Approve the Release of Regional Solicitation Funding Applications (2026-68)

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

April 13, 2026

What is the Regional Solicitation?

- The Regional Solicitation is a **competitive process** to award federal transportation funding to projects that **meet regional transportation needs**.
- Part of the Metropolitan Council's **federally required continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation planning process** for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.
- The 2024 funding cycle awarded $283 million to 76 projects across all 7 counties.

Regional Solicitation Evaluation

Comprehensive evaluation to align the project selection process with Imagine 2050 and the 2050 Transportation Policy Plan

Imagine 2050 Goals

Equitable & inclusive communities

Healthy & safe communities

Dynamic & resilient region

Leadership in addressing climate change

Natural systems protection & restoration

Continuous Engagement Process

Policymaker Workshop

- 44 policymakers including Metropolitan Council members

Policymaker Working Group

- 10 participants (including 4 Metropolitan Council members), 14 meetings

Technical Steering Committee

- 19 members (technical staff), 10 meetings

Active Transportation Working Group

- 18 members (policymakers and technical staff), 7 meetings

Special Interest Working Groups

- 101 participants (City, County, State agency staff, Transit, others), 7 topically focused working groups during April - June 2025

Other Activities

- 25 stakeholder listening sessions, updates to the Transportation Committee, public engagement, and a formal public comment period

What's Changing for 2026?

Revised Structure & Categories

Simplified & Focused Applications

Community Considerations

Funding Targets & Maximum Awards

Regional Sales & Use Tax for Active Transportation

Key Changes for 2026

- **Arterial Bus Rapid Transit:** Increased maximum award to at least $30 million, which will fund the J Line in the 2026 funding cycle.
- **New and Reorganized Application Categories:** The 2026 cycle introduces two important new categories to advance regional goals and respond to emerging priorities, Safety and Environment, while preserving modal categories.
    - New Proactive and Reactive Safety categories
    - New EV Charging category (project selection in 2028).
    - New Active Transportation Planning application category.
- **Expanded Funding:** Incorporation of Regional Sales Tax Active Transportation Funding into the Regional Solicitation Structure.
- **Community Considerations:** Required for all applications and scores the applicant's understanding of the community, plans for future engagement, and how the project addresses community needs and delivers benefits.

2026 Solicitation Structure

Safety

Proactive Safety (All Modes):

Small Projects (HSIP)

Large Project (Reg Sol Federal Funding)

Reactive Safety (All Modes):

Small Projects (HSIP)

Large Projects (Reg Sol Federal Funding)

Dynamic and Resilient

Bicycle/Pedestrian

Federal Reg Sol Funding

Regional Bike Facilities

Reg Active Transportation Funding

Local Bike Facilities

Local Pedestrian Facilities

Active Transportation Planning

Transit

Transit Expansion (Including Microtransit)

Transit Customer Experience

Arterial Bus Rapid Transit

Roadway

Roadway Modernization

Congestion Management Strategies

New Interchanges

Bridge Connections

Environment

EV Charging Infrastructure

Travel Demand Management (TDM)

- *Base Funding*
- *Competitive*

Regional Data

Regional Modeling/Travel Behavior Inventory

The goal area, Our Region is Equitable and Inclusive, is being proposed as a scoring measure called Community Considerations.

Federal Funding Mins and Maxs

Funding Category	2024 Max	2026 Min	2026 Max
Safety			
Proactive/Reactive Safety	*N/A*	$2 million	$7 million
Bike/Ped (Federal only)			
Regional Bike Facilities	*$5.5 million*	$1 million	$5.5 million
Transit			
Transit Expansion	*$7 million*	$500,000	$10 million
Transit Customer Experience	*$7 million*	$500,000	$10 million
Roadway			
Congestion Management Strategies	*$10 million*	$1 million	$10 million
Interchange Projects	*$10 million*	$1 million	$20 million
Roadway Modernization	*$7 million*	$1 million	$10 million
Bridge Connections	*$7 million*	$1 million	$7 million
Environment			
EV Charging Infrastructure	*N/A*	$500,000	$2 million
TDM	*$500,000*	$100,000	$750,000

Other Category Mins and Maxs

Active Transportation

Funding Category	2024 Max	2026 Min	2026 Max
Bike/Ped (Regional Sales Tax only)			
Local Bike Facilities	*$5.5 million*	$150,000	$3.5 million
Local Pedestrian Facilities	*$2 million*	$150,000	$2.5 million
Active Transportation Planning	*N/A*	No minimum	$200,000

Non-Competitive

Funding Category	Expected Funding
Arterial Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)	$30 million*
TDM Base Funding	$5.8 million
Regional Travel Behavior Inventory	$1.5 million

**TAB can award additional funding to Arterial BRT only within the transit funding target.*

Public Comment Findings: Regional Solicitation

Public Engagement: Methods & Stats

GovDelivery Email	• 2,826 opens; 665 clicks
Public Comment Web Page	• 294 visits
Regional Solicitation web page	• 495 visits
Engage web page	• 372 views; 236 visits
Facebook	• 4,219 views; 22 engagements

22

Total Comments

160

Budget Surveys

Metropolitan Council

TAB Recommended Changes Based on the Public Comments

The Transportation Advisory Board recommended acceptance of the public comment report and approval of the release of the 2026 Regional Solicitation, Active Transportation Solicitation, and Highway Safety Improvement (HSIP) Solicitations, including the following general changes resulting from the public comment period.

- Technical corrections
- Edits to the Key Destinations scoring criterion
- Noted the need to consider the regional balance of Active Transportation investments

Next steps

Next steps:

1. **Met Council approval** – April 22, 2026
2. **Community Considerations trainings –** spring
3. **Fluxx software training –** spring
4. **Call for projects** – May 7 to June 25, pending new software testing
5. **Formation of scoring committees** – May and June (Community Considerations scorers being identified now)
6. **Scoring committees meetings** – Summer/Fall
7. **Project selection** – Late 2026/early 2027

Proposed Action

2026-68

That the Metropolitan Council accept the public comment report and approve the release of the 2026 Regional Solicitation, Active Transportation Solicitation, and Highway Safety Improvement (HSIP) Solicitations.

Thank You

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