

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: January 22, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: February 14, 2024

Business Item: 2024-21

Metro Freeway Project Approval: Highway 169 and Scott County State Aid Highway 169

District(s), Member(s): District 4, Deb Barber
Policy/Legal Reference: MS. 473.166
Staff Prepared/Presented: Robbie King, Planner, 651-602-1380
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Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve a request by Scott County to construct a grade separated interchange at Trunk Highway (TH) 169 and County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 59 in Saint Lawrence Township, subject to further review and approval by the Metropolitan Council if there are any significant changes in the design of the proposed project.

Background

To ensure that proposed highway projects are consistent with regional policies and plans, state law requires Council approval of controlled access highway projects. This request covers the construction of an interchange at TH 169 and CSAH 59.

This interchange is the result of previous MnDOT and Metropolitan Council studies that have identified TH 169 and CSAH 59 as an intersection in need of improvement. The project will increase safety on TH 169 and address access management from CSAH 59 while removing a barrier for commercial and agricultural destinations in the western portion of Scott County.

Scott County completed an Environmental Assessment Worksheet for the proposed project. It was approved and a Findings of Fact and Conclusion was issued in December 2023.

Rationale

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 project is included in the current 2040 Transportation Policy Plan and the region's 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program. It is consistent with regional policy, and most directly advances the Transportation Policy Plan goals of Safety and Security, Access to Destinations, Competitive Economy, and Leveraging Transportation Investments to Guide Land Use.

Thrive Lens Analysis

This project supports a competitive economy by providing safe and reliable commercial and agricultural connections. Improvements at this location are essential for connections between TH 169 and CSAH 59. Further, the project supports a safer transportation system by eliminating conflict points, which has resulted in one severe crash since improvements were last made to this intersection. This project supports leveraging transportation investments to guide land use by increasing the capacity of this intersection to accommodate potential future development pressure.

Funding

This project is locally funded by Scott County.

