

Committee Report

Business Item No. 2018-318

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 12, 2018

Subject: 2019-2022 TIP Amendment: MnDOT I-94 Reconstruction and Expansion

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) TIP to add a project reconstructing and expanding I-94 in Wright County.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Joe Barbeau presented this item. Letofsky stated that she will be voting against this item due to the fact she has heard from constituents who have concerns about this not being within the normal process and not what should be invested in within the region. Schreiber stated it was the federal government that mandated our area expand to include parts of Wright and Sherburne counties. Schreiber continued that she and Chair Rodriguez have been to several meetings with the local community and county commissioners who are happy about this project.

Motion by Schreiber, seconded by Barber. Motion carried, with Letofsky voting against. Consent to Council.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: November 26, 2018

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 12, 2018

Subject: 2019-2022 TIP Amendment: MnDOT I-94 Reconstruction and Expansion

District(s), Member(s): None

Policy/Legal Reference: TAB Action

Staff Prepared/Presented: Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director, Finance & Planning (651-602-1508)
Steve Peterson, Manager of Highway Planning and TAB/TAC Process (651-602-1819)
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 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a project reconstructing and expanding I-94 in Wright County.

Background

This TIP amendment is needed to add a new project into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The project, which was selected for funding under MnDOT's 2018 Corridors of Commerce program, is located in Wright County and within the extended Twin Cities urbanized metropolitan area. Related to this project is the TIP amendment being requested in Action Transmittal 2018-51, the replacement of two bridges on I-94 over Wright County State Aid Highway 19.

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 project is exempt from air quality conformity analysis.

The project is located in a part of Wright County that is in the extended urbanized area per the 2010 US Census. Therefore, this project is required to be in the TIP for the Twin Cities Urbanized Area.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This action promotes prosperity by improving a key thoroughfare.

Funding

The project is fully funded with state funds.

Known Support / Opposition

Because this project is considered regionally significant, a public comment period was held as part of TAB's approval process. Five comments were provided, including one in opposition. Those comments are attached.

Please amend the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include this project in program year 2019. These projects are being submitted with the following information:

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION:

Seq #	State Fiscal Year	ATP	Dist	Route System	Project Number (S.P. #) (Fed # if available)	Agency	Description include location, description of all work, & city (if applicable)	Miles		
	2019	M	3	I-94	8680-172	MNDOT	**COC** I-94 from 0.4 Mi W of Br #86818 over Wright Co CSAH 19 in Albertville to Crow River Br 0.3 Mi E of MN 241 in St. Michael (EBL & WBL), reconstruction; include addition of EB third lane from CSAH 19 to MN 241 and WB third lane from CSAH 37 to MN 241, replacement of BR 86812 on MN 241 in St. Michael W/Br 86822, construction of new EB collector-distributor roadway between CSAH 19 and CSAH 37 in Albertville with interchange revisions (Associated with SP 8680-177 and 8680-177AC)	4.7		
Prog	Type of Work			Prop Funds	Total \$	FHWA \$	AC \$	FTA \$	TH \$	Other \$
RC	Reconstruction			State TH	60,000,000	0	0		56,000,000	4,000,000

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 SP 8680-172 to the 2019-2022 Twin Cities metro area TIP. SP 8680-172 is a new project that was selected for funding under MnDOT's 2018 Corridors of Commerce program. The project is located in Wright County and within the extended Twin Cities urbanized metropolitan area. Amendment of this project into the Met Council Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) is expected on October 24, 2018. Met Council's approval of the TPP amendment allows the project to be eligible for consideration and inclusion in the region's TIP and the STIP.

SP 8680-172 involves the reconstruction of I-94 from Wright Co. CSAH 19 to MN 241, including construction of new eastbound third lane between CSAH 19 and MN 241 and westbound third lane between CSAH 37 and MN 241, construction of new eastbound collector-distributor roadway between CSAH 19 and CSAH 37, and reconstruction/reconfiguration of the MN 241 interchange. Funding for SP 8680-172 is 100 percent State Trunk Highway funds provided by the Minnesota Legislature under the MnDOT's Corridors of Commerce program.

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

- New Money ✓
- Anticipated Advance Construction
- ATP or MPO or MnDOT Adjustment by deferral of other projects
- Earmark or HPP not affecting fiscal constraint
- Other (includes State TH funds under Corridors of Commerce Program)

✓ Funding awarded through Corridors of Commerce Program.

CONSISTENCY WITH MPO LONG RANGE PLAN:

This amendment is consistent with the Metropolitan Council Transportation Policy Plan to be adopted by the Metropolitan Council on October 24, 2018, with FHWA/FTA conformity determination to be established subsequently.

AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY:

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

✓ The Minnesota Interagency Air Quality and Transportation Planning Committee identified the project as an A30 regionally-significant project. The attached analysis resulted in a conformity determination that the projects included in the 2019-2022 TIP will meet all relevant regional emissions analysis and budget tests. The 2017-2020 TIP will conform to the relevant sections of the Federal Conformity Rule and to the applicable sections of Minnesota State Implementation Plan for air quality.

From: Matt Steele <matt@mattsteele.net>
Sent: Friday, October 26, 2018 1:14 PM
To: PublicInfo <public.info@metc.state.mn.us>
Subject: Comment on Transportation Improvement Plan Amendment

Interstate 94 west of St. Michael should **not** be expanded, and the TIP should accordingly not be amended as such.

Exurban freeway expansion is extremely problematic:

1. It is extremely expensive in real dollars
2. Freeway expansion merely shifts traffic congestion to chokepoints further down the line.
3. Freeway expansion subsidizes driving and reduces the marginal cost of driving per mile. It essentially subsidizes moving Point A and Point B further apart for many trips. Induced demand is real.
4. Exurban freeway expansion is particularly harmful to suburban/urban residents and freeway commuters. New sprawl-inducing expansions and interchanges (such as the proposed Brockton interchange) encourage and subsidize greenfield auto-oriented land uses. These projects encourage longer trips, many of which enter the beltway or the urban core where capacity is at a premium and expansion is much less feasible. Therefore, exurban freeway expansion disproportionately harms people who drive inside the beltway.
5. Freeway expansion is unwise in light of climate change.

Instead, the Metropolitan Council should be pursuing a variety of policies to reduce vehicle trips and vehicle trip lengths:

1. A policy of dynamic tolling wherever freeway demand exceeds freeway capacity.
2. Reduction in automobile-exclusive land uses and promotion of intensification of existing land uses.
3. Etc.

Please do not expand I-94 past Albertville.

Thank you for your consideration.

Matt Steele
Minneapolis
612-293-9091



11800 Town Center Drive NE, Suite 300 • St. Michael, MN 55376 • (763) 497-2041 • Fax (763) 497-5306 • www.ci.st-michael.mn.us

October 30, 2018

Metropolitan Council
390 Robert St. N.
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Mr. Barbeau,

I am writing this letter to express the City of St. Michael's support for the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT's) request for the proposed, regionally-significant amendment to the 2019 – 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a project reconstructing and expanding of I-94 in Wright County.

The I-94 Expansion project will increase the capacity of a four mile stretch of I-94 in Wright County from four to six lanes and make safety and operational improvements at three interchanges within the project area. The project will also reduce delays, improve access to attract businesses, and improve operations for one of the most important freight corridors in the upper Midwest. The project has completed all the necessary steps to prepare for construction including completing the environmental document. The I-94 expansion project:

- The 1.6% of MnDOT's Interregional Corridor System accounts for 40% of its congestion. This project is expected to reduce delay by more than 330 hours per weekday.
- Improves three interchanges which will provide efficient access to attract businesses and jobs to this fast-growing part of the state.
- Is a Tier One facility (the highest level in the region) in the MPO's Truck Freight Corridor Study (2017).
- Improves I-94 which is the state's most important freight route and essential for long-distance, multistate freight movements.
- Will reduce the crash costs in the corridor by nearly \$1 million per year.

Construction of the I-94 Expansion Project will greatly benefit the region and I am writing to express our support.

Please support the 2019 – 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment to add a project reconstructing and expanding I-94 in Wright County.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kasel, Mayor

October 30, 2018

Metropolitan Council
390 Robert St. N.
St. Paul, MN 55101



Dear Mr. Barbeau,

I am writing this letter to express the I-94 West Corridors Coalition's support for the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT's) request for the proposed, regionally-significant amendment to the 2019 – 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a project reconstructing and expanding of I-94 in Wright County.

The I-94 Expansion project will increase the capacity of a four mile stretch of I-94 in Wright County from four to six lanes and make safety and operational improvements at three interchanges within the project area. The project will also reduce delays, improve access to attract businesses, and improve operations for one of the most important freight corridors in the upper Midwest. The project has completed all the necessary steps to prepare for construction including completing the environmental document. The I-94 expansion project:

- The 1.6% of MnDOT's Interregional Corridor System accounts for 40% of its congestion. This project is expected to reduce delay by more than 330 hours per weekday.
- Improves three interchanges which will provide efficient access to attract businesses and jobs to this fast-growing part of the state.
- Is a Tier One facility (the highest level in the region) in the MPO's Truck Freight Corridor Study (2017).
- Improves I-94 which is the state's most important freight route and essential for long-distance, multistate freight movements.
- Will reduce the crash costs in the corridor by nearly \$1 million per year.

Construction of the I-94 Expansion Project will greatly benefit the region and I am writing to express our support.

Please support the 2019 – 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment to add a project reconstructing and expanding I-94 in Wright County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Steve Bot'.

Steve Bot, Chair
I-94 West Corridor Coalition



**Wright County
Highway Department**
3600 Braddock Ave NE
Buffalo, MN 55313

Ph: (763)682-7383
Fax: (763)682-7313

VIRGIL HAWKINS, P.E.
Highway Engineer

CHAD HAUSMANN, P.E.
Assistant Highway Engr.

STEVE MEYER
Maintenance
Superintendent

JEREMY CARLSON, P.L.S.
Right-of-Way Agent

SARA BUERMANN, P.E.
Traffic Engineer

November 14, 2018

Mr. Joe Barbeau, Senior Planner
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55101

RE: Met Council 2019-2022 TIP Amendment for SP 8680-172

Dear Mr. Barbeau:

We are writing this letter to express our support for the Met Council TIP Amendment for the MnDOT I-94 Expansion Project (8680-172) between St. Michael and Albertville in Wright County, Minnesota.

The MnDOT I-94 Expansion Project will increase the capacity of a four mile stretch of I-94 in Wright County from four to six lanes and make safety and operational improvements at three interchanges within the project area. The project will also reduce delays, improve access to attract businesses, and improve operations for one of the most regionally significant freight corridors in the state, and will provide the following:

- Is expected to reduce delay by more than 330 hours per weekday.
- Improves three (3) interchanges which will provide efficient access to attract businesses and jobs to this fast-growing part of the state.
- Improves I-94 which is the state's most important freight route and essential for long-distance, multistate freight movements.
- Will reduce the crash costs in the corridor by nearly \$1 million per year.

Construction of the I-94 Expansion Project will greatly benefit Wright County communities and we are writing to express our support.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on this important regionally significant transportation improvement project.

Sincerely,

Virgil G. Hawkins, P.E.
Wright County Highway Engineer

Cc: Wright County Board of Commissioners
Claudia Dumont, MnDOT District 3
Chad Hausmann, Assistant County Engineer



PHONE: 763-295-2711 FAX: 763-295-4404

505 Walnut Street | Suite 1 | Monticello, MN 55362

November 14, 2018

Joseph Barbeau
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert St. N.
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Mr. Barbeau,

The city of Monticello strongly supports the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT's) request for the proposed, regionally-significant amendment to the 2019 – 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a project reconstructing and expanding I-94 in Wright County.

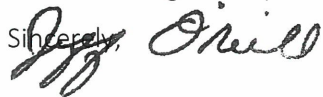
The I-94 Expansion Project will increase the capacity of a four mile stretch of I-94 in Wright County from four lanes to six, and make safety and operational improvements at three interchanges within the project area. The project will also reduce delays, improve access to attract businesses, and improve operations for one of the most important freight corridors in the upper Midwest.

The project has completed all necessary steps to prepare for construction, including the environmental document. The I-94 Expansion Project is expected to:

- Reduce delays by more than 330 hours per weekday. This stretch of road accounts for only 1.6% of MnDOT's Interregional Corridor System, but accounts for 40% of its congestion.
- Improve three interchanges which will provide efficient access to attract businesses and jobs to this fast-growing part of the state.
- Improve a Tier One facility (the highest level in the region) in the MPO's Truck Freight Corridor Study (2017).
- Improve I-94 which is the state's most important freight route and essential for long-distance, multistate freight movements.
- Reduce the crash costs in the corridor by nearly \$1 million per year.

Monticello hosts a wide variety of businesses and is truly a center of job creation in the region. Construction of the I-94 Expansion Project will greatly benefit the many manufacturers and commercial businesses that need safe and efficient transportation access to grow.

Please support the 2019 – 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment to add a project reconstructing and expanding I-94 in Wright County.

Sincerely,


Jeff O'Neill
City Administrator
Monticello, MN