

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: February 27, 2012

Council meeting date: March 14, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	February 15, 2012
Subject:	2012-2015 TIP Amendment Request to Include SP#092-070-001: Procurement and Installation of 76 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (TAB Action 2011- 60)
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	TAB Action
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, Director (651-602-1754) Amy Vennewitz, Dep. Dir. Finance & Planning (651- 602-1058) Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator (651-602-1728) James Andrew, Senior Planner (651-602-1721)
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include SP#092-070-001: procurement and installation of 76 electric vehicle charging stations in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

Background

In late 2010, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency approached the TAB with a request for \$500,000 in federal CMAQ funds for the installation of electric vehicle recharging stations. The project is eligible for CMAQ funds, but does not fit well within the regional solicitation project categories and would most likely not score well based on the regional solicitation criteria. After discussing the project and potential funding options on a number of occasions, the TAB voted in favor of awarding \$500,000 from the regional federal fund balance in 2012 for the project. The project must be amended into the TIP and will be funded using regional CMAQ funds with a 20% local match provided by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Project Description	Federal (CMAQ) Funds	Local Match (MPCA)
MPCA SP#092-070-001: 76 electric vehicle charging stations	\$500,000	\$125,000

Rationale

The Transportation Advisory Board approves formal amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program. The Metropolitan Council concurs with the action of the TAB. This project and the amendment is exempt from air quality conformity analysis, is consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan and does not affect fiscal constraint as it uses unprogrammed regional funds in 2012.

Funding

This project is funded with a combination of CMAQ funding that was made available because several regionally-funded projects were withdrawn from the program leaving a positive balance for 2012 and local matching funds administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Known Support / Opposition

There was some opposition expressed by some members of the TAB. The reasons for opposing the action included a feeling that the automobile industry and other private sector actors should provide for the necessary infrastructure to support the new electric vehicle technology, as well as opposition to providing direct allocations of regionally-controlled federal funds outside of the biennial solicitation. Reasons to award the funding were that the project would result in cost effective emissions reductions and that the installation of charging stations would position the Twin Cities as an attractive market for electric cars.