

ACTION TRANSMITTAL

No. 2011-60

DATE: December 15, 2011
TO: Transportation Advisory Board
FROM: TAB Programming Committee
SUBJECT: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Proposal for CMAQ Funding for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations.
MOTION: That the TAB fund the MPCA request and program federal funds available from the regional balance in 2012.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: This action item and the recommendation from the TAB Programming Committee were discussed by the full Transportation Advisory Board on September 21 but action was deferred to the October meeting when MPCA staff could respond to the Board's questions. The item was deferred again by the TAB Programming Committee to their November meeting. The item was briefly discussed by the TAB Programming Committee in November and forwarded to the full TAB, but due to a long agenda, it was deferred to December.

At the TAB's direction, the TAC Funding & Programming Committee and full TAC have evaluated MPCA's request for \$500,000 in CMAQ funds from the regional solicitation to install electric vehicle charging stations in the Twin Cities. The technical committees have reviewed the proposal and have determined that the project is eligible for CMAQ funding and that the project has merits from an air quality cost effectiveness standpoint, but does not fit within the CMAQ project categories in the regional solicitation and would not score well based on other criteria such as congestion mitigation.

The TAC offered two options. The first option would fund the project using available funds from withdrawn regional projects. These funds would otherwise be added to the CMAQ funding amount in the 2011 Regional Solicitation. The second option would fund the project with CMAQ funds from the 2011 regional solicitation and program this project in 2015. This reflects a desire on the part of the TAC Funding & Programming Committee to ensure fairness to applicants in the 2011 Regional Solicitation since many projects may need to be delayed if the next federal transportation act is significantly smaller than SAFETEA-LU.

While this project is small enough that it would not greatly affect the overall program, the technical committees expressed several concerns:

- Programming these funds in 2012 would run counter to the procedure set by the TAB in August to delay existing projects if funding is not available.
- Allocating federal funding outside of the normal process is less acceptable in times of financial uncertainty.
- Allocating CMAQ funds to this project feels like supporting a specific industry that should support itself.
- It is unclear how the EV driver would pay for the electricity used during recharging or for the special parking space for the recharging unit.

Additional background material is attached.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	August 18, 2011
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	September 7, 2011
TAB Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	September 8, 2011
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Approve	

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