

Action Transmittal

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting Date: January 18, 2023

Date: January 6, 2023

Action Transmittal: 2023-03

Streamlined 2023-2026 TIP Amendment: SouthWest Transit Electric Bus Purchase

To: Transportation Advisory Board

From: Technical Advisory Committee

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

Requested Action

SouthWest Transit requests an amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP to add the purchase of four 45-foot battery-electric buses and six cutaway-type battery-electric vehicles along with charging infrastructure (SP # TRF-TCMT-23AH).

Recommended Motion

That the Transportation Advisory Board recommend adoption of an amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP to add the purchase of four 45-foot battery-electric buses and six cutaway-type battery-electric vehicles along with charging infrastructure (SP # TRF-TCMT-23AH).

Summary

The requested action involves the addition of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds awarded for SouthWest Transit's purchase of battery-electric vehicles and charging infrastructure to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Technical Advisory Committee unanimously recommended the action.

Background and Purpose

SouthWest Transit was awarded discretionary funds in the federal fiscal year 2022 Low or No Emission Vehicle Program. This award is for the procurement of four 45-foot MCI D45 CRTe LE battery-electric buses, as well as six smaller cutaway-type battery-electric vehicles serving the southwest suburbs of the Twin Cities. Corresponding charging infrastructure will also be purchased with project funds.

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

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 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.

Committee Comments and Action

At its January 4, 2023 meeting, the Technical Advisory Committee unanimously recommended adoption of an amendment to the 2023-2026 TIP to add the purchase of four 45-foot battery-electric buses and six cutaway-type battery-electric vehicles along with charging infrastructure.

Routing

To	Action Requested	Date Completed / (Scheduled)
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	January 4, 2023
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Recommend	<i>January 18, 2023</i>
Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee	Review & Recommend	<i>January 23, 2023</i>
Metropolitan Council	Review & Adopt	<i>January 25, 2023</i>



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-23AH	SouthWest Transit	SECT 5339: SouthWest Transit - Low/No Emissions Grant – Purchase MCI D45 battery-electric and cutaway-type battery-electric buses	0.0

Prog	Type of Work	Prop Funds	Total \$	FTA \$	Other
TR	Transit	5339	9,563,072	8,127,891	1,435,181

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).

This amendment is needed because SouthWest Transit was awarded discretionary funds in the federal fiscal year 2022 Low or No Emissions grant program. This award is for the procurement of four 45-foot MCI D45 CRTE LE battery-electric buses, as well as six smaller cutaway-type battery-electric vehicles serving the southwest suburbs of the Twin Cities. Corresponding charging infrastructure will also be purchased with project funds.

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

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.