

ACTION TRANSMITTAL No. 2014-39

DATE: May 28, 2014
TO: Technical Advisory Committee
FROM: Funding & Programming Committee
PREPARED BY: Carl Ohrn, Planning Analyst 651-602-1719
SUBJECT: Scope Change for Hwy 61 and Hwy 97 Reconstruction and Roundabout
REQUESTED ACTION: MnDOT requests a scope change to modify the scope of SP 8206-45 to eliminate one grade-separated pedestrian crossing and add various pedestrian facilities. The total project costs increase to \$7,082,697 with \$5,376,000 federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding and \$1,744,000 MnDOT and other funding in 2016.
RECOMMENDED MOTION: Recommend approval of the request to modify the scope and project cost for Hwy 61 and Hwy 97 project described above.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION:

In the 2011 solicitation, MnDOT received \$5,376,000 in STP funding for the Trunk Highway 61 and Trunk Highway 97 Reconstruction and Roundabout Project. The project is programmed in 2015. The scope change request and supporting information are attached. A TIP amendment is not required because these changes, if approved, can be incorporated into the 2015-2018 TIP.

RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY: Projects that receive funding through the regional solicitation process are subject to the regional 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 change must go through a formal review and TIP amendment process if the project description or total project cost changes substantially. The scope change policy and process allow project sponsors to make adjustments to their projects as needed while still providing substantially the same benefits described in their original project applications.

STAFF ANALYSIS: The project changes the pedestrian and bicycle facilities provided in the project. The major project elements to reconstruct the north and south intersections of Hwy 61 and Hwy 97, removal of signals, construction of two roundabouts, replacing drainage system and other infrastructure, upgrading intersection and roadway lighting, constructing a dedicated school only driveway entrance for the south roundabout and many pedestrian and bicycle facilities will not change. The original project includes two pedestrian grade-separated crossings at the north roundabout, one to serve east-west movement and one to serve north-south movement which will be eliminated. In place of

the grade-separated crossing to serve the north-south movement, an at-grade pedestrian crossing will be provided.

East of the north roundabout near the school entrance, an at-grade Mid-Block Rapid Flashing Beacon signal system pedestrian crossing will be added. Also, the urban curb and gutter section will be extended further east of the north roundabout, reducing shoulder width, and constructing a center median which will serve as a refuge for pedestrians and students crossing Hwy 97.

At the south roundabout, the addition of an at-grade (east-west) crossing on the south side with extensions to local pedestrian trail facilities east and west of Hwy 61 will be added.

Pedestrian accommodations will meet ADA/PROWAG requirements.

The project received a score of 999. The integration of modes criteria had a total possible score of 75 points. The project received 74 points. Given the lowest scoring project to be funded had a score of 791, the project would have been funded even if it scored no points for integration of modes.

Based on review of the information provided in the scope change request and the original application, staff recommends approval of the requested scope change. The modified project description and budget should be incorporated into the 2015-2018 TIP.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND ACTION: At its May 15, 2014, meeting, the Funding and Programming Committee unanimously recommended approval of this scope change request.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	May 15, 2014
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Approve	