

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee meeting date: October 27, 2025

For the Metropolitan Council: November 12, 2025

Business Item: 2025-275

2026-2029 Streamlined TIP Amendment Request – Reconnect Rondo’s Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program planning grant

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council approve an amendment to the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program to add Reconnect Rondo’s Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program planning grant.

Summary of Transportation Committee discussion/questions

Metropolitan Transportation Services Planning Analyst Joe Barbeau presented this item. Council members stated their appreciation for this work.

Motion by Carter, Tyrone, seconded by Johnson. Motion carried, consent to Council.



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District(s), member(s): District 14, Toni Carter
Policy/legal reference: TAB Action
Staff prepared/presented: Amy Venewitz, Deputy Director of Finance and Planning
Steve Peterson, Senior Manager
Robbie King, Senior Planner
Division/department: Transportation / Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council approve an amendment to the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program to add Reconnect Rondo’s Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program planning grant.

Background

Reconnect Rondo, a 501(c)(3) organization based in Saint Paul’s Rondo neighborhood, received a \$2,000,000 Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program planning grant from the USDOT in January 2025. These funds are to conduct National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review and related activities for a highway cover over Interstate 94 approximately between Lexington Avenue and Dale Avenue in Saint Paul.

Reconnect Rondo requests an amendment to the 2026-2029 TIP to add this new project (SP# 8825-1407).

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

On Feb. 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Under the Thrive lens, this project furthers the livability outcome by supporting activities to improve the area on top of a highway.

Funding

The project is fully funded with federal and state funds.

Small business inclusion

The project included in this request is federally funded. The Minnesota Department of Transportation's State Aid office will oversee the federal requirements, including the DBE requirement.



2026-2029 TIP AMENDMENT REQUEST

Please amend the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the below project:

Project identification

Seq #	TBD
State Fiscal Year (State)	2026
ATP and District	Metro
Route System	N/A
Project Number (S.P. #)	8825-1407
Agency	Reconnect Rondo 501 (c)(3)
Description	RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PILOT PROGRAM PLANNING GRANT TO CONDUCT NEPA AND RELATED ACTIVITIES FOR A HIGHWAY COVER OVER I94 FROM APPROXIMATELY LEXINGTON AVE TO DALE AVE
Miles	N/A
Program	Planning
Type of Work	NEPA
Proposed Funds	RCP (USDOT)
Total \$	\$2,500,000
FHWA \$	\$2,000,000
COC BONDS	\$356,100
AC	\$143,900

Background and TIP Amendment Need

This amendment is needed to add a new 2026 project in the 2026-2029 TIP.

Fiscal Constraint (as required by 23 CFR 450.216)

This project was awarded Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program funds matched by state and other funds. Therefore, fiscal constraint is maintained.

Consistency with MPO Long-Range Plan

This amendment is consistent with the Metropolitan Council Transportation Policy Plan, adopted by the Metropolitan Council on February 12, 2025.