

T Transportation Committee
Meeting date: February 22, 2010
Council meeting: February 24, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	February 17, 2010
Subject:	Authorization to set date for public hearing on 2030 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) Amendment – I-94
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	TAB Action
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS (651-602-1754) Amy Vennewitz, Dep. Dir. Finance & Planning MTS (651-602-1508) Carl Ohrn, Planning Analyst (651-602-1719)
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Adopt the proposed 2030 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) amendment that includes modification to I-94 from St. Paul/5th Street to the Lowry Tunnel, for the purpose of holding a public hearing; and
- Authorize a public hearing on the proposed amendments to the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan to be held on April 12, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

Background

In 2007, significant changes were made to I-94 from TH 280 to I-35W in response to the I-35W bridge collapse. The project converted the shoulder to a temporary general purpose lane between TH 280 and I-35W (southbound) and included geometric changes at I-35W and TH 280. The Metropolitan Council, MnDOT and the Minnesota Division of the Federal Highway Administration jointly undertook a study to determine what reasonable corridor improvements were allowed as part of returning to the pre-emergency response condition. A key point was to balance the needs of the general motoring traffic and the advantages previously provided to transit users through use of the bus-only shoulder. After months of extensive study and evaluation of many options, a concept was developed that achieves a level of balance between these two very important stakeholder groups in the corridor. Due to the permanent general traffic use of the shoulder for over a mile, the project must be in the TPP to meet the interagency agreement for Air Quality Conformity.

Rationale

In order to implement the I-94 project which will add capacity for more than a mile, the project must be in the TPP. Amendment of the TPP requires an opportunity for public comment and hearing.

Funding

This amendment does not affect funding for the project.

Known Support / Opposition

No opposition was presented at the TAC or TAB meetings.