

Transportation Advisory Board

of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

August 22, 2012

Bill Hargis
Chair

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Karl Drotning - H

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Metropolitan Council

Scott McBride
Minnesota DOT

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M.A.C.

David Thornton
M.P.C.A.

Modal Representatives

Aaron Isaacs
Transit

David Van Hattum
Transit

Ron Have
Freight

Ethan Fawley
Non-motorized

Mark Riverblood
Parks Supervisor
7550 Sunwood Drive NW
Ramsey, Minnesota 55303

Mr. Riverblood:

Thank you for submitting transportation project proposals in the 2011 regional solicitation process. A total of 134 applications in the Surface Transportation Program-Urban Guarantee, Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program, the Transportation Enhancement Program and the Bridge Improvement Replacement program met the qualifying criteria. Teams of transportation professionals from around the region scored the responses to the weighted criteria and ranked the projects by their total score. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) developed two funding options from the ranked project lists and forwarded them to the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) for consideration.

On Wednesday, June 20, the TAB completed its review and discussion of the funding options. The regional solicitation is a very competitive process and the TAB awarded funds to 58 projects. The TAB is pleased to inform you that the city of Ramsey has been awarded Transportation Enhancement funds for the Ramsey section of the Mississippi River Trail.

A complete list of all the projects selected to receive federal funds in these four categories can be found on the Metropolitan Council's website at:

<http://www.metrocouncil.org/planning/transportation/regsolicit.htm>

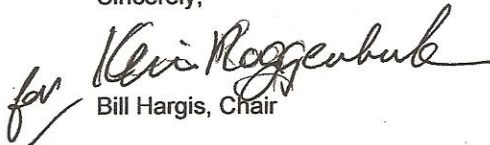
The selected projects will be programmed in the region's 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the State TIP through an amendment that will be prepared later this year. The recently-passed federal transportation funding Act, MAP-21, combines many federal programs and changes the amount of funds available to the TAB in the solicitation process. The impacts of MAP-21 are not fully understood yet and the TIP amendment process will begin after the impacts to the current program of projects are better understood. The TAB will make every effort to program selected projects in the years when they were requested by the project sponsor. Even though the federal funds awarded to your projects cannot be used until the amendment has been approved by the US Dept. of Transportation, the TAB has officially selected these projects and makes a commitment to include them in the TIP as long as they are still federally eligible. The TAB will notify you when we begin the amendment process and when we receive notice that the amendment has been approved. **In the meantime, you should contact the MnDOT Metro State Aid Office to arrange a meeting and begin developing your project.**

When programmed into the TIP, the federal and match amounts for construction projects will be adjusted for anticipated inflation in construction materials such as bituminous, concrete, structural steel, etc...to the program year. Projects programmed in 2015 will receive an additional 10% adjustment and projects programmed in 2016 will receive an **additional 12% adjustment.** The federal amount that appears in the TIP and State TIP is a fixed cost cap that will not be adjusted in future Programs.

In addition, the TAB will consider changing its sunset date policy as it applies to the projects awarded funds in the 2011 regional solicitation. If the TAB does change its sunset date policy, the Board will notify all affected project sponsors. **The TAB strongly encourages project sponsors to make every effort to get their projects ready for letting in the program year.**

If you have any questions, please contact TAB Coordinator Kevin Roggenbuck at 651-602-1728 or kevin.roggenbuck@metc.state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

for 
Bill Hargis, Chair