

T Transportation Committee
Meeting date: August 24, 2009
Council meeting August 26, 2009

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: August 19, 2009
Subject: 2009-2012 TIP Amendment to add a rail crossing safety project in Cottage Grove (TAB action 2009-44)
District(s), Member(s): District 12 - Sherry Broecker
Policy/Legal Reference: TAB Action
Staff Prepared/Presented: Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS (651-602-1754)
Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Dir. Planning & Finance MTS (651-602-1058)
Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator (651-602-1728).
Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the rail crossing safety project at the crossing of Belden Boulevard and the Canadian Pacific railroad in Cottage Grove.

Background

The project would replace antiquated rail crossing signals with a modern, lighted gate system.

Rationale

The project must be in the current TIP in order to use the federal transportation funds allocated for its construction.

Funding

This project is funded with the Section 1103 (High Speed Rail) funds. It comes with its own obligation authority so the TIP's fiscal balance is maintained.

Known Support / Opposition

No opposition was presented at the TAB meeting.

MnDOT has requested that approval of this item be accelerated (i.e. same week) to meet federal deadlines.

T Transportation Committee
Meeting date: August 24, 2009
Council meeting September 9, 2009

ADVISORY INFORMATION

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District(s), Member(s): District 12 - Sherry Broecker
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Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Dir. Planning & Finance MTS (651-602-1058)
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Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the rail crossing safety project at the crossing of Belden Boulevard and the Canadian Pacific railroad in Cottage Grove.

Background

The \$350,000 project will replace antiquated rail crossing signals with a modern, lighted gate system.

Rationale

The project must be in the current TIP in order to use the federal transportation funds allocated for its construction.

Funding

This project is funded with the Section 1103 (High Speed Rail) funds. It comes with its own obligation authority so the TIP's fiscal balance is maintained.

Known Support / Opposition

No opposition was presented at the TAB meeting.

Transportation Advisory Board

of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

Donn R. Wiski
Chair

August 19, 2009

County Commissioners

Dennis Berg
Anoka County

Tom Workman
Carver County

Paul Krause
Dakota County

Mark Stenglein
Hennepin County

Tony Bennett
Ramsey County

Jon Ulrich
Scott County

Myra Peterson
Washington County

Municipal Officials

Dick Swanson
Blaine City Council

Bethany Tjornhom
Chanhassen City Council

Dan Gustafson
Burnsville City Council

Julia Whalen
Champlin City Council

James Hovland
Mayor of Edina

Becky Petryk
Hugo City Council

Robert Lilligren
Minneapolis City Council

Judy Johnson
Plymouth City Council

Russ Stark
St. Paul City Council

William Hargis
Mayor of Woodbury

Citizen Members - Precinct

Steven Schulte - A
Bill Guidera - 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

Scott McBride
Minnesota DOT

Sherry Stenerson
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 August 19, 2009, the Transportation Advisory Board voted to amend the 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include SP# 82-00138, replacement of antiquated rail crossing signals with modern lights and gates at Belden Boulevard in Cottage Grove, Washington County.

Due to time constraints, this TIP amendment was not reviewed and recommended by the TAC.

The TAB forwards this action to the Metropolitan Council for concurrence along with additional information contained in TAB action transmittal 2009-44.

Sincerely,


for Bill Hargis, Acting Chair

Transportation Advisory Board

Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

ACTION TRANSMITTAL

No. 2009-44

DATE: August 19, 2009
TO: Transportation Advisory Board
FROM: MN/DOT Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations
SUBJECT: 2009-2012 TIP Amendment to include SP# 82-00138, replace antiquated rail crossing at Canadian Pacific rail crossing Belden Boulevard, Cottage Grove.

MOTION: The TAB amended the 2009-2012 TIP to include SP# 82-00138, replace existing rail crossing signals with rail crossing lights and gate at Canadian Pacific rail crossing at Belden Boulevard in Cottage Grove.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: This amendment is needed to include this rail crossing safety project in the TIP and STIP in order to use the federal funds awarded for its construction. This project was awarded Section 1103 High Speed Rail (HSR) funds and is nearly ready for letting, but is not in the current TIP. These funds must be authorized for the project by the end of the federal fiscal year 2009 or the Federal Railroad Administration will retract them.

Additional background material is attached.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Adopt	August 19, 2009
Metropolitan Council	Concurrence	



Minnesota Department of Transportation

Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations

Mail Stop 470
 395 John Ireland Blvd.
 St. Paul, MN 55155-1899

Tel: 651/215-6330
 Fax: 651/366-3720

651/366-3651
 julie.carr@dot.state.mn.us

August 17, 2009

Karl Keel, Chair
 TAC Funding and Programming Committee
 Metropolitan Council
 390 Robert Street No.
 St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Re: Amendment to the 2009-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area
 State Project Number: 82-00138

Dear Mr. Keel:

Please amend the Minnesota 2009 – 2012 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to include the following new project in 2010 of the STIP. 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
2010	M		RR	82-00138	Mn/DOT	Replace existing flashing light railroad signals with gates (with flashing light railroad signals with gates) due to antiquated equipment at Belden St, Cottage Grove, Washington County.	

PROG	TYPE OF WORK	PROP FUND S	TOTAL \$	FHWA TARGET \$	HPP/EA RMARK \$	FTA \$	TH \$	OTHER \$
SR	RR X-ING Improvements	RRS	\$350,000	\$0	\$350,000 (High Speed Rail)	\$0	\$0	\$0

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

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

This amendment is needed to identify this rail project in the current STIP. Selection of projects using Section 1103 High Speed Rail (HSR) funds are done after the completion of the current STIP. These funds are anticipated to arrive in September 2009. The funding must be authorized by the end of FFY 2009 or the money will be retracted by FRA.

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

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

*High Speed Rail (HSR) Funding, Section 1103 – does not affect target funds

3. **AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY:**

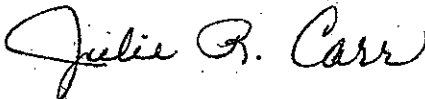
- Subject to conformity determination
- Exempt from regional level analysis* Yes
- Exempt from project level analysis* Yes
- Exempt by virtue of interagency consultation
- N/A (not in a nonattainment or maintenance area)

* Exemption codes identified on attached chart:
S-8 Railroad/highway crossing warning devices

CONSISTENCY WITH MPO LONG RANGE PLAN:

This amendment is consistent with the Metropolitan Council's Transportation policy Plan, adopted on December 14, 2004, with FHWA/FTA conformity determination established on February 1, 2005.

Sincerely,



Julie R. Carr
Project Manager
Mn/DOT OFCVO

cc: Pat Bursaw, Sherry Narusiewicz and Marv Lunceford, Mn/DOT Metro District
Bill Gardner, Susan Aylesworth and Rick VanWagner, Mn/DOT OFCVO
Shawn Chambers, Debbie Pena, Pa Youa Xiong, OIM



Memo

Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations
Railroad Administration Section
Mail Stop 470
395 John Ireland Boulevard
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-1899

Office Tel: 651/366-3651
Fax: 651/366-3720

651/366-3651
julie.carr@dot.state.mn.us

August 18, 2009

To: Kevin Roggenbuck
TAB Coordinator

From: Julie Carr
Project Manager

Subject: Section 1103 Federally Funded Project in Metropolitan Area

This request is for the Metro Council TAB to expedite the Metro Council TIP amendment process to allow a Section 1103 (High Speed Rail) funded project to be authorized before the October 1 deadline.

In 1998, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) became law. TEA-21 included federal funding for federally designated rail corridors, including the Minnesota corridor known as the Canadian Pacific Railway (CP) River Subdivision (River sub). The CP River sub is part of the Minneapolis/St. Paul-Chicago segment of the Chicago-Hub Corridor. The funding is divided between the states of Wisconsin and Minnesota. In 2005 the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) increased the set-aside for Wisconsin and Minnesota.

The CP sub highway-railroad grade crossings in the metropolitan area have not been part of the Section 1103 funding because the public crossings have, for the most part, been addressed with the Section 130 rail safety program. Therefore, Section 1103 funding has primarily been used in Mn/DOT's District 6 area along the river sub. As part of the Section 1103 funding, existing equipment has been upgraded or replaced along the corridor. Canadian Pacific Railway identified the Belden Boulevard at-grade crossing in Cottage Grove, Washington County as a priority location for replacement due to the age of the equipment and circuitry.

Section 1103 funding is administered with its own obligation authority -- resulting in no impact to funding targets. All FFY 2009 projects (including Belden Blvd) must be federally authorized prior to the end of the federal fiscal year, October 1, 2009. In order to expend the funds in the Metro area a TIP/STIP amendment must be approved before mid September. If it is not agreeable for the TAB to expedite the TIP amendment for this project, our office will need to replace the Belden Boulevard crossing project with one in Mn/DOT's Rochester District to ensure these Section 1103 federal funds are spent.

Your consideration of expediting the TIP amendment process to spend these funds in the Metro area before the October 1 deadline is very much appreciated.

cc: Bill Gardner, Susan Aylesworth and Rick VanWagner, Mn/DOT OFCVO
Pat Bursaw, Sherry Narusiewicz and Marv Lunceford, Mn/DOT Metro District