

Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

ACTION TRANSMITTAL

No. 2011-47

DATE: May 12, 2011
TO: Transportation Advisory Board
FROM: Technical Advisory Committee
SUBJECT: Adoption of the Draft 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and schedule for the purpose of holding a public hearing

MOTION: That the TAB adopts the Draft 2012-2015 TIP and development schedule for the purpose of a public hearing to be held on June 15, 2011.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: The Metropolitan Planning Organization is required to prepare a four-year Transportation Improvement Program that meets a number of federal requirements. The regional transportation planning process conforms to these requirements and the draft TIP and its development process will meet applicable requirements once the public input process is fully carried out. The TIP meets the transportation air quality conformity requirements and is consistent with and assists in the implementation of the Twin Cities Transportation Policy Plan adopted on November 10, 2010.

Additional background material is attached.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	April 21, 2011
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	May 4, 2011
TAB Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Adopt	

Transportation Advisory Board

of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

TO: Transportation Advisory Board
FROM: Technical Advisory Committee
DATE: May 12, 2011
RE: DRAFT 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program Schedule.

The Draft 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is included in the agenda packet. The text includes the financial summary of the four-year program as well as relevant chapters from the Transportation Policy Plan. The adoption of the 2012-2015 TIP is as follows:

2012-2015 TIP Adoption Schedule

DATE	ITEM	ORGANIZATION	ACTION/TOPIC
April	<input type="checkbox"/> Review TIP schedule for conformity analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Review draft project list prepared by MN/DOT to begin conformity analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Review draft project list from Regional Solicitation	MN Interagency Air Quality and Transportation Planning Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Begin TIP review and adoption process
April 21, 2011	Draft 2012-2015 TIP	TAC – F&PC	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommend to TAC
May 4, 2011	Draft 2012-2015 TIP	TAC	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommends to TAB for purpose of public meeting and comment
May 18, 2011	Draft 2012-2015 TIP	TAB	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopts Draft TIP and sets public hearing date <input type="checkbox"/> MPCA letter of comment included <input type="checkbox"/> Public comment period starts <input type="checkbox"/> Input process – notice in State Register
June 15, 2011	Public Hearing	TAB	<input type="checkbox"/> TAB conducts public hearing
July 5, 2011	45 – day public comment period ends		
July 21, 2011	Public Hearing Report and Final TIP	TAC F&PC	<input type="checkbox"/> Review and recommend
August 3, 2011	Public Hearing Report and Final TIP	TAC	<input type="checkbox"/> Review and recommend
August 17, 2011	Public Hearing Report and Final TIP	TAB	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopts Public Hearing Report and Final TIP and forwards to MC.
August 22, 2011	Adopt the 2012-2015 TIP	Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Recommends Adoption of the 2012-2015 TIP
September 14, 2011	Adopt the 2012-2015 TIP	Metropolitan Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt the 2012-2015 TIP



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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May 11, 2011

Mr. Kevin Roggenbuck
Transportation Advisory Board Coordinator
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101-1805

RE: Draft 2012-2015 Draft Transportation Improvement Program

Dear Mr. Roggenbuck:

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) staff has completed its formal review of the draft 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The MPCA staff has examined the draft TIP for conformance with a check list of requirements from the joint Transportation Conformity Rule (Rule) of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation. The intent of the Rule is to ensure compliance with the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficiency Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), when a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) or state department of transportation serves as a distribution agency for federal transportation funds.

The Rule requires that the MPOs base their TIPs and long-range comprehensive Transportation Plans (Plan) on the latest planning assumptions. As a result, the draft TIP's air quality conformity analysis is based on the most current Metropolitan Council (the Council) socio-economic data used in the Council's 2030 Regional Development Framework that was adopted by the Council on January 14, 2004. The latest update to these forecasts was published May 31, 2009. The planning document provides the Council with the socio-economic data (planning assumptions) to develop long range forecasts of regional highway and transit facilities needs.

In November 8, 2010, the EPA approved a Limited Maintenance Plan request for the Twin Cities maintenance area. Under a limited maintenance plan, the EPA has determined that there is no requirement to project emissions over the maintenance period and that "an emission budget" may be treated as essentially not constraining for the length of the maintenance period. The reason is that it is unreasonable to expect that our maintenance area will experience so much growth within this period that a violation of carbon monoxide (CO) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) would result. Therefore, no regional modeling analysis is required, however, federally funded projects are still subject to "hot spot" analysis requirements. The limited maintenance plan adopted in 2010 determines that the level of CO emissions and resulting ambient concentrations will continue to demonstrate attainment of the CO NAAQS.

Mr. Kevin Roggenbuck

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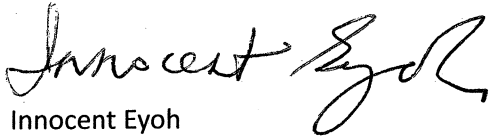
May 11, 2011

The current TIP was also prepared in accordance with the public participation plan for transportation planning adopted by the Council on February 14, 2007. This process satisfies SAFETEA-LU requirements for public participation involvement, as well as the public consultation procedures requirements of Conformity Rule. Based on this review, the analysis described in the conformity appendix submitted by the Council has resulted in a Conformity Determination that the projects included in the 2012-2015 Draft TIP meets all relevant regional emissions analysis and budget tests as described therein. The 2012-2015 TIP also conforms to the relevant sections of the Federal Conformity Rule and the applicable sections of the Minnesota State Implementation Plan for air quality.

The MPCA staff appreciates the opportunity given to review this document as part of the EPA Transportation Conformity Rule consultation process. The MPCA staff also appreciates the cooperation of the interagency consultation group that includes the Council, EPA, Minnesota Department of Transportation, and Federal Highway Administration for their immediate assistance in resolving all policy and technical analysis issues with respect to the projects' air quality classification and their willingness to accept the suggested course of action.

Please contact me if you have any questions. By telephone at: 651-757-2347, or by e-mail at: innocent.eyoh@pca.state.mn.us

Sincerely,



Innocent Eyoh
Planner Principal

Air Assessment and Environmental Data Management Section
Environmental Analysis and Outcomes Division

IE:jab

cc: Susan Moe, Federal Highway Administration
Michael Leslie, Region 5, U.S. EPA
Carl Ohrn, Metropolitan Council
Jonathan Ehrlich, Metropolitan Council
Arlene McCarthy, Metropolitan Council
Tim Mayasich, Ramsey County and TAC Chair
Karl Keel, City of Bloomington, F & P Chair
Sara Aultman, Mn/DOT
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