

Transportation Committee

Executive Summary

Item: SW 2007-299

Meeting date: September 10, 2007

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: September 5, 2007
Subject: Controlled Access Approval for the I-35W Bridge in Minneapolis (M.C. Review No. 20087-1)
District(s), Member(s): 8, Lynnette Wittsack; 7, Annette Meeks
Policy/Legal Reference: Mn. Statute 473.166
Staff Prepared/Presented: Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS 651-602-1754
Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director, Finance & Planning, MTS, 651-602-1508
Connie Kozlak, Manager, Transportation Planning & Programming, 651-602-1720
Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action/Motion

1. That the Metropolitan Council, as required by Minnesota Statute 473.166 (Approval of construction of a controlled access facility) approve a request by MnDOT to reconstruct the I-35W bridge over the Mississippi River in Minneapolis.
2. That any significant changes in the layout of the proposed project are subject to further review and approval by the Metropolitan Council prior to construction.

Issue(s)

- MnDOT has requested same week action to ensure the approval is received prior to the bid opening on September 20, 2007.

Overview and Funding

The project will reconstruct the bridge on the existing alignment. The bridge will be designed and constructed to accommodate a total of ten lanes including through and auxiliary lanes. Auxiliary lanes will accommodate weaving motions on I-35W between Washington Avenue and University Avenue in the City of Minneapolis. The bridge will have five 12-foot lanes, 13-foot right shoulders, and 14-foot left shoulders. The bridge will accommodate future transit options such as bus rapid transit, high occupancy vehicle lanes, managed lanes, and will be light rail transit ready. When the bridge opens, the outside shoulders could be used for bus travel.

The attached map shows the proposed layout of the bridge. Several public meetings have been held, and this layout has been submitted to Minneapolis for municipal consent.

The letting for this project is anticipated in late September 2007. It is a design-build project, which means final designs will be completed by the contractor concurrently with initial construction speeding up the project. Completion is anticipated by December, 2008.

This project is consistent with the Metropolitan Council's Transportation Policy Plan. Since MnDOT is using federal emergency funds for the bridge reconstruction, the project does not have to be included in the 2007-2010 TIP.

