

9. DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2024 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

BACKGROUND

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is a required document describing all anticipated planning activities for the Metropolitan Planning Organization; It includes a description of tasks and budgets for the Federal Fiscal Year (October 1 to September 30). The UPWP describes the regional transportation plans and programs carried out in the 8-county Metropolitan Planning Area:

- Development of all required planning products or activities (primarily the Regional Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, Congestion Management Process, etc.);
- Continuous and one-time planning activities related to safety, freight, transit, subregional areas, corridors, active transportation, air quality, data and modeling, and livable centers; and
- Special planning activities (e.g. Safe Streets and Roads for All, PROTECT resiliency planning, and development of grant-funded plan development.

The UPWP includes description of major planning activities, responsible parties, expected products, and a summary of the funding to be used. The UPWP includes five priority areas as described below:

- TASK I – Administration and Management; which are activities that provide administrative support to the transportation planning process for the region.
- TASK II - Data Development and Maintenance; which has the purpose to collect, update, model, and maintain basic data and tools for executing planning activities.
- TASK III - Short Range Planning; are efforts that focus on continued coordination and development of transit and travel demand management projects, maintenance of intelligent transportation systems, improvement of traffic safety in the region, the development of the Transportation Improvement Plan, sub-regional or county-level mobility studies, transit feasibility studies, and operations planning.
- TASK IV - Metropolitan Transportation Planning; activities include the development and maintenance of the Regional Transportation Plan, activities related to air quality planning, regional bicycle and pedestrian planning, and transportation performance management.
- TASK V - Special Studies; are ongoing planning activities relating to safety and congestion management, livable centers, air quality, resiliency, and one-time planning studies for corridors and individual projects.

CURRENT SITUATION

The 2024 UPWP needs to be completed, adopted, and initiated to start on October 1, 2023. Staff is proposing a one-year UPWP rather than the typical two-year. Multiple projects in the current 2022-2023 UPWP are still underway or will start in the next few months. Developing a one year UPWP will allow these projects to carry over into 2024 and facilitate better workload management for existing staff to complete them. Similarly, the new UPWP will only add a few new activities; primarily new grant-funded activities or new planning requirements from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Once

projects are underway and the MPO's staffing levels are restored, development of the 2025 UPWP will return to a two-year format. Staff also anticipates a significant number of new corridor- or project-level studies that will be identified as part of the Project Selection Process, and those will need to be included in the UPWP as they are identified.

ACTION REQUESTED

For Information and Discussion.