

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee meeting date: April 13, 2026

For the Metropolitan Council: April 22, 2026

Business Item: 2026-67

2050 Transportation Policy Plan Administrative Modification for Environmental Mitigation and Performance Trends

District(s), member(s):	All
Policy/legal reference:	Minn. Stat. 473.146, 23 U.S.C. § 134, and 49 U.S.C. § 5303
Staff prepared/presented:	Charles Carlson, Executive Director, MTS Amy Vennewitz, Director, Metropolitan Transportation Planning Cole Hiniker, Senior Manager, Multimodal Planning Dennis Farmer, Manager, Research and Modeling Dave Burns, Planning Analysis Cameron Kolbeck, Intern
Division/department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt the attached administrative modification to the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) to:

- Add an environmental assessment and mitigation resources section
- Update the federal performance measures and targets discussion to include trend data

Background

The 2050 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) was adopted as part of the Imagine 2050 action in February 2025. During the development of the plan, the Metropolitan Council was undergoing a regular certification review process from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) processes, as required under federal rules. This certification review happens every four years and results in a report that includes a summary of the review and findings for commendations, recommendations, and corrective actions for the MPO process. The review largely took place in late 2024, with the summary report finalized in March 2025.

One of the major topics in the certification review is the long-range transportation plan, known as the 2050 TPP in this region. FHWA and FTA staff review the plan for all the required elements under federal law and guidance. Two recommendations were made on the 2050 TPP as a result of the certification review:

- “Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Environmental Mitigation: The Federal Review Team recommends an administrative modification to the 2050 TPP to add the required environmental mitigation narrative.
- Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Performance Measures: The Federal Review Team recommends an administrative modification to the 2050 TPP to update the federal performance measures section. The update should ensure that all federally required

performance measures include required baseline data, target data, and historical trend progress toward achieving targets.”

The review report specifically recommends an administrative modification of the 2050 TPP because these kinds of changes are administrative in nature, oriented toward technical assistance and information sharing. Administrative modifications differ from formal amendments in that they do not impact the fiscal plan or project list and, thus, do not require public review and comment. They are only required to be adopted by the MPO board.

In response, Metropolitan Transportation Services planning staff prepared materials (attached) and reviewed them with FHWA staff to ensure they meet the intent of the recommendations.

Environmental Mitigation

A discussion of environmental assessment and mitigation was produced to describe the general environmental review process for transportation investments in the region, both under federal and state law. The document was prepared to provide a basic overview of environmental review processes including key topics, resources, and mitigation expectations.

Performance Measures

The federal performance measures section of the Performance Outcomes chapter was expanded to include historical trend and baseline data, upon which federal performance measure targets were set.

Rationale

The Metropolitan Council undergoes a federal certification review every four years resulting in a certification review report that includes a summary of the review and findings for commendations, recommendations, and corrective actions for the MPO process. Addressing the recommendations ensures that the Met Council is fully compliant with federal rules and guidelines allowing the region’s regional transportation planning process to continue and ensuring eligibility for federal transportation funding.

Thrive lens analysis

On Feb. 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Under the Thrive lens, this action primarily builds on the principles of accountability and collaboration. Accountability to our federal partners and collaboration ensures that our region maintains a continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative multimodal transportation planning process.

Funding

No funding is required for this action.

Small business inclusion

There are no direct impacts to small business contracting with the proposed action.

