

Transportation Advisory Board of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

TO: Transportation Advisory Board
FROM: Kevin Roggenbuck, Transportation Coordinator
DATE: June 8, 2011
RE: TAB Programming Committee item IV.f.: Impacts of a State Government Shutdown.

All of us are well aware that the state budget impasse could lead to a state government shutdown that could significantly affect the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Staff from both of these agencies contributes greatly to the implementation of the regional solicitation process and the preparation of the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program.

In the 2011 regional solicitation process, nearly every applicant uses MN/DOT staff as a resource in preparing a project proposal. MN/DOT staff provides crash data and traffic data on state and local highways; advises applicants about design standards for highways and bicycle/pedestrian facilities and provides assistance in other areas. MN/DOT is often asked to contribute financially to highway projects impacting Trunk Highways or to agree to operate and maintain projects on Trunk Highways that are submitted by local governments. MN/DOT staff also prepares and submits a number of project proposals for funding through the regional solicitation process. MN/DOT and MPCA staff may be asked to assist in the qualifying criteria review and are very much involved in the evaluation and scoring of projects.

The region is in the midst of preparing the 2012-2015 TIP. MN/DOT staff prepares all the project tables in the appendix and some of the summary tables in body of the Program. MN/DOT typically submits a number of revisions to the draft TIP during the public comment period. MPCA staff has provided the air quality conformity review on the draft Program, but depending on the scope of changes made during the public comment period, MPCA staff may need to re-examine the TIP for air quality conformity.

A state government shutdown would take effect on July 1. The project proposals in the 2011 regional solicitation are due on July 18. The public comment period on the draft 2012-2015 TIP closes on July 5. Scott McBride and David Thornton will explain how a state government shutdown might affect their agencies. Even a brief state government shutdown that affects MN/DOT and the MPCA affects their participation in the 2011 regional solicitation and preparation of the 2012-2015 TIP. The TAB needs to discuss options or a course of action in the event of a state government shutdown.

