

# Transportation Committee

**Business Item**

Item 2008-87

**Meeting date: March 24, 2008**

**Council meeting: April 9, 2008**

## **ADVISORY INFORMATION**

<b>Date:</b>	March 19, 2008
<b>Subject:</b>	2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment, Central Corridor
<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All Districts and Members
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	TAB Recommended Action (TAB Action 2008-08)
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS (651-602-1754) Amy Vennewitz, Dep. Dir. Finance & Planning MTS (651-602-1058) Carl Ohrn, Planning Analyst MTS (651-602-1719)
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Metropolitan Transportation Services

### **Proposed Action**

That the Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the 2008 New Starts funding appropriation E-2008-NWST-031 of \$10,192,000 for Central Corridor Light Rail pre-construction activities.

### **Background**

The Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2008 allocated \$10,192,000 to the Central Corridor Light Rail project for pre-construction activities. The Federal Transit Administration requires that the funds be included in the TIP and STIP. Amending the Current TIP will enable the pre-construction phase of the project to continue without interruption.

### **Rationale**

In order to use Federal Transportation funds, they must appear in the current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

### **Funding**

The Federal Funds are to be matched with \$2,548,000 of local funds.

### **Known Support / Opposition**

The Metropolitan Council and its Central Corridor Partners support this action. No opposition was made known during the TAC/TAB process.

# Transportation Advisory Board

of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

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Donn R. Wiski  
Chair

March 19, 2008

County Commissioners

Dennis Berg  
Anoka County  
Tom Workman  
Carver County  
Paul Krause  
Dakota County

Linda Koblick  
Hennepin County

Tony Bennett  
Ramsey County

Jon Ulrich  
Scott County

Myra Peterson  
Washington County

Municipal Officials

Dick Swanson  
Blaine City Council

Liz Workman  
Burnsville City Council

Julia Whalen  
Champlin City Council

James Hovland  
Mayor of Edina

Wendy Wulff  
Lakeville City Council

Robert Lillgren  
Minneapolis City Council

Sandy Hewitt  
Plymouth City Council

Russ Stark  
St. Paul City Council

William Hargis  
Mayor of Woodbury

Citizen Members - Precinct

Steven Schulte - A  
Vacant - B  
James Meyers - C  
Chuck Haik - D  
Bart Ward - E  
Donn Wiski - F  
Jill Smith - G  
Ken Johnson - H

Agency Representatives

Peggy Leppik  
Metropolitan Council

Khani Sahebjam  
Minnesota DOT

Vacant  
M.A.C.

David Thornton  
M.P.C.A.

Modal Representatives

Richard Mussell  
Transit

Glenn Olson  
Transit

Ron Have  
Freight

David Gepner  
Non-motorized

Peter Bell, Chair  
Metropolitan Council  
390 Robert Street No.  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Mr. Bell:

On March 19, 2008, the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) voted to amend the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the 2008 New Starts funding appropriation E-2008-NWST-031 of \$10,192,000 for Central Corridor Light Rail pre-construction activities.

The TAB forwards this action to the Metropolitan Council for concurrence along with additional information described in TAB action transmittal 2008-08.

Sincerely,



*cf* Donn Wiski, Chair  
Transportation Advisory Board

kjr/kjr

**Transportation Advisory Board**  
Of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

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**ACTION TRANSMITTAL**

No. 2008-08

**DATE:** March 19, 2008  
**TO:** Metropolitan Council  
**FROM:** Transportation Advisory Board  
**SUBJECT:** 2008-2011 TIP Amendment for Metropolitan Council Central Corridor Light Rail Transit.

**MOTION:** That the TAB amend the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the 2008 New Starts funding appropriation E-2008-NWST-031 of \$10,192,000 for Central Corridor Light Rail pre-construction activities.

**BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION:** The Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2008 allocated \$10,192,000 to the Central Corridor Light Rail project for pre-construction activities. The Federal Transit Administration requires that the funds be included in the TIP and STIP. Amending the current TIP will enable the pre-construction phase of the project to continue without interruption.

Additional background material is attached.

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**ROUTING**

<b>TO</b>	<b>ACTION REQUESTED</b>	<b>DATE COMPLETED</b>
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	February 21, 2008
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	March 5, 2008
TAB Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	March 19, 2008
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Adopt	March 19, 2008
Metropolitan Council	Concurrence	



February 12, 2008

Tim Mayasich, Chair  
 TAC Funding & Programming Committee  
 Metropolitan Council  
 390 Robert Street  
 St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Amendment to the 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Twin Cities, Minnesota Metropolitan Area

State Project Number: E-2008-NWST-031 (Federal appropriation number); New State Project

Dear Mr. Mayasich:

Please amend the Minnesota 2008 – 2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Twin Cities, Minnesota to include the 2008 New Starts funding appropriation (E-2008-NWST-031) of \$10,192,000. This appropriation was received to support the Central Corridor Light Rail Project for pre-construction activities in accordance with the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts guidance.

The project is being submitted with the following information:

**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION:**

STATE FISCAL YEAR	ATP	DIST	ROUTE SYSTEM	PROJECT NUMBER (S.P. #) (Fed # if available)	AGENCY	DESCRIPTION include location, description of all work, & city (if applicable)	MILES
2008	M	M	BB	New	Metropolitan Council	Central Corridor Light Rail Transit connecting Minneapolis and St. Paul.	11 miles

PROG	TYPE OF WORK	PROP FUNDS	TOTAL \$	FHWA \$	AC \$	FTA \$	TH \$	OTHER \$
TR	Transit	FTA 5309 New Starts	12,740,000			10,192,000		2,548,000

**PROJECT BACKGROUND (INCLUDE REASON WHY AMENDMENT IS BEING REQUESTED):**

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

The Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project is part of the approved 2030 Transportation Policy Plan. In March

A service of the Metropolitan Council

2007, Met Council submitted a request to members of the Minnesota congressional delegation. On January 28, 2008, the U.S. Department of Transportation, through its Federal Transit Administration, announced that the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 allocates an additional \$10,192,000 to the Central Corridor Light Rail.

The funds are intended to support the Central Corridor Light Rail Project's activities leading up to receipt of a full funding grant agreement from the FTA. The project is strongly supported by local agencies, policymakers, the business community and the general public. It provides a cost-effective solution to improving mobility in a major transportation corridor in the Twin Cities that has experienced increasing traffic congestion, major redevelopment and transit ridership growth.

FTA requires the funds be included in the 2008 TIP/STIP prior to the submission of the application to FTA which requires an amendment to the 2008 TIP/STIP. The availability of these funds in the current year will enable the project to continue its work during the preconstruction phase of the project.

**MAINTENANCE OF FISCAL CONSTRAINT (CHECK ONE)**

- New Money     X
- Anticipated Advance Construction
- ATP or MPO or Mn/DOT Adjustment by deferral of

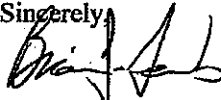
**AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY:**

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

\*Exempt Project Category # 02 Per Section 93.126 of the Conformity Rules  
(O2: Engineering to assess social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed action o alternatives to that action)

**CONSISTENCY WITH MPO LONG RANGE PLAN:** The Metropolitan Council's regional 2030 Transportation Policy Plan, adopted December 15, 2004, identifies the Central Corridor as a tier one priority for early implementation.

We are requesting approval of this TIP amendment at this time. If you have any questions, please call Mark Fuhrmann, Central Corridor LRT Project Director at 651-602-1942 or Susan Stensland, Grants Manager at 612-349-7063.

Sincerely,  
  
Brian J. Lamb  
General Manager  
Metro Transit

cc: Marv Lunceford, MN/DOT  
Sherry Narusiewicz, MN/DOT  
Susan Stensland, Metro Transit

Tom Weaver, Metropolitan Council  
Mark Fuhrmann, Metro Transit  
Arlene McCarthy, Metropolitan Council