

**Transportation Committee**

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 9, 2015

**Subject:** 2016-2019 TIP Amendment: Ladders of Opportunity award to improve, replace, and construct bus facilities

**Proposed Action**

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include funding to improve, replace, and construct bus facilities in Minneapolis and St. Paul (SP# TRF-TCMT-16BE).

**Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions**

This item was approved as part of the Consent Agenda at the Transportation Committee.

Motion by Rodriguez seconded by Letofsky and carried.

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: November 23, 2015

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 9, 2015

**Subject:** 2016-2019 TIP Amendment: Ladders of Opportunity award to improve, replace, and construct bus facilities

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** TAB Action

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS (651-602-1754)

Mark Filipi, MTS Technical Services Manager (651-602-1725)

Joe Barbeau, Senior Planner (651-602-1705)

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

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include funding to improve, replace, and construct bus facilities in Minneapolis and St. Paul (SP# TRF-TCMT-16BE).

### Background

Metro Transit was awarded an FTA section 5309 Bus & Bus Facilities discretionary award (Ladders of Opportunity) on September 25, 2014 to improve, replace, and construct bus facilities in the Minneapolis-St. Paul region, particularly focused on areas of high poverty and high dependence on transit. In September 2015, a portion of the project was obligated by FTA in the amount of \$567,500. This amount covered those construction activities that have been cleared through the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process. FTA will not obligate any funding prior to NEPA clearance. The NEPA process is ongoing and the remaining balance of the federal project funding in the amount of \$2,806,000 will be obligated by FTA in FFY 2016. FTA requires that this \$2,806,000 be amended into the 2016-2019 TIP.

### Rationale

The Transportation Advisory Board approves formal amendments to the TIP and the Metropolitan Council concurs with the action of the TAB. The project is consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) and meets fiscal constraint because the federal and local funds are sufficient to fully fund the project. The Minnesota Interagency Air Quality and Transportation Planning Committee determined that the amendment is exempt from air quality conformity analysis. This TIP amendment is using the streamlined process adopted by TAB on April 19, 2014.

### Funding

The project is fully funded with the federal and local funds.

### Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.

Amendment to the Twin Cities 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION:**

STATE FISCAL YEAR  FED. FISCAL YEAR	ROUTE SYS	PROJECT NUMBER (S.P. #) (Fed # if available)	AGENCY	DESCRIPTION include location, description of all work, & city (if applicable)	MILES
2016  2016	BB	TRF-TCMT-16BE	Metropolitan Council - MT	Section 5309 – Ladders of Opportunity Award – Improve, replace and construct bus facilities, Minneapolis & St. Paul	N/A

PROG	TYPE OF WORK	PROP FUNDS	TOTAL \$	FHWA \$	AC \$	FTA \$	TH \$	OTHER \$
B3	FTA Capital Program	FTA	\$3,507,500			\$2,806,000		\$701,500

**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).

This amendment is needed to add a project to the 2016-2019 TIP. The Metropolitan Council / Metro Transit was awarded an FTA Section 5309 Bus & Bus Facilities discretionary award on 9/25/2014. In September 2015, a portion of the project was obligated by FTA in the amount of \$567,500. This amount covered those construction activities that have been cleared through the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process. FTA will not obligate any funding prior to NEPA clearance. The NEPA process is ongoing and the remaining balance of the federal project funding in the amount of \$2,806,000 will be obligated by FTA in FFY 2016. FTA requires that the balance of the funding be amended into the 2016-2019 TIP.

Metro Transit, serving the Twin Cities in Minnesota, will receive funding to improve, replace, and construct bus facilities in the Minneapolis-St. Paul region, particularly focused on areas of high poverty and high dependence on transit. The focus will be on bus stop improvements to ensure safe, quality facilities in disadvantaged areas. The project will result in new customer waiting shelters,

addition of heat and light to existing shelters, improved transit information, and pedestrian connections. In addition, partnerships with local schools and training centers will better connect residents to education and employment opportunities.

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

- New Money   X
- Anticipated Advance Construction
- ATP or MPO or MnDOT Adjustment by deferral of other projects
- Earmark or HPP not affecting fiscal constraint
- Other

This project received FTA Section 5309 funds from the Bus and Bus Facilities “Ladders of Opportunity” initiative and will also use local Regional Transit Capital (RTC) funds. The federal and local funds slated for this project are sufficient to fully fund the project. Therefore, fiscal constraint is maintained.

**CONSISTENCY WITH MPO LONG RANGE PLAN:**

This amendment is consistent with the Metropolitan Council Transportation Policy Plan, adopted by the Metropolitan Council on January 14, 2015, with FHWA/FTA conformity determination established on March 13, 2015.

**AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY:**

- Subject to conformity determination .....
- Exempt from regional level analysis.....  X\*
- N/A (not in a nonattainment or maintenance area).....

\*Exempt from regional level analysis: T-7 (Construction of small passenger shelters and information kiosks)