

13. 2050 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN CALL FOR PROJECTS CRITERIA

BACKGROUND

The 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is a long-range strategic plan that guides transportation policies, programs, and investment decisions across the region for the next 20 years and beyond. As a core document of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the RTP directs federal, state, and local funding toward transportation improvements that advance the region’s adopted vision. Federal statute requires the RTP to be updated every four (4) years. The current RTP was adopted in 2024 and will expire on November 1, 2027.

The development of the 2050 RTP includes a comprehensive planning process designed to meet federal requirements. Key elements of this process include public engagement; adoption of a regional vision, goals, objectives, and performance measures; analysis of existing and projected future conditions; a Call for Projects; development of a fiscally constrained project list; and completion of an air quality conformity analysis.

CURRENT SITUATION

Federal regulations require that all regionally significant transportation projects be included in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) project list, regardless of the funding source. Projects that seek future federal funding are added to this list through the “Call for Projects” process. In collaboration with the Regional Transportation Planning Subcommittee (RTPSC), the project team developed the Call for Projects criteria to screen and evaluate projects proposed by entities within the Metropolitan Planning Area.

The criteria was informed by the RTP vision, goals, and objectives, which were shaped through public outreach, and are aligned with the ten federally required transportation planning factors. The criteria are organized around the vision and goals endorsed by the RTPSC, which encompass Safety; Optimized Mobility and Economic Vitality; an Integrated and Innovative Network; and Resiliency and Adaptability. Applicants will respond to a series of questions designed to assess how well proposed projects address one or more of these adopted goals. Projects will be prioritized based on how much they meet one or more of the adopted goals and their regional significance. Projects will also be presented to the public for feedback during the next phase of public outreach in June. This feedback will also feed into the project evaluation process.

Applications will be submitted through an online portal. The Call for Projects application period will remain open for eight weeks, beginning in May and concluding in July. The application is structured to allow applicants to complete the form using readily available data and provides narrative spaces for additional information that will be used to prioritize projects and/or slot projects appropriately through the RTP horizon year.

ACTION REQUESTED

Information only.