

# T Transportation Committee

**Business Item**  
**Item: 2012-136**  
**Consent**

**Meeting date: April 23, 2012**

**Council meeting date: May 9, 2012**

<b>ADVISORY INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	<b>April 18, 2012</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>2012-2015 TIP Amendment Request to include 5 rail crossing safety projects (TAB Action 2012-16)</b>
<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	<b>5 – Elkins, 7 – Cunningham, 13 - Kramer</b>
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	<b>TAB Action</b>
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	<b>Arlene McCarthy, Director (651-602-1754)</b> <b>Amy Vennewitz, Dep. Dir. Finance &amp; Planning (651-602-1058)</b> <b>Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator (651-602-1728)</b> <b>James Andrew, Senior Planner (651-602-1721)</b>
<b>Division/Department:</b>	<b>Metropolitan Transportation Services</b>

## 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#s: 13-00001, 27-00306, 27-00307, 62-00206, 62-00207: rail crossing safety projects to replace antiquated equipment.

## Background

This amendment is needed to add five rail crossing safety projects (four of which are in the Metropolitan Council jurisdiction, one is in Chisago County) to the 2012-2015 TIP. MnDOT currently has a set-aside of federal rail safety funds (RRS) in the 2012-2015 STIP for rail crossing safety projects administered by MnDOT’s Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicles. This amendment adds a portion of the funding from this set-aside to these rail crossing safety projects to replace antiquated safety equipment.

Project Description	State Rail Funds	Federal (RRS) Funds
SP#13-0001: West 8th Street in Rush City (Chisago County)	\$175,000	\$5,000
SP#27-00306: Lyndale Avenue in Minneapolis	\$275,000	\$5,000
SP#27-00307: West 86th Street in Bloomington	\$225,000	\$5,000
SP#62-00206: Wabasha Avenue in St Paul	\$200,000	\$5,000
SP#62-00207: Myrtle Avenue in St Paul	\$200,000	\$5,000

**Rationale**

The Transportation Advisory Board approves formal amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program. The Metropolitan Council concurs with the action of the TAB. These projects are exempt from air quality conformity analysis. They do not affect fiscal constraint as they use funds from an existing set-aside in the TIP.

**Funding**

These projects use State Rail Bond funds and a funding set-aside in the current TIP SP#880C-RAIL-12 (Seq. #2182) for rail grade crossing projects.

**Known Support / Opposition**

No known opposition. MnDOT supports this amendment.

# Transportation Advisory Board

## of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

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**Bill Hargis**  
Chair

April 18, 2012

County Commissioners

Andy Westerberg  
Anoka County

Randy Maluchnik  
Carver County

Paul Krause  
Dakota County

Jan Callison  
Hennepin County

Tony Bennett  
Ramsey County

Jon Ulrich  
Scott County

Dennis Hegberg  
Washington County

Municipal Officials

Dick Swanson  
Blaine City Council

Bethany Tjornhom  
Chanassan City Council

Julia Whalen  
Champlin City Council

James Howland  
Mayor of Edina

Becky Petryk  
Hugo City Council

Will Rossbach  
Mayor of Maplewood

Robert Lilligren  
Minneapolis City Council

Steven Gallagher  
Newport City Council

Sue Sanger  
St. Louis Park City Council

Russ Stark  
St. Paul City Council

Citizen Members - Precinct

Gerry Butcher - A  
Thomas Heffelfinger - B  
Jennifer Janovy - C  
Kenya McKnight - D  
Ashraf Siddiqui - E  
Bill Hargis - F  
Margaret Donahoe - G  
Karl Drotning - H

Susan Haigh, Chair  
Metropolitan Council  
390 Robert Street No.  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Ms. Haigh,

On April 18, 2012 the Transportation Advisory Board voted to amend the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program to include SP#s: 13-00001, 27-00306, 27-00307, 62-00206, 62-00207: Rail Crossing Equipment Replacement.

MnDOT has a set-aside in the 2012-2015 TIP for rail crossings projects that are determined by MnDOT's Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicles. MnDOT would like to add \$5,000 from this set-aside to each of these five projects to replace antiquated equipment.

The TAB forwards the TIP amendment action to the Metropolitan Council for concurrence along with additional information described in TAB action transmittal 2012-16.

Sincerely,



 Bill Hargis,  
Chair

kjr/kjr

Agency Representatives

Adam Duinick  
Metropolitan Council

Scott McBride  
Minnesota DOT

Lisa Peilen  
M.A.C.

David Thornton  
M.P.C.A.

Modal Representatives

Aaron Isaacs  
Transit

David Van Hattum  
Transit

Ron Have  
Freight

Ethan Fawley  
Non-motorized

**Transportation Advisory Board**  
of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

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**ACTION TRANSMITTAL**

No. 2012-16

**DATE:** April 18, 2012  
**TO:** Metropolitan Council  
**FROM:** Transportation Advisory Board  
**SUBJECT:** TIP Amendment Request by MnDOT to include federal funds for five Rail Crossing Projects.  
**MOTION:** The TAB adopted an amendment to the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program that adds SP#s: 13-00001, 27-00306, 27-00307, 62-00206, 62-00207: Rail Crossing Equipment Replacement.

**BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION:** MnDOT has a set-aside in the 2012-2015 TIP for rail crossings projects that are determined by MnDOT's Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicles. MnDOT would like to add \$5,000 from this set-aside to each of these five projects to replace antiquated equipment. 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.

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**ROUTING**

<b>TO</b>	<b>ACTION REQUESTED</b>	<b>DATE COMPLETED</b>
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	February 16, 2012
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	April 4, 2012
TAB Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	April 18, 2012
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Adopt	April 18, 2012
Metropolitan Council	Concurrence	



**Minnesota Department of Transportation**

Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations  
Mail Stop 470  
395 John Ireland Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1899

Tel: 651/215-6330  
Fax: 651/366-3720

March 5, 2012

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

RE: Amendment to the Minnesota 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)  
State Project Number: 13-00001, 27-00306, 27-00307, 62-00206, 62-00207  
Federal Project Number:

Dear Mr. Keel:

Please amend the Minnesota 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the following new projects in SFY 2012 of the TIP. The projects are being submitted with the following information:

**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION:**

*Please see list of projects on page 4.*

**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).

Project 880C-RAIL-12 is in SFY 2012 of the 2012-15 STIP with a total of \$88,900 including \$80,000 in federal funds and \$8,900 in other funds. This is a funding set aside for rail grade crossing projects for SFY 2012. The MnDOT Office of Freight & Commercial Vehicle Operation (OFCVO) has decided to use the funds in this set aside to replace antiquated equipment at various railroad crossings statewide. This formal STIP amendment is being done to identify five (5) of the projects that OFCVO has selected.

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

- New Money – \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Discretionary, Special Allocations or Other New Funding Sources)
- Anticipated Advance Construction \_\_\_\_\_
- ATP or MPO or Mn/DOT Adjustment \_\_\_\_\_  
 of other projects   X\*
- Earmark or HPP federal funds outside ATP \_\_\_\_\_  
 target \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

\* SP 880C-RAIL-12 (Seq. # 2182) is in SFY 2012 of the STIP with a total of \$88,900 including \$80,000 in federal funds and \$8,900 in other funds. This is a funding set aside for rail grade crossing projects for SFY 2012. The new rail projects being added with this formal amendment will use a total of \$25,000 of these federal funds (see page 5 for funding breakdowns). The federal funds being used will be matched with state rail bonds. \$40,000 in federal funds has already been identified by other projects statewide, the remaining \$23,900 in federal funds will be used to fund other rail projects yet to be identified for SFY 2012. Available federal funds from a funding set aside and state rail bonds will be used to fully fund these new rail projects, therefore fiscal constraint is maintained.

**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 with FHWA/FTA conformity determination established on February 23, 2011.

**AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY:**

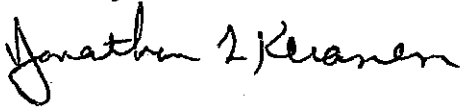
- Subject to conformity determination..... \_\_\_\_\_
- Exempt from regional level analysis\* .....   Yes
- Exempt from project level analysis\* .....   Yes
- Exempt by virtue of interagency consultation\*..... \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A (not in a nonattainment or maintenance area) ..... \_\_\_\_\_

Karl Keel  
March 5, 2012  
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\*Exempt Project Category # S-8 Railroad/highway crossing warning devices, Per Section 93.126 of the Conformity Rules

We are requesting approval of this TIP amendment at this time. If you have any questions, please call Peter Dahlberg at (651) 234-336-3693

Sincerely,



Jonathan Keranen  
Program Manager  
MnDOT Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations

cc: Jon P. Solberg, Metro Program Management  
Cindy Krumsieg, Metro Program Management

**LIST OF PROJECTS**

STATE FISCAL YEAR	ROUTE SYSTEM	PROJECT NUMBER (S) (If available)	AGENCY	DESCRIPTION (Include location description for all work & city if applicable)	MILES	PROG	STATED WORKS	PROP FUNDS	TOTAL	FARVA	MAC	FTA	11th	OTHER \$	RR QUALITY CONTRIBUTION
2012	M RR	13-00001	MnDOT	RR X-ing at West 8 <sup>th</sup> Street in Rush City -- Replace antiquated equipment (Gates)	0.0	SR	RR X-ing Improve ments	RRS	\$175,000	\$5,000	0	0	0	\$170,000 (State Rail Bonds)	S-8
2012	M RR	27-00306	MnDOT	RR X-ing at Lyndale Ave in Minneapolis -- Replace antiquated equipment (Cantilevers & Gates)	0.0	SR	RR X-ing Improve ments	RRS	\$275,000	\$5,000	0	00	0	\$270,000 (State Rail Bonds)	S-8
2012	M RR	27-00307	MnDOT	RR X-ing at West 86 <sup>th</sup> Street in Bloomington -- Replace antiquated equipment (LED Cantilever Flashers)	0.0	SR	RR X-ing Improve ments	RRS	\$225,000	\$5,000	0	0	0	\$220,000 (State Rail Bonds)	S-8
2012	M RR	62-00206	MnDOT	RR X-ing at Wabash Ave in St. Paul -- Replace antiquated equipment (Cantilevers)	0.0	SR	RR X-ing Improve ments	RRS	\$200,000	\$5,000	0	0	0	\$195,000 (State Rail Bonds)	S-8
2012	M RR	62-00207	MnDOT	RR X-ing at Myrtle Ave in St. Paul -- Replace antiquated equipment (Cantilevers)	0.0	SR	RR X-ing Improve ments	RRS	\$200,000	\$5,000	0	0	0	\$195,000 (State Rail Bonds)	S-8