Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

ACTION TRANSMITTAL

No. 2012-03

DATE:            February 9, 2012
TO:              Transportation Advisory Board
FROM:            Technical Advisory Committee
SUBJECT:         Scope change Request for Carver County SP#101-090-004: Southwest Regional Trail Connection to Change the Project Termini

MOTION: That the TAB approve a scope change for Carver County SP#101-090-004: Southwest Regional Trail Connection to Change the Project Termini shifting the paved trail portion 800 feet to the east.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: The TAB awarded Transportation Enhancements to this project in the 2009 regional solicitation. The project's western terminus extends beyond a more logical endpoint at a local trail system in a city park. The project sponsor would like to move the entire project 800 feet to the east so the western terminus connects to the trail system in the city park terminates at the park. The total length of the trail project remains the same in the revised scope. The scope change does not require a formal TIP amendment. Additional background information is attached.

RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY: Projects that receive funding through the regional solicitation process are subject to regionally adopted 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. Additionally, federal rules require that any federally funded project scope must go through a formal review and TIP amendment process if the project description or total project cost change substantially. The scope change policy and process allows project sponsors to make adjustments to their project as needed while still providing substantially the same benefits described in the original application.

The regionally adopted scope change policy is attached.

ROUTING

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<th>TO</th>
<th>ACTION REQUESTED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TAC Funding &amp; Programming Committee</td>
<td>Review &amp; Recommend</td>
<td>January 19, 2012</td>
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<td>Technical Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Review &amp; Recommend</td>
<td>February 1, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>TAB Programming Committee</td>
<td>Review &amp; Recommend</td>
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<td>Transportation Advisory Board</td>
<td>Review &amp; Approve</td>
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390 Robert Street North   St. Paul, Minnesota   (651) 602-1728   Fax (651) 602-1739
January 9, 2012

Karl Keel
TAC Funding and Programming Committee Chair
Metropolitan Council
390 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Carver County Southwest Regional Trail Connection
S.P. 010-090-004
Scope Change Request – TAC Funding & Programming Committee

Dear Mr. Keel:

Following consultation with Colleen Van Wagner at Mn/DOT Metro State Aid and pursuant to the adopted process to evaluate scope change requests for regionally-selected projects, Carver County is pleased to present the following information:

Type of Scope Change Requested
Change In termini for Project Area 2.
- No change to alignment
- No change to connections
- No change to Project Area 1

Original Termini as Identified in Federal Transportation Enhancement Fund Application
From: Trail approximately 2,000 feet east of TH 5
To: Rail bed approximately 1,600 feet west of TH 5

Requested Termini in Scope Change
From: Trail approximately 2,800 feet east of TH 5
To: Rail bed approximately 800 feet west of TH 5

The requested termini change effectively moves both the east and west termini to the east approximately 800 feet while maintaining the original alignment and original segment length for the improvement (see attached Illustration Segment 2 – Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail Connection dated December 21, 2011).

The area reviewed for Social, Economic, and Environmental impacts included in the Project Memorandum does fully encompass the Project Area 2 with the requested new termini (see attached Figure iv).
Project Description
The project involves constructing two segments of the Southwest Regional Trail Connection providing facilities for pedestrians and bicycles. The two segments—hereafter referred to as Project Area 1 and Project Area 2—totaling approximately 1 mile in length and consisting of two non-contiguous portions of the planned Southwest Regional Trail Connection. The Southwest Regional Trail Connection will connect the Minnesota River Bluffs LRT Regional Trail with the Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail through the communities of Chaska and Victoria.

Project Area 1
The first segment to be constructed lies within the City of Chaska is located in a fairly undeveloped, rural area reflecting the city’s zoning—open development, industrial and open space. There is minimal development, including a pipe yard and propane tank sales, in the project area. Approximately 1/3 mile of new alignment pedestrian/bicycle trail along County Road 61 (Old US 212) will be constructed, connecting the existing Southwest Regional Trail to the existing Minnesota River Bluffs LRT Regional Trail. Construction of this segment of trail will fill a critical gap in the regional trail system and dramatically improve pedestrian and bicycle access to both trails. Currently, the Southwest Regional Trail terminates at the County Road 61 and CSAH 10 intersection, and the Minnesota River Bluffs LRT Regional Trail terminates a 1/3 of mile to the east at CSAH 10.

Project Area 2
The second segment to be constructed in the City of Victoria is located in the city’s downtown as well as a residential area to the west of the city. Approximately 2/3 mile of pedestrian/bicycle trail will be constructed, toward the planned connection of the Southwest Regional Trail Connection in the City of Victoria to the existing Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail at the Carver Park Reserve, and will extend a segment of the Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail to an existing rail bed that is planned to house a future segment of the Southwest Regional Trail Connection. The trail will connect south out of the existing railroad right-of-way to connect to Salter’s Park and 81st Street.

Completing these two key segments within the Southwest Regional Trail Connection corridor supports the County’s vision of developing a complete regional loop. When completed, the Southwest Regional Trail Connection will fill a critical gap in the current and future regional system. The trail connection will allow users to travel continuously through Carver County without ever leaving the designated regional trail system. Completion of these segments will bring the County closer to completing the Southwest Regional Trail Connection and fulfilling an unmet need in the development of the regional pedestrian and bicycle network.

The proposed project is supported by the Cities of Chaska, and Victoria, and Three Rivers Park District.

Location Map
See attached.

Project Layouts (Project Area 2)
See attached.
Project Development Status/Schedule
Site review, wetland Evaluation, preliminary design and right of way needs determination for both Project Area 1 and Project Area 2 have all been completed. A draft Project Memorandum is anticipated to be submitted to Mn/DOT Metro State Aid for review January 2012. Final Design, Right of Way Acquisition, and Construction Documents are anticipated to commence early 2012. Pending approvals and right of way acquisition, it is Carver County’s intent to bid and construct the improvements in 2013. The project must be approved and bid by March 31, 2014 to comply with the funding sunset date.

Estimate of Cost

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<td>Trail Construction Costs (Overall):</td>
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<td>Updated Estimate (Project Area 2 only):</td>
<td>$287,929</td>
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Thank you for your consideration of the above information in your evaluation of this scope change request. Should you need additional information please contact me at 952-466-5252.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Martin Walsh
Parks Director
Carver County Parks