

**ACTION TRANSMITTAL No. 2015-26**

**DATE:** May 20, 2015  
**TO:** Technical Advisory Committee  
**FROM:** TAC Funding and Programming Committee  
**PREPARED BY:** Joe Barbeau, Senior Planner (651-602-1705)  
**SUBJECT:** 2015-2018 TIP Amendment for Metro Transit Orange Line Design  
**REQUESTED ACTION:** Metro Transit requests an amendment to the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add design and engineering for the future Orange Line BRT corridor in Burnsville, Bloomington, Richfield, and Minneapolis.  
**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** Recommend that the Transportation Advisory Board adopt the amendment into the 2015-2018 TIP to add design and engineering for the future Orange Line BRT corridor in Burnsville, Bloomington, Richfield, and Minneapolis.

**BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION:** The project is for design and engineering for a future Orange Line BRT corridor in Burnsville, Bloomington, Richfield, and Minneapolis, currently in FTA Capital Investment Grant (CIG) Project Development. This project does not include construction.

**RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY:** Federal law requires that all transportation projects that will be funded with federal funds must be in an approved TIP and meet the following four tests: fiscal constraint; consistency with the adopted regional transportation plan; air quality conformity; and opportunity for public input. It is the TAB's responsibility to adopt and amend the TIP according to these four requirements.

**STAFF ANALYSIS:** The TIP amendment meets fiscal constraint because the federal and local funds are sufficient to fully fund the project. This amendment is consistent with the Metropolitan Council Transportation Policy Plan, adopted by the Metropolitan Council on January 14, 2015 with FHWA/FTA conformity determination established on March 13, 2015. The Minnesota Interagency Air Quality and Transportation Planning Committee determined that the project is exempt from air quality conformity analysis. Public input opportunities for this amendment are provided through the TAB's and Council's regular meetings.

**COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND ACTION:** At its May 21, 2015, meeting, the TAC Funding and Programming Committee unanimously recommended approval of this TIP amendment.

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**ROUTING**

<b>TO</b>	<b>ACTION REQUESTED</b>	<b>DATE COMPLETED</b>
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	5/21/2015
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Recommend	
Transportation Committee	Review & Recommend	
Metropolitan Council	Review & Release	

Please amend the 2015 – 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include this project in program year 2015. This project is being submitted with the following information:

**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION:**

STATE FISCAL YEAR	A T P	DIST	ROUTE SYS	PROJECT NUMBER (S.P. #) (Fed # if available)	AGENCY	DESCRIPTION include location, description of all work, & city (if applicable)	MILES
2015	M	M		New	Metro Transit	Design of Orange Line BRT corridor improvements	

PROG	TYPE OF WORK	PROP FUNDS	TOTAL \$	FHWA \$	AC \$	FTA \$	TH \$	OTHER \$
5307	Design and Engineering-Orange Line	FTA	2,250,000	0	0	1,800,000	0	450,000

**PROJECT BACKGROUND:**

1. Briefly describe why amendment is needed (e.g., project in previous STIP but not completed; illustrative project and funds now available; discretionary funds received; inadvertently not included in TIP).

The project is a design and engineering project for a future Orange Line BRT corridor in Burnsville, Bloomington, Richfield, and Minneapolis, currently in FTA Capital Investment Grant (CIG) Project Development. The funds will recognize federal formula funds apportioned to Metro Transit, matched by Counties Transit Improvement Board funds, to be used for corridor design and environmental work included in professional services contracts supporting the Project Development phase of METRO Orange Line.

The project does not include construction. Construction funds will include future FTA Sec. 5309 CIG funds, FHWA CMAQ funds, state funding, local funding, and Counties Transit Improvement Board Funds. Secured funds are in various placeholders in regional budget documents. The requested amendment includes only environmental, design, and related pre-construction activities supporting Small Starts Project Development.

2. How is Fiscal Constraint Maintained as required by 23 CFR 450.216 (check all that apply)?

- New Money \_\_\_\_\_
- Anticipated Advance Construction \_\_\_\_\_
- ATP or MPO or Mn/DOT Adjustment by deferral of other projects \_\_\_\_\_
- Earmark or HPP not affecting fiscal constraint \_\_\_\_\_
- Other   X

Federal formula funds apportioned to Metro Transit, matched by Counties Transit Improvement Board funds, will be used.

**CONSISTENCY WITH MPO LONG RANGE PLAN:**

This amendment is consistent with the Metropolitan Council Transportation Policy Plan, adopted by the Metropolitan Council on January 14, 2015 with FHWA/FTA conformity determination established on March 13, 2015.

**AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY:**

- Subject to conformity determination .....\_\_\_\_\_
- Exempt from regional level analysis.....   X
- N/A (not in a nonattainment or maintenance area).....\_\_\_\_\_

\*Exempt Project Category #O-1 (Specific activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction) per Section 93.126 of the Conformity Rules