

Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

ACTION TRANSMITTAL

No. 2010-69

DATE: December 2, 2010
TO: Transportation Advisory Board
FROM: Technical Advisory Committee
SUBJECT: TIP Amendment Request for Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit: Section 5307 Downtown Minneapolis East-West Transit Spine
MOTION: That the TAB adopts an amendment to the 2011-2014 TIP to include Section 5307 funding for the Downtown Minneapolis East-West Transit Spine.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: After the successful implementation of the north-south spine of Marquette and 2nd Avenues in Downtown Minneapolis using Urban Partnership Agreement funding, Metro Transit conducted a study to implement similar improvements on an east-west spine. 7th Street and 8th Street were selected as the location of this east-west spine. Metro Transit will apply for \$2,560,000 in Section 5307 funding administered by the Federal Transit Administration to help complete this project. Access to these funds requires that they be identified in the STIP with a local funding match of 20%, which Metro Transit is providing (\$640,000). Metro Transit is taking advantage of the opportunity to complete this project in conjunction with a City of Minneapolis project to resurface 7th and 8th Street with federal funds available from the 35W Bridge Collapse. The transit upgrades that are part of this TIP amendment do not include this Minneapolis component of the project. This project includes new bus shelters, real time information signs, and curb extensions to improve conditions for transit passengers, pedestrians and local retailers.

Although it is not noted in the TIP amendment letter, the requested amendment is consistent with the Metropolitan Council Transportation Policy Plan scheduled to be adopted on December 8, 2010

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	November 18, 2010
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	December 1, 2020
TAB Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Adopt	
Metropolitan Council	Concurrence	



November 23, 2010

Tim Mayasich, Chair
 Technical Advisory Committee Chair
 Metropolitan Council
 230 East Fifth St.
 Mears Park Centre
 St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

**Re: Amendment to the Twin Cities 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 State Project #: Sect 5307 Twin Cities Met Council Downtown Mpls. East/West Transit Spine**

Dear Mr. Mayasich:

Please amend the 2011 – 2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include this project in 2011. This project is being submitted with the following information:

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION:

STATE FISCAL YEAR	ATP	DIST	ROUTE SYS	PROJECT NUMBER (S.P. #) (Fed # if available)	AGENCY	DESCRIPTION include location, description of all work, & city (if applicable)	MILES
2011	M	M	BB		Met Council - MT	Sect 5307 Twin Cities Met Council Downtown Mpls East-West Transit Spine	1 Mile

PROG	TYPE OF WORK	PROP FUND	TOTAL \$	FHWA Target	HPP \$	FTA 5307 \$	FHWA Target AC \$	HPP AC \$	TH \$	OTHER \$
B9	Bus Grant Capital Improvement	FTA	3,200,000			2,560,000				640,000 (Regional Transit Capital)

A service of the Metropolitan Council

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

1. Briefly describe why amendment is needed (e.g., project in previous STIP but not included; illustrative project and funds now available; discretionary funds received; inadvertently not included in STIP)

In 2009, the Met Council and the City of Minneapolis (City) implemented transit improvements along the north-south spine of Marquette and Second Avenues as identified in the “Access Minneapolis” transportation plan and administered through the Urban Partnership Agreement. These upgrades have been successful in improving transit capacity, reliability and speed. Related enhancements will likewise improve service along an “east-west spine” in downtown Minneapolis. A study conducted in 2010 identified 7th and 8th streets south as the best option for an east-west transit spine and this project now seeks to implement these transit improvements. The transit upgrades that are planned include new bus shelters, real time information signs, and curb extensions to improve conditions for transit passengers, pedestrians and local retailers.

For project efficiency and economics, the transit improvements sought, by adding this project to the TIP, will be completed in conjunction with a city project to resurface 7th and 8th Streets during the summer of 2011. Funding has already been awarded for the city resurfacing project and the resurfacing is a separate project that is not part of this TIP amendment. This TIP amendment only seeks funding for the transit-related improvements to 7th and 8th streets south.

The total East-West Transit Spine project is estimated at \$3.2 million. This funding will consist of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5307 funds (\$2,560,000) and Regional Transit Capital funds (\$640,000). The project was identified in Met Council’s 2010-2016 Capital Improvement Plan. FTA 5307 funds are “formula funds” allotted on an annual basis as determined by demographic and transit statistics. Access to FTA 5307 funds requires that a project be identified in the STIP and a local funding match of 20%. A TIP and subsequent STIP amendment are sought to enable Metro Transit to apply for these funds. Availability of Federal funds is anticipated during the second quarter, 2011.

2. How is Fiscal Constraint Maintained as required by 23 CFR 450.216 (check all that apply)?

- New Money-Section 5307 FTA funds _____ X
- Anticipated Advance Construction _____
- ATP or MPO or Mn/DOT Adjustment by deferral of other projects _____
- Earmark or HPP not affecting fiscal constraint _____
- Other** _____

AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY:

- Subject to conformity determination _____
- Exempt from regional level analysis* X
- Exempt from project level analysis** X
- Exempt by virtue of interagency consultation..... _____
- N/A (not in a nonattainment or maintenance area)..... _____

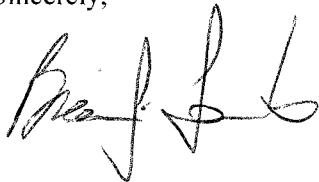
* Exemption Code #T7 Construction of small passenger shelters and information kiosks per Section 93.126 of the Conformity Rules

CONSISTENCY WITH MPO LONG RANGE PLAN:

This amendment is consistent with the Metropolitan Council Transportation Policy Plan, adopted on January 14, 2009, and with the FHWA/FTA conformity determination established on September 16, 2009.

We are requesting approval of this TIP amendment at this time. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Gustafson, Grant Manager, at 612-349-7603.

Sincerely,



Brian J. Lamb
General Manager
Metro Transit

cc: Sherry Narusiewicz, Metro Program Management
Cynthia Krumsieg, Metro Program Management
Tom Thorstenson, Director Engineering & Facilities
Maurice Roers, Manager Facilities Planning
Mary Gustafson, Grant Manager
Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services