

MPC 5.d - Attachment 2.a: Regional Transportation Options Plan

Description of Request

Background

This agenda item is to consider programming funds to initiate work on a Regional Transportation Options Plan (RTOP). This request supplements the FY09-10 funding for transportation demand management--now known as Transportation Options—managed by point-2-point Solutions.

Transportation Options programs and initiatives have long played a significant role in the region's transportation system planning and implementation. In 1996, the MPO helped establish a regional TDM program, Commuter Solutions, which has developed as the region's primary source for information and programs regarding non-single occupancy travel options over the last 15 years. In 1997, the regional TDM Refinement Plan was completed, bolstering policy-level support in this area. In 2004, this Plan evolved into a chapter of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Since this time, p2p Solutions has grown in sophistication and importance to the region while limited State funding for this program leveled off and, recently, decreased. During the same time period, MPC has consistently supported the growth of TO programs by providing at least 10 percent of the annual STP-U funds.

More recently, a number of local efforts have coalesced with regional TO programming such as: the Case Statement for Active Transportation, the growing regional bike and pedestrian program, the Regional Transportation System Plan (RTSP) process, Smart Ways to School, and Lane Coalition for Healthy Active Youth (LCHAY) programs. These examples provide valuable, yet potentially overlapping services related to TO activities at p2p Solutions. Further, evolving requirements to address greenhouse gasses, land use integration, and least-cost planning all interact with the role of TO. Because there is a broadening role of TO-related programs, increasing local, state, and federal requirements, and because it has been over 10 years since fundamental TO project/program delivery has been reviewed it is time to develop a new regional plan.

Regional Transportation Options Plan

The development of the RTOP will assist the member agencies of the Central Lane MPO in identifying and assessing the most appropriate transportation strategies to reduce the occurrence of, and reliance on, single-occupancy automobile travel. Development of the RTOP is targeted to replace the 1997 TDM Refinement Plan and the existing TDM chapter during the next RTP update. Central objectives include; leveraging the many TO-related programs and services in the region to increase efficiency of program delivery across disciplines, identifying TO best practices, conducting cost/benefit analysis on TO strategies, and developing potential performance measures for these strategies. Finally, the regional TO policies will be reviewed.

The FY10-11 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) identifies development of a plan to address transportation demand management and transportation options in support of the RTP.

Approval of the proposed funding request will enable the region to initiate the RTOP process – specifically it will allow for completion of: the scoping; work plan development; creation of stakeholder groups; literature review for best practice; stakeholder interviews and focus groups; and draft Existing Conditions technical memorandum. Staff intends to submit a Transportation Growth Management (TGM) Program application for the remaining Plan development process in March 2010.

Public Input

The Central lane MPO Public Participation Plan recommends a 30-day public comment period prior to the approval of STP-U funding, as well as an MPC public hearing, notice to interested parties, and a web notice.

In compliance with this direction, notice will be distributed to the MPOs Interested Parties List, which contains over 600 transportation stakeholders, and posted to the MPO website www.thempo.org. A public comment period on the proposed funding will begin on Friday, February 5th and run until Monday, March 8th at 5:00 pm. A public hearing is included as part of this agenda item, scheduled for February 11, 2010.

Recommendation

The Transportation Planning Committee (TPC) reviewed the request for STP-U funding at their December 17, 2009 and January 28, 2010 meetings. TPC unanimously recommends that \$20,000 in STP-U funds be programmed to initiate development of the RTOP, pending the results of the public comment and MPC review. TPC also strongly supports p2p Solution's intended application for TGM funding for development of the RTOP, as well as inclusion of the plan's development and implementation in the pending p2p Solution's budget for FY10-11 and beyond.

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