

Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

ACTION TRANSMITTAL No. 2014-48

DATE: October 27, 2015
TO: Transportation Advisory Board
PREPARED BY: Joe Barbeau, Senior Planner (651-602-1705)
SUBJECT: 2016-2019 TIP Amendment: Bassett Creek Regional Trail Cost Increase
REQUESTED ACTION: Three Rivers Park District requests an amendment to the 2016-2019 TIP to adjust the cost of its Bassett Creek Regional Trail project (SP# 091-090-076)
RECOMMENDED MOTION: Recommend that the Transportation Advisory Board adopt the amendment to the 2016-2019 TIP to adjust the cost of Three Rivers Park District's Bassett Creek Regional Trail project (SP# 091-090-076)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: Three Rivers Park District was granted Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds for the Bassett Creek Regional Trail project. The project is programmed for FY 2016 and had an estimated cost of \$1,153,600 at the time of grant award. The purpose of this amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for S.P. 091-090-076 is to account for an increase in estimated construction cost of \$889,200 to a new total of \$2,042,800. There are two primary reasons for the cost increase from the amount in the grant application. The first is the inflation of construction costs since 2011. The second is that as the Park District started the trail design process, more street and associated utility reconstruction work has been needed than was anticipated in the original estimate.

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 January 14, 2015, with FHWA/FTA conformity determination established on March 13, 2015. 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 | 10/26/2015 |
| Transportation Advisory Board | Review & Adopt | |
| Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee | Concurrence | |
| Metropolitan Council | Concurrence | |

Please amend the 2016 - 2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include this project in program year 2016. This project is 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) | M I L E S |
|-------|-------------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|--|----------------------------|---|-----------|
| 1490 | 2016 | M | M | Ped/Bike | 091-090-076 | Three Rivers Park District | Bassett Creek Regional Trail, From intersection of Boone Ave N and 36th Ave N in New Hope to intersection of 32nd Ave N and Xenia Ave N in Crystal-Construct ped/bike trail | 2.8 |

| PROG | TYPE OF WORK | PROP FUNDS | TOTAL \$ | FHWA \$ | AC \$ | FTA \$ | TH \$ | OTHER \$ |
|------|-----------------------|------------|-----------|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----------|
| EN | Pedestrian bike trail | TAP | 1,153,600 | 922,880 | - | - | - | 230,720 |
| | | | 2,042,800 | | | | | 1,119,920 |

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).

Three Rivers Park District was granted Transportation Alternative Program funds for the Bassett Creek Regional Trail project. The project is currently programmed in FY 2016 and had an estimated cost of \$1,153,600 at the time of grant award. The purpose of this amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program for S.P. 091-090-076 is to account for an increase in estimated construction cost of \$889,200 to a new total of \$2,042,800.

There are two primary reasons for the cost increase from the amount in the grant application. The first reason is the inflation of construction costs since 2011, when the cost estimate was formulated. On average, street/trail construction costs have risen an estimated 25% since 2011. For example, excavation costs have increased approximately 25 to 30% since 2011, pavement removal by 20 to 25%, and bituminous pavement 30 to 35%.

Additionally, as the Park District started the trail design process, the cities of New Hope and Crystal have directed the Park District to avoid private easements as much as possible to construct the trail. This has resulted in more street and associated utility reconstruction work for project than was anticipated in the original estimate.

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

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

No additional federal funds are needed and the additional local funds are being provided by Three Rivers Park District 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 January 14, 2015, with FHWA/FTA conformity determination established on March 13, 2015.

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: AQ-2 (Bicycle and pedestrian facilities)