

# Transportation Committee

Item: SW 2009-21R

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 14, 2009

## ADVISORY INFORMATION

**Date Prepared:** January 13, 2009

**Subject:** Adoption of *2030 Transportation Policy Plan*

### Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council adopt as the final *2030 Transportation Policy Plan* the Proposed Final *2030 Transportation Policy Plan* dated December 19, 2008 incorporating the changes shown on attachment A, [by adopting Resolution 2009-02.](#)

### Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Representatives of the Sierra Club and Fresh Energy and a citizen, Tom Clark, spoke in opposition to adding any highway expansion projects to the final plan. They all favored spending stimulus money on alternative modes. Connie Kozlak distributed and summarized the 23 written/mailed comments received by 3 pm Monday on the proposed addition of potential highway expansion projects to the plan for potential federal economic stimulus funding. Although details about this funding are unknown until a bill is passed by Congress, it is anticipated that no more than one of these projects could be funded.

Councilmember Steffen questioned what process would be used to determine which expansion project would be funded. Staff stated that this determination would depend on the federal language and requirements placed on the new funding, but that to the extent possible, the Council/TAB and MnDOT would jointly determine the project selection. However, since it is expected that this money will have to be spent quickly, staff also clarified that the usual TAB/TAC regional solicitation process, which takes 9-12 months, could not be used. Councilmember Scherer asked if all 12 of these projects are actually ready to be constructed. Staff said it is not known at this time, but Mn/DOT is assessing it.

There was also a brief discussion of the Council's ongoing efforts to identify other non-highway infrastructure projects, such as transit and wastewater, that may be potentially funded with economic stimulus money.

Prior to final adoption several council members expressed that although they will support the plan they were concerned that it does not adequately fund needed highways. Motion was made, seconded and passed with Peterson abstaining.

# Transportation Committee

**Business Item**  
Item: **SW 2009-21**

**Meeting date: January 12, 2009**

## **ADVISORY INFORMATION**

<b>Date:</b>	January 6, 2009
<b>Subject:</b>	Adoption of <i>2030 Transportation Policy Plan</i>
<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	MN Statutes Sec. 473.175 and 473.176; SAFETEA-LU
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS 651-602-1754; Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director Finance & Planning 651 602-1058
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

## **Proposed Action**

That the Metropolitan Council adopt as the final *2030 Transportation Policy Plan* the Proposed Final *2030 Transportation Policy Plan* dated December 19, 2008 incorporating the changes shown on Attachment A.

## **Background**

The Council, as the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization, is required by both State and Federal law to prepare and update a long-range transportation plan for the region every four years. The current Transportation Policy Plan was adopted in December 2004 and therefore a new version must be adopted by the Council. Federal law also requires the Council to prepare a plan in conformance with federal transportation and air quality requirements. The plan must follow federal guidance and has been drafted to address the federal requirements. A review by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has indicated that the plan meets air quality conformance requirements.

The Council released the Draft *2030 Transportation Policy Plan* for public review and comment during the fall of 2008. The comments received were sorted and compiled; proposed responses and changes to the Draft *2030 Transportation Policy Plan* were presented to the Council. A Proposed Final *2030 Transportation Policy Plan* dated December 19, 2008 incorporating changes was distributed to Council members and posted on the Council's website.

The Proposed Final *2030 Transportation Policy Plan* included new language pertaining to potential economic stimulus funding to allow for the funding of up to one of the expansion projects identified in the *2030 Transportation Policy Plan* adopted in 2004. Additional opportunity for public comment on this new language was provided. One written comment received from MnDOT clarified that the funded Cayuga bridge project does not include the entire I-35E project (from I-94 through TH36) provided for in the policy plan adopted in 2004. An air quality conformity analysis showed that this project had no significant impact on the regional emissions budget. Therefore, the recommended changes to the Proposed Final *2030 Transportation Policy Plan* include this expansion project both as a project to be reassessed and as a project that could potentially be funded with economic stimulus funding.

Attachment A shows the recommended changes to the Proposed Final *2030 Transportation Policy Plan* to be incorporated into the final adopted plan.

**Rationale**

The adoption of the final *2030 Transportation Policy Plan* will meet the federal and state requirements for the region to have a long range transportation plan and will allow for federal funding of planned transportation projects to continue.

**Funding**

None required.

**Known Support / Opposition**

No known opposition.

# METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

390 North Robert Street

## RESOLUTION NO. 2009-02

### AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE 2030 TRANSPORTATION POLICY PLAN

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Council is directed by Minnesota Statutes 473.145 to prepare and adopt a comprehensive development guide for the metropolitan area that "...shall consist of a compilation of policy statements, goals, standards, programs and maps prescribing guides for the orderly and economic development, public and private, of the metropolitan area. The comprehensive development guide shall recognize and encompass physical, social, or economic needs of the metropolitan area and those future developments which will have an impact on the entire area...", and

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Council has been designated by the governor as the Metropolitan Planning Organization in conformance with the federal government's Urban Transportation Planning Regulations (23C.F.R., Part 450 and 1410) and is required by said regulations to conduct a continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation planning process, including the preparation of a financially constrained long-range plan, and

WHEREAS, The 2030 *Transportation Policy Plan* addresses the requirements of the financial plan (Joint Metropolitan Planning Rules, Section 1410.322(a) Revised) and addresses the federal requirement of a fiscally constrained Plan that satisfies the Air Quality Conformity Rules of the clean Air Act amendments of 1990, and

WHEREAS, The 2030 *Transportation Policy Plan* provides an overview of the regional air quality planning process to implement the requirements of the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments and contains the results of the air quality analysis conducted as part of the conformity determination, and

WHEREAS, The elements of the metropolitan planning process as specified in Section 1410.316 (a) Revised have been considered in the development of the 2030 *Transportation Policy Plan* and are identified and described in the Plan, and

WHEREAS, The 2030 *Transportation Policy Plan* is a chapter of the comprehensive development guide which established the general transportation policy direction for the region and replaces the Regional Transportation Policy Plan adopted on December 15, 2004, and

WHEREAS, The policy directions in the 2030 *Transportation Policy Plan* were developed through extensive collaboration with the Transportation Advisory Board, its subcommittees and Technical Advisory Committee, and

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Council adopted a draft *Transportation Policy Plan* on September 10, 2008 for the purpose of setting a public hearing date, the public had 42 days for review of the draft prior to the public hearing on October 22, 2008, the public record remained open until 5:00 pm November 6, 2008 to receive comments on said draft, and

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Council in response to a comment received during this public hearing process, completed the technical and administrative process, including an opportunity for additional

public comment between December 8, 2008 and January 12, 2009, to add to the plan one of 12 major highway projects in anticipation of a Federal Economic Stimulus Bill.

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Council's Transportation Committee has reviewed the comments as indicated in the Public Hearing Report for the 2030 *Transportation Policy Plan*, made changes and clarifications in the Transportation Policy Plan to address those comments, and forwarded the proposed final plan to the Council for review and action.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Council adopt the 2030 *Transportation Policy Plan* dated January 14, 2009.

Resolution 2009-02 adopted this 14th Day of January, 2009

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Peter Bell, Chair

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Pat Curtiss, Recording Secretary