

Action Transmittal

Transportation Advisory Board



Committee meeting date: February 26, 2026

Date: February 19, 2026

Action Transmittal: 2026-19

Release of 2026 Regional Solicitation, Active Transportation Solicitation, and Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Solicitations

To: TAC Funding & Programming Committee

Prepared by: Joe Barbeau, Planning Analyst, 651-602-1705
Joe Widing, Senior Planner, 651-602-1822
Bethany Brand-Sargent, Manager, 651-602-1725
Steve Peterson, Senior Manager, 651-602-1819

Requested action

Release of the 2026 Regional Solicitation, Active Transportation Solicitation, and Highway Safety Improvement (HSIP) Solicitations.

Recommended motion

Recommend that the Technical Advisory Committee recommend approval of the release of the 2026 Regional Solicitation, Active Transportation Solicitation, and Highway Safety Improvement (HSIP) Solicitations, including the following changes resulting from the public comment period.

- Change the crash years used in the Regional Solicitation safety applications and HSIP applications from 2020-2024 to 2021-2025.
- Change Active Transportation's Complete Streets scoring criterion to add "Agencies or organizations without roadway ownership or jurisdiction may include the community's local ordinance or policy where the project is located and describe how the project would support advancing complete streets in this community."
- Change the Access to Key Destinations scoring criterion in Active Transportation's Local Bicycle Facilities application and Regional Solicitation's Regional Bicycle Facilities application to add the following language: "Applicants may identify additional destinations up to 1 mile from the project location but will need to demonstrate that these destinations have a continuous bicycle facility connection that provides safe access from the project location. These destinations must be clearly marked outside of the one-half mile buffer."

Background and purpose

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. As it did in 2014, the Council embarked on a Regional Solicitation redesign, called the Regional Solicitation Evaluation, leading into the 2026 Regional Solicitation. Approximately \$240 million is expected to be available for fiscal years 2030 and 2031.

The Regional Solicitation Evaluation also developed the Active Transportation Solicitation after the Minnesota Legislature dedicated a portion of the regional sales tax to active transportation projects. Approximately \$50 million is expected to be available from this solicitation.

Simultaneous to the release of the Regional Solicitation and Active Transportation Solicitation is release of the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) solicitation. HSIP is designed to achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and serious injuries on all public roads, including nonstate-owned public roads and roads on tribal lands. MnDOT conducts the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) solicitation, and the proposed projects are evaluated by a selection committee comprised of transportation professionals. With guidance from its technical committees and a recommendation from this selection committee, the TAB's role is to recommend the HSIP solicitation criteria and approve the selection of projects.

Following the Regional Solicitation Evaluation process, a draft of all three solicitations was subsequently released for public review. The attached materials include applications, introduction, forms, and qualifying requirements for all three solicitations along with a public comments report.

Relationship to regional policy

TAB develops and issues a Regional Solicitation for federal funding. The Minnesota Legislature dedicated a portion of the regional sales and use tax to active transportation projects, which support walking, biking, and rolling for transportation. TAB developed an Active Transportation Solicitation to help in project ranking and selection. These solicitations have been created through the Regional Solicitation Evaluation process, which updated the structure, criteria, and measures to reflect the newly adopted Imagine 2050 Regional Development Guide and 2050 Transportation Policy Plan. The region's Transportation Policy Plan includes transportation safety policies strategies, and the HSIP solicitation is consistent with that plan.

Staff analysis

A public comment period recently concluded and as a result, staff is proposing the following clarifications and updates to what was released for public comment by TAB at its January 21, 2026, meeting.

Regional Solicitation

- Change the crash years used in the Regional Solicitation safety applications from 2020-2024 to 2021-2025.
- Change the Access to Key Destinations scoring criterion in Regional Bicycle Facilities application to add the following language: "Applicants may identify additional destinations up to 1 mile from the project location but will need to demonstrate that these destinations have a continuous bicycle facility connection that provides safe access from the project location. These destinations must be clearly marked outside of the one-half mile buffer."

Active Transportation Solicitation

- Change Active Transportation's Complete Streets scoring criterion to add "Agencies or organizations without roadway ownership or jurisdiction may include the community's local ordinance or policy where the project is located and describe how the project would support advancing complete streets in this community."
- Change the Access to Key Destinations scoring criterion in the Local Bicycle Facilities application to add the following language: "Applicants may identify additional destinations up to 1 mile from the project location but will need to demonstrate that these destinations have a continuous bicycle facility connection that provides safe access from the project location. These destinations must be clearly marked outside of the one-half mile buffer."

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Solicitation

- Change the crash years used from 2020-2024 to 2021-2025.

Routing

To	Action Requested	Date Completed (Scheduled)
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review and recommend	<i>February 26, 2026</i>
Technical Advisory Committee	Review and recommend	<i>March 4, 2026</i>
Transportation Advisory Board	Review and recommend	<i>March 18, 2026</i>
Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee	Review and recommend	<i>March 23, 2026</i>
Metropolitan Council	Review and adopt	<i>April 8, 2026</i>

