

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of April 30, 2014

Subject: Accept the Regional Bicycle System Study Final Report

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council accept the attached Regional Bicycle System Study Final Report dated March 2014.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

MTS Planning Analyst Steven Elmer presented this item. Elmer replied “yes” to Duininck’s question whether the intent is to update the Regional Bicycle Transportation Network every four years through the TPP process.

Motion by Munt, seconded by Rodriguez and passed.

Hearing no objection, Chair Duininck said that this item could proceed to the full Council as a consent item.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: April 14, 2014

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of April 30, 2014

Subject: Accept the Regional Bicycle System Study Final Report

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: 2030 Transportation Policy Plan

Staff Prepared/Presented: Steven Elmer, Planning Analyst, 651-602-1756

Connie Kozlak, Manager Transportation Planning, 651-602-1720

Division/Department: Transportation / Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council accept the attached Regional Bicycle System Study Final Report dated March 2014.

Background

The need for a Regional Bicycle System Study was identified in the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan work program adopted in 2010. The main outcomes resulting from the study were the development of a Regional Bicycle Transportation Network with a subset of Priority Regional Bicycle Transportation Corridors and a definition for Critical Bicycle Transportation Links. These concepts will be incorporated into the Bicycle and Pedestrian section of the draft 2040 Transportation Policy Plan.

Rationale

Previous Transportation Policy Plans acknowledged bicycling as an important mode of transportation, but did not include a designated regional bicycle network element. The forthcoming draft 2040 Transportation Policy Plan will propose for the first time a Regional Bicycle Transportation Network which was developed in the study. This system would be the designated “backbone” network for connecting local bicycle networks to regional destinations. Inclusion of this network in the plan will give direction to local governments and the TAB for prioritizing bicycle improvement projects for funding and implementation.

Funding

There are no direct funding implications of this study for the Council since the Council will not construct, own, or operate these planned bicycle facilities. However, it will influence funding allocation decisions by the TAB with Council concurrence.

Known Support / Opposition

The Regional Bicycle System Study was completed in collaboration with MnDOT and through the guidance of a Project Advisory Committee that consisted of local government staff and key bicycle system stakeholders. There is general support for the study and the resulting Regional Bicycle Transportation Network from these entities. There is no known opposition to the study results.