



REGIONAL SOLICITATION EVALUATION

Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee
September 24, 2012

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What is the Regional Solicitation?

- Regional process for allocating federal funds
- Created and run by the TAB and TAC
- Approximately \$175 million allocated bi-annually for roadway, transit, bridge and bicycle/pedestrian projects
- Competitive and data-driven



Why is an evaluation needed?

- Process established in 1993 after ISTEA: good opportunity for review
- Assure alignment with regional priorities and policies
- Changing statewide and regional investment focus toward preservation
- MAP-21 has combined programs and changed project eligibility

Scope of Work Overview

- Purpose is to assess:
 - (a) alignment with regional investment priorities
 - (b) effectiveness in implementing regional policies and
 - (c) Efficiency of the application process itself
- Conduct surveys and workshops with regional stakeholders and policy-makers
- Facilitated process to reach consensus on changes
- Task 1 - Finalize a work plan with the consultant

Scope of Work: Task 2 – History of the Regional Solicitation

- Summarize results of last five solicitations; project inventory
- Summary of key policy changes
- Summary of changes in solicitation criteria
- Detailed description of the Regional Solicitation process from start to finish

Scope of Work: Task 3 – Survey Stakeholders

- Opinions and perceptions from policy-makers, applicants, project scorers and technical/professional staff
- Two questions: Is the process
 - (a) Aligned with regional policies and priorities?
 - (b) Efficient and effective for applicants, scorers and policy-makers?

Scope of Work: Task 4 – Consistency with Regional Policies and Priorities

- Policy-maker workshop to discuss results of stakeholder survey
- Outcome: High-level principles to improve alignment with regional policies and investment priorities



Scope of Work: Task 5 – Strengths and Weaknesses

- Detailed assessment of each process step
- Review and compare processes used by other MPOs
- Identify strengths and weaknesses
- Identify opportunities for improving efficiency and effectiveness

Scope of Work: Task 6 – Develop Recommendations

- High level policy principles that influence
 - (a) Project types
 - (b) Evaluation criteria
- Ways to make the process more efficient and manageable
- Include changes required by MAP-21
- Incorporate findings from other studies

Study Management

- Policy Steering Committee: TAB Executive Committee and MC Transportation Committee Chair
- Project Management Team: TAB Coordinator, Council and MnDOT staff, local government rep. and consultant
- Input from TAB and its technical committees and the Transportation Committee
- Aggressive 6 month schedule

Regional Solicitation Evaluation

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