

Committee Report

Item: 2011-3

Consent

T Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting January 26, 2011

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date January 11, 2011
Prepared:
Subject: 2011-2014 TIP Amendment: Section 5307 Downtown Minneapolis East-West
Transit Spine

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include FTA Section 5307 funding for the Downtown Minneapolis East-West Transit Spine.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Carl Ohrn, MTS Planning Analyst, presented this item to the committee.

There were no questions from committee members.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Leppik and passed unanimously.

Hearing no objection, Chair McFarlin stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a Consent Item.

T Transportation Committee
Meeting date: January 10, 2011
Council meeting: January 26, 2011

ADVISORY INFORMATION

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Date: | December 16, 2010 |
| Subject: | 2011-2014 TIP Amendment: Section 5307 Downtown Minneapolis East-West Transit Spine |
| District(s), Member(s): | District 7 – Meeks; District 8 - Wittsack |
| Policy/Legal Reference: | TAB Action |
| Staff Prepared/Presented: | Arlene McCarthy, Director (651-602-1754) Amy Vennewitz, Dep. Dir. Finance & Planning (651-602-1058) Carl Ohrn, Planning Analyst (651-602-1719) |
| Division/Department: | Metropolitan Transportation Services |

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include FTA Section 5307 funding for the Downtown Minneapolis East-West Transit Spine.

Background

In order to apply for FTA funds, the project must be in the current TIP.

Rationale

This project is advancing at this time to coordinate with and take advantage of a City of Minneapolis project to resurface 7th and 8th Streets South.

Funding

FTA 5307 funding \$2,560,000 (80%) and Regional Transit Capital Bond Funds \$640,000 (20%) will be used.

Known Support / Opposition

No opposition was presented at the TAC or TAB meetings.

Transportation Advisory Board

of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

Bill Hargis
Chair

January 3, 2011

County Commissioners

Dennis Berg
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

Steve Lampi
Mayor of Brooklyn Park

Bethany Tjornhom
Chanhassen City Council

Dan Gustafson
Burnsville City Council

Julia Whalen
Champlin City Council

James Hovland
Mayor of Edina

Becky Petryk
Hugo City Council

Robert Lilligren
Minneapolis City Council

Russ Stark
St. Paul City Council

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

Ms. Haigh,

On December 15, 2010, the Transportation Advisory Board voted to amend the 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program to include Section 5307 funding for the Downtown Minneapolis East-West Transit Spine.

Metro Transit is taking advantage of the opportunity to complete this project in conjunction with a City of Minneapolis project to resurface 7th and 8th Street with federal funds available from the 35W Bridge Collapse. The transit upgrades that are part of this TIP amendment do not include this Minneapolis component of the project. This project includes new bus shelters, real time information signs, and curb extensions to improve conditions for transit passengers, pedestrians and local retailers.

The TAB forwards the TIP amendment action to the Metropolitan Council along with additional information described in TAB action transmittal 2010-69.

Sincerely,



for **Bill Hargis,**
Chair

Citizen Members - Precinct

Andrew Reinhardt - A
Thomas Heffelfinger - B
James Meyers - C
Chuck Haik - D
Bart Ward - E
Bill Hargis - F
Jill Smith - G
Ken Johnson - H

Agency Representatives

Peggy Leppik
Metropolitan Council

Scott McBride
Minnesota DOT

Lisa Peilen
M.A.C.

David Thornton
M.P.C.A.

Modal Representatives

Richard Mussell
Transit

Matthew Craig
Transit

Ron Have
Freight

David Gepner
Non-motorized

Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

ACTION TRANSMITTAL

No. 2010-69

DATE: January 3, 2011
TO: Metropolitan Council
FROM: Transportation Advisory Board
SUBJECT: TIP Amendment Request for Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit: Section 5307 Downtown Minneapolis East-West Transit Spine.

MOTION: The TAB adopted an amendment to the 2011-2014 TIP to include Section 5307 funding for the Downtown Minneapolis East-West Transit Spine.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: After the successful implementation of the north-south spine of Marquette and 2nd Avenues in Downtown Minneapolis using Urban Partnership Agreement funding, Metro Transit conducted a study to implement similar improvements on an east-west spine. 7th Street and 8th Street were selected as the location of this east-west spine. Metro Transit will apply for \$2,560,000 in Section 5307 funding administered by the Federal Transit Administration to help complete this project. Access to these funds requires that they be identified in the STIP with a local funding match of 20%, which Metro Transit is providing (\$640,000). Metro Transit is taking advantage of the opportunity to complete this project in conjunction with a City of Minneapolis project to resurface 7th and 8th Street with federal funds available from the 35W Bridge Collapse. The transit upgrades that are part of this TIP amendment do not include this Minneapolis component of the project. This project includes new bus shelters, real time information signs, and curb extensions to improve conditions for transit passengers, pedestrians and local retailers.

Although it is not noted in the TIP amendment letter, the requested amendment is consistent with the Metropolitan Council Transportation Policy Plan adopted on November 10, 2010.

ROUTING

| TO | ACTION REQUESTED | DATE COMPLETED |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| TAC Funding & Programming Committee | Review & Recommend | November 18, 2010 |
| Technical Advisory Committee | Review & Recommend | December 1, 2010 |
| TAB Programming Committee | Review & Recommend | December 15, 2010 |
| Transportation Advisory Board | Review & Adopt | December 15, 2010 |
| Metropolitan Council | Concurrence | |



November 23, 2010

Tim Mayasich, Chair
 Technical Advisory Committee Chair
 Metropolitan Council
 230 East Fifth St.
 Mears Park Centre
 St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

**Re: Amendment to the Twin Cities 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 State Project #: Sect 5307 Twin Cities Met Council Downtown Mpls. East/West Transit Spine**

Dear Mr. Mayasich:

Please amend the 2011 – 2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include this project in 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 | BB | | Met Council - MT | Sect 5307 Twin Cities Met Council Downtown Mpls East-West Transit Spine | 1 Mile |

| PROG | TYPE OF WORK | PROP FUND | TOTAL \$ | FHWA Target | HPP \$ | FTA 5307 \$ | FHWA Target AC \$ | HPP AC \$ | TH \$ | OTHER \$ |
|------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|--------|-------------|-------------------|-----------|-------|------------------------------------|
| B9 | Bus Grant Capital Improvement | FTA | 3,200,000 | | | 2,560,000 | | | | 640,000 (Regional Transit Capital) |

A service of the Metropolitan Council

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

1. Briefly describe why amendment is needed (e.g., project in previous STIP but not included; illustrative project and funds now available; discretionary funds received; inadvertently not included in STIP)

In 2009, the Met Council and the City of Minneapolis (City) implemented transit improvements along the north-south spine of Marquette and Second Avenues as identified in the “Access Minneapolis” transportation plan and administered through the Urban Partnership Agreement. These upgrades have been successful in improving transit capacity, reliability and speed. Related enhancements will likewise improve service along an “east-west spine” in downtown Minneapolis. A study conducted in 2010 identified 7th and 8th streets south as the best option for an east-west transit spine and this project now seeks to implement these transit improvements. The transit upgrades that are planned include new bus shelters, real time information signs, and curb extensions to improve conditions for transit passengers, pedestrians and local retailers.

For project efficiency and economics, the transit improvements sought, by adding this project to the TIP, will be completed in conjunction with a city project to resurface 7th and 8th Streets during the summer of 2011. Funding has already been awarded for the city resurfacing project and the resurfacing is a separate project that is not part of this TIP amendment. This TIP amendment only seeks funding for the transit-related improvements to 7th and 8th streets south.

The total East-West Transit Spine project is estimated at \$3.2 million. This funding will consist of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5307 funds (\$2,560,000) and Regional Transit Capital funds (\$640,000). The project was identified in Met Council’s 2010-2016 Capital Improvement Plan. FTA 5307 funds are “formula funds” allotted on an annual basis as determined by demographic and transit statistics. Access to FTA 5307 funds requires that a project be identified in the STIP and a local funding match of 20%. A TIP and subsequent STIP amendment are sought to enable Metro Transit to apply for these funds. Availability of Federal funds is anticipated during the second quarter, 2011.

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

- New Money-Section 5307 FTA funds _____X_____
- Anticipated Advance Construction _____
- ATP or MPO or Mn/DOT Adjustment by deferral of other projects _____
- Earmark or HPP not affecting fiscal constraint _____
- 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) _____

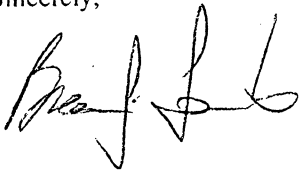
* Exemption Code #T7 Construction of small passenger shelters and information kiosks per Section 93.126 of the Conformity Rules

CONSISTENCY WITH MPO LONG RANGE PLAN:

This amendment is consistent with the Metropolitan Council Transportation Policy Plan, adopted on January 14, 2009, and with the 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 Mary Gustafson, Grant Manager, at 612-349-7603.

Sincerely,



Brian J. Lamb
General Manager
Metro Transit

- cc: Sherry Narusiewicz, Metro Program Management
Cynthia Krumsieg, Metro Program Management
Tom Thorstenson, Director Engineering & Facilities
Maurice Roers, Manager Facilities Planning
Mary Gustafson, Grant Manager
Arlene McCarthy, Director Metropolitan Transportation Services