



Regional Solicitation Policy Work Group Meeting Notes – May 7, 2021

Attendees:

James Hovland; Kevin Reich; Peter Dugan; Christopher Geisler; Deb Barber; Kris Fredson; Mathews Hollinshead; Frank Boyles; Julie Jeppson; Mary Giuliani Stephens; Jon Ulrich; Trista MatasCastillo; Stan Karwoski;

Staff Attendees:

Cole Hiniker; Jenna Ernst; Jon Solberg; Nick Thompson; Amy Vennewitz; Steve Peterson; Emily Jorgenson; Michael Thompson; Joe Barbeau; Elaine Koutsoukos; Sara Maaske; Lisa Freese; Adam Harrington; Jonathan Ehrlich; Tony Fischer; Angie Stenson; Hannah Pallmeyer; Philip Schaffner; Kristin White; Stephen Klimek

Notes:

1. Welcome, Meeting Overview, and Meeting #1 Recap

Jim Hovland welcomed the group and noted that Cole Hiniker will not be available because of an illness and Amy Vennewitz would be the facilitator for the meeting.

Amy Vennewitz went over key themes from meeting #1.

A comment was made about scalability being an important goal for any unique project.

A comment was made about parking management and addressing land committed to parking being an important consideration but difficult to address given much of that land is private. Parking is also important in support of dense office space.

A comment was made about roadway design needs being different in a post-COVID-19 world, particularly local ordinances and engineering manuals.

A comment was made about studies being an interesting consideration for this funding, but another comment that studies should not be duplicative of existing work.

2. MnDOT and Met Council Community Development Grant Program Insights

Philip Schaffner, Kristin White, and Stephen Klimek presented information on the Transportation Economic Development Program, Connected and Automated Vehicle Challenge, and Livable Communities Grants, respectively. Key themes revolved around early engagement with potential applicants and evaluation and other best practices.

A member asked for thoughts on a sentence-definition of equity for the TAB. Schaffner responded that they have a transportation equity draft working definition: "Transportation equity ensures the benefits and burdens of transportation spending, services, and systems are fair, which historically have not been fair, and people—especially Black, Indigenous and People of Color—are empowered in transportation decision making." Vennewitz also noted that Council staff are working closely with MnDOT on this work.



3. Goal Prioritization Exercise

Vennewitz introduced the exercise with background material and set expectations for what the exercise hopes to accomplish, particularly identifying the top 2-3 outcome-based goals that could be a focus for the Unique Projects category. Participants were then asked to rank their primary and secondary goals from a list of seven potential goals that reflected key themes from meeting #1. The following table is a summary of the results of the voting.

Goal Option	Primary Goal Votes	Secondary Goal Votes
Reduce Environmental Impacts of Transportation	7	1
Reduce Racial Disparities	2	1
Improve Multimodal Options		3
Improve Access to Places		2
Improve Connectivity and Reduce Barriers to Transportation	1	3
Improve Transportation and Land Use Connection	1	2
Improve Transportation for Seniors		

There were some technical difficulties with the voting, but the above results reflect corrections made by comments or chat during the meeting.

A comment was made about hyperloop to Rochester and whether innovation was adequately reflected in the scoring today. Vennewitz revisited a slide that showed innovation as an evaluation criterion.

A number of members brought up the importance of a project that is replicable or scalable.

Additional comments were made on the importance of partnerships, technology advancement, and diversity of proposals, including the racial make-up of the team. There were a number of comments on the equity definition and the importance of this outcome, including both material outcomes and diversity of proposal teams.

A member commented that the cluster of votes on the secondary goals could be combined and reflected in one criterion that all are working toward the same goal.

4. Discussion of Evaluation Metrics

This discussion was laid over until the next meeting because of time constraints.

5. Next Steps and Meeting Reflection