

T Transportation Committee
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of April 8, 2009

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date Prepared: March 24, 2009

Subject: 2009 Regional Solicitation

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to adopt the 2009 Regional Solicitation Package, including the schedule of events, for release to the public for solicitation of project applications.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, and Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Liaison, presented this item to the committee and covered the changes from the 2007 solicitation, procedure, schedule of actions/meetings. Meeks asked and received a further description of the new category of “streetscape and pedestrian enhancements”.

McFarlin requested information on how the regional solicitation projects will interconnect with ARRA funds, decisions made and upcoming. Ohrn explained.

Motion by McFarlin, seconded by Leppik, and passed unanimously.

Transportation Committee

Business Item

Item: 2009-106

Meeting date: March 23, 2009

Council Meeting April 8, 2009

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	March 18, 2009
Subject:	2009 Regional Solicitation
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	TAB Action
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Connie Kozlak (651-602-1720), Carl Ohrn (651-602-1719), James Andrew (651-602-1721)
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to adopt the 2009 Regional Solicitation Package, including the schedule of events, for release to the public for solicitation of project applications.

Background

The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) and Metropolitan Council jointly adopt a solicitation process with policies and criteria every two years to allocate Federal Surface Transportation (STP), Enhancement (TE), Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) and Bridge Improvement and Replacement (BIR) Funds. Over the past year, the TAC and TAB have revised the solicitation package to address some issues raised by applicants and staff during the previous solicitation and to better reflect regional policy.

On February 4, 2009 the TAB and TAC hosted a public meeting on the draft 2009 Regional Solicitation criteria and process. Public comments received by February 12, 2009 were considered by the TAB prior to finalizing the package. After Council approval, a notice will be sent out on April 10, 2009 that the solicitation package is available on the Council website.

Rationale

The Metropolitan Council and Transportation Advisory Board jointly comprise the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the seven-county area. A primary responsibility of the MPO is to distribute federal formula funding. The region has relied on this competitive process to select projects for the receipt of federal transportation funding for many years.

Funding

Projects selected through the 2009 Solicitation will be programmed for funding in the Transportation Improvement Program for 2013 and 2014.