

Transportation Advisory Board

of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

TO: Transportation Advisory Board
FROM: Kevin Roggenbuck, Transportation Coordinator
DATE: October 12, 2011
RE: Transportation Planning Handbook.

On August 17, the Transportation Advisory Board approved a revised process to update the region's Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) to involve the full TAB more in reviewing/commenting and making recommendations on the draft TPP, the public comments and the response to those public comments. The changes were initiated following the last update of the TPP in November 2010 and are supported by the Metropolitan Council.

The revised TPP Update process is intended to be part of the new Transportation Planning Handbook; the next generation Prospectus. The Prospectus is a dated but still valuable document that defines the roles and responsibilities of the agencies and other jurisdictions participating in the "3C" transportation planning process for the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Prospectus is no longer one of the federally required documents and was replaced by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the Metropolitan Council and MnDOT in 2008.

While it satisfied the FHWA requirements to refresh the region's commitment to the "3C" process, it lacked detail in describing the different roles and responsibilities of the regions planning partners – the "when and how" they are involved. The Prospectus is still used as the guiding document.

The direction from the TAB is to clarify the role of TAB, TAC and all regional partners in the "3C" regional planning and programming process and related processes in the Handbook. This includes revising the processes described in the Prospectus, adding processes that should be included and making the Handbook a resource for the general public as well as an operating manual for those involved in the "3C" process. The Handbook will be a website-oriented document linking the high level discussion to detailed descriptions of how a particular planning or programming process is carried out, which agencies are involved, what is their input to the process and when does it occur. It may also include other information and direction that is helpful to citizens in understanding what an MPO does not do and provide some guidance to the reader.

A copy of the draft Transportation Planning Handbook is included in your mailing.