

**Transportation Advisory Board**  
of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

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**ACTION TRANSMITTAL**

No. 2012-21

**DATE:** May 10, 2012  
**TO:** Transportation Advisory Board  
**FROM:** Technical Advisory Committee  
**SUBJECT:** 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment Request for MnDOT to add St Croix River Crossing Pre-Construction Work.  
**MOTION:** That the TAB adopts an amendment to the 2012-2015 TIP that adds SP#8217-82045PE and 8217-82045PR: Bridge Plan Design, Analysis and Review.

**BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION:** The construction of the St Croix River Bridge was previously held up because of a decision by the National Park Service to not approve the project under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. In March, 2012, President Obama signed legislation that exempted the crossing from the Wild and Scenic River Act, enabling the project to move forward. These two projects are required to confirm and utilize the preliminary bridge plans to produce a formal bridge plan. The federal funds used for this project are being advance constructed with conversion of federal funds taking place in 2014. The project is subject to air quality conformity determination which has been previously included in the TIP Air Quality Analysis and no changes have been made either to the horizon year or the capacity increase from this project on the regional system. The amendment is attached.

**RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY:** Federal law requires that all transportation projects that will be partially funded with federal funds must be in an approved Transportation Improvement Program and meet the following four tests: fiscal constraint; consistency with the adopted regional transportation plan; air quality conformity and opportunity for public input. It is the TAB's responsibility to adopt and amend the TIP according to these four requirements.

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**ROUTING**

<b>TO</b>	<b>ACTION REQUESTED</b>	<b>DATE COMPLETED</b>
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	February 16, 2012
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	May 2, 2012
TAB Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Adopt	
Metropolitan Council	Concurrence	



**Minnesota Department of Transportation**

**Metropolitan District**

1500 West County Road B-2  
Roseville, MN 55113

April 19, 2012

Revised April 25, 2012

Karl Keel, Chair  
TAC Funding and Programming Committee  
Metropolitan Council  
390 N. Robert St.  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

RE: Amendment to the Minnesota 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)  
State Project Number: 8217-82045PE & 8217-82045PR  
Federal Project Number:

Dear Mr. Keel:

Please amend the Minnesota 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the following new projects into SFY 2012 of the TIP. These projects are being submitted with the following information:

**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION:**

SEQ #	STATE FISCAL YEAR	A T P	D I S T	ROUTE SYSTEM	PROJECT NUMBER (S.P. #) (Fed # if available)	AGENCY	DESCRIPTION include location, description of all work, & city (if applicable)	MILES
	2012	M	M	MN 36	8217-82045PE	MnDOT	MN 36; St Croix River Crossing-Design & Prepare 3 Bridge Plans, Special Provisions, Estimates & Conduct Review of Hydraulic Analysis for Construction Project (AC Payback in 2014)	0
	2012	M	M	MN 36	8217-82045PR	MnDOT	MN 36; St Croix River Crossing-Peer Review of Final Bridge Design for 3 bridges (82045, 82047 and 82048) (AC Payback in 2014)	0

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PROG	TYPE OF WORK	PROP FUNDS	TOTAL \$	FHWA \$	AC \$	FTA \$	TH \$	OTHER \$
CA	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	BR, BF	\$14,000,000	0	\$5,600,000 Payback in 2014	0	0	\$1,400,000 (Bonds) (\$7,000,000 (WISDOT HPP & State Funds))
CA	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT	BR, BF	\$2,500,000	0	\$1,000,000 Payback in 2014	0	0	\$250,000 (Bonds) (\$1,250,000 (WISDOT HPP & State Funds))

**PROJECT BACKGROUND:**

1. Briefly describe why amendment is needed (e.g. project in previous TIP but not completed; illustrative project and funds now available; discretionary funds received; inadvertently not included in TIP).

A formal amendment is needed to add Project 8217-82045PE for preliminary and final engineering & Project 8217-82045PR for peer review of the bridge design of the St. Croix Crossing in SFY 2012 of the 2012-2015 TIP.

In October 2010 the National Park Service ruled that it could not approve the St. Croix Crossing project under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act because the direct and adverse effects cannot be avoided or eliminated. This action blocked other federal agencies assistance or permitting actions which effectively delayed the project. On March 14, 2012 President Obama signed legislation that exempted the St. Croix Crossing from the Wild and Scenic River Act enabling the project to move forward.

The St. Croix Crossing project SP8217-82045 (SEQ 1983) is in SFY 2014 of the 2012-2015 STIP with a total project cost of \$345,750,000 including \$89,000,000 in federal funds \$71,000,000 in advanced construction funds and \$256,750,000 in other funds, including \$63,025,000 in state bonds and \$193,725,000 in HPP and bond funds from Wisconsin. This project includes preliminary and final engineering, construction, geotechnical evaluation and surveying among other engineering and tasks. Projects

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8217-82045PE and 8217-82045PR are required to confirm and utilize the preliminary bridge plans to produce a formal bridge plan.

Project 8217-82045PE is required in SFY 2012 to design and prepare three separate bridge plans, special provisions, cost estimates and conduct independent review of the hydraulic analysis for the entire-construction project which MnDOT and WisDOT will use to prepare grading plans for the St. Croix Crossing project. Project 8217-82045PR is

required because the State has determined that the St. Croix Crossing Bridges are a major structure, therefore a design review with independent design computations along with detail review will be required for the bridges.

Project 8217-82045PE and 8217-82045PR will be AC'ed with conversion of federal funds from Project SP8217-82045 (SEQ 1983) taking place SFY 2014.

2. How is Fiscal Constraint Maintained as required by 23 CFR 450.216 (check all that apply)?

- New Money – \_\_\_\_\_  
(Discretionary, Special Allocations or Other New Funding Sources)
- Anticipated Advance Construction     X\*
- ATP or MPO or Mn/DOT Adjustment  
of other projects \_\_\_\_\_
- Earmark or HPP federal funds outside ATP  
target \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

\*The federal funds for projects 8217-82045PE and 8217-82045 PR are being AC'ed with conversion taking place in 2014. WisDOT will provide \$7,000,000 for project 8217-82045PE and \$1,250,000 for project 8217-82045PR. MnDOT will use State Bonds to fund the remaining \$1,400,000 for project 8217-82045PE and \$250,000 for project 8217-82045PR. These funds are sufficient to fully fund the project therefore fiscal constraint is maintained.

**CONSISTENCY WITH MPO LONG RANGE PLAN:**

This amendment is consistent with the Metropolitan Council Transportation Policy Plan, adopted on January 14, 2009, with FHWA/FTA conformity determination established on September 16, 2009. The amendment is also consistent with the 2030 Policy Plan update adopted by the Metropolitan Council on November 10, 2010 with FHWA/FTA conformity determination established on February 23, 2011.

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**AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY:**

- Subject to conformity determination..... YES
- Exempt from regional level analysis\*..... \_\_\_\_\_
- Exempt from project level analysis\*..... \_\_\_\_\_
- Exempt by virtue of interagency consultation\*..... \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A (not in a nonattainment or maintenance area) ..... \_\_\_\_\_

\* The elements of this project have previously been included in the TIP Air Quality Analysis. The St. Croix River Crossing was modeled and will continue to be listed as A-20 under Regional Significant Projects. No changes have been made either to the horizon year or the capacity increase to the regional system from the original project.

We are requesting approval of this TIP amendment at this time. If you have any questions, please call Jon Solberg at (651) 234-7792

Sincerely,

*For*   
Brian Isaacson  
Planning Director, Program Management

Enclosures: None

cc: James Andrew, Metropolitan Council  
Jon P. Solberg, Metro Program Management  
Cynthia Krumsieg, Metro Program Management  
Kevin Western, Central Office Bridge  
Todd Clarkowski, Metro East Area Engineer

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