

ACTION TRANSMITTAL 2016-05

DATE: December 30, 2015
TO: Technical Advisory Committee
FROM: TAC Funding and Programming Committee
PREPARED BY: Joe Barbeau, Senior Planner (651-602-1705)
 Steve Peterson, Planning Analyst (651-602-1819)
 Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator (651-602-1717)
SUBJECT: 2016 Regional Solicitation: Funding Category Minimum and Maximum Funding Amounts.
REQUESTED ACTION: Recommend approval of minimum and maximum funding amounts for the 2016 regional solicitation.
RECOMMENDED MOTIONS: That TAC recommends to TAB approval of the minimum and maximum funding amounts, shown in Table 1, for the 2016 regional solicitation.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: The Regional Solicitation for federal transportation projects is part of the Metropolitan Council’s federally-required continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation planning process for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

Metropolitan Council staff discussed the minimum and maximum federal funding amounts for the 2016 Regional Solicitation, by application category, with the Funding & Programming Committee at its October meeting. The proposed amounts are shown in the below table, with changes from the 2014 Regional Solicitation indicated via strikethroughs and underlines.

Table 1.

Modal Categories	Modal Application Categories	Minimum Federal Award	Maximum Federal Award
Roadways Including Multimodal Elements	Roadway Expansion	\$1,000,000	\$7,000,000
	Roadway Reconstruction/ Modernization	\$1,000,000	\$7,000,000
	Roadway System Management	\$250,000	\$7,000,000
	Bridge Rehabilitation/ Replacement	\$1,000,000	\$7,000,000
Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities	Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities	\$125,000 <u>\$250,000</u>	\$5,500,000 <u>\$3,500,000</u>
	Pedestrian Facilities	\$125,000 <u>\$250,000</u>	\$1,000,000
	Safe Routes to School	\$125,000 <u>\$150,000</u>	\$1,000,000
Transit and TDM Projects	Transit Expansion	\$500,000	\$7,000,000
	Travel Demand Management (TDM)	\$75,000	\$300,000
	Transit System Modernization	\$100,000	\$7,000,000

Committee members felt that the maximum federal amount for Multiuse Trails and Bicycle facilities should be reduced from \$5.5 million to \$3.5 million in order to facilitate the funding of more projects. Previous Regional Solicitations had a \$1 million maximum for Transportation Enhancements, though STP funds could be used in larger amounts. The \$5.5 million maximum was based on the previous maximum for STP.

Staff suggested the increased minimum amounts for the three Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities applications in order to avoid funding projects that are too costly from a federal compliance perspective.

RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY: TAB develops and issues a Regional Solicitation for federal funding.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND ACTION: There was committee discussion on further reducing the Multiuse Trails and Bicycle Facilities maximum, but the decision was to leave it at the recommended \$3.5 million as discussed at previous F&P and TAC meetings. This initial recommendation to lower the maximum award from \$5.5 million to \$3.5 million was an attempt to fund a higher number of projects in this application category. In addition, based on past project estimates, the committee concluded that a \$3.5 million award (plus the local share) would likely be enough money to fund even large trail grade-separation projects.

A motion was made that TAC Funding & Programming recommend to TAC approval of the minimum and maximum funding amounts, shown in Table 1, for the 2016 regional solicitation. The motion passed unanimously.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
TAC Funding & Programming	Review & Recommend	December 17, 2015
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Approve	