

Action Transmittal

Transportation Advisory Board



Meeting Date: May 17, 2023

Date: May 8, 2023

Action Transmittal: 2023-20

Scope Change Request for Hennepin County CSAH 153 (Lowry Avenue NE) Reconstruction

To: Transportation Advisory Board
From: Technical Advisory Committee
Prepared By: Joe Barbeau, Senior Planner, 651-602-1705

Requested Action

Hennepin County requests a scope change to remove the MN 65 intersection improvements from its CSAH 153 reconstruction project (SP # 027-753-020).

Recommended Motion

That the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) approve Hennepin County's scope change request to remove the MN 65 intersection improvements from its CSAH 153 reconstruction project (SP # 027-753-020) with no federal funding reduction.

Summary

This requested scope change involves removing improvements at the MN 65 (Central Avenue NE) intersection of Hennepin County's CSAH 153 (Lowry Avenue NE) reconstruction project. These improvements will be completed by Metro Transit when it constructs F Line arterial bus rapid transit (ABRT). The change would enable the intersection improvement to be addressed in one project rather than two. The Funding & Programming Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommended approval with no federal funding reduction.

Background and Purpose

Hennepin County was awarded \$7,000,000 in Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program funds (with a \$10,490,000 total cost) for 2023 in the 2018 Regional Solicitation. The award was to fund improvements along CSAH 153 (Lowry Avenue NE) from Washington Street NE to Johnson Street NE. Improvements were to include new pavement, sidewalk, bikeway, streetscaping, curb, drainage structures, and traffic signals.

Construction is scheduled through 2025, which is when development of Metro Transit's F Line arterial bus rapid transit (ABRT) is scheduled to begin. Therefore, Hennepin County requests a scope change that would remove planned improvements at the intersection with MN 65 (Central Avenue) so they can be completed with the F Line project. The rationales for this request are that the long-term vision for the intersection could better be implemented in the F Line project and that this would enable the intersection to be addressed in one project, rather than two. Metro Transit will complete the improvements as a part of its project.

Relationship to Regional Policy

Projects that receive funding through the Regional Solicitation and HSIP Solicitation processes are subject to the regional scope change policy. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the project is designed and constructed according to the plans and intent described in the original application. The scope change policy allows project sponsors to adjust their projects as needed while still providing substantially the same benefits described in their original project applications.

Staff Analysis

Approval/Denial of the Scope Change: Table 1 shows a scoring analysis. The project's original score of 594 left it ranked third out of the 15 applications in the Roadway Reconstruction and Modernization category. Seven applications were funded. The highest-scoring unfunded application scored 554 points. Staff believes it is unlikely that the project as now proposed would have scored fewer than 554 points and therefore supports approval of the request.

Table 1: Scoring Analysis

Measure	Max Score	Original Score	Scope Change	Notes
1A. Congestion	65	36	0	No change
1B. Connection to Jobs	40	28	0	No change
1C. Regional Truck Corridors	65	10	0	No change
2A. Person Throughput	110	20	0	No change
2B. 2040 Volume	65	19	0	No change
3A. Equity	30	26	0	Very unlikely to change
3B. Housing	70	70	0	No change
4A. Infrastructure Age	50	38	0	No change
4B. Geo/Structural Deficiencies	100	86	0	No change
5A. Vehicle Delay Reduced	150	6	0	Unlikely to change already low score
5B. Emissions Reduced	50	6	0	Unlikely to change already low score
6. Safety	150	112	0/-	Unlikely to change significantly
7. Multimodal	100	80	0/-	Unlikely to change significantly
8. Risk Assessment	75	30	0	Very unlikely to change
9. Cost Effectiveness	100	27	0	N/A
TOTAL	1,100	594	0/-	Likely minimal scoring change

* 0 = no change

+ = small improvement, ++ = moderate improvement, +++ = large improvement

- = small diminishment, -- = moderate diminishment, --- = large diminishment

Funding: Removal of a portion of the original project scope will result in a reduction in the original budget. The original application and current cost estimates are shown in Table 2, below.

Table 2: Federal and Local Costs

	Application Budget	Current Budget
Federal Funding Amount	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000
Local Contribution	\$3,490,000	\$7,000,000
Total Cost	\$10,490,000	\$14,000,000
Project Element Removal	\$800,000	\$800,000
80% Federal	\$640,000	\$640,000
Revised Project Cost	\$9,690,000	\$13,200,000

Recent history shows that retention of the full federal award is typical when removed elements are being completed by other another project. Metro Transit will complete the elements being removed.



Committee Comments and Actions

At its April 20, 2023, meeting, the TAC Funding & Programming Committee recommended approval of the scope change request with no reduction in federal funding.

At its May 3, 2023, meeting, TAC recommended approval of the scope change request with no reduction in federal funding.

Routing

To	Action Requested	Date Completed (Scheduled)
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	April 20, 2023
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	May 3, 2023
Transportation Advisory Board	Review and Adopt	May 17, 2023



HENNEPIN COUNTY

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April 7, 2023

Michael Thompson
Chair, TAC Funding and Programming Committee
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55101-1805

Re: Scope Change request to S.P. 027-753-020 - CSAH 153 (Lowry Avenue NE) Reconstruction Project

Dear Mr. Thompson,

Hennepin County respectfully requests that the Funding and Programming Committee consider the attached Scope Change request for the above referenced project.

In 2018, Hennepin County was awarded federal funding as part of the Regional Solicitation to reconstruct Lowry Avenue NE (CSAH 153) between Washington and Johnson streets in Northeast Minneapolis. Such improvements include: grading, aggregate base, bituminous base and surface, stormwater, sidewalk, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) pedestrian ramps, traffic signals, streetscaping, bicycle facilities, and curb and gutter.

Project development has been ongoing since late 2020; and it has become known that Metro Transit is planning an improvement project along a roadway that intersects CSAH 153 within the limits of the subject line project, at the following location:

- CSAH 153 (Lowry Avenue NE) / TH 65 (Central Avenue NE) – Metro Transit F Line Rapid Bus Project

The Hennepin County led CSAH 153 reconstruction project, is planned for construction in 2024 through 2025, and the Metro Transit led F Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project is anticipated to begin construction in 2025. Therefore, it's in the public's best interest for agencies to coordinate planned activities to minimize impacts to the public.

The current 2023-2026 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) identifies \$7,000,000 in federal funding and \$7,000,000 in local match funding for the project, for a STIP total of \$14,000,000. The program year for this project is 2023.

At this time, Hennepin County requests a scope change that would remove the planned improvements at the CSAH 153 (Lowry Avenue NE) and TH 65 (Central Avenue NE) intersection from the subject line project; and as a result, include such work in the larger Metro Transit F Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. Approval of this scope change request will allow for additional coordination and enhanced improvements at this intersection as it became evident during final design for the county's CSAH 153 (Lowry Avenue NE) that implementation of the long-term vision of the intersection would not likely be feasible due to the existing design of TH 65 (Central Avenue NE). The change would also result in only one

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Public Works Facility, 1600 Prairie Drive, Medina, MN 55340
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project (rather than two) at this intersection which will further minimize impacts to the local community and traveling public.

With your approval, the improvements at CSAH 153 (Lowry Avenue NE) and TH 65 (Central Avenue NE) intersection will be delivered with the Metro Transit F Line BRT project, in which Hennepin County intends to cost participate with local funds for improvements located in intersections where no BRT platforms are proposed. Therefore, we kindly request to retain the full original federal funding amount of \$7,000,000.

With your approval, we respectfully request the above-mentioned revision be made to the 2023-2026 STIP. Please advise of any additional information you may need and contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Kelly Agosto, PE

Cc: Colleen Brown, MnDOT Metro State Aid
Carla Stueve, PE
Jessa Trbojevich, PE
Chad Ellos, PE
Jason Pieper, PE



FUNDING DATA FOR SCOPE CHANGE REQUEST

1. Original Application

Regional Solicitation Year	2018
Application Funding Category	Roadway modernization
HSIP Solicitation	N/A
Application Total Project Cost	\$10,490,000
Federal Award	\$7,000,000
Application Federal Percentage of Total Project Cost	67%

Project Elements Being Removed:	Original Application Cost
Work at CSAH 153/TH 65 intersection	\$800,000.00

2. Current Funding

Table 1 | Current Construction Cost Breakdown

Location	Construction Costs	Percentage of Total Project
CSAH 153 (Without TH 65 intersection)	\$11,300,000.00	92%
CSAH 153/TH 65 intersection	\$986,489.00	8%
Total	\$12,286,489.00	100%

3. Attachments

Attachment 1

Project map identifying location of work to be removed.

Attachment 2

Letter of support and commitment from Metro Transit.

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ATTACHMENT 1

PROJECT MAP

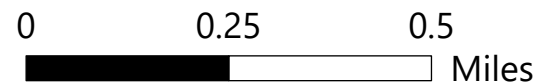


Lowry Ave NE (CSAH 153) Reconstruction | CP 2140900

From Washington St NE to Johnson St NE in the City of Minneapolis | Hennepin County Public Works



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ATTACHMENT 2

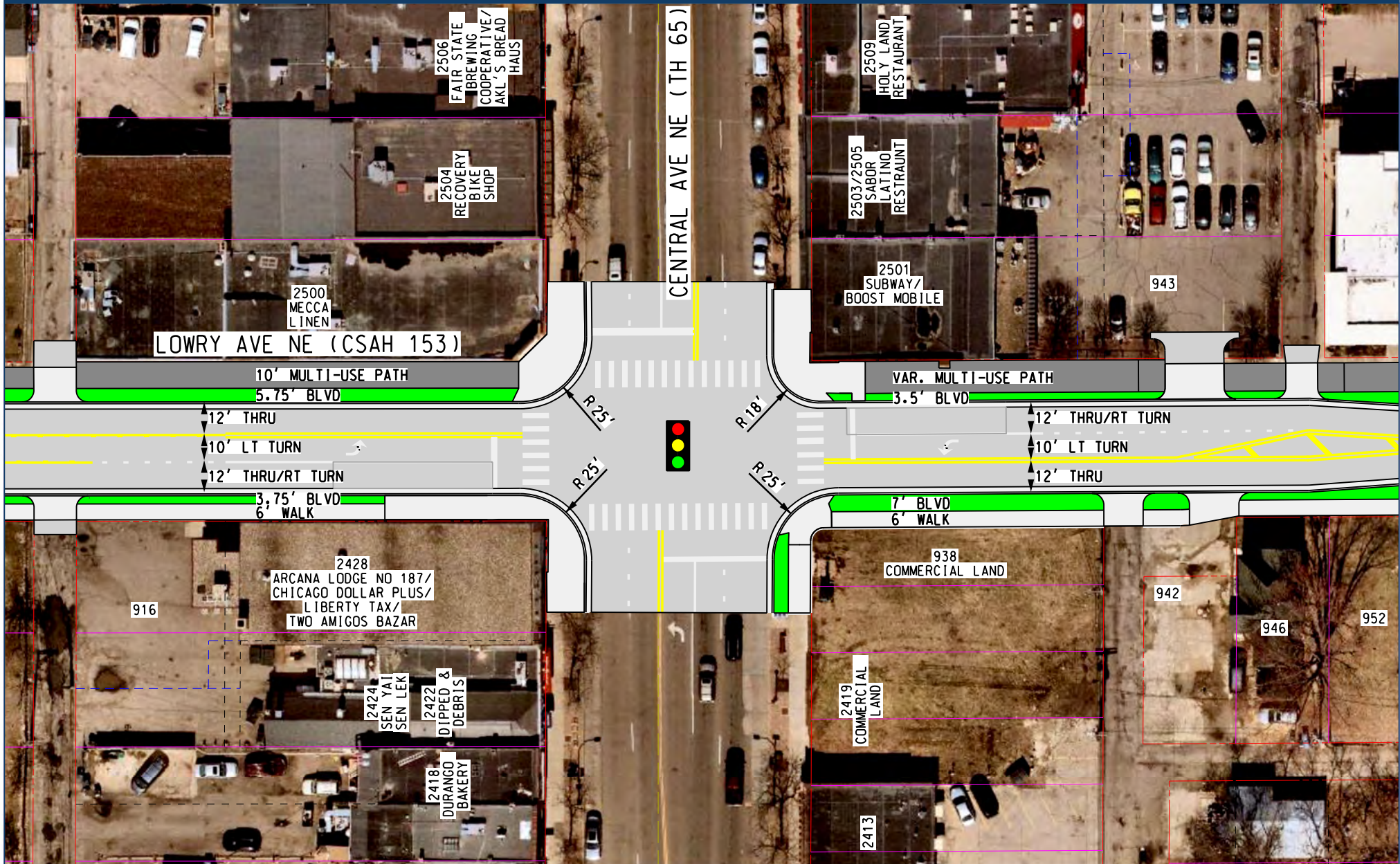
AGENCY LETTER OF SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT



CSAH 153 (Lowry Avenue) S.P. 027-753-020

Central Avenue | Hennepin County Public Works

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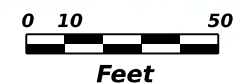
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From Washington St NE to Johnson St NE in the City of Minneapolis | Hennepin County Public Works

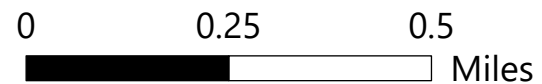


**PROJECT
AREA**

Lowry Ave NE

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Publication Date: 6/28/2022



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ATTACHMENT 2

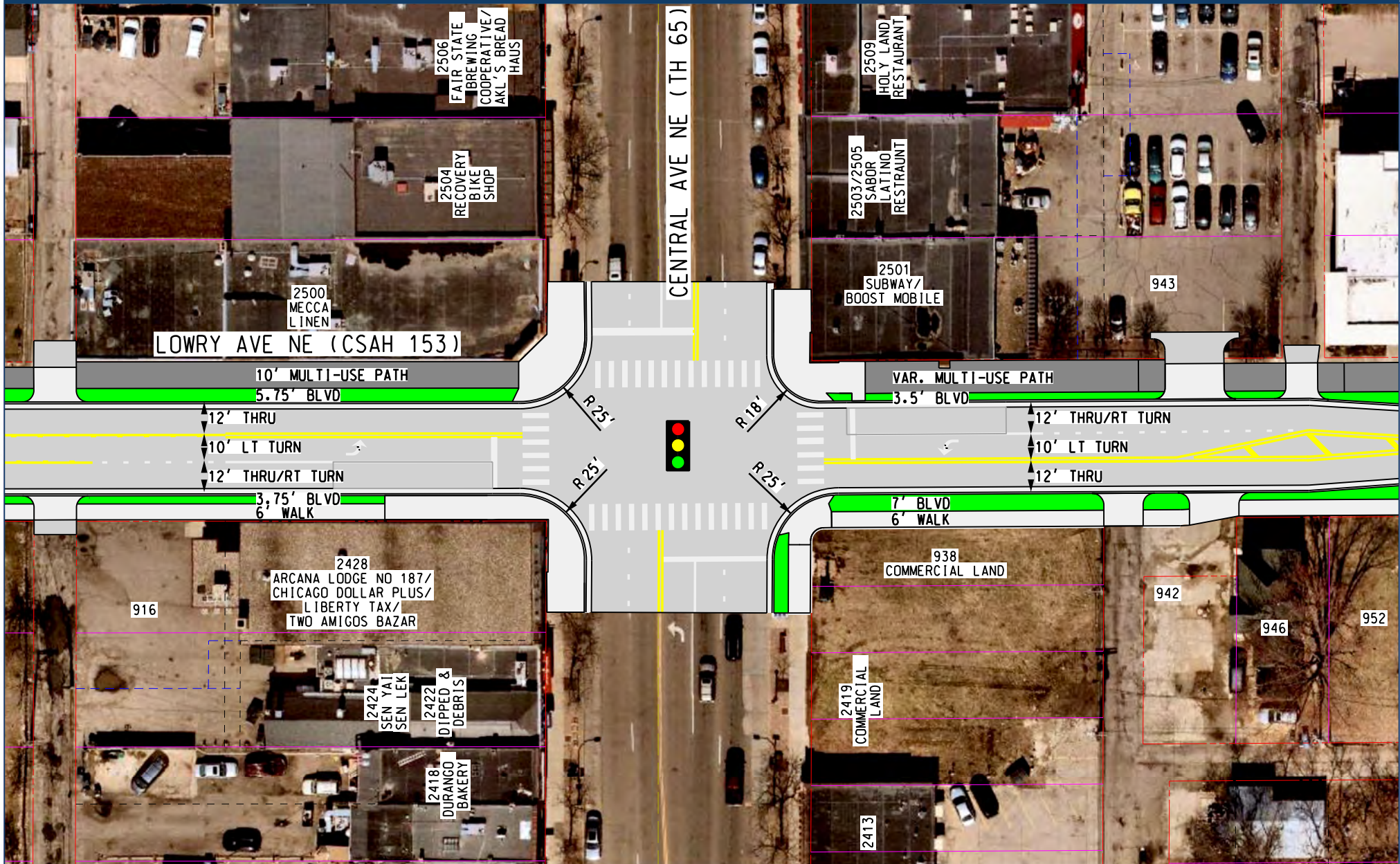
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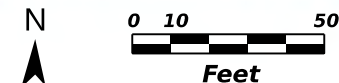
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