

Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

ACTION TRANSMITTAL

No. 2012-13

DATE: March 14, 2012
TO: Transportation Advisory Board
FROM: Technical Advisory Committee
SUBJECT: TIP Amendment Request for Hennepin County: Transportation Interchange in Minneapolis

MOTION: That the TAB adopt an amendment to the 2012-2015 TIP that adds Section 5309 FTA Discretionary Funding for Construction of the Transportation Interchange Facility in Minneapolis.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: Hennepin County received \$10 million from the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Program. These funds, administered as Section 5309 funds by the Federal Transit Administration, must be identified in the current TIP in order for the funds to become available for the intended use. The project is consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan, is exempt from air quality conformity analysis and uses new federal funds. Additional background material is attached.

RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY: Federal law requires that all transportation projects that will be partially funded with federal funds must be in an approved Transportation Improvement Program and meet the following four tests: fiscal constraint; consistency with the adopted regional transportation plan; air quality conformity and opportunity for public input. It is the TAB's responsibility to adopt and amend the TIP according to these four requirements.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	February 16, 2012
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	March 7, 2012
TAB Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Adopt	
Metropolitan Council	Concurrence	



The Interchange

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February 3, 2012

Karl Keel, Chair
TAC Funding & Programming Committee
390 North Robert Street
St. Paul MN 55101

Re: TIP/STIP Amendment to add FTA discretionary funds awarded to Hennepin County through the Department of Transportation (DOT) FFY 2011 TIGER III Program

Dear Mr. Keel:

Please amend the Minnesota 2012 – 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the following new project in SFY 2012 of the TIP. This project is being submitted with the following information:

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION:

STATE FISCAL YEAR	ATP	DIST	ROUTE SYSTEM	PROJECT NUMBER(S. P. #)	AGENCY	DESCRIPTION	MILES
2012	M	M	BB		Hennepin County	Section 5309 FTA Discretionary Funding: Construct the Transportation Interchange Facility to handle additional LRT lines and enhance connections to other transportation modes- bus/ped/bike/auto	0.0

PROG	TYPE OF WORK	PROP FUNDS	TOTAL \$	FHWA \$	AC \$	FTA \$	TH \$	OTHER \$
	Capital Improvement	FTA	\$12,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$10,000,000	\$0	\$2,500,000

*Other funds provided by: State of Minnesota bonds and Hennepin County local funding

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

1. 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).

Discretionary funds were received as the result of a successful proposal to the US DOT Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Program which fosters innovative, multi-modal and multi-jurisdictional transportation projects that promise significant economic and environmental benefits to an entire metropolitan area, a region, or the nation. Part of the proposal was a certification that the TIP/STIP would be amended to include the new funding if awarded.

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

- New Money- FTA TIGER III Grant Funds _____ X _____
- Anticipated Advance Construction _____
- ATP or MPO or Mn/DOT Adjustment by deferral of _____
other projects _____

These are new funds awarded as part of the USDOT TIGER III initiative and administered by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), a Cognizant Modal Administration. These funds are outside of the current authorized TIP budget and, therefore, fiscal constraint is maintained.

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)..... _____

*Exempt Project Category #E-6 Bus terminals and transfer points 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, with FHWA/FTA conformity determination established on September 16, 2009. The amendment is also consistent with the 2030 Policy Plan update adopted by the Metropolitan Council on November 10, 2010 and with FHWA/FTA conformity determination established on February 23, 2011.

We are requesting approval of this TIP amendment at this time. If you have any questions, please call me at 612-543-7274. Hennepin County Interchange Project staff will be available for questions at your February meeting.

Sincerely,



Chuck Ballentine
Senior Administrative Manager

- cc: Kevin Roggenbuck, Metropolitan Council
Mary Gustafson, Metropolitan Council
Jon Solberg, MnDOT
Ed Hunter, Interchange Project
Phil Eckhart, Hennepin County

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