

Action Transmittal

Transportation Advisory Board



Committee Meeting Date: December 18, 2024

Date: December 12, 2024

Action Transmittal: 2024-48

Regionally Significant TIP Amendment – I-494 E-ZPass Extension and Improvements Project

To: Transportation Advisory Board
From: Technical Advisory Committee
Prepared By: Robbie King, Planner, 651-602-1380

Requested Action

MnDOT requests an amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a new regionally significant project to extend E-ZPass lanes, reconstruct mainline pavement, improve drainage, rehabilitate bridges, and add ADA improvements on I-494 from Penn Avenue to 34th Avenue, I-494 from US 169 to MN 100, and I-35W from 86th St to 76th Street.

Recommended Motion

That the Transportation Advisory Board recommend adoption of an amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a regionally significant project to extend E-ZPass, reconstruct mainline pavement, improve drainage, rehabilitate bridges, and add ADA improvements on I-494 from Penn Avenue to 34th Avenue, I-494 from US 169 to MN 100, and I-35W from 86th St to 76th Street.

Background and Purpose

MnDOT requests an amendment to the 2025-2028 TIP to add its regionally significant Interstate 494 E-ZPass extension project (SP# 2785-462). This project will extend the I-494 E-ZPass lanes, reconstruct mainline pavement, improve drainage, and add ADA improvements on I-494 from Penn Avenue to 34th Avenue, I-494 from US 169 to MN 100, and I-35W from 86th St to 76th Street in Richfield and Bloomington. This project is funded with \$135,000,000 of federal funds, along with \$85,000,000 of Corridors of Commerce funds.

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. Because the new project is regionally significant, the request is subject to a 21-day public comment period.

Staff Analysis

The TIP amendment meets fiscal constraint because the federal and state funds are sufficient to fully fund the project. This project is listed in the 2040 TPP and draft 2050 TPP and 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 along with the 21-day public comment period.

Committee Comments and Actions

At its October 17, 2024, meeting, the TAC Funding and Programming Committee voted unanimously to recommend adoption of an amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a regionally significant project to extend E-ZPass, reconstruct mainline pavement, improve drainage, and add ADA improvements on Interstate 494 from Penn Avenue to 34th Avenue for the purpose of release for public comment.

At its November 6, 2024, meeting the Technical Advisory Committee recommended that TAB adopt an amendment to the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add a regionally significant project to extend E-ZPass, reconstruct mainline pavement, improve drainage, rehabilitation bridges, and add ADA improvements on I-494 from Penn Avenue to 34th Avenue, I-494 from US 169 to MN 100, and I-35W from 86th St to 76th Street for the purpose of release for public comment.

At its November 20, 2024, meeting, the Transportation Advisory Board voted to release the TIP amendment for public comment.

Staff Response to Public Comments

The public comment period ran from November 21 to December 11 and three comments were received. All three expressed opposition. Two of the comments in opposition expressed concern with lane expansion because of its potential impact to increase vehicle miles traveled and a desire to divert funds to transit and bike/pedestrian projects. An additional comment expressed opposition to expanding E-ZPass lanes and expressed support for adding general purpose lanes as a method of decreasing congestion.

Council staff recommends acceptance of the public comments and adoption of the amendment for the following reasons:

- The project has been through the TAB/TAC process as a part of the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan Amendment #2 that was approved by the council on December 13, 2023.
- The project has proven fiscal constraint.
- An opportunity for public comment was provided. Negative policy-level concerns are noted. However, the project has demonstrated immense support from state legislators and our federal partners.

Routing

To	Action Requested	Date Completed (Scheduled)
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	October 17, 2024
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	November 6, 2024
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Release for Public Comment	November 20, 2024
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Recommend	December 18, 2024
Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee	Review & Recommend	January 13, 2025
Metropolitan Council	Review & Adopt	January 22, 2025



2025-2028 TIP AMENDMENT REQUEST

Please amend the 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to (add/adjust) the below (project/projects) (more info, if needed).

Project identification

Seq #	TBD
State Fiscal Year (State)	2026
ATP and District	METRO
Route System	I494
Project Number (S.P. #)	2785-462
Agency	MNDOT
Description	**PRS**COC3**INFRA** ON I-494 FROM TH 169 TO TH 100, PENN AVE TO 34 TH AVE IN BLOOMINGTON AND ON I-35W FROM 86 TH ST IN BLOOMINGTON TO 76 TH ST IN RICHFIELD, MOBILITY & SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS, RECONSTRUCT MAINLINE PAVEMENT, DRAINAGE, AND ADA IMPROVEMENTS, RECONSTRUCT BRIDGES 9289, 9213, 9081A, 9081 AND 9082, REHAB BRIDGES 9078, 27709, 27712 AND 27820, REPLACE SIGNALS AT FRANCE AVE & 24 TH AVE.
Miles	7.62
Program	MAJOR CONSTRUCTION
Type of Work	GRADE AND SURFACE
Proposed Funds	COC BONDS, FFM
Total \$	\$220,000,000
FHWA \$	\$135,000,000
COC BONDS	\$85,000,000
LOCAL	NA

Background and TIP Amendment Need

This amendment is needed to add a new SFY26 project in the 2025-2028 TIP.

Fiscal Constraint (as required by 23 CFR 450.216)

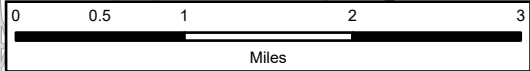
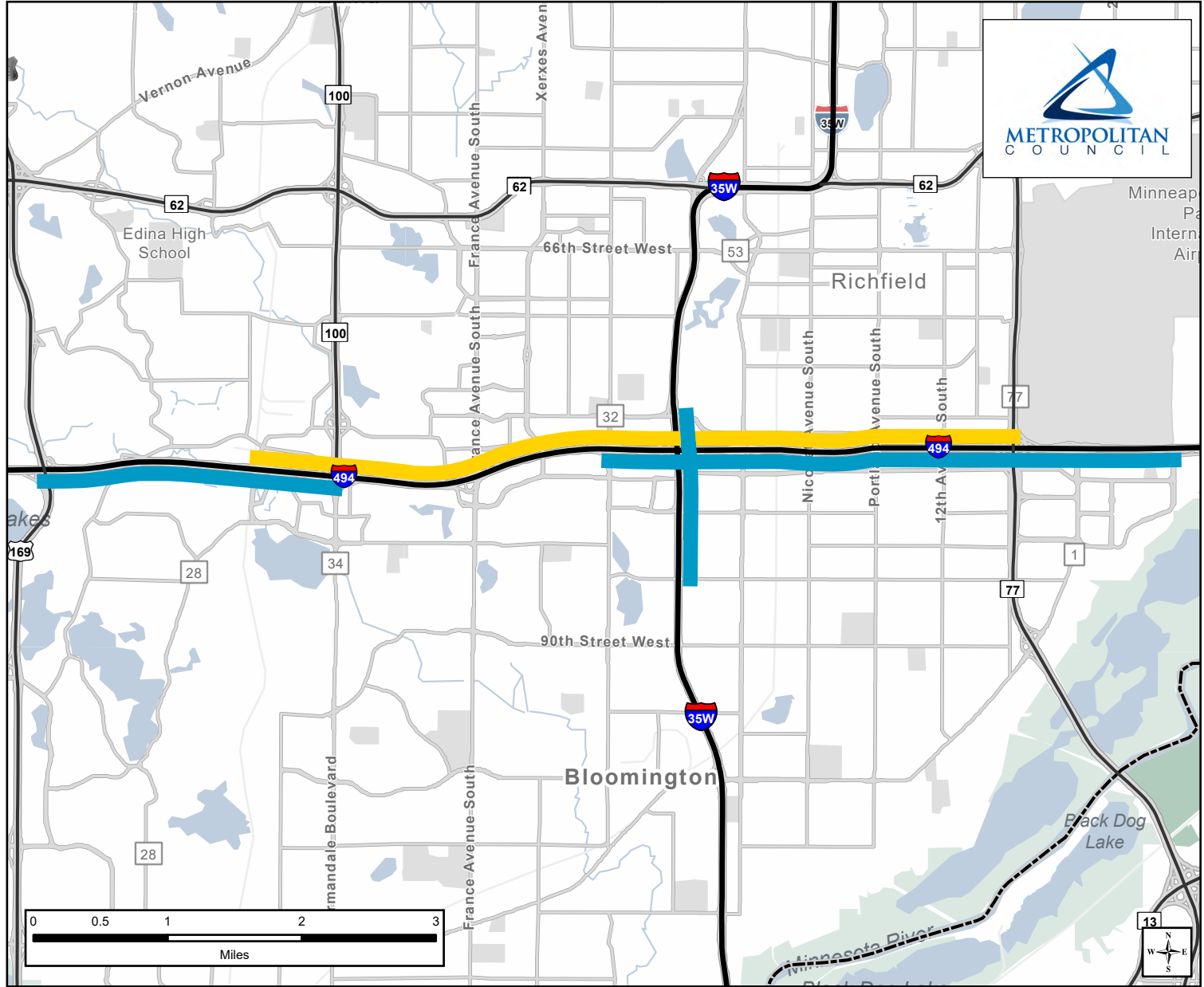
Federal funds available from Discretionary IIJA grant awarded 10/21/2024 and Corridors of Commerce (COC) Bonds available from SP 2748-65 are sufficient to fully fund this project therefore fiscal restraint is maintained.

Consistency with MPO Long-Range Plan

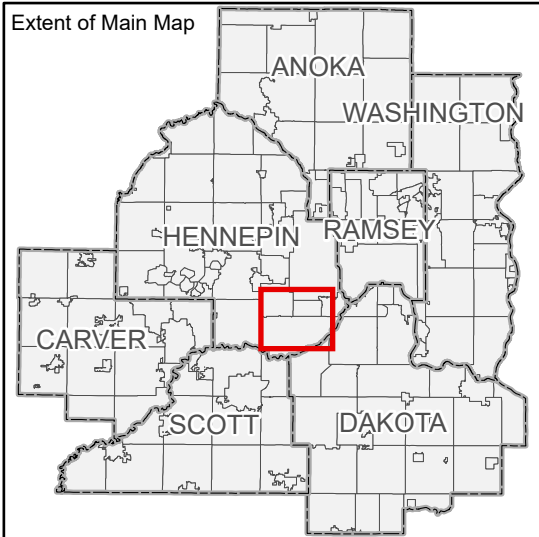
This amendment is consistent with the Metropolitan Council Transportation Policy Plan, adopted by the Metropolitan Council on November 18, 2020, with FHWA/FTA conformity determination established on December 4, 2020.

TAB Action Transmittal: 2024-48

Regionally Significant TIP Amendment – I-494 E-ZPass Extension and Improvements Project



11/8/2024



State Project Number: 2785-642

TIP Description:

****PRS**COC3**INFRA** ON I-494 FROM TH 169 TO TH 100, PENN AVE TO 34TH AVE IN BLOOMINGTON AND ON I-35W FROM 86TH ST IN BLOOMINGTON TO 76TH ST IN RICHFIELD, MOBILITY & SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS, RECONSTRUCT MAINLINE PAVEMENT, DRAINAGE, AND ADA IMPROVEMENTS, RECONSTRUCT BRIDGES 9289, 9213, 9081A, 9081 AND 9082, REHAB BRIDGES 9078, 27709, 27712 AND 27820, REPLACE SIGNALS AT FRANCE AVE & 24TH AVE.**

Reference Layers

- Ongoing Construction
- TIP Amendment
- Interstate Highways
- State, US Highways and County Roads



U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Project Name: I-494 E-ZPass Project
Grantee: Minnesota Department of Transportation
Grant Funding: \$138,001,000
Sources: INFRA FY 25 Large - \$25,000,000, INFRA FY 26 Large - \$113,001,000
Estimated Future Eligible Project Costs: \$331,500,000
INFRA Leverage Pilot Designation: No

Project Description: The project will add E-ZPass lanes on I-494 in both directions between Highway 169 and East Bush Lake Road, and I-35W and Highway 77; replace old infrastructure including a railroad bridge over I-494 between Lyndale Avenue and Nicollet Avenue; and reconstruct the interchange at I-35W and 82nd Street.

Congratulations! The project listed above was selected to receive an MPDG FY 2025-2026 grant.

All grantees must execute a grant agreement in a timely manner with the USDOT. This letter does not authorize the grantee to incur costs to carry out the project. The execution of the grant agreement will obligate INFRA grant funding, making it available to reimburse eligible expenses for the awarded project. Unless authorized by USDOT in writing, any costs incurred prior to execution of the grant agreement for a project (i.e., "pre-award costs") are ineligible for reimbursement and may be ineligible to count towards non-Federal match requirements. Written pre-approval is required for all pre-award costs, including those considered under 23 U.S.C. § 117(k). This letter does not authorize pre-award costs to be eligible.

Your prepopulated draft grant agreement from USDOT is attached. As a condition of this award, the Department expects grantees to execute grant agreements and obligate within 30 days of meeting the obligation pre-requisites, including phased obligations. Execution of a grant agreement to obligate INFRA funds may occur as early as December 15, 2024, if requirements are met. All agreements must be executed and fully obligated by September 30, 2028.

To accelerate project delivery and fund access to grantees, USDOT has assigned this project multiple years of funding, of which the FY 2025 portion could be obligated promptly to advance preconstruction activities under a phased agreement. Please review to confirm or adjust the amount required for the first phase of this agreement to advance your project, and submit a revised grant agreement to USDOT by November 20, 2024.

The Office of the Secretary will hold a Welcome Webinar to provide a high-level overview of the program and next steps on November 7, 2024 at 3pm Eastern. Recipients may register here:

https://usdot.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_3RnVDCMSTIW_SMf6f4yd2w.

The USDOT Operating Administration (OA) overseeing your project will contact you in the coming weeks regarding next steps to complete the relevant requirements. Please copy MPDGGrants@dot.gov upon initial submission of revised grant agreement to the OA point of contact.

If you have any questions about this award, please contact the MPDG Team at MPDGGrants@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

John Augustine

Director, Office of Infrastructure Finance and Innovation
Office of the Secretary