

Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

ACTION TRANSMITTAL

No. 2010-60

DATE: October 7, 2010
TO: Transportation Advisory Board
FROM: Technical Advisory Committee
SUBJECT: TIP Amendment Request for MN/DOT SP#0280-66: I-35W North Mitigation and Design Feasibility Study from downtown Minneapolis to I-35-E intersection
MOTION: That the TAB adopt an amendment to the 2010-2013 TIP to include MN/DOT SP#0280-66: I-35W North Mitigation and Design Feasibility Study from downtown Minneapolis to I-35-E intersection.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: Congress appropriated \$950,000 in Interstate Maintenance funds for congestion mitigation on the 35W north corridor. This project is identified in the 2010-2013 TIP as I-35W North Congestion Mitigation and Design north bound Lake Drive to 95th Street in Blaine. The intent was to construct an auxiliary lane at this location. FHWA has recently informed MN/DOT that these funds will expire at the end of September 2010 and will not be extended. Since that does not provide enough time for a construction project, MN/DOT requested a scope change to FHWA to instead do a MnPASS feasibility study between downtown Minneapolis to the I-35W/I-35E intersection. FHWA agreed to allow this amendment so long as it is accepted by the Funding & Programming Committee. Due to the short amount of time before the end of Federal Fiscal Year 2010, some parts of the Metro Council TAB/TAC process will occur after the project has been authorized by the FHWA. TAB was informed of this situation at its September 15 meeting.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	September 16, 2010
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	October 6, 2010
TAB Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Adopt	
Metropolitan Council	Concurrence	



Minnesota Department of Transportation

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September 16, 2010

Karl Keel, Chair
 TAC Funding and Programming Committee
 Metropolitan Council
 390 N. Robert St.
 St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Re: Amendment to the Twin Cities 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 State Project Number: 0280-66 I-35W N. Mitigation and Design

Dear Mr. Keel:

Please amend the 2010 – 2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include this project in SFY 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	I35W	0280-66 IMD 0353(315)	MnDOT	I-35W N. Mitigation & Design -	24.0

PROG	TYPE OF WORK	PROP FUNDS	TOTAL \$	FHWA Target	Earmark \$	FHWA Target AC \$	FTA \$	TH \$	OTHER \$
PL	Planning	FFM	1,055,555	950,000	0	0	0	105,555	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).

In 2009, Congress appropriated \$950,000 in Interstate Maintenance Discretionary funding for congestion mitigation along the I-35W north corridor. Since that time, MnDOT and the local partners along the corridor have been in discussions about the best way to utilize these funds. The funding is currently identified in the 2010-2013 TIP/STIP (STIP Sequence #1583)- "I 35W N Congestion Mitigation and Design- on NB, Lake Drive to 95th, Blaine (2009 Appropriations Act- IMD)." The intent was to construct an auxiliary lane at this location.

Recently FHWA has informed MnDOT that these funds will expire at the end of September 2010 (the end of the Federal Fiscal Year) and cannot be extended. At this point, a construction project would not be ready for authorization in time to use the funds. In an effort to retain these funds in the region and still make use of the funds to address congestion mitigation along the I-35W corridor, MnDOT will need to make a change in the scope of the project listed in the TIP and STIP.

MnDOT proposes to change the termini and description listed in the TIP from "I-35W northbound from Lake Drive to 95th Avenue North" to "I-35W Feasibility Study from 3rd/4th St. in Minneapolis to the I-35W/I-35E split in Forest Lake". The funds would be used to retain a consultant to study the feasibility of MnPASS on the entire corridor. The feasibility analysis would include forecasts of traffic volumes and potential revenues, conceptual design work in a number of locations within the study area to determine geometric feasibility, and cost estimates for construction of various alternatives.

Due to the short amount of time before the end of Federal Fiscal Year 2010, some parts of the Metro Council TAB/TAC process will occur after the project has been authorized by the FHWA. The details of the project and why the amendment will follow an unconventional process will be presented to TAB on September 15, 2010, in an effort to notify the TAB members.

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

- New Money- 2009 Appropriations Act- Interstate X
Maintenance Discretionary
 - . Anticipated Advance Construction
- ATP or MPO or Mn/DOT Adjustment by deferral of _____
other projects*
- Earmark or HPP not affecting fiscal constraint X
 - . 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 # O-1 Specific activities which do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as: Planning and technical studies, Grants for training and research programs, Planning activities conducted pursuant to titles 23 and 49 U.S.C.

CONSISTENCY WITH MPO LONG RANGE PLAN:

This amendment is consistent with the Metropolitan Council Transportation Policy Plan, adopted on January 14, 2009, with 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 me at 651-234-7788.

Sincerely,

Brian Isaacson, Director
Investment Management
Metro District

C: Cindy Krumsieg, Metro Program Coordinator