

Regional Solicitation Business Item

2026-231 Revisions to Community Considerations and Process

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Nov 23, 2026

Community Considerations Update

8/26/26 USDOT Letter to Council

Based on a March request from Scott County, USDOT asked the Council to modify the Community Considerations criterion to align with current federal policy:

1. Eliminate race-based prioritization in scoring
2. Remove the environmental justice framework
3. Broaden the definition of “Community”

10/2/26 Council Letter to USDOT

The Council maintains it is compliant with all federal laws but recommended revisions to Community Considerations criterion to clarify the intent of the measures:

1. Scoring prompts have been removed along with references to the foundational policies
2. References to the environmental justice framework and historical harms have been removed
3. The definition of “Community” has been removed
4. Prohibition against illegal discrimination has been added and highlighted

The Community Considerations revisions apply to both the federal funds and the AT regional sales tax funds.

Recent USDOT Feedback

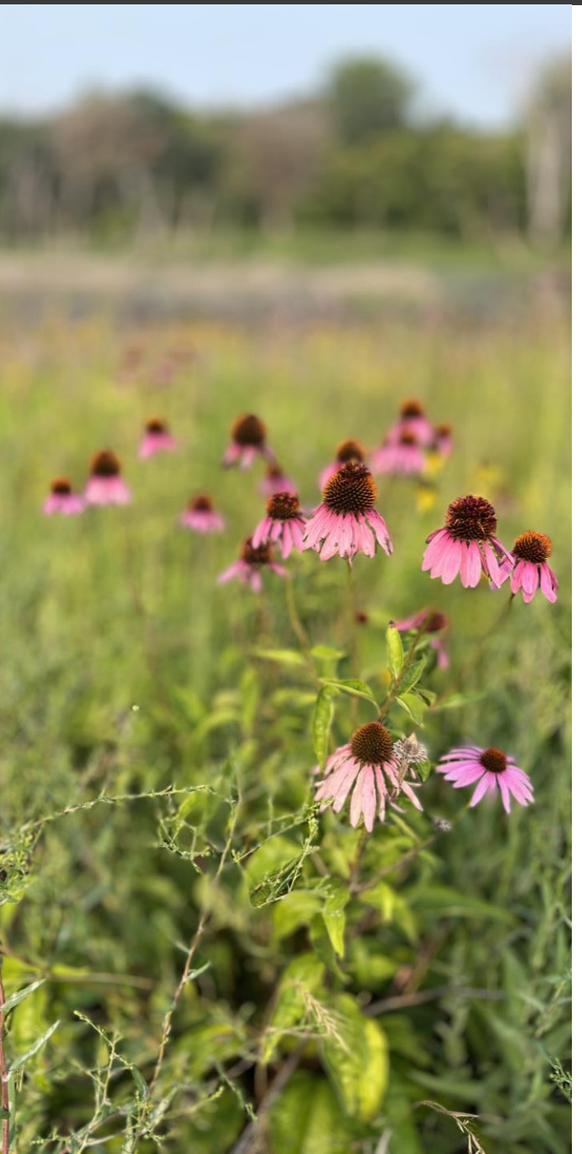


- 11/6/26 email from USDOT noted that the Regional Solicitation is now compliant with all federal laws after a review of the proposed revisions to Community Considerations sent by the Council on 10/2/26.
- USDOT recommended one minor text edit which is now incorporated into the revisions shown in Attachment 4.
- A formal letter from USDOT was received on 11/13/26 noting appreciation for the revisions (Attachment 5)

Recommended Motion

That the Metropolitan Council approve the TAB-adopted revisions to the Community Considerations measures and scoring guidance for all 2026 Regional Solicitation federal and active transportation application categories in response to the USDOT request for changes, rescore the existing responses, and complete the selection process.

Schedule with the TAB Rec (Clarify and Rescore Existing Responses)



1. Action on revised Community Considerations revisions and process:
   a) Nov 23rd Transportation Committee
   b) Dec 2nd Metropolitan Council
2. Training session with Community Considerations scorers on the revised description and scoring guidance (Dec)
3. Rescore all applications for Community Considerations measures (Dec/Jan)
4. Scoring appeals at TAC Funding & Programming for quantitative scores (Jan)
5. Finalize all scores at TAC Funding & Programming and start funding options discussions (Feb)
6. TAB approval on the Regional Solicitation program of projects (April/May)
7. Council concurrence with the TAB approval of projects (May/June)



Thank you

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

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