

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: March 12, 2007

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	March 6, 2007
Subject:	Finding of Compliance with SAFETEA-LU
District(s), Member(s)	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	SAFETEA-LU
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, Director LMTS (651-602-1754) Amy Vennewitz, Dep. Dir. Finance & Planning MTS (651-602-1058) Connie Kozlak, Mgr. System Planning MTS (651-602-1720) James Andrew, Planner MTS (651-602-1721)
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action/Motion

That the Metropolitan Council, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area, finds that the Transportation Policy Plan is compliant with SAFETEA-LU requirements for the regional long-range transportation plan, and that the Transportation Improvement Program is compliant with SAFETEA-LU requirements for the development of the regional TIP.

Issue(s)

Mn/DOT has requested that all metropolitan planning organizations in the state conduct an analysis of their plans and programs to determine compliance with the metropolitan planning provisions of SAFETEA-LU.

Overview

The SAFETEA-LU bill, passed by Congress in 2005, contained new requirements for metropolitan transportation planning. Although these requirements were new to federal law, most had previously been included in US DOT guidance or regulations and thus the Council was already compliant with many of the provisions. It was determined early in 2006 that the Council's public participation plan would need to be updated in order to be compliant. A revised Public Participation Plan was adopted by the Council in February.

A workgroup of the Technical Advisory Committee to the Transportation Advisory Board completed its evaluation of transportation planning procedures at the Metropolitan Council and, after developing the newly-adopted Public Participation Plan, have recommended a finding that the Council is compliant with SAFETEA-LU requirements for transportation planning. TAB approved that recommendation on February 21, 2007.