

# Committee Report

Transportation Committee



**Committee Meeting Date:** November 27, 2023

**For the Metropolitan Council:** December 13, 2023

## Business Item: 2023-275

Regionally Significant 2024-2027 TIP Amendment Request – Two Regionally Significant Projects

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add two regionally significant projects:

- Lane additions on I-94 from Albertville to Monticello in Wright County and
- New interchange at US 169 and CSAH 59 in Scott County

### Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

Transportation Services Planning Analyst Joe Barbeau presented this item. Vento stated that spending on roadway expansion might be frustrating for some as it conflicts with the money spent on mass transit. Chair Barber stated that we must take a holistic view and even though it is expansion, it could really be addressing safety concerns. Dolkar asked how the state's new greenhouse emissions rule impacts the ability to add expansion projects to the TIP. Metropolitan Transportation Services Executive Director Charles Carlson stated that a piece of the transportation bill includes policy provisions around greenhouse gas emissions thresholds starting in February 2025. Carlson continued that the projects on tonight's agenda are not impacted but in February 2025, any new TIP projects would be subject to an evaluation process. Carlson stated staff is currently developing the process with MnDOT and other stakeholders, exploring what it means to conform and how to measure. The first report is due to the Legislature on February 1, 2024.

Motion by Morales, seconded by Carter, Tyrone. Motion carried.

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**District(s), Member(s):** 4 – Barber; N/A (for I-94 Project)

**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, Planning Analyst (651-602-1705)

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

### Proposed Action

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- Lane additions on I-94 from Albertville to Monticello in Wright County and
- New interchange at US 169 and CSAH 59 in Scott County

### Background

The following projects are proposed for addition to the 2024-2027 TIP:

- MnDOT requests the addition of a I-94 Albertville to Monticello Lane Expansion Project in Wright County to the TIP. This project will expand approximately eight miles of I-94 from two to three travel lanes. A portion of this project is within the MPO Planning Area located outside of the seven-county area. The project will be constructed by MnDOT District 3. This project is funded through the state's Corridors of Commerce program.
- Scott County requests the addition of a grade-separated interchange on US 169 at CSAH 59 (Delaware Avenue) into the TIP. This project is locally funded by Scott County.

### Rationale

The Metropolitan Council approves formal amendments to the TIP. The projects are in the process of being amended into the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) through business item 2023-257 and meet fiscal constraint because the federal, state, and local funds are sufficient to fully fund the projects.

### Thrive Lens Analysis

This action promotes *livability* by enabling the construction of key projects in the urban area.

### Funding

The projects are fully funded with federal, state, and local funds.