

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 11, 2019

Subject: Metro Freeway Project Approval: US Highway 10/169 in the City of Anoka

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve a request by the City of Anoka to extend the freeway along US 10/169 through the construction of an underpass at Fair Oak Avenue and an interchange at Thurston Avenue, subject to further review and approval by the Metropolitan Council if there are any significant changes in the design of the proposed project.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Ferguson. Motion carried, consent to Council.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: November 25, 2019

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 11, 2019

Subject: Metro Freeway Project Approval: US Highway 10/169 in the City of Anoka

District(s), Member(s): 9 – Zeran

Policy/Legal Reference: Mn. Statute 473.166

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)

Tony Fischer, Highway Planning Analyst (651-602-1703)

Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services (Review # 22374-1)

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Background

Minnesota state law (MS. 473.166) requires that the Council approve any controlled access highway in the metropolitan area before construction or right-of-way acquisition begins. This is to ensure that proposed highway projects are consistent with regional policies and plans. This request covers the construction of a full access interchange at Thurston Avenue and an underpass without access at Fair oak Avenue, both presently are at grade signalized intersections.

The City of Anoka is leading this project to improve safety and mobility on US Highway 10/169 from its western border with the City of Ramsey through the existing Main Street interchange. In addition to constructing an interchange at Thurston Avenue and an underpass at Fair oak Avenue, this project will reconstruct the interchange at US Highway 10 and Main Street with roundabout intersections. The project will provide new frontage roads for local traffic and add multiple sidewalks and trails. The City of Anoka completed an Environmental Assessment/Environmental Assessment Worksheet in August 2019 for the project. A Finding of No Significant Impacts is anticipated to be finalized in January.

The project is an important element in a partnership to improve US Highway 10/169 that includes the cities of Anoka and Ramsey, Anoka County and MnDOT. In 2016 the City of Ramsey completed the construction of an interchange at US Highway 10/169 at Armstrong Blvd. The City of Ramsey is also leading the development of alternatives to what will be the last remaining full access signalized intersections along US Highway 10/169 in these communities at Ramsey Boulevard and Sunfish Lake Boulevard.

Rationale

This project is included in the current 2040 Transportation Policy Plan and the region's 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program. It is consistent with regional policy and advances the Transportation Policy Plan goals of Safety and Security, Access to Destinations and Competitive Economy. The US Highway 10 and Thurston

Avenue interchange was approved by the joint Metropolitan Council/MnDOT Interchange Review Committee.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This project supports stewardship and prosperity by improving safety and mobility on an important commercial and commuter corridor connecting local, regional and statewide movement of people and goods.

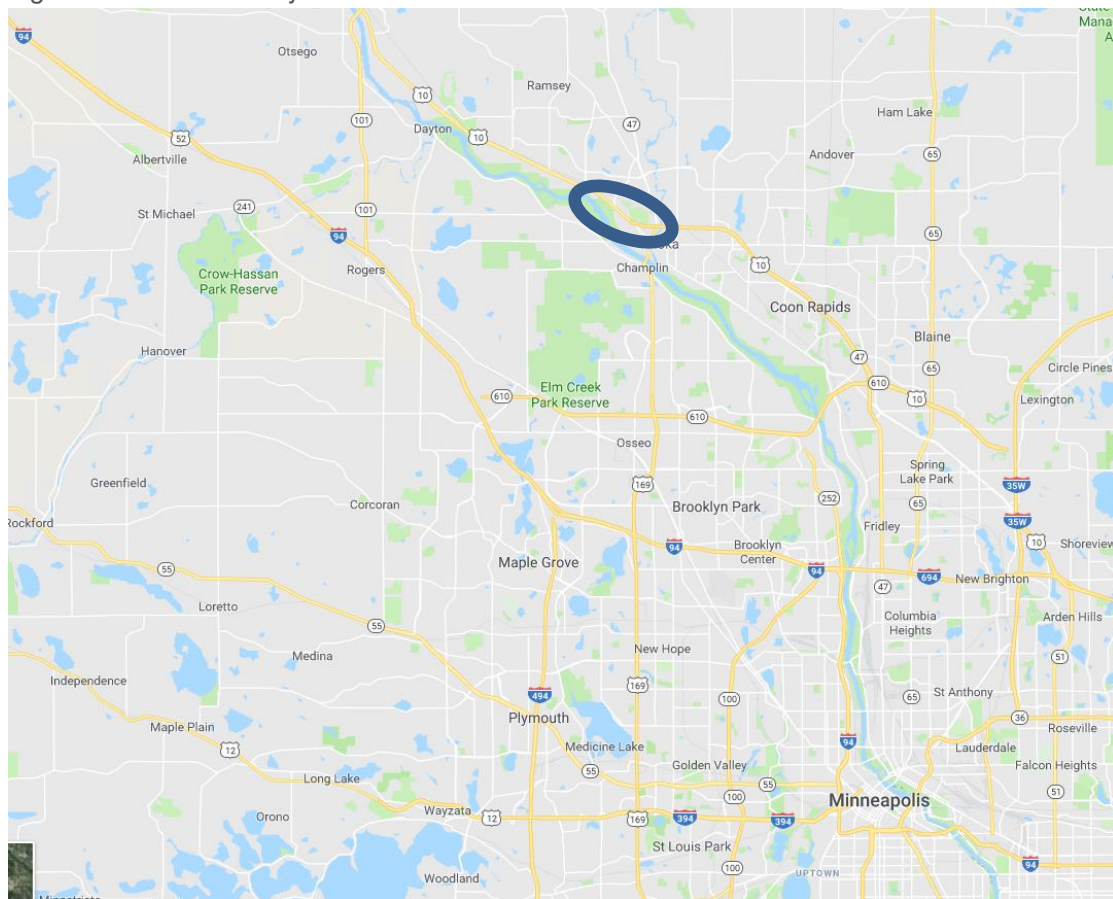
Funding

The project is fully funded with local, county, state and federal funds, including \$14 million of federal funds awarded through the Regional Solicitation over two funding cycles.

Known Support / Opposition

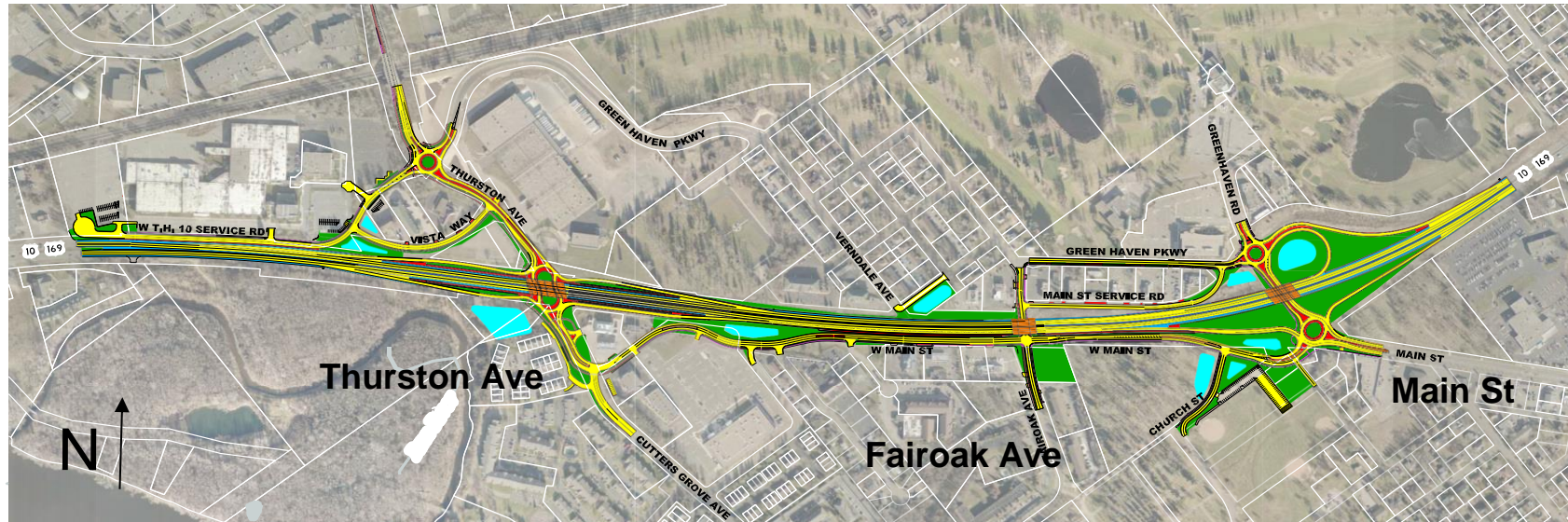
MnDOT supports this project and there is no known opposition.

Figure 1: Context of Project Area



Source: Google Maps

Figure 2: US Highway 10/169 in the City of Anoka Project



Source: City of Anoka