



Memorandum

U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Subject: **ACTION:** Waiver of State Planning and Research funds Match for the *Mobility Analysis and System Transportation Efficiency Research* Pooled Fund Study

Date: June 6, 2024

From: Kenneth N. Petty II
Director, Office of Planning

In Reply
Refer to: HEPP-10

To: Emily Biondi
Associate Administrator for
Planning, Environment and Realty

The Office of Planning requests your approval to waive the matching requirement of State Planning and Research (SPR) Subpart A (Planning) funds in support of the Mobility Analysis and System Transportation Efficiency Research (MASTER) Transportation Pooled Fund (TPF) Study ([Solicitation #1607](#)).

Over the past several years, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has participated in a mobility analysis and research pooled-fund effort related to performance measures and tools for monitoring mobility conditions, in partnership with other participating State Departments of Transportation (State DOTs) and FHWA, and the Texas A&M Transportation Institute serving as Principal Investigator. This latest pooled-fund solicitation was posted on February 8, 2024 and expires on February 8, 2028. The study scope focuses on mobility and reliability performance measures, data, and issues, with new emphasis areas including emerging data sources, freight movement (e.g., throughput and productivity), arterial street mobility issues, system resilience, reliability performance measures, and addressing the agency challenges for IIJA/BIL requirements. The TPF's key tasks include:

- Task 1: Evaluate Mobility Datasets;
- Task 2: Develop Freight Measures for System Performance Evaluation;
- Task 3: Develop Performance Assessment and Evaluation Analytical Tools Budget;
- Task 4: Syntheses Development;
- Task 5: Support Sponsoring Agencies; and
- Task 6: Support Travel to Annual Meeting.

Among the key products to be developed via this TPF study are: (1) a methodology for calculating a freight commodity value using readily available data for individual roadway segments and (2) a performance and mobility assessment tool integrating a suite of measures that

include (but are not limited to) Federally-required system performance measures and other performance measures (e.g., delay, reliability and commodity cost).

Sponsoring organizations are requested to provide \$35,000 in FY 2025 and FY 2026. In addition to MnDOT, other participating State DOTs include the Florida Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Transportation, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, and Washington State Department of Transportation.

The Office of Planning reviewed the submission and concludes that it is in the best interest of the Federal-aid Highway Program to allow the use of SPR Subpart A funds without matching for this pooled-fund study in order to advance the state-of-the-practice in statewide and metropolitan transportation planning related to transportation performance management and performance-based planning and programming. Therefore, consistent with the provisions in 23 U.S.C. 505(d) and 23 CFR 420.119(d), we recommend your concurrence in this waiver of the SPR non-Federal match requirements.

I Concur:	<u>Emily Biondi</u>	<u>06/25/2024</u>
	Signature	Date

I DO NOT Concur:		
	Signature	Date

Attachments (2)

- 20231006 MASTER Research Project Summary.pdf
- MASTER waiver request.pdf