

Brooklyn Park
Operations & Maintenance

City of Brooklyn Park
Operations and
Maintenance
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April 17, 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 110-020-041 – Brooklyn Park: Hennepin CSAH 103 Recon. & Expansion from CSAH 109 to
CSAH 30 (From 2025 to 2026)

Mr. Hovland,

The City of Brooklyn Park respectfully requests support from the TAB Executive Committee for a program year change to the year 2026 for the above referenced project located along Hennepin CSAH 103. This project is directly linked to the Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project (BLRT) and was previously awarded federal funds through the Regional Solicitation process.

Following is a brief history of this project:

- Brooklyn Park was awarded funding for the project in program years 2022 as part of the 2018 Regional Solicitation.
- The BLRT Project was initially scheduled to begin construction in 2019 and be completed by 2023. The BLRT Project was delayed to an estimated 2024/2025 start and 2028 opening because of negotiations with the BNSF Railroad and then subsequent need to determine an alternative route through North Minneapolis, Robbinsdale and Crystal.
- The City of Brooklyn Park requested extension for the project in 2021 to Program Year 2025.
- Extensions were granted later in 2021.
- The project schedule was further delayed by the complexity associated with determining a new alignment through North Minneapolis, Robbinsdale and Crystal, additional engagement efforts and preparation and approval of an amended EIS.
- The BLRT Project is now expected to start construction in 2026.
- The City was also awarded Regional Solicitation funding for two other projects tied to the BLRT Project. These projects currently have program years of 2026.

The City of Brooklyn Park understands that Metropolitan Council's policy is to only grant one

program year extension. However, due to the complex, intertwined nature of the BLRT Project and the regional significance, sensitivity in completing an extensive environmental amendment and the benefits of tying multiple projects together, the project team is requesting an exception to the program year policy. Some of the reasons this project has been pushed back from 2025 to 2026 is due to the complex nature of the BLRT Project, 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 project has progressed, all partners have continued to support the project. Based on this, the City of Brooklyn Park and Hennepin County request support to change the above identified project to program year 2026. Please contact us if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,



Jesse Struve, P.E.
Brooklyn Park City Engineer

Daniel E. Soler

Daniel E. Soler, P.E.
Hennepin County
Director of Transit and Mobility