



City of Blaine

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August 2, 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 106-010-020 – Blaine: TH65 at 99th Avenue NE Grade Separation

Mr. Hovland,

The City of Blaine respectfully request support from the TAB Executive Committee for a program year change to the year 2026 for the above referenced project located on TH 65, that was previously awarded federal funds through a previous cycle of the Regional Solicitation.

Following is a brief history of the project:

- City of Blaine was awarded funding for this project in program year 2024 as part of the 2020 Regional Solicitation for TH 65 and 99th Avenue Grade Separation.
- City of Blaine/Anoka County was recently granted state legislative funding for TH 65 from 99th Avenue to 117th Avenue.
- City of Blaine was recently granted RAISE funding for TH 65 from 99th Avenue to 117th Avenue.
- City of Blaine/Anoka County was recently granted COC funding for TH 65 from 105th Avenue to 117th Avenue.

The City of Blaine understands that Metropolitan Council's policy is to only grant a one program year extension. However, due to the increased complexity of this project expanding from a single intersection at TH 65 and 99th Avenue to a corridor project that now includes improvements of TH 65 from 99th Avenue to 117th Avenue. The project team is requesting an exception to the program year policy. Some of the reasons this project has pushed back from 2024 to 2026 is due to the project being expanded from a single intersection improvement to a corridor reconstruction project, review and coordination with partner agencies and additional engagement, including all those the use the corridor and those living and working adjacent to the corridor.

The TH65 project from 99th Avenue to 117th Avenue has completed a Planning and Linkages Study (PEL) and is currently in the preliminary design phase. As of the writing of this letter a layout plan has been submitted to the Minnesota Department of Transportation for final approval. This will allow the project to complete the final environmental document and move to final design.

We recognize this is outside the typical process for a program year extension. However, while this is a regionally significant corridor project has progressed, all partners have continued to support the project. Based on this, the City of Blaine request support to change the above referenced project to program year 2026. Please contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,



Daniel Schluender, P.E.
Blaine Director of Engineering