

# Committee Report

Transportation Committee



**Committee Meeting Date:** January 13, 2025

**For the Metropolitan Council:** January 22, 2025

## Business Item: 2025-15

Regionally Significant 2025-2028 TIP Amendment – I-494 E-ZPass Extension and Improvements

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council adopt an amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a new regionally significant project to extend E-ZPass lanes, reconstruct mainline pavement, improve drainage, rehabilitate bridges, and add ADA improvements on I-494 from Penn Avenue to 34th Avenue, I-494 from US 169 to MN 100, and I-35W from 86th St to 76th Street.

### Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

Joe Barbeau, Planning Analyst, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item.

It was moved by Cameron, seconded by Childress. Motion carried.

Hearing no objection, Chair Barber stated the item could proceed consent to Council.



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**District(s), Member(s):** District 5, Pacheco

**Policy/Legal Reference:** TAB Action

**Staff Prepared/Presented:**

Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director of Finance and Planning, 651-602-1058

Steve Peterson, Senior Manager, 651-602-1819

Robbie King, Planner, 651-602-1380

**Division/Department:** Metropolitan Transportation Services

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### Background

MnDOT requests an amendment to the 2025-2028 TIP to add its regionally significant Interstate 494 E-ZPass extension project (SP# 2785-462). This project will extend the I-494 E-ZPass lanes, reconstruct mainline pavement, improve drainage, and add ADA improvements on I-494 from Penn Avenue to 34th Avenue, I-494 from US 169 to MN 100, and I-35W from 86th St to 76th Street in Richfield and Bloomington. This project is funded with \$135,000,000 of federal funds, along with \$85,000,000 of Corridors of Commerce funds.

The public comment period ran from November 21 to December 11 and three comments were received. Each of these comments expressed opposition. Two of the comments in opposition expressed concern with lane expansion because of potential impact to increase vehicle miles traveled and a desire to divert funds to transit and bike/pedestrian projects. An additional comment expressed opposition to expanding E-ZPass lanes and expressed support for adding general purpose lanes as a method of decreasing congestion.

### Rationale

The Metropolitan Council approves formal amendments to the TIP. The projects are consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) and meet fiscal constraint because the federal and state funds are sufficient to fully fund the projects.

### **Thrive Lens Analysis**

This action promotes livability by distributing state and federal funds to transportation safety projects.

### **Funding**

The projects are fully funded with federal and state funds.

### **Small Business Inclusion**

Each of the projects included in this request is federally funded. The Minnesota Department of Transportation will oversee the federal requirements, including the DBE requirement.

