

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: April 25, 2011

Metropolitan Council meeting: May 11, 2011

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	April 20, 2011
Subject:	2011 Regional Solicitation
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	TAB Action
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Connie Kozlak (651-602-1720), Carl Ohrn (651-602-1719), James Andrew (651-602-1721)
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to adopt the 2011 Regional Solicitation Package, including the schedule of events, for release to solicit project applications.

Background

The regional solicitation for federal transportation project funding is part of the Council's 3C (continuing, cooperative and comprehensive) transportation planning process. It is a key biennial responsibility of the Council's Transportation Advisory Board to solicit and evaluate project applications for funding from four federal programs: Surface Transportation Program (STP) Urban Guarantee, Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) and STP Transportation Enhancements, and a portion of the Bridge Improvement and Replacement Program.

On March 2, 2011 the TAB and TAC hosted a public meeting on the draft 2011 Regional Solicitation criteria and process. Public comments were received by March 4, 2011. These comments and responses to comments are available as a link on the meeting agenda. After Council concurrence, a notice will be sent out on May 12, 2011 that the solicitation package is available on the Council website. Applications will be due on July 18, 2011.

Rationale

The regional solicitation criteria and process are updated biennially through the federal 3C process and are adopted by the TAB. Projects are solicited, reviewed, scored and ranked through the adopted process. The TAB directs staff to include the projects selected through this process in the next draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The Metropolitan Council is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area. The TAB, in conjunction with the Council, satisfies the federal requirements that a designated MPO include local elected officials in the decision making process on the programming of federal transportation funds.

Funding

Projects selected through the 2011 Solicitation will be programmed for funding in the Transportation Improvement Program for 2015 and 2016.

Known Support / Opposition

The TAB's Technical Committees responded to comments that critiqued various aspects of the criteria, which are available as a link from the meeting agenda. While some of the comments expressed resulted in technical changes to the criteria, others were larger policy issues that require more significant changes to the solicitation process than is feasible given the timing of this funding cycle. However, all of these comments and issues will be brought to the TAB, and to all technical committees of the TAB, prior to the criteria revision work for the next solicitation.

Prior to adopting the 2011 Solicitation, the TAB had a lengthy discussion regarding the process for soliciting and responding to public comment about the solicitation. The TAB requested that public comment be requested soon after the conclusion of the 2011 Solicitation this winter so that all issues brought to the TAB can be discussed at some length prior to revising the Solicitation criteria and programs for 2013. This decision reflects the fact that there is not much time in this funding cycle to consider major changes to the program categories and criteria suggested during the public comment period. This direction was initially suggested and supported by staff and the technical committees of the TAB.

Transportation Advisory Board

of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

Bill Hargis
Chair

April 21, 2011

County Commissioners

Andy Westerberg
Anoka County

Randy Maluchnik
Carver County

Paul Krause
Dakota County

Jan Callison
Hennepin County

Tony Bennett
Ramsey County

Jon Ulrich
Scott County

Dennis Hegberg
Washington County

Municipal Officials

Dick Swanson
Blaine City Council

Mike Trepanier
Brooklyn Park City Council

Bethany Tjornhom
Chanhassen City Council

Julia Whalen
Champlin City Council

James Hovland
Mayor of Edina

Becky Petryk
Hugo City Council

Will Rossbach
Mayor of Maplewood

Robert Lillgren
Minneapolis City Council

Steven Gallagher
Newport City Council

Russ Stark
St. Paul City Council

Citizen Members - Precinct

Andrew Reinhardt - A
Thomas Heffelfinger - B

James Meyers - C
vacant - D

Bart Ward - E
Bill Hargis - F

Jill Smith - G
Ken Johnson - H

Agency Representatives

Adam Duinick
Metropolitan Council

Scott McBride
Minnesota DOT

Lisa Peilen
M.A.C.

David Thornton
M.P.C.A.

Modal Representatives

Richard Mussell
Transit

vacant
Transit

Ron Have
Freight

David Gepner
Non-motorized

Susan Haigh, Chair
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street No.
St. Paul, MN 55101

Ms. Haigh,

On April 20, 2011, the Transportation Advisory Board voted to accept the public comment report and to adopt the 2011 Regional Solicitation package.

The regional solicitation process is conducted every two years to allocate federal funds in the Surface Transportation Program-Urban Guarantee, Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program, Transportation Enhancements Program and the bridge Improvement and Replacement Program. The regional solicitation process is truly a collaborative effort among the Metropolitan Council, the Transportation Advisory Board and its technical committees, the Minnesota Dept. of Transportation and the stakeholders in city and county governments.

The TAB forwards this action to the Metropolitan Council for concurrence along with additional information described in TAB action transmittal 2011-41.

Sincerely,



for Bill Hargis, Chair

Enclosure
Kjr/kjr

Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

ACTION TRANSMITTAL

No. 2011-41

DATE: April 21, 2011
TO: Metropolitan Council
FROM: Transportation Advisory Board
SUBJECT: Response to Public Comments and the 2011 Solicitation for Federal Transportation Project Funding.

MOTION: The Transportation Advisory Board accepted the response to public comment on the draft 2011 regional solicitation package and adopted the package for release to the public for the solicitation of project applications including the schedule of events incorporated into that document.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: On March 2, 2011 the TAC hosted a public meeting on the draft 2011 Regional Solicitation criteria and process. Public comments were received until March 4, 2011. The Funding and Programming Committee provided guidance to staff regarding the public comments and the final draft reflects that direction.

If approved by the Metropolitan Council, a notice would be sent out on May 12 announcing the start of the 2011 regional solicitation and that the solicitation package is available through the Council website.

Additional background material is attached.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	March 17, 2011
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	April 6, 2011
TAB Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	April 20, 2011
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Adopt	April 20, 2011
Metropolitan Council	Concurrence	