

Action Transmittal

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting Date: October 19, 2022

Date: October 10, 2022

Action Transmittal: 2022-42

Streamlined 2023-2026 TIP Amendment: Electric Bus Purchase

To: Transportation Advisory Board

From: Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared By: Joe Barbeau, Senior Planner, 651-602-1705

Requested Action

Metro Transit requests an amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP to add the purchase of electric buses (SP # TRS-TCMT-23AF).

Recommended Motion

That the Transportation Advisory Board recommend adoption of an amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP to add the purchase of electric buses (SP # TRS-TCMT-22G).

Summary

The requested action involves the addition of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds awarded to Metro Transit to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The funds are to be used to purchase eight electric buses.

Background and Purpose

Metro Transit was awarded discretionary funds in the federal fiscal year 2021 Low or No Emissions Vehicle Program and intends to use the funds on the purchase of eight 40-foot Proterra ZX5 Max electric buses, workforce training, and project management and technical assistance.

The project was originally amended into the 2022-2025 TIP (recommended by TAB at its August meeting). However, the September 24 Council approval did not afford enough time for the Federal Transit Administration to award the funding before approval of the 2023-2026 TIP and STIP. Therefore, it needs to be included in the 2023-2026 TIP.

The funding source is Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5339, which is not funded through the Regional Solicitation.

This TIP amendment request is to be reflected in the 2023-2026 TIP, which is yet to be approved. The Council will consider the amendment request following federal approval of the 2023-2026 TIP and State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Relationship to Regional Policy

Federal law requires that all TIP amendments meet the following tests: fiscal constraint; consistency with the adopted regional transportation plan; and opportunity for public input. It is the TAB's

responsibility to recommend TIP amendments to the Council for adoption, provided these requirements are met.

The streamlined TIP amendment process allows projects that meet certain conditions to be streamlined, which entails forgoing the TAC Funding & Programming Committee review and results in saving a month of process time.

Staff Analysis

The TIP amendment meets fiscal constraint because the federal and local funds are sufficient to fully fund the project. This amendment is consistent with the Metropolitan Council Transportation Policy Plan, adopted by the Metropolitan Council on November 18, 2020, with FHWA/FTA conformity determination established on December 4, 2020. Public input opportunity for this amendment is provided through the TAB's and the Council's regular meetings.

Staff Analysis

At its October 5, 2022, meeting, the Technical Advisory Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of an amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP to add the purchase of electric buses.

Routing

To	Action Requested	Date Completed / Scheduled
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	October 5, 2022
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Recommend	October 19, 2022
Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee	Review & Recommend	TBD*
Metropolitan Council	Review & Adopt	TBD*

*The request will be provided to the Transportation Committee following United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) approval of the 2023-2026 TIP.



Please amend the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include this project in program year 2023. This project is being submitted with the following information:

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION:

State Fiscal Year	ATP/ Dist	Route System	Project Number (S.P. #)	Agency	Description	Miles
2023	M	BB	TRF-TCMT-23AF	Met Council - MT	SECT 5339: Twin Cities Met Council MT- Low/No Emissions Grant – Proterra Electric Bus Purchases	0.0

Prog	Type of Work	Prop Funds	Total \$	FTA \$	Other
TR	Transit	5339	5,238,548	4,190,838	1,047,710

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

- 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 source of these funds is federal fiscal year 2021 Section 5339 Low or No Emission competitive funds. This amendment is needed because Metro Transit was awarded discretionary funds. These funds were awarded in the federal fiscal year 2021 Low or No Emissions grant program in mid-2021. These are for the procurement of eight forty-foot Proterra ZX5 Max electric buses (delivery in 2023), workforce training and CTE’s project management and technical assistance.

- 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 X

The funding for this project is FTA 5339; it is new discretionary funding.

CONSISTENCY WITH MPO LONG RANGE PLAN:

This amendment is consistent with the Metropolitan Council Transportation Policy Plan, adopted by the Metropolitan Council on November 18, 2020, with FHWA/FTA conformity determination established on December 4, 2020.

AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY:

Conformity demonstration is not required as all of the region is in attainment of federal standards for all transportation-related air pollutants as of 9/24/2022.