

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

April 13, 2023

James Hovland
Chair, TAB Executive Committee
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101-1805

RE: Program Year Change Request for:

SP 109-010-007/109-010-007F – Brooklyn Center: MN Hwy 252 at 66th Avenue Grade Separation
SP 109-090-002 – Brooklyn Center: 70th Avenue Pedestrian Improvements
SP 027-709-029 – Hennepin County: MN Hwy 252 at 85th Avenue Grade Separation
SP 110-010-010 – Brooklyn Park: Brookdale Drive Grade Separation

Mr. Hovland,

The Cities of Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park, Hennepin County and MnDOT respectfully request support from the TAB Executive Committee for a program year change to the year 2029 for the above referenced projects located along Highway 252, that were previously awarded federal funds through various cycles of the Regional Solicitation.

Following is a brief history of these projects:

- Brooklyn Center was awarded funding for their two projects in program year 2021 as part of the 2016 Regional Solicitation.
- Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, MnDOT and Hennepin County jointly began a Highway 252 freeway conversion study.
- FHWA suggested initiation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for Highway 252.
- During the EA analysis it was determined that it would be beneficial to include I-94 from Dowling Avenue to Highway 252.
- Hennepin County was awarded funding for the 85th Avenue project in program year 2023 as part of the 2018 Regional Solicitation.
- MnDOT was awarded Corridors of Commerce (COC) funding for the Met Council submitted scope for the Highway 252/I-94 mobility project in program year 2023.
- Brooklyn Center was granted a program year extension for their projects to align with the COC project.

Hennepin County Public Works
1600 Prairie Drive | Medina, MN 55340
612-596-0356 | hennepin.us

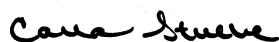


- Brooklyn Park was awarded funding for the Brookdale Drive project in program year 2025 as part of the 2020 Regional Solicitation.
- The environmental assessment pivoted from the EA to an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to ensure a more extensive review of environmental, health and equity impacts as well as the inclusion of transit in the environmental analysis.
- Due to the EIS change it was determined that the COC project would not likely be delivered until 2026.
- An extension was granted for all of the referenced projects to program year 2026.

Hennepin County understands that Metropolitan Council's policy is to only grant one program year extension. However, due to the complex, intertwined nature of these projects, their regional significance, sensitivity in completing an extensive environmental review and the benefits of tying the projects together, the project team is requesting an exception to the program year policy. Some of the reasons these projects have pushed back from 2026 to 2029 is due to the Scoping Decision Document development, data analysis, review and coordination with partner agencies and additional engagement, including those underrepresented and overburdened by the project.

We recognize this is outside the typical process for a program year extension. However, while this regionally significant corridor has progressed from a study to an Environmental Assessment (EA) and finally to an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), all partners have continued to support the project. Additionally, Met Council submitted the project for Corridors of Commerce funding, signifying the importance of the project. Based on this, the cities of Brooklyn Center and Brooklyn Park, Hennepin County and MnDOT request support to change all of the projects identified to program year 2029. Please contact us if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,



Carla Stueve, P.E.
Hennepin County Engineer



Elizabeth Heyman
Brooklyn Center Public Works Director



Jesse Struve, P.E.
Brooklyn Park City Engineer

Mark Lindeberg, P.E.
MnDOT West Area Manager