

**2008
TRANSPORTATION
UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM
FOR THE TWIN CITIES
METROPOLITAN AREA**

**Metropolitan Council of the
Twin Cities Area**

Publication No.

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I. INTRODUCTION TO THE UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

A. Introduction

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is a description and documentation of proposed transportation and transportation-related planning activities in the Metropolitan Area for 2008.

The participants in the UPWP include four agencies: the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC). (See Appendix C for roles and responsibilities of the participants.) Since the 2008 UPWP also serves as the Metropolitan Council's application for US DOT transportation planning funds, the projects with Metropolitan Council participation are detailed with staff hours and consultant costs to detail how \$3.3 million of federal planning money will be spent, along with the required 20 percent local match. The activities of the other agencies are shown in narrative form only.

Many of the tasks are required by state or federal law, and are ongoing, including the TAC/TAB committee process and corridor studies, or repeat on an annual or biennial cycle, such as the preparation of the TIP and the regional solicitation. The Council's Transportation Policy Plan and Mn/DOT's Transportation System Plan were updated in 2004 and 2005 respectively and 2006 and 2007 activities were aimed at implementing those plans. Many of the activities in 2008 will continue to focus on implementation of those plans, such as corridor/AA/DEIS studies or assisting local communities to prepare local comp plans, which must be revised by 2008, that reflect these regional transportation plans. A major project in 2008 will be the update of the Transportation Policy Plan, since SAFETEA-LU changed the long-range plan update cycle from three years to four. The UPWP projects have been reviewed for consistency with the existing Transportation Policy Plan/Aviation Policy Plan.

The US DOT has also been encouraging Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) to become more involved in operations and maintenance (O and M) of the transportation system. This is part of a paradigm shift in the mission of all transportation agencies that has been occurring since the adoption of ISTEA in 1991. Agencies must recognize that operating and maintaining the huge transportation system that has been built up in the post-WWII era, especially completion of the interstate highway system since 1956, is equally, if not more, important than construction of the system.

The Metropolitan Council is committed to a pro-active, effective public participation process, and will use a variety of internal and external strategies including newsletters, telephone comment lines, e-mail, website, on-line forum, media relations, community meetings, public hearings, and public information campaigns, in carrying out all of the work program activities. An updated public participation process was adopted in 2007 to be fully compliant with SAFETEA-LU.

B. Organization of the UPWP

The individual work activities and projects are divided into six major categories. The six categories are:

- Transportation Planning Process
- TIP Development and Management
- Comprehensive and Surface Transportation Planning
- Research and Travel Forecasting
- Operations and Management
- Aviation Transportation Planning

A comparison of SAFETEA-LU factors that apply to each element of the Unified Planning Work Program is located in Appendix D.

C. Related Studies

In many years there are transportation studies underway in the region which are not included in the UPWP since the federally funded transportation staff of the planning agencies are not involved to a significant level. No major transportation studies are expected to be conducted in 2008 that are not mentioned in this UPWP.

D. Explanation of Fund Allocation, Indirect Costs and Local Contributions

1. Allocation of Federal Funds:

Allocation of federal funds to each work activity in the UPWP was traditionally made on the basis of benefits that would be received by each federal agency. Since 2002 the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds have come to the Metropolitan Council in the form of a "Consolidated Planning Grant" (CPG) which recognizes the intermodal nature of urban transportation and allows flexibility in planning for issues that frequently result in multimodal solutions. These CPG funds are not used for aviation planning, which is conducted almost entirely with local (nonfederal) dollars except for periodic special studies funded by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) grants.

2. Statement of Metropolitan Council Regarding Audits as required by OMB Circular A-128. U.S. DOT requires that the following statements be included in the UPWP.

"Arrangements have been made for the required financial and compliance audit and the audit will be made within the prescribed audit reporting cycle. Failure to furnish an acceptable audit as determined by the cognizant federal audit agency may be a basis for denial and/or refunding of federal funds." (FHPM Vol. 1, Chap. 9, Sec. 1, Subsec. 1, #6)

3. Metropolitan Council Cost Allocation Plan:

Indirect costs budgeted in the Unified Planning Work Program for the Metropolitan Council activities were developed in accordance with the Metropolitan Council's cost allocation plan. The cost allocation plan is in accordance with the provision of OMB Circular A-87, "Cost Principles for State and Local Government". The Metropolitan Council's cognizant agency is the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Administration. The Metropolitan Council annually submits a cost allocation plan.

4. Local Contributions:

The Agency Program Budget "local costs" shown with the activity descriptions in the following sections refer to contributions of regional and state agencies in matching federal UPWP grants. UPWP budgets do not include the dollar contributions made by counties, cities and other agencies that regularly participate in the 3-C process through the TAB and TAC advisory committees. Staff, elected officials and citizen members of the TAB and TAC committees number more than 150 persons, most of whom meet monthly in regular committee working sessions. Such representatives put in additional hours dealing with written material prepared for their review and response. It is impossible to accurately calculate the tens of thousands of dollars value thus contributed to state and federal project planning for the region. The participation of such persons has been freely given by their respective employers as their contribution to local-regional cooperation. Because these local contributions of time and consultation help to advance federal and state funded highway and transit projects, it is appropriate to acknowledge this further contribution to the 3-C process for the region.

II. 2008 WORK ACTIVITIES

A. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS

A-1 Planning Program Support and Administration

A-2 Transportation Financing

TASK A-1 PLANNING PROGRAM SUPPORT AND ADMINISTRATION

PURPOSE: To provide the planning and administrative support to the metropolitan transportation planning process of the Council, Mn/DOT, and others pursuant to state and federal statutes and regulations. The process is required to certify the region for continued federal transportation funding.

APPROACH: The transportation planning process provides a forum for regional decision making and produces plans and programs for all transportation modes. Process participants are the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT), the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), local units of government, transit providers and private citizens. The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) and its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) are the main forums where the various transportation agencies and interests participate in regional transportation discussions, as well as transportation plan preparation and implementation.

Agency staffs are in daily contact on issues, proposed actions by their own agencies, and on upcoming agendas. Key facilitators for coordination are the TAC subcommittee chairs who carry out formal and informal coordination. (Details as to roles and responsibilities are further spelled out in the Prospectus.) The responsibilities of the transportation coordinator, who staffs the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), are part of this activity. The coordinator advises the TAB chair on the Board's agenda and follows through on Board decisions, prepares background materials, and monitors the transportation planning process.

The Metropolitan Council provides staff support and technical input to all TAB and TAC committees and other special technical advisory committees and task forces. Staff provides necessary assistance to the transportation coordinator and prepares the UPWP. Other products prepared by the Metropolitan Council and Mn/DOT under this activity include state and federally mandated reports such as project approvals and quarterly progress reports.

RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK: Ongoing: In 2007 agency staff participated in meetings of TAC, TAB and their subcommittees as noted above. An update of the Prospectus is expected to be completed by December 2007.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK: Mn/DOT is involved in the planning process as an ongoing participant. Mn/DOT staff provides technical input, serves as committee members on several TAB and TAC committees, and is in frequent contact with Council staff regarding many issues. Mn/DOT plays a major role in administering and managing the federal planning funds that finance a majority of the planning work done by the Council. Mn/DOT staff also provides guidance to ensure that federal planning requirements are met. The MPCA staff participates in the ongoing interagency coordination activities to administer the Clean Air Act and SAFETEA-LU by participating in the review of the TPP, TIP and the UPWP; participating in the work of the TAB and TAC; by providing needed technical assistance; and categorizing projects for air quality conformity purposes.

TASK A-2 TRANSPORTATION FINANCING

PURPOSE: To research and implement funding options to implement the Transportation Policy Plan and to administer the right-of-way acquisition loan fund (RALF) for advance purchase of metropolitan highway rights-of-way.

APPROACH: SAFETEA-LU stresses the importance of reaching a balance between defined regional needs and financial capabilities. Constraints placed on the TPP are more demanding on the planning process than ever. Council transportation staff will undertake budgeting activities, as well as activities necessary to obtain additional funding sources as needed for implementation of the 2004 TPP.

Staff will continue to work with Mn/DOT and the Center for Transportation Studies at the University of Minnesota on alternative roadway financing such as MnPASS and dynamic shoulder pricing.

A 1982 state law established a revolving loan fund to acquire right-of-way for planned highway improvements in advance of Mn/DOT acquisition. The funds are raised from a metro-wide property tax levy and are administered by the Metropolitan Council. Interest free loans are made to cities and counties to purchase property threatened by imminent development or from owners facing financial hardship who are unable to sell the property because it is known to be required for highway construction. Loans are repaid when Mn/DOT purchases the ROW. In 2008 the Metropolitan Council will continue to administer the RALF and disburse loan funds as required.

RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK: The Council prepares a transit CIP annually. Council staff has been working with Mn/DOT on alternative roadway financing such as HOT lanes and congestion pricing since 1995. In 2007 the Council also worked on the UPA application for the region. The Council received and acted on several RALF applications in 2007.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK: The Council is the lead agency. Council staff works with the transit operating agencies and opt-outs on transit capital planning, and with Mn/DOT and the cities on RALF loans. Mn/DOT is a user of the Right-of-Way Acquisition Loan Fund (RALF) loans and works in cooperation with the Council on alternative roadway financing such as HOT lanes and congestion pricing.

<u>PRODUCTS</u>	<u>COMPLETION DATES 2008</u>
Committee Agendas, Minutes, Reports	Ongoing
Progress Report to Mn/DOT	Quarterly
Close-out 2007 Consolidated Planning Grant	April
Annual Update of Title VI, DBE and WBE Goals	July
3-C Planning Process Certification	June
Unified Planning Work Program Submittal	October
TAC and TAB Progress Reports	Monthly
Internal Financial Statements	Monthly
Review and Approval of Various Plans and Programs	As Needed
Analysis of Financing Methods	2 nd Quarter
State Budget Request	Fall
Review of RALF Applications/Contract Administration	As Needed
Annual RALF Fund Status Report	September
Selection of Projects for Regional Transit Capital Funding	December

	Metropolitan Council Budget 2008
TOTAL STAFF WEEKS:	309
CONSULTANT:	\$0
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES:	\$1,457,699
SOURCES OF FUNDS:	
FEDERAL: (Grant Sec. 5303)	\$1,166,159
LOCAL:	\$291,540
TOTAL	\$1,457,699

B. TIP DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

TASK B-1 TIP DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

PURPOSE: The SAFETEA-LU law requires preparation and approval of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), including projects from the regional selection process and air quality conformity analysis.

APPROACH: In 2008 a 2009-2012 TIP will be prepared, which will include projects selected through the 2007 solicitation of applications for federal funds, including STP, CMAQ, Bridge, and Enhancements. The draft 2009-2012 TIP will be prepared beginning in March to allow for air quality conformity analysis and citizen input prior to adoption in August/September. The TIP also fulfills the FTA requirement for a Program of Projects (POP). The TIP will be approved by the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), and Metropolitan Council. Any TIP amendments received during the year are processed in a similar manner. An annual implementation report is also prepared in late spring to document progress of projects from initial inclusion in the TIP through construction completion. The TIP itself includes a list of projects authorized in the previous fiscal year, in compliance with SAFETEA-LU.

The 2007 solicitation to select projects for federal funding in 2011 and 2012 will be completed by February when TAB adopts a list of recommended projects to be put in the TIP. The 2008 air quality planning activities related to this task will focus on the regional process for conformity determination of the 2009-2012 TIP. The latest EPA regional air quality model, MOBILE6, will be used. The Council converted to using this model in 2004. Regional modeling inputs, fiscal constraints, status of projects, and new public involvement procedures will be reviewed by Metropolitan Council staff before the Council, upon advice from the MPCA staff, issues a conformity determination.

RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK: The 2009-2012 TIP preparation will build on the 2008-2011 TIP. Due to SAFETEA-LU requirements, the TIP must be four years in duration.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK: Mn/DOT staff works cooperatively with Council staff and TAB/TAC to develop revenue assumptions. Staff from the Metropolitan Council, Minnesota Department of Transportation, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, TAC and TAB representatives were involved in the 2007 TAB Solicitation Package. Mn/DOT also solicited for the Rail Safety and Highway Safety Improvement programs on behalf of the TAB during the regional solicitation. This effort requires a full-time staff person over the span of 2-3 months. Mn/DOT coordinates and monitors TIP data for all federally funded projects, and Mn/DOT Trunk Highway projects. Mn/DOT has a significant role in the development of the TIP providing at least one full time position devoted to the coordination and management of data and fiscal analysis of the document. In addition, the TAC/TAB coordinates TIP amendments. Mn/DOT staff plays an active role in the development and presentation of amendment requests at the TAC Funding and Programming Committee. Mn/DOT also administers STIP amendments, as needed. MPCA will continue to attend committee meetings of TAC and TAB, assist in TIP development reviews, evaluate projects for federal funding, and participate in project selection and air quality conformity analysis.

PRODUCTS

COMPLETION
DATES
2008

Select Projects for 2011-2012 Federal Funding	February
Prepare Draft 2009-2012 TIP	March
Adopt TIP Incl. Certification of 3-C Process, Major Projects Completed/Obligated in Previous Year, and an Air Quality Conformity Analysis	September
Prepare Annual Implementation Report	May
Process TIP amendments	As needed

	Metropolitan Council Budget 2008
TOTAL STAFF WEEKS:	53
CONSULTANT:	\$0
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES:	\$77,316
SOURCES OF FUNDS:	
FEDERAL: (Grant Sec. 5303)	\$61,852
LOCAL:	\$15,463
TOTAL	\$77,316

C. COMPREHENSIVE AND SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

C-1 Long-Range Transportation Plan/Regional Development Framework

C-2 Transportation Corridor Studies

C-3 Freight Transportation Planning Process

C-4 Transit System Policy Planning

C-5 Transportation Planning for People with Disabilities

C-6 Air Quality Planning

C-7 Bike/Pedestrian Planning

TASK C-1 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN/REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

PURPOSE: To ensure implementation of the Council's long-range transportation policy plan and its overall Regional Development Framework.

APPROACH: In 2008 this activity will include ongoing transportation division participation in efforts to implement the plans and policies of the Transportation Policy Plan and the Regional Development Framework. Transportation staff will work with local units of government to prepare updates to their local comprehensive plans, which under state law must be completed by the end of 2008. Staff also conducts reviews of local comprehensive plans (and plan amendments) to ensure their consistency with regional land use and transportation plans. Review of comprehensive plan amendments by Council staff will be coordinated with the Mn/DOT Metro District's Review staff to ensure that the requirements of the Metro's TSP are satisfied as well. Transportation planning staff works with other council staff to ensure transportation policy is considered in ongoing planning and grant activities of other departments, such as parks, natural resources and the Livable Communities grants program. Staff will continue to evaluate requests for additional interchanges as submitted, and to review environmental documents and project reports for consistency with Council plans. Staff will also review and approve changes to controlled access highways, as required by state law. Staff will continue to work with U of M researchers on CTS and HHH Institute activities in transportation research, including the Access to Destinations studies.

A major project in 2008 will be the update of the Transportation Policy Plan. Council staff will work with TAC and TAB to prepare this plan. This will include the findings of the Principal Arterial Study. The Council will provide opportunities to the public for participation in the planning process through the Council website, open houses, public hearings, citizen advisory committees, and other means listed in the citizen participation process in Appendix C.

RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK: The Regional Development Framework was adopted in January 2004 and the Transportation Policy Plan was adopted in December 2004. The long-range transportation plan must be updated every four years to meet SAFETEA-LU requirements.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK: Council staff will work closely with Mn/DOT to coordinate efforts to implement the TPP and TSP. Mn/DOT serves as the lead agency for ITS activities in Minnesota, including the Regional ITS architecture; Council staff continues to participate in Mn/DOT ITS activities. Mn/DOT will provide staff resources to the Principal Arterial Study, including staff from Metro District and from the Transportation Data Analysis section.

TASK C-2 TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR STUDIES

PURPOSE: To participate in major corridor studies to ensure implementation of the regional transportation and development policies of the Council.

APPROACH: Metropolitan Council, regional rail authorities, and Mn/DOT staffs participate on corridor study management teams, advisory committees, and task forces for many trunk highway and transit corridors. The scale of each corridor study will be consistent with the investment priorities identified in the TPP and TSP. For instance, studies for highway management corridors may focus primarily on access management and operational activities like ITS; while expansion corridors will be considered for additional investments. Metropolitan Council is the lead agency for bus rapid transit (BRT) studies in the Bottineau Corridor and light rail transit (LRT) studies in the Central Corridor. Council planning staff also provides input on transit corridor studies lead by other agencies. For each corridor study, the lead agency assumes responsibility for public participation, which typically includes newsletters, meetings, open houses, and websites. Studies will also consider environmental justice impacts at a corridor level. Staff will provide data to municipalities and agencies upon request to support ongoing planning and environmental studies. This may include travel

forecasts or review of forecasts prepared by others. Specific corridor studies are included in the product list. At the present time, it is anticipated that other studies may begin in 2008 due to funding available through the SAFETEA-LU bill, but details are not yet known.

RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK: This is part of the ongoing effort to implement regional plans at the corridor level. Most corridor studies take several years and may progress from feasibility studies to alternative analysis and environmental documentation/preliminary engineering. Council planning staff is typically involved through many early stages until final design and construction of a project, while staff from other agencies may evolve from planning to other departments after preliminary engineering begins.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK: Mn/DOT is usually the lead agency for highway corridors. Mn/DOT has developed a planning prioritization process to help in the identification and prioritization of Metro District studies. The following studies will continue in 2008: TH 41 – Tier I EIS, TH 10 in Anoka and TH 10 in Ramsey. In addition, the following studies are in the consultant budget and may be started in State Fiscal Year 2008: Scoping of the TH 61 river crossing in Hastings, TH 12 modeling study, Scott County TH 13/CSAH 17 Study, I-94 Corridor plan from TH 120 to St. Croix River, and TH 252 corridor plan. Mn/DOT also will continue to be a part of the Bloomington Area Study from Minnesota River to I-35W on I-494 and from the Crosstown to the river on Hwy. 77. For many transit corridors, the regional rail authorities are the lead agencies for feasibility, AA or NEPA studies although responsibility is usually transferred to the implementing agency when PE commences. Mn/DOT also works on transit studies, especially where the corridor utilizes a Mn/DOT highway, such as Cedar or I-35W BRT; or commuter rail projects, where Mn/DOT has responsibilities under state law. MPCA staff will provide input regarding the applicability of SAFETEA-LU and CAAA air quality requirements, and state noise rules during environmental document development by reviewing and commenting on proposed highway and transit construction and/or reconstruction projects.

TASK C-3 FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS

PURPOSE: To establish a multi-modal planning process which involves the Region's shippers, commercial motor carriers, pipelines, railroads, air cargo carriers and barge operators so that the Metropolitan Council and Mn/DOT will have a better understanding of the relationships between the operation of the regional transportation system and the business logistics issues that can affect the vitality of the regional economy. This understanding will greatly improve the planning and programming of investments for public infrastructure that support regional freight functions and serve regional freight facilities. A multi-modal planning process helps to support the efficient operation of interregional freight corridors serving the region.

APPROACH: The efficient movement of goods and services directly influences the regional economy by affecting the cost of doing business, price of consumer products, and the expansion of employment opportunities. The Metropolitan Council and Mn/DOT will continue to implement joint freight planning activities organized around partnerships with private sector freight transportation providers and users. Strategic freight mobility issues and strategies will be reviewed by the Minnesota Freight Advisory Committee (MFAC) created by Mn/DOT in 1999. MFAC is a freight round table that provides a forum for businesses and providers of freight services to identify and respond to freight mobility issues for the region and Greater Minnesota. The committee also includes public officials, business interest groups, Mn/DOT, MAC and the Council staff.

Mn/DOT has developed a series of freight performance measures that it will apply to the operation and expansion of the state transportation system, including the regional transportation system.

The Council will continue to support Mn/DOT freight planning activities to identify significant regional freight clusters. Mn/DOT's preparation of freight related roadway geometric standards can then be used by communities to improve the flow of local truck traffic to freight facilities, including intermodal terminals.

RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK: In 2005 through a joint planning effort, Mn/DOT adopted a Statewide Freight Plan. The plan is a multi-modal plan that identifies significant freight system trends, needs and issues. It provides a statewide framework that includes recommended freight policies, strategies and performance measures on transportation system operations that will guide investment decision-making. In 2006 a study was conducted to expand the list of NHS connectors to include clusters of regional freight terminals. In 2007, Council staff continued to participate in MFAC.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK: The Metropolitan Council and Mn/DOT will continue to implement joint freight planning activities organized around partnerships with freight transportation providers and users. The 2005 Statewide Freight Plan provides a framework that includes freight policies, strategies, and performance measures. This freight plan will be incorporated into the State Transportation Plan, which is being updated in 2008. Mn/DOT will work closely with the Council in implementing this plan. Key activities include regional connector route analysis, and continuing outreach efforts with MFAC.

TASK C-4 TRANSIT SYSTEM POLICY PLANNING

PURPOSE: To conduct the mid- and long-range regional transit policy planning and implementation activities. To develop short-range implementation plans to carry out regional transit policy and ensure, through a comprehensive and coordinated review process, that proposed development plans or implementation programs are consistent with the Council's Transportation Policy Plan and other transportation policy documents. To participate in regional transportation projects to ensure that transit alternatives are adequately addressed and considered.

APPROACH: Activities in this category include short-, mid- and long-range transit planning and implementation conducted by the Council's MTS planning staff which is not related to a specific corridor. These include coordinating with Metro Transit staff and other transit operators and communities on specific studies, implementing completed studies, and participating in joint agency and community projects including community based transit redesign and restructuring. Council staff will continue to participate with Mn/DOT and transit operators in the multi-agency Team Transit which has been identifying and expediting bus related road improvements to improve the multimodal capability of the region's highways for over 10 years. Technical assistance will also be provided to communities on development and implementation of transit and TDM elements of comprehensive plan amendments, transit-pedestrian-bicycle friendly land use coordination, and other transit related activities as appropriate. Metropolitan Council staff maintains a regional park-and-ride database, which keeps track of the capacity, usage, and physical features of each lot. During 2008 cooperative activities will continue with the counties and other social service providers on transportation assistance to clients. This ongoing activity continues the work in the Public Transit/Human Services Coordination Plan developed in 2007 as a response to SAFETEA-LU. This plan guides distribution of funds for the JARC program.

RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK: This activity implements several activities of past years such as the Transportation Policy Plan, Transit Redesign, Public Transit/Human Services Coordination Plan, and other ongoing area-specific projects. In 2005 the 20-Year Park-and-Ride Facilities Plan was completed. LRT, BRT, and commuter rail feasibility studies are related to this activity but fall under Task C-2, "Corridor Studies."

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK: Mn/DOT, Met Council, Metro Transit, other transit providers, and local governments work jointly on the Team Transit effort. Mn/DOT has dedicated one staff person to coordinate the Team Transit responsibilities for the agency. Team Transit provides planning and coordination on bus shoulder lanes, park-and-ride lots, and HOV by-pass lanes on the Trunk Highway system, as well as the mitigation of highway construction impacts. Mn/DOT will continue to work cooperatively with the Council to provide planning and coordination on bus shoulders, and park-and-ride lots on the Trunk Highway system.

TASK C-5 TRANSPORTATION PLANNING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

PURPOSE: To formulate plans for the coordination of specialized transportation services in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) throughout the Metropolitan Area. To conduct public policy research, identify policy issues and recommend policy actions for regional specialized transportation services. To ensure public participation of this community in the transit planning process.

APPROACH: Coordinate the specialized transportation services throughout the Region including Metro Mobility, other ADA transit services and community based paratransit services. Participate with review of Mn/DOT 5310 capital funding requests for paratransit vehicles. Provide staff support to the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC). Cooperative activities will continue with the counties and other social service providers on transportation assistance to clients. This ongoing activity continues the work begun in the Public Transit/Human Services Coordination Plan developed in 2006 as a response to SAFETEA-LU. This plan will guide distribution of funds for the New Freedoms program.

RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK: These work activities are a continuation of past responsibilities carried out by regional government, including the Public Transit/Human Services Coordination Plan. The ADA Annual Report, written in previous years, is no longer required.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK: The Council is the lead agency.

TASK C-6 AIR QUALITY PLANNING

PURPOSE: To implement long-term air quality planning required by federal law including the integration of congestion management, transportation, land use, and air quality planning with the requirements of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA).

APPROACH: During 2008 the Council, Mn/DOT and the MPCA will continue the regional and state air quality planning and coordination activity with interagency air quality/transportation committees and work groups formed to address the CAA conformity requirements. Air conformity analysis will be carried out for the 2009-2012 TIP and the 2008 TPP. The roles and responsibilities of the interagency committee and work groups are defined in the interagency consultation procedures developed by the MPCA. MPCA and the Council will continue to participate in activities of Clean Air Minnesota (CAM), a non-profit organization that promotes public and private partnerships to reduce emissions from criteria pollutants that are precursors to the formation of ozone in the region. The MPCA, Metropolitan Council, and Mn/DOT staff will coordinate with the Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group to put together policy recommendations toward developing strategies for greenhouse gas reduction as part of Governor Pawlenty's Next Generation Energy Initiative.

In 2001 the region first experienced air pollution alert days resulting from high levels of ground-level ozone. Efforts are underway from a variety of agencies, environmental interest groups such as CAM, public health organizations and the region's business community to develop effective response strategies to reduce future formation of the emission precursors to ozone. A regional component of a proactive strategy to reduce the formation of ozone needs to be prepared and coordinated with the regional planning and implementation processes. The strategy must be prepared in partnership with the MPCA, Mn/DOT, and other stakeholders. Modeling work underway by the MPCA on the regional ozone issue will provide direction on appropriate and the most effective control measures to reduce precursor emissions from transportation sources. The increases in air toxins in the region as studied by the MPCA also remain a concern. Given the lack of national standards for air toxins, Mn/DOT proposed a method to the MPCA and U.S. EPA for analysis of air toxins as part of an environmental assessment process. The methodology was accepted by the MPCA and the U.S. EPA, and adopted by Mn/DOT for inclusion in its procedures for environmental analysis of transportation projects.

RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK: The Council annually prepares a conformity determination of the TIP and prepared the most recent conformity determination of its long range TPP in 2004. The air quality planning activities to review, in cooperation with the MPCA and Mn/DOT, the portions of the TIP which meet a checklist of transportation conformity requirements established by the EPA in its transportation conformity rule are now undertaken as part of the TIP Development activity.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK: The MPCA and Mn/DOT will play key roles in the development of a regional response strategy to reduce the anticipated increases in the formation of ozone and PM 2.5. Council planning staff also works with other council divisions on this effort, such as Metro Transit staff to increase transit and carpool usage, and Environmental Services staff, who monitor air pollution from waste water treatment plants.

TASK C-7 BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

PURPOSE: To participate in bicycle and pedestrian planning in the region and provide technical assistance/coordination to other government units.

APPROACH: Because average bicycle and pedestrian trips are less than two miles, detailed planning is best done at a local level. The Council's TPP, however, does support and encourage such planning and staff provides regional coordination and technical assistance.

In 2008, staff expects to do additional work on this task. SAFETEA-LU included a demonstration program (\$25 M) for construction of commuter non-motorized facilities in the Twin Cities. The Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit received a grant from this program for a planning study of pedestrian and bicycle access to high-frequency transit routes leading into Minneapolis from surrounding communities. This study will result in a recommended set of projects for local units of government to implement if they wish to. The Metropolitan Council will work with Transit for Livable Communities and local units to determine construction priorities and evaluation of performance. Technical assistance will be provided to local governments on their comprehensive plan updates, which must be completed by 2008, as well as helping local governments with the Safe Routes to School Program included in SAFETEA-LU. Metropolitan Council has also been working with Mn/DOT, the Land Management Information Center (LMIC) and other agencies to maintain the regional bikeway map developed in 2005 so it reflects the most recent facilities as they are built. In 2008, other uses of this map, such as electronic bike trip planning, will be explored. In 2008, Council staff will update the long-range Transportation Policy Plan. Part of this effort will be the development of a Bicycle and Pedestrian plan. Council staff will work with Mn/DOT and partners from other units of government to develop this plan.

Mn/DOT will be continuing the development of the transition plan addressing services, policies, and programs to meet the needs of persons with disabilities, which includes pedestrian facilities on public right-of-way. This work will be done in conjunction with the Council so that the pedestrian facilities needs are reflected in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program.

RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK: Previous bike planning efforts were done under Long-Range Planning, Task C-1. Metropolitan Council has conducted bike planning since the mid 1970s, in both its TPP and its Regional Park Plan, which includes a Regional Trail Plan. The region has funded construction of bike and pedestrian facilities, including skyways, since the 1970s.

Metropolitan Council administers the SAFETEA-LU federal transportation funding solicitation for the region including funding for bicycle and pedestrian projects and programs.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK: Mn/DOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian staff works cooperatively with the Council at the regional planning level by providing data and technical information. Mn/DOT is responsible for the administration of the Safe Routes to School Program included in SAFETEA-

LU. Minneapolis, St. Paul, and some municipalities have formal bike and pedestrian planning processes. Metropolitan Council staff participates on the Mn/DOT State Bicycle Advisory Committee. Mn/DOT, Metropolitan Council, cities, and counties work jointly on creating a bikeway map in the 9-county Twin Cities region. The Council has agreed to help support the updates to this map and provide on-line access to the map for planning purposes.

In 2005, through a statewide planning effort, Mn/DOT adopted a Statewide Bicycle Modal plan. The plan identifies significant trends, challenges, and opportunities for bicycle transportation. It provides a statewide framework including recommended bicycle treatments, policies strategies and performance measures to guide investments and project development. Mn/DOT will work with the Council in carrying out this plan.

The Transportation Advisory Board to the Metropolitan Council is revising its oversight of the federally-funded regional travel demand management program, which includes promotion of transportation alternatives including bicycling and walking. Council staff will work with TDM partners at Metro Transit Rideshare and the Transportation Management Organizations in the region to develop this program.

<u>PRODUCTS</u>	<u>COMPLETION DATES 2008</u>
Transportation Policy Plan	December
Local Comprehensive Plan Reviews	As Needed
Participate in Various Team Activities (Including Livable Communities, Referrals and Sector Reps)	As Appropriate
Review of Livable Communities Demonstration Grants	Semi-annually
Review Highway Interchange Additions	As Needed
Review EAs and EISs	As Needed
Review Controlled Access Highway Revisions	As requested
Participate in ITS and CTS Activities	Ongoing
I-494/34 th Avenue	December
TH 41 – Tier I EIS	December
TH 10 – Ramsey	Ongoing
TH 55 – EA	Ongoing
TH 10/Anoka – EA	June
TH 47 – Sub-Area Analysis and EA	2 nd Quarter
TH 212 Corridor Plan	December
Cedar Avenue – Environmental/PE studies	June
Northstar Corridor – Final Design	December
Red Rock Corridor Study/AA	December
CR 81/Bottineau Blvd./NW Corridor Busway Studies	Ongoing
Central Corridor Studies – Preliminary Engineering	2008
SW Transitway – DEIS	Ongoing
Rush Line Corridor Studies	Ongoing
Robert Street LRT Feasibility Study	July
Project Review and Referral Memoranda Related to Transit	As Needed
Access to Jobs Implementation	Ongoing
Proposals for Development Of Bus Shoulder Lanes and Other Transit-Supportive Measures in Conjunction with the Trunk Highway System	Ongoing
Maintain Park-and-Ride Database	Ongoing
Review Mn/DOT 5310 Capital Funding Requests	April
Coordination of Regional Specialized Transportation Services	Ongoing
Implement New Freedoms Program	Ongoing
Coordinate TAAC Meetings	Monthly
Maintain Bike/Pedestrian Facility Map on MetroGIS	Ongoing
Participate in Non-Motorized Demo	Ongoing
Technical Assistance to Communities, Providers on Transit, Land Use	Ongoing
Technical Assistance for Other Private and Public Agencies	Ongoing

	Metropolitan Council Budget 2008
TOTAL STAFF WEEKS:	463
CONSULTANT:	\$250,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES:	\$1,042,278
SOURCES OF FUNDS:	
FEDERAL: (Grant Sec. 5303)	\$833,822
LOCAL:	\$208,456
TOTAL	\$1,042,278

D. RESEARCH AND TRAVEL FORECASTING

D-1 Technical Support

D-2 Urban Travel Research and Forecasting

D-3 Traffic Monitoring and Evaluation

TASK D-1 TECHNICAL SUPPORT

PURPOSE: To support Council staff in other divisions who provide data and technical products to transportation planning division.

APPROACH: Metropolitan Council transportation planning staff relies on the support of staff in other divisions of the Council, including GIS, Research, and Community Development. Research staff provides land use and socio-economic data and forecasts for use in the regional travel model and other analyses. GIS division of Research maintains the regional geographic database.

RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK: This is an ongoing effort to provide data and technical products to support a variety of transportation activities. Prior to 2004 this work was included in other project activities or overhead.

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER AGENCY WORK: The Council's research division works with the Census Bureau and State Demographer. The Council's GIS division works with the Metro GIS, regional geographic information systems initiative serving the seven-county Minneapolis-St. Paul (Minnesota) metropolitan area. It provides a regional forum to promote and facilitate widespread sharing of geospatial data. MetroGIS is a voluntary collaboration of local and regional governments, with partners in state and federal government, academic institutions, nonprofit organizations and businesses.

TASK D-2 URBAN TRAVEL RESEARCH AND FORECASTING

PURPOSE: To maintain and apply the travel forecast models to support planning for the orderly development and operation of transportation facilities. To maintain socio-economic, travel and traffic count data, and to monitor, revise and update travel forecasts to 2030 and beyond. To provide the projections of traffic demand, air quality emissions and allied data needed to evaluate regional transportation investment alternatives. To continue a program of travel and employment data research such as the Travel Behavior Inventory undertaken every 10 years. This work coordinates travel behavior data with population and economic data and forms the factual basis for forecasting models.

APPROACH: The Metropolitan Council and Mn/DOT will continue joint efforts in developing and implementing travel forecasts and forecasting tools. During 2008 the TBI data which was collected in 2001 and the Transit On-Board Survey data which was collected in 2005-2006 will continue to be analyzed; some of this in cooperation with U of M researchers. Model enhancements may be implemented. Such enhancements may include an improved time-of-day model and improved techniques to include the impacts of MnPass toll lanes in the regional modeling procedures. Work on a preliminary 2010 model highway network, along with Transportation Analysis Zones at a finer scale than exists in the current regional model will begin in 2008. This work is needed to prepare for the 2010 Census and Travel Behavior Inventory, which will require the submission of TAZ boundaries in 2009. The Council will work with Mn/DOT and other model users to identify model improvement needs for an initial scope of work for the 2010 Travel Behavior Inventory. A vehicle occupancy study has not been done for many years. Council staff is considering conducting a new study in 2008. The Council will also provide technical assistance and satisfy data requests from other agencies, local units of government and consultants for comprehensive plans, corridor studies, or project planning. Mn/DOT will provide project level, and system level forecasts to support development of Trunk Highway projects, as well as the planning activities of the Mn/DOT Metro District. It is anticipated that the Council will experience an increase in requests for data and technical assistance as new corridor studies are initiated, and as communities begin to prepare the local comprehensive plans due in 2008. Council forecast staff also reviews the reasonableness of forecasts in local plans, EAWs, etc that are transmitted to the Council.

RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK: This activity applies the travel demand forecasting models produced and calibrated as part of the Travel Behavior Inventory during 2000 through 2003.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK: The Council is the lead agency. Mn/DOT and the Council have a Memo of Understanding on forecasting responsibilities. Mn/DOT will continue to collaborate with the Council regarding any revisions to the regional model. Also, Metro District and/or its consultants will provide project level, and system level forecasts to support development of Trunk Highway projects, as well as the planning activities of the district. Mn/DOT will also involve the Council in Metro District's review and approval of travel demand forecasts developed by consultants for Trunk Highway projects.

TASK D-3 TRAFFIC MONITORING AND EVALUATION

PURPOSE: The purpose of this program is to provide appropriate traffic data as needed to determine annual average daily traffic on trunk highways and state aid highways and indicate travel trends and patterns. Data is also used for analysis of transportation caused air pollution and noise.

APPROACH: The Minnesota Department of Transportation, working through the Traffic Management Center and District Traffic Engineer in the Metro District, has established a cooperative counting program with the counties and municipalities. This cooperative program was undertaken for efficiency, convenience and to prevent duplication of vehicle counts. Special counts will be taken as the need is identified. This work provides a database for identifying trends, and evaluating system performance.

RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK: Traffic counting is conducted on a two year cycle with an estimated 7,500 48-hour machine counts taken by metro district, county and municipal personnel. Counts are taken on all state trunk highways, county state aid highways, municipal state aid streets, and at selected locations on city streets for estimating vehicle miles traveled. Traffic volumes representing A.D.T. are shown on the 52 street series maps covering the seven-county Metropolitan Area and individual municipal maps showing the volumes on the M.S.A.S. system, and on one area-wide map. Data is also available on the Mn/DOT web site.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK: There is no Metropolitan Council time or funding in this activity although it is essential to the 3C process. Mn/DOT will continue to provide vehicle count data to the region. This work provides a database for identifying trends and evaluating system performance. This data is used by Metropolitan Council to calibrate the regional travel forecast model, and by many implementing agencies for STP applications on the criteria for "traffic volumes served."

<u>PRODUCTS</u>	<u>COMPLETION DATES 2008</u>
GIS Database	Ongoing
Demographic Forecasts	Ongoing
Technical Assistance to Land Use Planners	Ongoing
TIP Forecast (for Use in Air Quality Conformity Finding)	July
Satisfy Data Requests	As Needed
Analyze Traffic Impacts of Transportation Projects and Development Proposals	As Needed
Local Transportation Plan Reviews/Technical Assistance	As Needed
Distribute New Model Set and Provide Needed Training	As Needed
Provide Traffic Forecasts in Support of Council and Mn/DOT Studies	As Needed
Mn/DOT Collar County Model Implementation	As Needed
Seven-county Metro Area Traffic Volume Maps (2004 volumes)	July
Seven-county Metro Area Flow Map (2004 volumes)	September
Preliminary 2010 Model Highway Network	December
Preliminary 2010 Transportation Analysis Zones	December

	Metropolitan Council Budget 2008
TOTAL STAFF WEEKS:	134
CONSULTANT:	\$357,165
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES:	\$709,756
SOURCES OF FUNDS:	
FEDERAL: (Grant Sec. 5303)	\$567,805
LOCAL:	\$141,951
TOTAL	\$709,756

E. OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT

E-1 Transportation/Transit System Performance Measurement

E-2 Transit Implementation and Evaluation/Program Administration

E-3 Congestion Management Process

TASK E-1 TRANSPORTATION/TRANSIT SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

PURPOSE: To develop, maintain, and disseminate information on the performance of the Twin Cities transportation system to inform policy decisions and funding allocations and to comply with state law.

APPROACH: State law requires that the Council conduct a comprehensive audit of the transportation system every four years, and that every four years, on the intervening two years, conduct an evaluation of the transit system. Collection of data for this audit allows the Council to maintain a wide variety of current data on an on-going basis, which is used for other planning activities as well as presented for informational purposes through a wide variety of venues. In 2007 a transit audit will be prepared.

RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK: In 1997, 2001, and 2005 the Council conducted transportation performance audits, and in 1999 and 2003 transit evaluations.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK: The Council is the lead agency. Mn/DOT Metro District, Metro Transit and the opt-outs provide data upon request by the Council.

TASK E-2 TRANSIT IMPLEMENTATION & EVALUATION/PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

PURPOSE: To implement the transit service recommendations from the TPP, the Transit Redesign Project, and Sector Studies Redesign, including application of service planning guidelines and performance standards, achieving a regional consensus on equity and service priorities in the allocation of transit resources, and instituting service changes.

APPROACH: Review and develop service and capital plans to assure consistency with the Transportation Policy Plan; selection of capital projects, monitoring of system performance and financial status, and other activities to ensure coordination and review between the activities of the Metropolitan Council and its operating entities. Apply service-planning guidelines to determine service areas and types best suited for various areas of the Region. Apply performance standards to existing services to determine which services are performing well and which are not that should be the focus of restructuring or elimination. Formulate proposed service changes (enhancement, restructure, or reduction) to take to the community for their reaction and input prior to final implementation.

RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK: This element represents a continuation of transit planning and implementation formerly conducted by the Metropolitan Council, Regional Transit Board, and Metropolitan Transit Commission and other providers. This work represents the implementation phase of the Transit Redesign Project conducted by the Transportation Division in 1995-96 and Sector Study Redesign undertaken by the Metropolitan Council and Metro Transit since 1999 and ongoing through 2007.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK: The Council is the lead agency.

TASK E-3 CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS

PURPOSE: Federal law requires MPOs to maintain a congestion management process.

APPROACH: Council staff will work with TAC and TAB to review the current CMS, its results, and whether modifications are required to the process to comply with changes in SAFETEA-LU. It is anticipated consultant assistance will be sought for this work. In the preparation of the TPP revision, the policy framework for the CMP will be developed.

RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK: After passage of ISTEA in 1991, the region prepared a congestion management system which was adopted in 1996. The system includes a toolbox of congestion management strategies. The system has been implemented over the last decade through incorporation into the regional solicitation criteria. Mn/DOT and Metropolitan Council prepared a Congestion Management Planning Study Phase I in 2007 which will be used to establish the policy framework for the CMP in the revised TPP.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK: Mn/DOT was instrumental in the development of the 1997 Congestion Management System and will continue to provide the Council congestion mapping based on ongoing data collection done by the Regional Traffic Management Center. Mn/DOT Metro District will cooperatively work with the Council to determine any revisions necessary based on SAFETEA-LU rulemaking, as well as implementation of a revised operations and congestion management system plan. TAC/TAB assistance is anticipated in this task through standing committees (such as TAC Planning) or possibly a special task force.

<u>PRODUCTS</u>	<u>COMPLETION</u> <u>DATES</u> 2008
Reports and Presentations of Data	Ongoing
Final Report – 2007 Transit Evaluation	February 2008
Livable Communities Project Selection and Evaluation	December
Monitor provider performance and financial status	Ongoing
Implementation assistance and activities	Ongoing
Develop and Implement Service Changes:	Ongoing
Monitor Congestion Management Activity	December
Establish Policy Framework for Congestion Management Process	December

	Metropolitan Council Budget 2008
TOTAL STAFF WEEKS:	468
CONSULTANT:	\$15,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES:	\$982,396
SOURCES OF FUNDS:	
FEDERAL: (Grant Sec. 5303)	\$785,917
LOCAL:	\$196,479
TOTAL	\$982,396

F. AVIATION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

TASK F-1 AVIATION TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

PURPOSE: To maintain the long-term viability of the regional aviation system by ensuring compatible land use planning and development, system efficiency, and project effectiveness. To develop and implement long-range regional aviation policy; monitor and periodically review and update the TPP (which now includes the APP) to ensure aviation plan consistency with current and anticipated technical, economic and political conditions. Provide for review and coordination of aviation planning activities among agencies and municipalities.

APPROACH: This activity will continue maintenance of an aviation system planning program including an aviation database, identification of needs, and evaluation of system performance. Coordination activities continue with Mn/DOT Aeronautics, Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), other airport owners, communities, and users on the various metro aviation activities. Major work to be conducted in 2008 will be updating the aviation chapter as part of the TPP update. Council staff will continue to participate in reliever airport comprehensive plan update activities for the three airports that were not completed in 2007. Council staff will review proposed airport actions in relation to the Metropolitan Development Guide, inform the public of proposed actions, and coordinate review processes through the Council and TAB/TAC committee structure. Activities include reviews/approvals of individual airport long-term comprehensive plans, airport project environmental evaluations, airport capital improvement programs, and land use (noise, safety, infrastructure) compatibility planning. Work includes project coordination with affected agencies, local governmental agencies and airport users. This task also includes review of the aviation elements of local comprehensive plans. This will be a major effort in 2008 as nearly 200 comprehensive plan updates are expected. Continued coordination will occur on scoping and review of the MSP Proposed 2020 Development Plan, aircraft noise mitigation, implementation of State Airport System Plan, special studies, and reliever airport plans.

RELATIONSHIP TO PREVIOUS WORK: This work is a continuance of legislatively directed responsibility for the Council to develop and update a regional transportation systems plan which includes aviation. The TPP/APP was updated in 2004 and systems statements were provided to communities for local comprehensive plan updates due in 2008. Major work effort in 2007 was coordination with MAC and Mn/DOT initiatives concerning reliever airports, including updates of Long-Term Comprehensive Plans and airport/adjacent land use compatibility efforts.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AGENCY WORK: The Council is the lead agency on airport system planning and works closely with Metropolitan Airports Commission, who owns most of the region’s public airports and is responsible for airport development and operations. Mn/DOT has an aeronautics office for statewide air system planning and project funding. Other cities and agencies participate in planning activities through the TAC/TAB process.

<u>PRODUCTS</u>	<u>COMPLETION</u> <u>DATES</u> 2008
Coordination Activities	Ongoing
System Plan FAA Grant Application	July
Review MAC’s Capital Improvement Program	February
Review of Local Plan Amendments and EAs	As needed
Plan Updates for Reliever Airports – Blaine, Eden Prairie, St. Paul	May
Aviation Section of TPP	December

	Metropolitan Council Budget 2008
TOTAL STAFF WEEKS:	55
CONSULTANT:	\$0
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES:	\$105,000
SOURCES OF FUNDS:	
FEDERAL:	\$0
LOCAL: MAC	\$105,000
TOTAL	\$105,000

III. APPENDICES

**A. 2008 Unified Planning Work Program Budget
Metropolitan Council - Metropolitan Transportation Services**

	Staff Weeks 2008	Salary Cost	Consult- ant Cost	Overhead and Expenses	Total Cost	Federal	Local	MAC	Total	Percent Local
A Planning Program Support & Adm	309	\$553,045		\$904,654	\$1,457,699	\$1,166,159	\$291,540		\$1,457,699	20%
B TIP Development & Management	53	\$77,316			\$77,316	\$61,852	\$15,463		\$77,316	20%
C Comprehensive & Land Transp Pl	463	\$792,278	\$250,000		\$1,042,278	\$833,822	\$208,456		\$1,042,278	20%
D Research & Travel Forecasting	134	\$164,556	\$357,165	\$188,035	\$709,756	\$567,805	\$141,951		\$709,756	20%
E Operations and Management	468	\$736,071	\$15,000	\$231,325	\$982,396	\$785,917	\$196,479		\$982,396	20%
Federally Funded	1,427	\$2,323,265	\$622,165	\$1,324,014	\$4,269,444	\$3,415,555	\$853,889		\$4,269,444	20%
F Aviation Transportation Planning	55	\$105,000			\$105,000			\$105,000	\$105,000	100%
Locally Funded	55	\$105,000	\$0	\$0	\$105,000	\$0	\$0	\$105,000	\$105,000	100%
Total	1,482	\$2,428,265	\$622,165	\$1,324,014	\$4,374,444	\$3,415,555	\$853,889	\$105,000	\$4,374,444	22%

B. 2008 PRODUCT LISTING

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Title and Products</u>	<u>Completion Dates</u>
A	Planning Program Support and Administration	Ongoing
	- Committee Agendas, Minutes, Reports	Quarterly
	- Progress Reports to Mn/DOT	April
	- Close-out 2007 Outstanding Grant	July
	- Update of Title VI and DBE and WBE Goals	June
	- 3-C Planning Process Certification	October
	- Unified Planning Work Program Submittal	Monthly
	- TAC and TAB Progress Reports	Monthly
	- Internal Financial Statements	Continuous
	- Review and Approval of Various Plans and Programs	2nd Quarter
	- Analysis of Financing Methods	Fall
	- State Budget Request	As Needed
	- Review of RALF Applications/Contract Administration	September
	- Annual RALF Fund Status Report	December
B	TIP Development and Management	
	- Select Projects for 2011-2012 Federal Funding	March
	- Prepare Draft TIP	March
	- Adopt TIP Including 3-C Process, Major Projects Completed/Obligated in Previous Year, and an Air Quality Conformity Analysis	September
	- Prepare Annual Implementation Report	May
- Process TIP Amendments	As Needed	
C	Comprehensive and Land Use Transportation Planning	
	- Transportation Policy Plan	December
	- Local Comprehensive Plan Reviews	As Needed
	- Participate in Various Team Activities (Including Livable Communities, Referrals, and Sector Reps)	As Appropriate
	- Review Livable Communities Demonstration Grants	Semi-annually
	- Review Highway Interchange Additions	As Needed
	- Review EAs and EISs	As Needed
	- Review Controlled Access Highway Revisions	As Requested
	- Participate in ITS and CTS Activities	Ongoing
	- TH 41 - Tier I EIS	December
	- TH 10 – Ramsey	Ongoing
	- TH 55 – EA	Ongoing
	- TH 10/Anoka – EA	June
	- TH 47 – Sub-Area Analysis and EA	2 nd Quarter
	- TH 212 Corridor Plan	December
	- Cedar Avenue – Environmental/PE Studies	June
	- Northstar Corridor – Final Design	December
	- Red Rock Corridor Studies	December
- CR 81/Bottineau Blvd./NW Corridor Busway Studies	Ongoing	
- Central Corridor – Preliminary Engineering	2008	
- SW Transitway – DEIS	Ongoing	
- Rush Line Corridor Studies	Ongoing	
- Robert Street LRT Feasibility Study	July	

	- Project Review and Referral Memoranda Related to Transit	As Needed
	- Access to Jobs Implementation	Ongoing
	- Proposals for Development of Bus Shoulder Lanes and Other Transit Supportive Measures in Conjunction with Trunk Highway System	Ongoing
	- Maintain Park-and-Ride Database	Ongoing
	- Review Mn/DOT 5310 Capital Funding Requests	April
	- Coordination of Regional Specialized Transportation Services	Ongoing
	- Implement New Freedoms Program	Ongoing
	- Coordinate TAAC Meetings	Monthly
	- Maintain Bike/Pedestrian Facility Map on MetroGIS	Ongoing
	- Technical Assistance to Communities, and Providers of Transit, Land Use	Ongoing
	- Technical Assistance for Other Private and Public Agencies	Ongoing
D	Research and Travel Forecasting	
	- GIS Database	Ongoing
	- Demographic Forecasts	Ongoing
	- Technical Assistance to Land Use Planners	Ongoing
	- TIP Forecast (for use in Air Quality Conformity Finding)	July
	- Satisfy Data Requests	As Needed
	- Analyze Traffic Impacts of Transportation Projects and Development Proposals	As Needed
	- Local Transportation Plan Reviews/Technical Assistance	As Needed
	- Distribute New Model Set and Provide Needed Training	As Needed
	- Provide Traffic Forecasts in Support of Council and Mn/DOT Studies	As Needed
	- Mn/DOT Collar County Model Implementation	As Needed
	- Seven-county Metro Area Traffic Volume Maps (2004 volumes)	July
	- Seven-county Metro Area Flow Map (2004 volumes)	September
	- Preliminary 2010 Model Highway Network	December
	- Preliminary 2010 Transportation Analysis Zones	December
E	Operations and Management	
	- Reports and Presentations of Data	Ongoing
	- Final Report – 2007 Transit Evaluation	February
	- Livable Communities Project Selection and Evaluation	December
	- Monitor Provider Performance and Financial Status	Ongoing
	- Implementation Assistance and Activities	Ongoing
	- Develop and Implement Service Changes	Ongoing
	- Monitor Congestion Management Activity	December
	- Establish Policy Framework for Congestion Management Process	December
F	Aviation Transportation Planning	
	- Coordination Activities	Ongoing
	- System Plan FAA Grant Application	July
	- Review of MAC's Capital Improvement Programs	February
	- Review of Local Plan Amendments and EAs	As Needed
	- Plan Updates for Reliever Airports – Blaine, Eden Prairie, St. Paul	May
	- Aviation Section of Transportation Policy Plan	December

C. Roles and Responsibilities of the Participants

I. OVERVIEW OF THE ON-GOING 3-C PLANNING PROCESS BY THE MPO

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Twin Cities area, the Council is the lead agency responsible for administering and coordinating the activities of participants carrying out the required tasks of the transportation planning process.

Participants in the transportation planning process include the Metropolitan Council; the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT); the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA); the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC); transit operators; counties and municipalities; local officials; private citizens; and U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT).

Transportation agency staff from the agencies, counties and municipalities are involved in the policy-making process through the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which advises the Transportation Advisory Board. Other subcommittees and task forces of the TAC deal with specific transportation issues. Refer to Figure 1 for a flow-chart that delineates transportation committees of the TAB and TAC involved in the 3-C (continuing, comprehensive, cooperative) transportation planning process. For more detailed information about the roles and responsibilities of agencies and local units of government in the transportation planning process, refer to the Prospectus for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, December 1996.

Each of these participants, with the exception of the Transportation Advisory Board and the Technical Advisory Committee, has transportation roles and responsibilities beyond their agency roles as participants in the transportation planning process. In this context, only those roles relative to the transportation planning process will be addressed.

II. PARTICIPANTS IN THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING PROCESS

A. Metropolitan Council

The Metropolitan Council was created in 1967 by the Minnesota Legislature to guide the orderly development of the 3,000 square mile county metropolitan area with its 300 governing units. The sixteen members are appointed at the pleasure of the governor and represent districts of equal population size within the seven county metropolitan area; the Chair represents the region as a whole. (See Figure 2 for Metropolitan Council Districts.)

The Council's powers and responsibilities are derived from several state laws beginning with the Metropolitan Council Act of 1967. Responsibilities were redefined through the Metropolitan Reorganization Act of 1974, the Metropolitan Land Planning Act of 1976, the Metropolitan Governance Act of 1986 and the recent Metropolitan Reorganization Act of 1994.

The 1994 Metropolitan Reorganization Act reorganized metropolitan government in the Twin Cities area by transferring and merging the responsibilities of the Metropolitan Waste Control Commission (MWCC), the Regional Transit Board (RTB) and Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC) into the Metropolitan Council. (See Figures 3 and 4 for Metropolitan Council's Organization and Policymaking Structure.)

Mission

As part of its broad mission, the Council is a comprehensive planning agency for transportation, the environment and community development and is engaged in regional system planning and operations for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

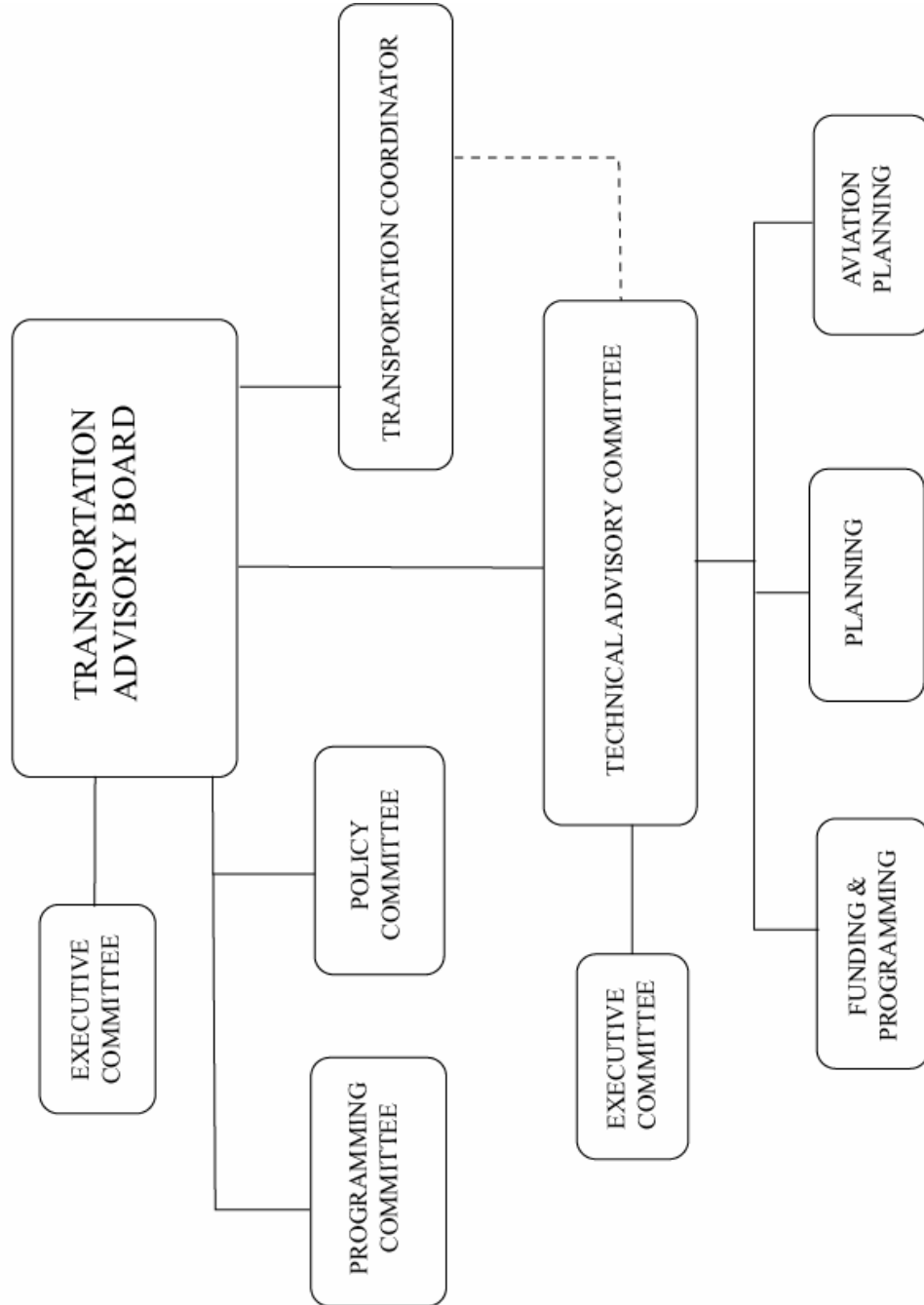
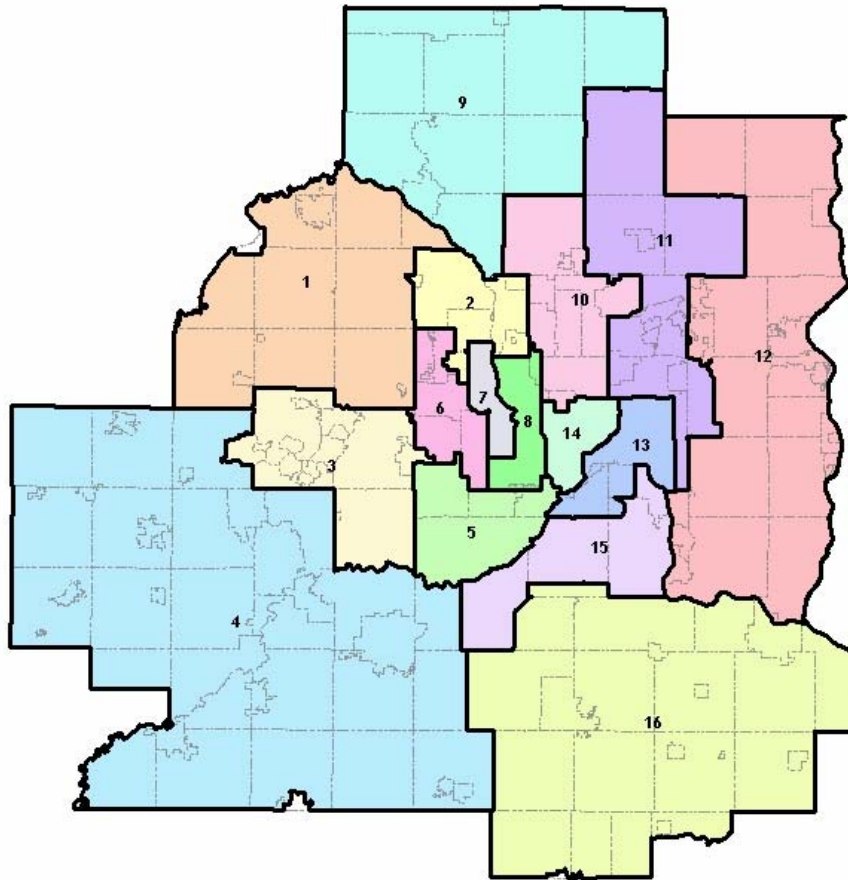


FIGURE 1

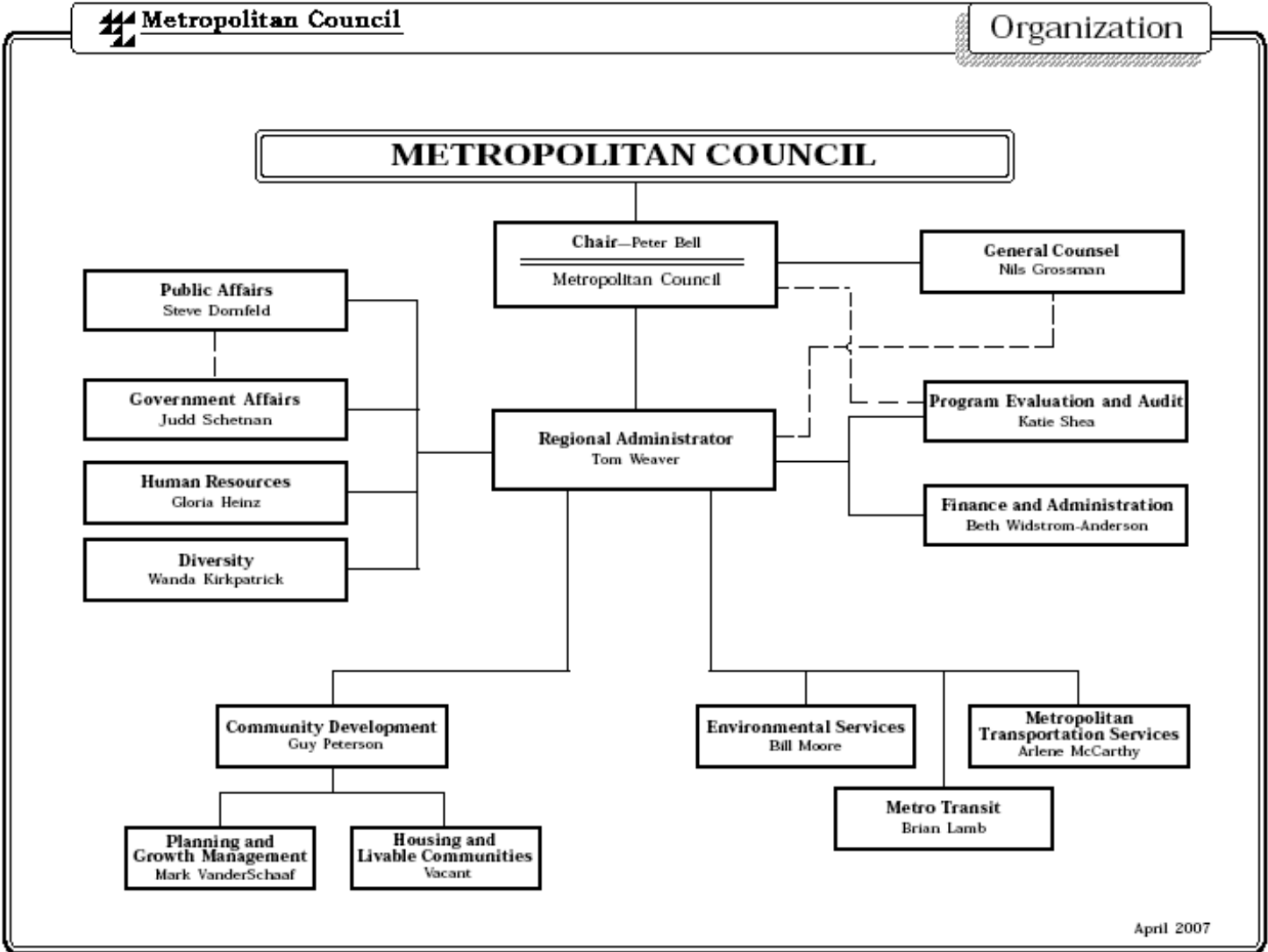
FIGURE 2

2007 Metropolitan Council Districts



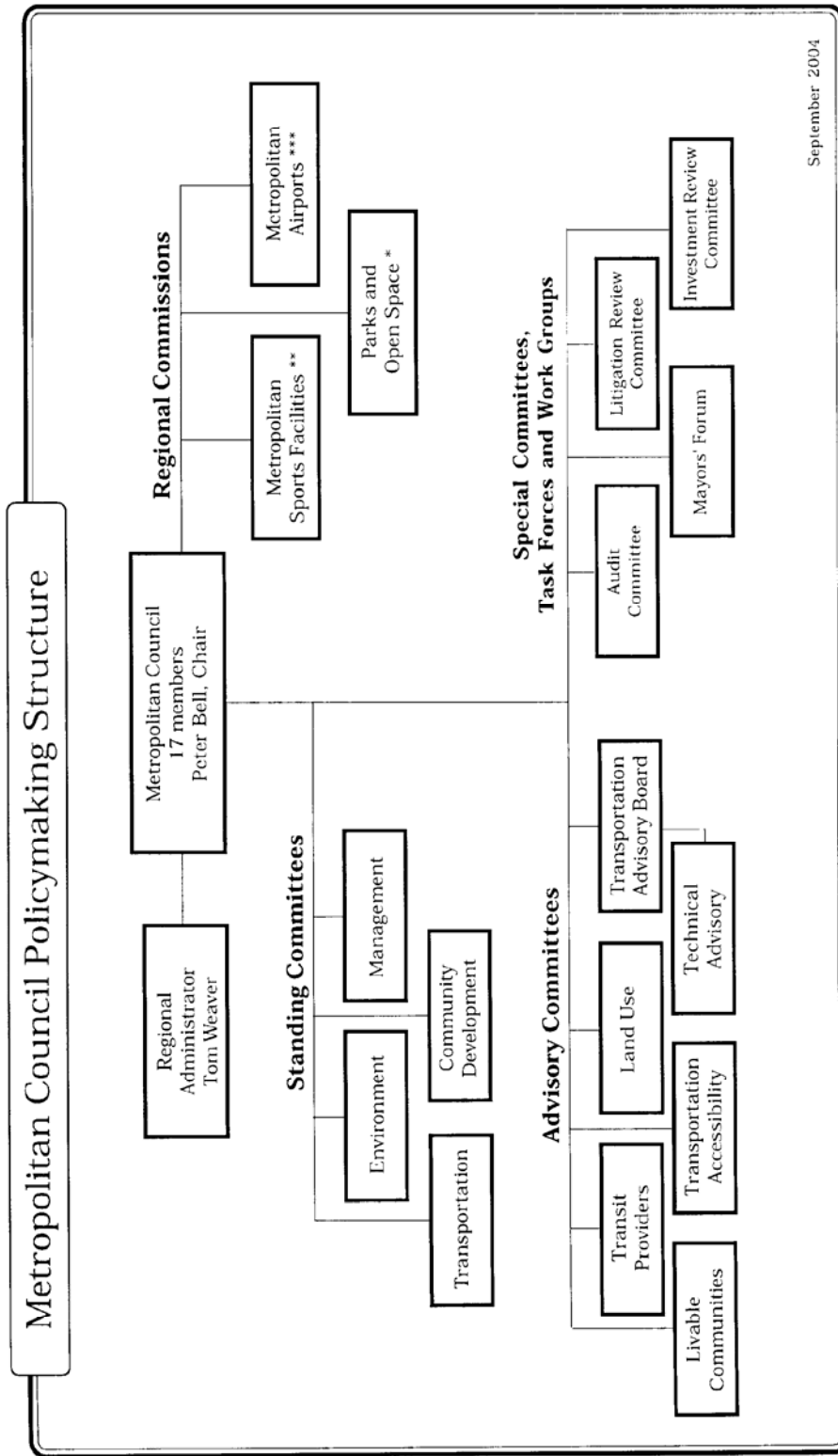
Chair – Peter Bell		
1 – Roger Scherer	6 – Peggy Leppik	11 – Georgeanne Hilker
2 – Tony Pistilli	7 – Annette Meeks	12 – Sherry Broecker
3 – Mary Hill Smith	8 – Lynette Wittsack	13 – Richard Aguilar
4 – Brian Lundquist	9 – Natalie Steffan	14 – Kirstin Sersland Beach
5 – Russ Susag	10 – Kris Sanda	15 – Daniel Wolter
		16 – Brian McDaniel

FIGURE 3



April 2007

FIGURE 4



* Staff support provided to Commission by Metropolitan Council.

** The Metropolitan Council has budget approval and issues bonds for the commission.

*** The Metropolitan Council reviews the capital budget and approves certain projects.



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The Council's mission was broadened with the merger of the MWCC, the RTB and MTC into the Council. Since its creation, the Metropolitan Council has been a regional planning and coordinating agency with oversight responsibilities over the three regional agencies. Under the 1994 legislation, the Council continues its long range planning and coordination role and integrates shorter term planning responsibilities and operation of the public transit systems and the regional sewage collection and treatment system.

Planning Responsibilities

Prepares planning documents and studies which provide direction for regional growth and development and which provide direction for regional commissions and agencies which plan and operate transit, roadways, regional parks, airports, housing and water quality management activities. Documents and studies include:

- Regional Development Framework - A comprehensive regional policy framework.
- Transportation Policy Plan - Provides policy direction for metropolitan transportation investments and includes plans for the metropolitan highway, aviation and transit systems.
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Twin Cities - A multi-modal program of highway, transit, bike, walk and transportation enhancement projects and programs proposed for federal funding throughout the seven country metropolitan area in the next four years.
- Congestion Management System - A systematic process for evaluating and developing transportation strategies and plans for addressing existing and future traffic congestion.
- Air Quality Conformity Determinations - determines conformity of plans and programs to requirements of Clean Air Act.
- Functional (Highway) Classification - Describes a roadway's function, determines routes to be metropolitan highway system and which roads should be used for transit service before design and operational guidelines implemented.
- Reviews applications for federal and state funds to assure consistency with regional development goals, policies and programs.
- Reviews local government comprehensive plans for consistency with regional sewer, park, transit, airport and transportation plans.
- Provides information to the public and technical assistance to government units.

Transportation Operational Responsibilities

- Operates public transit system and constructs, equips and operates projects including terminal and maintenance and garage facilities, ramps, parking areas and other facilities related to public transit systems.
- Executes and administers transit private provider contracts.
- Provides Metro Mobility (ADA) programs.

- Advises and works cooperatively with local governments, regional railroad authorities and other public agencies, transit providers, developers and other persons in order to coordinate all transit modes and increase availability of transit services.
- Administers state and metropolitan transit subsidies.

B. Transportation Advisory Board

The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) was established by the Council in September 1974, in accord with the Metropolitan Reorganization Act (Minnesota Statute 473.146, Subdivision 4 (1994) (Metropolitan Reorganization Act of 1974); Title 23, U.S. Code, Section 134 (Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1962, as amended); Title 23, U.S.C., Section 104(f) (Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973); and 49 U.S.C., Chapter 21 (Urban Mass Transportation Act of 1964, as amended). The Board provides the forum for deliberation among state, regional and local officials, and private citizens appointed by the Metropolitan Council. The Board consists of 33 members: 10 municipal elected officials, seven elected county officials, nine private citizens, two state and two regional agencies, and four modal representatives. Municipal officials are appointed by the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities. County officials (one from each county) are appointed by the respective county board. Eight private citizen members are selected by the Metropolitan Council to represent Metropolitan Council districts. The Metropolitan Council appoints three of the four modal representatives – two for public transit and one for non-motorized transportation. The Commissioner of Mn/DOT appoints the fourth modal representative from the freight transportation industry. The Chair is to be free of affiliation with major transportation operating agencies and is appointed by the Metropolitan Council from among the membership for a two-year term. The agency officials, representing the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Metropolitan Airports Commission, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, are designated by their agencies, but may not be staff members. The Board advises the Metropolitan Council in preparing the long-range transportation plan and the TIP, provides coordination and direction to the agencies responsible for implementing the plan, and selects projects for federal transportation funding through a regional competitive project solicitation program.

TAB is assisted and advised in carrying out its responsibilities by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC was established by the TAB to provide the technical assistance and coordination necessary for the TAB to perform its responsibilities. The TAC membership is composed of professional staff from counties, cities, Association of Metro Municipalities, Mn/DOT, MPCA, MAC, Metropolitan Council, TAB, and Federal Highway Administration (nonvoting).

C. Minnesota Department of Transportation

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) was created by the legislature in 1976 to provide a balanced and coordinated multimodal transportation program and system for the State. The Department is organized into five divisions: Finance and Administration Division, Program Management Division, Engineering Services Division, Operations, Safety and Technology Division, State Air for Local Transportation Division, and District Operations Division. Each headed by a Division Director. An organization chart of Mn/DOT's structure is shown at Figure 5.

Mn/DOT is responsible for development of a state transportation plan, and coordinates statewide air, freight, and commercial vehicle operations, waterway, trunk highway, bikeway and transit planning activities. Mn/DOT coordinates operation efforts with local and regional authorities, as well as reviewing their planning projects and administering federal and state highway funds. Mn/DOT provides and coordinates statewide aviation system planning; administers airport safety zoning; develops and maintains aviation navigation aids; administers an airport development

grants-in-aid program; and issues airport and commercial operators licenses. Mn/DOT administers state and federal transit assistance programs in Greater Minnesota.

Mn/DOT has the authority to locate, improve, maintain, construct and reconstruct a system of trunk highways and interstate routes. Each year Mn/DOT prepares a highway improvement program to be considered for inclusion in the Twin Cities TIP. Mn/DOT coordinates the Metro Area Transportation Partnership (ATP) process to develop an ATP TIP for inclusion in the State TIP.

Mn/DOT participates on the TAC and TAB and various committees, and participates in corridor studies. The Department participates in consultation with the MPO, MPCA, U.S. DOT and EPA on air quality conformity activities. Mn/DOT acts as liaison between the U.S. DOT and the MPO, certifies a valid federal transportation planning process, and administers federal planning funds to the MPO.

D. Metropolitan Airports Commission

The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) established in 1943, is an independent, special purpose agency with broad powers to acquire, develop and operate airports within an area roughly equivalent to the seven county metropolitan area.

The Commission owns and operates seven metropolitan public use airports, including Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, and is empowered to raise revenues for the financing of airport development and operations. The Commission prepares comprehensive master plans for each facility and provides for the safe and efficient operating environment for the area's aviation system user.

MAC's plans are subject to Metropolitan Council review under MN. Stat. 473.165 which applies to "independent commissions, boards and agencies." As provided in that section, all MAC long-range plans must be consistent with Metropolitan Council Plans and Policies. In addition, certain airport development projects in the Metropolitan Area which requires capital funding in excess of \$5 million at Minneapolis-St. Paul and \$2 million at other airports must be reviewed and approved by the Metropolitan Council (MN. Stat. 473.621).

Figure 6 is a staff organization chart of MAC.

E. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) was created in 1967 by the Minnesota Legislature to protect surface waters. This authority was soon expanded in Minn. Stat. Ch. 115 and 116 to include responsibilities for air quality, solid waste disposal, ground water, and later, the management of hazardous wastes.

The nine-member MPCA's Citizens Board is composed of eight citizen members who serve four-year, staggered terms. They are appointed by the Governor, with Senate approval, and come from a variety of occupations and from different parts of the state. The only statutory requirement is that one member must represent agriculture. The Citizens Board is chaired by the Commissioner of MPCA, who is the ninth member.

The MPCA's powers and responsibilities for protection and improvement of the environment include the following services:

- environmental assessment, monitoring and goal-setting
- regulatory approvals
- enforcement and follow-up to complaints
- pollution prevention activities

- response to environmental threats
- technical, educational, and financial assistance
- information on agency activities and environmental issues
- forums for public discussions on environmental issues

Figure 7 is an organizational chart of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

F. Counties and Municipalities

All counties, the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul and suburban municipalities in the Metropolitan Area participate in the transportation planning process at two levels: At the policy level, elected county and municipal officials are represented on the Transportation Advisory Board; and at the technical level, professional staff from principal government units are represented on the Technical Advisory Committee. Within the regional transportation planning process, many planning activities are implemented at the subregional and corridor levels. The transportation implications of such projects as highway improvements or transit service modifications are organized to invite active participation by each affected local government and to seek active citizen participation.

Cities and counties also participate in related 3-C activities but not as members of the TAB or TAC. A range of activities is included such as representatives on corridor studies, conduits for citizen comments on 3-C products and implementation of regionally funded facilities and services.

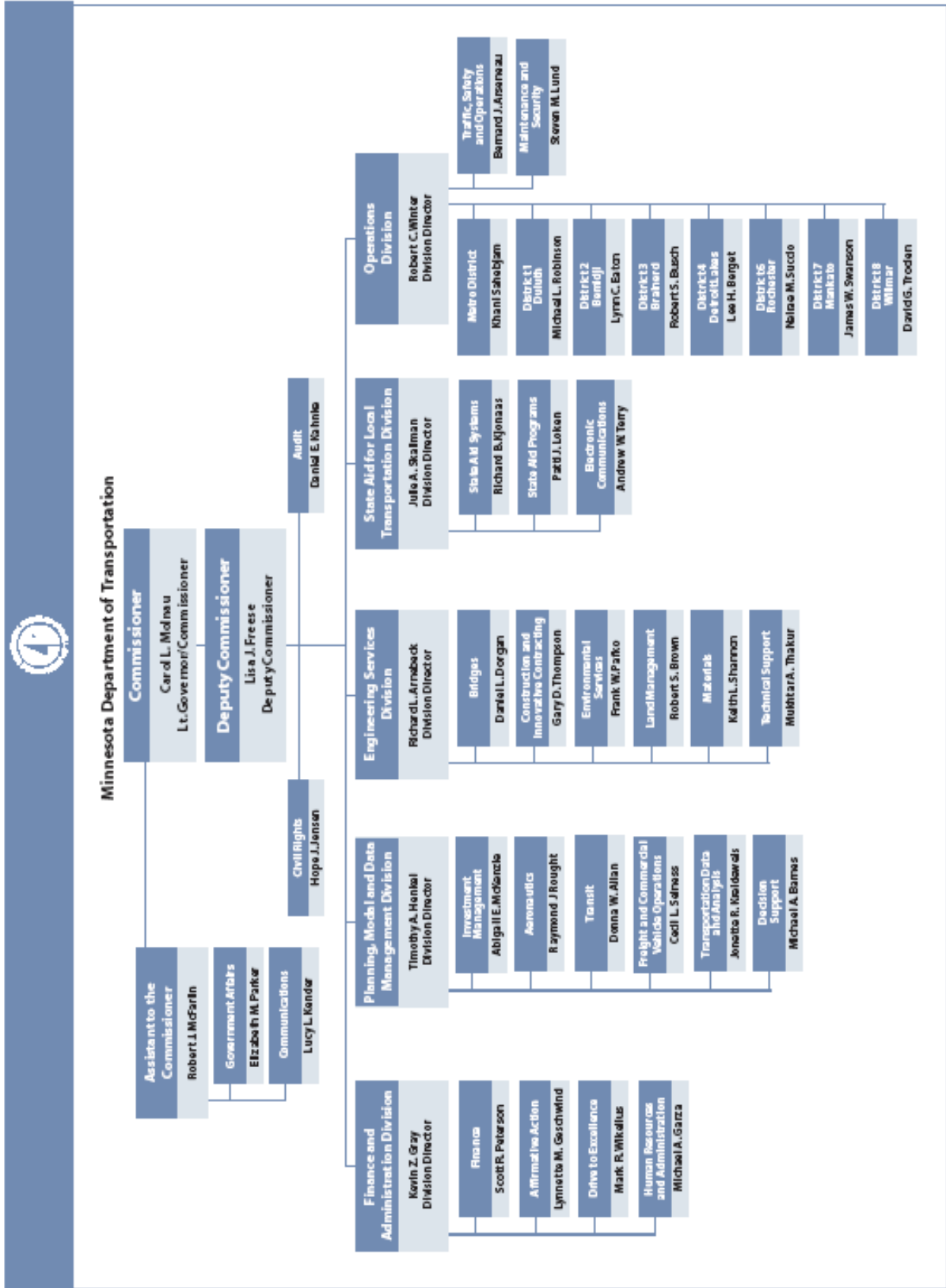
Counties and cities have the following responsibilities related to the 3-C planning process:

- Prepare and submit comprehensive plans to the Metropolitan Council and respond with amendments as necessary;
- Initiate and submit transportation projects eligible for SAFETEA-LU funding;
- Participate in the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) when appropriate;
- Review Mn/DOT's Transportation System Plan;
- Participate in and comment on the Regional Transportation Policy Plan.

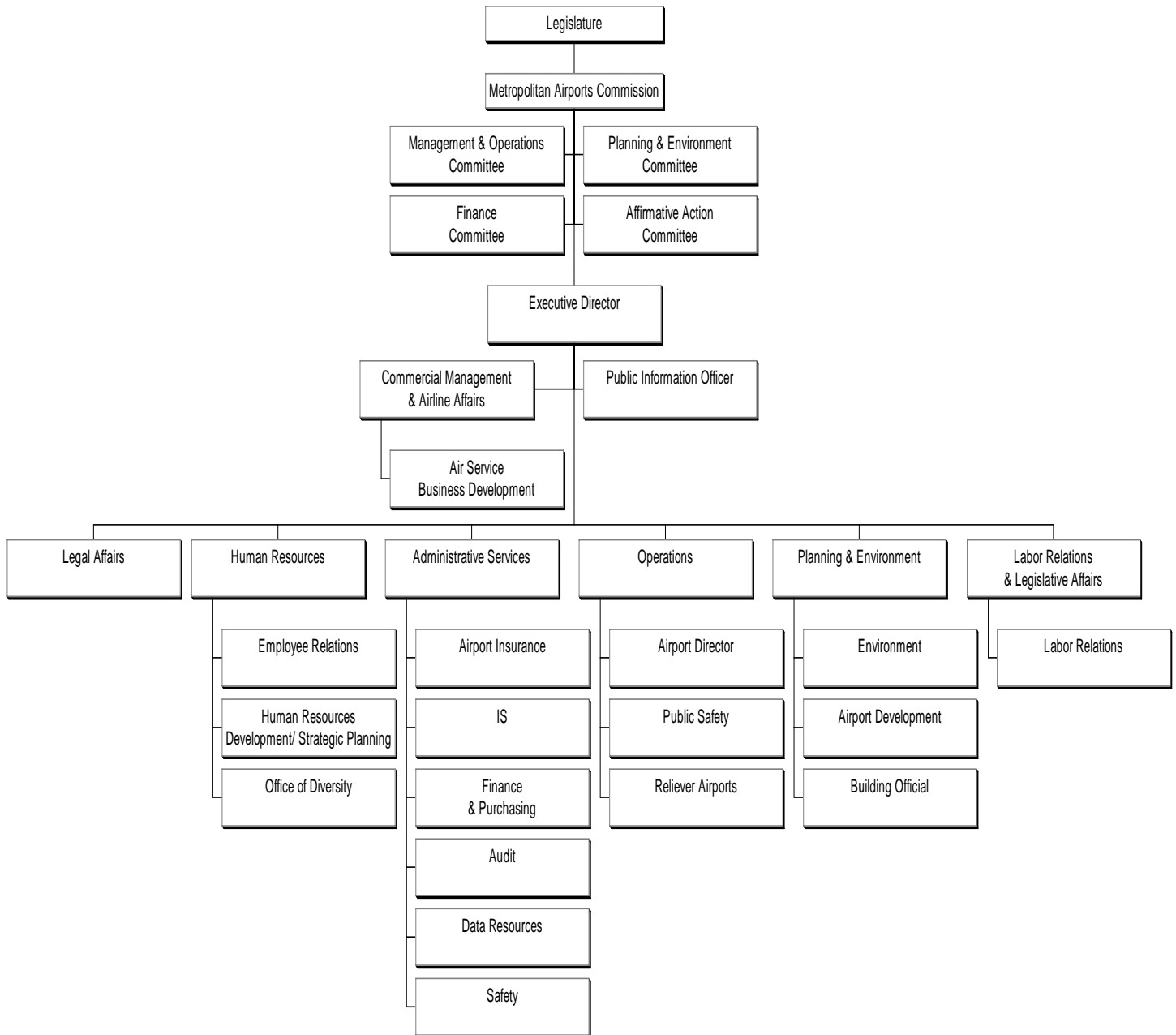
G. U.S. Department of Transportation

The U.S. DOT is also involved in the 3-C metropolitan transportation planning process. A representative of the local Federal Highway Administration office participates on the TAC and its subcommittees. This representative's primary role is to ensure that the process adheres to all federal laws and regulations concerning the metropolitan transportation planning process. The U.S. DOT provides guidance to and approves the Council's transportation planning activities, and is the primary funding source for metropolitan transportation planning.

**FIGURE 5
Mn/DOT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**



**FIGURE 6
METROPOLITAN AIRPORTS COMMISSION ORGANIZATIONAL CHART**



III. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

A. Metropolitan Council

As the lead participant in the 3C transportation planning process, the Metropolitan Council actively involves the public in its decision-making process at several levels.

Background

The Minnesota State Legislature originally created the Metropolitan Council as a regional planning agency to oversee growth and development in the metropolitan area. In recent years, the Legislature added responsibilities to operate the regional bus system, collect and treat wastewater, and provide affordable housing for low and moderate income families. The Legislature recognized the need for a forum where citizens could participate in the discussion and decisions of regional issues that shape the lives of citizens and the quality of life in the Twin Cities area. The Council recognizes this purpose as central to its legislative charge. In 2007, the Council adopted the Public Participation Plan for transportation planning.

As the lead participant in the 3-C transportation planning process, the Metropolitan Council actively involves the public in its decision-making process at several levels. The Council's Communications Office acts as a liaison between the Council and citizens groups and local officials, interacting with the public on a daily basis and supporting the Council's community outreach and public hearing process. The Council has established a broad citizen participation and public education effort to build awareness and understanding of regional issues and to build consensus for solving regional issues. The full Public Participation Plan is available to the public.

The Metropolitan Council reaffirms its commitment to pro-active, effective public participation process, using a variety of internal and external strategies including newsletters, telephone comment lines, email, website, on-line forum, media relations, community meetings, public hearings, and public information campaigns.

Citizen Involvement

Public participation activities obtain information and identify public sentiment. They help the Council build public support and trust in the region. Although the goal is always better decisions, the level of public influence on a decision and the tools used to inform and involve the public may vary. For some Council initiatives, appropriate participation may be limited to public information. Other initiatives and key decisions may require much more involvement.

Public participation is designed to involve "stakeholders" with meaningful public access to key decisions. Stakeholders may be people, groups or organizations who care about or might be affected by a Council action. Because the Council recognizes that stakeholder participation improves its decisions, it provides resources and guidance to encourage public comments and involvement.

Regional Stakeholder Involvement

The Council's advisory bodies involve regional stakeholders in its transportation planning and programming activities. They include the Transportation Advisory Board which advises the Council on transportation matters involving the regional highway, public transit and airport systems; helps the Council, Mn/DOT, counties and cities carry out transportation planning and programming for the region as designated in state and federal laws; participates in drafting the

Transportation Policy Plan (TPP), and reviews and adopts the region's three-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

The TAB is supported by the Technical Advisory Committee made up of staff from the Council, MnDOT, cities and counties and other agencies represented on the TAB. Other advisory bodies include the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC) that advises the Council on short- and long-range management plans and policies for special transportation services; and the Transit Providers Advisory Committee (TPAC) that advises the Council on issues related to contracted transit services and reviews and participates in the Council's referral process for the TPP and TIP. Its members represent transportation providers, including private transportation providers.

In addition to involving local governments in regional transportation planning processes through its advisory bodies, the Council actively seeks participation by local governments informally and early in its decision-making process. Council and staff members obtain input from local governments through a variety of venues through face-to-face meetings and interviews; discussion, educational and outreach meetings; attendance at local government meetings; the review process for local comprehensive plans and environmental assessment and impact documents; technical assistance to local governments.

Underrepresented Groups

The Council may recruit representatives of groups traditionally underrepresented in regional policy making and provide enhanced participation opportunities to encourage people who belong to under-represented groups to share their unique perspectives, comments and suggestions. The Public Affairs Department and Office of Diversity monitor emerging practices and techniques, and provide consultation to project staff to support effective participation methods.

To ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Council's Public Meeting Notices and comment opportunities include TTY information and provide multiple input methods. Public meetings are held at ADA-accessible locations, and notices and information are published on the Council's ADA-compliant website. Extended public hearing notices in the Council's Metro Meetings bulletins and on its Meetings and Events webpage provide needed planning time for people who rely on public transit, Metro Mobility or special arrangements to get to Council events.

Public Notices

The Council informs stakeholders about its public participation meetings and opportunities, as well as involvement milestones and outcomes. The Council's Public Affairs Department publishes public comment opportunities at the Council's ADA-compliant website (www.metrocouncil.org), in the *State Register*, and in designated newspapers, as well as on the Council's official calendar. The Council provides legal notices, beginning 30 to 45 days prior to public hearings, to inform members of the general public and other stakeholders about opportunities to provide formal public comments.

The Council values the efforts stakeholders make to participate in its regional decisions. To inform participants how their ideas, comments and suggestions influence key regional decisions, the Council considers summaries of public comments at regular business meetings. The Council's designated project managers prepare and present the summaries following each major initiative or project participation process, and provide copies to the Public Affairs Department for publication on the Council's ADA-compliant website and distribution through the Data Center.

Whenever reasonably possible, the Council holds its public meetings at times and places convenient to its stakeholders.

Formal Public Meetings

The Council accepts testimony from stakeholders and the general public in multiple formats, including testimony, postal mail, email, voice mail, fax, and on forms provided for written or website comments.

Business and committee meetings are always open to the public as required by Minnesota's Open Meeting Law and allow the Council's stakeholders to provide public comments and observe the way it conducts its business. Public Hearings provide formal public input on issues and business of regional interest.

Education and Outreach Meetings

The Council implements a variety of face-to-face and interactive opportunities to ensure meaningful public participation and promote full understanding of Council initiatives. Education and outreach meetings provide information and may solicit input. These meetings include forums, workshops, special events highlighting an issue or initiative, open houses, and conferences.

Media Relations

The Council's Public Affairs Department includes staff experienced in news reporting and media relations. It issues news releases, works with reporters to generate stories about Council activities, responds to reporter inquiries, provides briefings, holds press conferences and prepares editorial commentaries. Media activities inform and interest members of the media and public about Council issues, events and opportunities for public participation.

Websites

The Council's ADA-compliant websites provide interactive content and static documents, accessed at a rate of more than 200,000 visits per month. The website includes contact information and venues for public comment, and advertises openings on the Council's advisory bodies. It provides information about the Council's planning and decision-making processes, as well as copies of its draft and adopted plans and policies, maps, displays, and meeting agendas. The homepage highlights public events, and "Meeting and Events" pages provide calendars of the public hearings, meetings and events held by the Metropolitan Council, the Metropolitan Airports Commission and the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission. The Council's website provides information about federally funded projects, grant opportunities, Council programs and affordable housing. Metro Mobility, the Council's transportation provider for people with disabilities, provides an online handbook and enrollment form, and the Council's Metro Transit site provides transit schedules, dynamic trip planning and fare information online.

Data Center

The Council Data Center publishes official public notices of the Council's hearings and public participation meetings. Data Center staff members respond to 12,000 public contacts annually, including requests for printed documents, inquiries about the status of projects, and public comments received at the data center during the public participation process. The Data Center staff assists at events managed by the Public Affairs Department and maintains several database lists. The Data Center distributes Council documents, notices and newsletters via email, messenger and traditional mail service.

Print materials, electronic publications and presentations

The Council distributes several periodicals to stakeholders and interested parties. These include Metro Meetings which provides information about meetings and public events held by the Council, its committees and subcommittees; Directions Newsletter which provides articles to inform the public and stakeholders about current regional planning, program and service issues; promotes public use of best management practices related to Council responsibilities; Metro Digest which summarizes Council and Commission activities, as well as committee and commission vacancies; Take Out which is provided for user pickup monthly on all regional buses and trains, discusses meetings and decisions affecting the region's transit system; the Annual Report which discusses major Council accomplishments and initiatives; and Metro Mobility Monitor which discusses policy and service matters affecting its clients.

B. Minnesota Department of Transportation

Mn/DOT conducts a variety of public meetings to present information to the public and to provide a forum for public participation. This is in keeping with Mn/DOT's policy to actively seek the early and continuing participation of all interested and/or affected members of the public in all phases of transportation decision making. Opportunities for public participation are publicized through the media, website and direct contacts. Types of opportunities include public information meetings, public hearings, open houses, task force meetings and neighborhood meetings.

Staff members from Mn/DOT make personal appearances before various public groups presenting information about the Department and its activities. These staff members may be from either the central office or district offices, depending on the nature of the information desired and the geographic location.

In addition, Mn/DOT issues news releases to the media statewide, or in localized geographical areas as needed. Mn/DOT coordinates information activities with its district offices (seven in Greater Minnesota and the Metro District in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area). Staff from Mn/DOT prepare and disseminate a variety of special brochures and publications and issue radio and television announcements to assist in communicating special subject information to the public.

C. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

The MPCA Citizens Board provides the opportunity for citizen participation through regular monthly and special meetings and formal public hearings. Citizens can also request that a particular item be considered by the Board. The MPCA staff also answers citizens' inquiries, holds public information meetings, organizes technical advisory committees, publishes notices of intent to solicit public opinion on rules, publishes public notices and solicits formal comment on projects, responds to requests, speaks to interested parties, and responds to reporters' and citizens' inquiries. Communication officers are expected to provide primary contact with the news media regarding pollution control activities, as well as provide other technical and public information duties.

D. Counties and Municipalities

Cities and counties also are directly involved in citizen participation efforts for a variety of projects and studies that are included in this UPWP. The best example of such activities relates to corridor studies. While such studies carry out their individual efforts to ensure citizen participation, the cities and counties involved act as conduits for their citizens' input. These activities may be fostered by the city planning commissions or subcommittees of county boards.

D. SAFETEA-LU FACTORS CONSIDERED BY PROGRAM ELEMENT

On August 10, 2005, Congress signed in law PL 109-50, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act – A Legacy for Users, which is referred to as SAFETEA-LU. This law requires, under Section 6001 (h), that plans and programs address the eight elements listed below.

- 1) In general. – The metropolitan transportation planning process for a metropolitan area under this section shall provide for consideration of projects and strategies that will –
 - A. Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity and efficiency;
 - B. Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users;
 - C. Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users;
 - D. Increase the accessibility and mobility of people and for freight;
 - E. Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns;
 - F. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight;
 - G. Promote efficient system management and operation; and
 - H. Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.

The factors that apply to each element of the Unified Planning Work Program are listed below.

SAFETEA-LU FACTORS	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Transportation Planning Process			X			X		
TIP Development and Management	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Comprehensive and Surface Transportation Planning	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Research and Travel Forecasting	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Operations and Management	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Aviation Transportation Planning	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

