

ACTION TRANSMITTAL No. 2014-72

DATE: October 24, 2014

TO: Transportation Advisory Board

PREPARED BY: Joe Barbeau, Senior Planner (651-602-1705)

SUBJECT: 2015-2018 TIP Amendment: Ladders of Opportunity award to improve, replace, and construct bus facilities

REQUESTED ACTION: Metro Transit requests an amendment to include in the 2015-2018 TIP, funding to improve, replace, and construct bus facilities in the Minneapolis and St. Paul region (SP# TRF-TCMT-15BB).

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Recommend that the Transportation Advisory Board adopt the amendment into the 2015-2018 TIP to include funding for improvement, replacement, and construction of bus facilities in the Minneapolis and St. Paul region (SP# TRF-TCMT-15BB).

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: Metro Transit was awarded an FTA section 5309 Bus & Bus Facilities discretionary award (Ladders of Opportunity) on September 25, 2014. Metro Transit will receive funding to improve, replace, and construct bus facilities in the Minneapolis-St. Paul region, particularly focused on areas of high poverty and high dependence on transit. The focus will be on bus stop improvements to ensure safe, quality facilities in disadvantaged areas. The project will result in new customer waiting shelters, addition of heat and light to existing shelters, improved transit information, and pedestrian connections.

RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY: Federal law requires that all transportation projects that will be funded with federal funds must be in an approved TIP 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.

STAFF ANALYSIS: The TIP amendment meets fiscal constraint because the local and federal funds are sufficient to fully fund the project. The amendment is consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan, adopted by the Metropolitan Council on September 10, 2014 and with FHWA/FTA conformity determination established on October 6, 2014. The Minnesota Interagency Air Quality and Transportation Planning Committee determined that the project is exempt from air quality conformity analysis. Public input opportunity for this amendment is provided through the TAB's and Council's regular meetings. This amendment meets the criteria for using the TAB's streamlined TIP amendment process and was recommended for streamlining by the TAC Executive Committee.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
Technical Advisory Committee Executive Committee	Review & Recommend	10/23/2014
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Adopt	
Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee	Concurrence	
Metropolitan Council	Concurrence	

Amendment to the Twin Cities 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION:

STATE FISCAL YEAR	ROUTE SYS	PROJECT NUMBER (S.P. #) (Fed # if available)	AGENCY	DESCRIPTION include location, description of all work, & city (if applicable)	MILES
2015		TBD	Metropolitan Council - MT	Section 5309 – Ladders of Opportunity Award – Improve, replace and construct bus facilities, Minneapolis & St. Paul	N/A

PROG	TYPE OF WORK	PROP FUNDS	TOTAL \$	FHWA \$	AC \$	FTA \$	TH \$	OTHER \$
			\$4,075,000			\$3,260,000		\$815,000

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).

The Metropolitan Council / Metro Transit was awarded an FTA section 5309 Bus & Bus Facilities discretionary award on 9/25/2014. This new funding requires a TIP amendment in order for the FTA grant to be executed (ie made available to the Council).

Metro Transit, serving the Twin Cities in Minnesota, will receive funding to improve, replace, and construct bus facilities in the Minneapolis-St. Paul region, particularly focused on areas of high poverty and high dependence on transit. The focus will be on bus stop improvements to ensure safe, quality facilities in disadvantaged areas. The project will result in new customer waiting shelters, addition of heat and light to existing shelters, improved transit information, and pedestrian connections. In addition, partnerships with local schools and training centers will better connect residents to education and employment opportunities.

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

- New Money X
- Anticipated Advance Construction
- ATP or MPO or MnDOT Adjustment by deferral of other projects
- Earmark or HPP not affecting fiscal constraint
- Other

This project is receiving FTA Section 5309 funds from the Bus and Bus Facilities “Ladders of Opportunity” initiative and will also be using local Regional Transit Capital (RTC) funds. The federal and local funds slated for this project 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 by the Metropolitan Council on September 10, 2014, with FHWA/FTA conformity determination established on October 6, 2014.

AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY:

- Subject to conformity determination
- Exempt from regional level analysis..... X*
- N/A (not in a nonattainment or maintenance area).....

*Exempt from regional level analysis: T-7 (Construction of small passenger shelters and information kiosks)