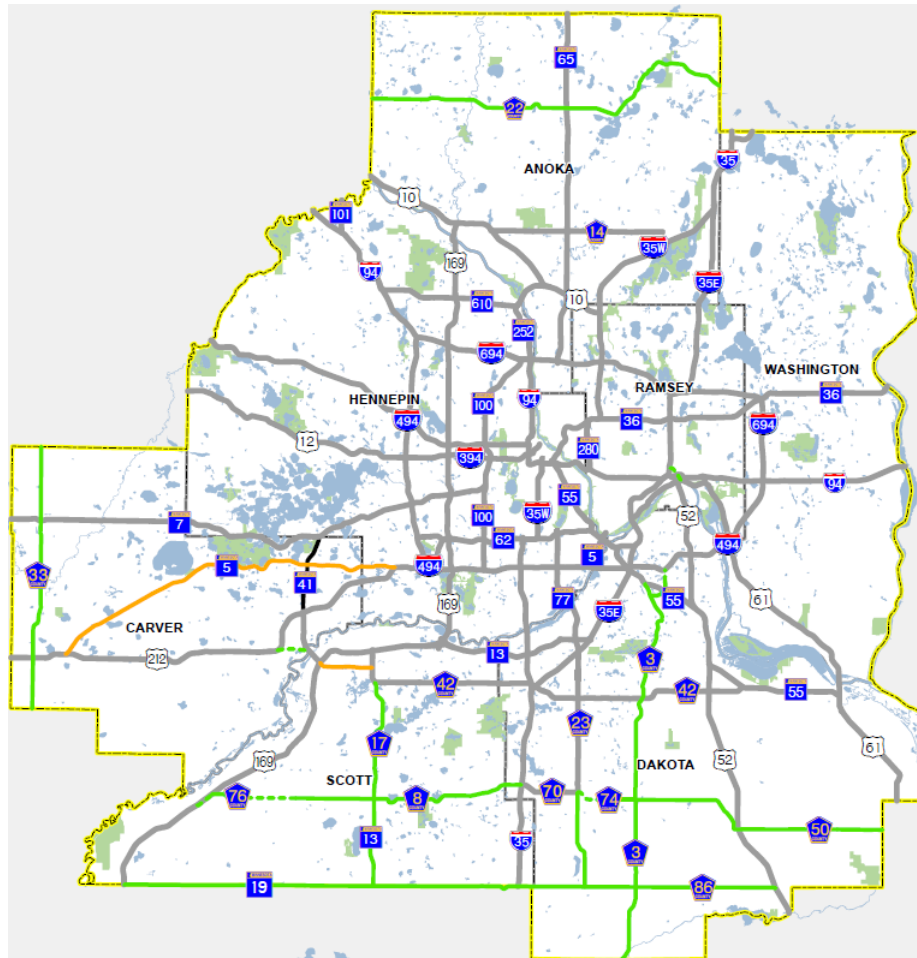
- 2023 Household Survey
 - Data collection underway
- 2022 Transit On-Board Survey
 - Data expected early summer 2023

Travel Forecasts

- ActivitySim Phase II
 - Kickoff mid-2023
- STOPS refresh (to 2022 data)
 - RFP out
 - Kickoff mid-2023
- Tourcast update
 - Phase I complete
 - Phase II RFP in mid-2023
- Network and Network Management updates
 - Internal work ongoing
 - RFP mid-2023



Functional Classification Study



- Update of process for changing roadway functional classification
- Peer review of other MPOs; update regional guidance
- Streamline forms/website; amend Appendix D of TPP
- Recommended reclassifying Other Minor Arterials to A-Minor Arterials

E-Commerce Freight Distribution Study



Ongoing study will inform transportation and land use policies for 2050 TPP and Regional Development guide by:

- Estimating impacts of increasing e-commerce on the region's overall vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and associated greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs)
- Identifying potential land use strategies for siting fulfillment centers and parcel distribution microhubs
- Assessing best practices in curbside management for accommodating parcel deliveries and last-mile, zero-emission technologies

Upcoming Studies



2024 Regional Solicitation Engagement

Purpose

Develop an online investment trade-off tool to collect public input during the 2024 Regional Solicitation project selection process to be used by the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) and technical subcommittees to support the funding scenarios development and assist TAB in the final project selection.

Tasks

- Draft survey questions in partnership with TAB and the technical committees.
- Build and deploy an online investment trade-off tool.
- Present results to TAB and technical committees.
- Will work with equity engagement consultants to expand engagement



Regional Solicitation Evaluation



Purpose

Align the 2050 Regional Development Guide and 2050 Transportation Policy Plan guidance to funding decisions in the 2026 Regional Solicitation and beyond.

Tasks

- Complete a history of solicitation policies and structure and before-and-after analysis of previously funded projects.
- Conduct a peer review of other MPO federal funding allocation processes.
- Develop evaluation criteria, scoring measures and scoring guidance to implement the recommended application structure.
- Identify options on how new federal funding sources such as Carbon Reduction, PROTECT or regional sales tax funding could be brought into the Solicitation.
- Simplify the overall application and project selection process.
- Incorporate quantitative and qualitative performance measures into Regional Solicitation decision-making.

Metropolitan Highway System Harms



Purpose

Identify past and on-going harms caused by the metropolitan highway system and identify and prioritize potential mitigation actions and investments

Tasks

- Peer review of other regions' work on repairing and mitigating harms
- Develop a study engagement and involvement plan with impacted communities
- Identify range and impacts of harms experienced
- Identify corridors, communities, demographics of those impacted by past and ongoing harms of the highway system
- Identify and describe actions, mitigations, investments that could potentially repair and mitigate harms and potential costs and funding sources
- Evaluate current processes and develop policies for preventing future harms and impacts

Electric Vehicles



Electric Vehicle Public Charging Needs Analysis

- Evaluate public charging gaps that are anticipated after planned investments
- Procurement summer, project continues into 2024

Electric Vehicle Public Engagement & City Support

- Identify and address knowledge gaps with key stakeholders
- Procurement summer, project continues into 2024

Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Program

- \$700M federal grant opportunity for public EV charging
- If awarded, Council to pass-through funds to local partners
- Grant application at Transportation Committee May 22

Aviation Planning & Implementation



Purpose

Support MAC work and update the Aviation System Plan

Tasks

- Select an aviation consultant to provide technical expertise to Council staff
- Aviation Plan update, as part of TPP or amend as a separate item following TPP adoption
- Tracking regional aviation planning work and providing technical assistance to staff
- Monitor and support MAC planning initiatives

Potential New Studies to Begin in 2024



Microtransit Policy Framework



Focus on guidance and evaluation

TPP has performance standards and design guidelines for fixed-route transit but none for microtransit

Initial implementation concepts in the region range from serving as multi-community demand response service, first-last mile solution, and social equity service

There are currently different approaches to scheduling technology, fare structure, vehicle type, and other factors

Study scope:

- Document existing services, consistencies and inconsistencies, service purpose and features, expansion plans, and evaluation frameworks
- Identify areas that are important consistent factors across systems and recommend approaches (e.g., performance evaluation, coordination)
- Conversely, identify areas that are important flexibility factors for each service

Regional Sidewalk Data Inventory

Develop sidewalk data set for regional planning

- Based on recommendation from earlier Council GIS pilot
- Need for routable data covering MPO planning area in 9 counties
- Work with local and internal partners on identifying initial data attributes and level of detail
- May do in two phases
 - Phase 1: Identify data needs/level of detail and technical options
 - Phase 2: Data collection/validation

Shared Engagement Knowledge Base



Searchable knowledge base of local and regional engagement findings and practices

- Purpose: reduce stakeholders' engagement fatigue by informing engagement activities with lessons learned, techniques, and relationship information prior to an activity
- Could contain entries focused on:
 - Long-range plans
 - Regionally-significant projects
 - Examples of common local project types
 - Models for specific engagement practices and need
- Voluntary contributions from local, regional, and state partners
- Potential for contract support for initial start-up and interviews

Federal Discretionary Programs Application Assistance



Purpose

- Enhance competitiveness of the metro area by assisting local agencies with writing federal USDOT discretionary grants.

Tasks

- Provide technical assistance and grant writing assistance to local agency partners in pursuing federal discretionary grants for transportation planning or capital grants

New Work from State Legislature



The recently passed transportation bill contained a number of new studies and activities for MTS.

- Will take some time to figure out the new requirements
- Likely these will not be part of the UPWP (non-federally funded), but MTS planning staff will be required for implementation
- Examples:
 - Highway project climate assessments
 - Midtown Greenway study
 - Active Transportation grants implementation
 - IIJA federal grants coordination, technical assistance, matching funds

Discussion



2024 Work Program

- Actions to adopt the 2024 UPWP will start at TAC Planning in August 2023.
- All major studies must be identified in the 2024 UPWP to begin work.
- Longer-term items may be identified in the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan's work program, to be adopted in fall 2024.
- **Are there major areas of concern or interest for 2024 that are not addressed in past or existing work program projects?**

Thank you

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