

**Transportation Advisory Board**  
of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

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**ACTION TRANSMITTAL No. 2019-17**

**DATE:** February 21, 2019

**TO:** Technical Advisory Committee

**FROM:** TAC Funding and Programming Committee

**PREPARED BY:** Joe Barbeau, Senior Planner (651-602-1705)

**SUBJECT:** Program Year Change Request: Metro Transit

**REQUESTED ACTION:** Metro Transit requests a program year change to four projects funded through the Regional Solicitation.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Technical Advisory Committee recommend to the Transportation Advisory Board approval of Metro Transit's request to change the program years of four of its projects.

**BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION:** As part of the 2018 Regional Solicitation, the City of Minneapolis was awarded a \$7 million grant as part of a \$17 million project to reconstruct Hennepin Avenue. This project and its timing (2023) has major impacts to a 2016 Transit Expansion grant awarded to Metro Transit to add expanded transit service on Hennepin Avenue. Therefore, Metro Transit would like to coordinate the timing of its project with the roadway reconstruction project so that new transit service does not open just ahead of a full roadway construction. Metro Transit would like to delay their 2016 Regional Solicitation award from 2021 to 2023 (see Table 1), the same year as the City of Minneapolis project.

Additionally, the delayed opening of the Green Line Extension and Orange Line limit the benefits of another 2016 Regional Solicitation project, the Lake Street transit expansion service since it connects with the other two projects. To get the most of this regional investment in Lake Street, Metro Transit would like to delay this project from 2020 to 2022.

Metro Transit can exactly fill the funding holes left with the requested shifts by moving up two projects awarded funding during the 2018 Regional Solicitation (Chicago-Portland, and Emerson-Fremont) as shown below. While Metro Transit would be able to advance the two projects, advanced construction is not an option for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) projects.

**Table 1: Proposed Program Year Changes**

Reg. Sol. Cycle	Project	Federal \$	Current Year	Proposed Year
2016	Hennepin Ave Bus/Tech Improvements	\$7M	2021	2023
2016	Lake St Bus/Tech Improvements	\$7M	2020	2022
2018	Chicago-Portland Transit Modernization	\$7M	*	2021
2018	Emerson-Fremont Transit Modernization	\$7M	*	2020

\* Newly-awarded projects that would be slated for 2022 or 2023 program years.

**RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY:** The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) manages the \$90 million annual program of projects programmed by the Regional Solicitation.

**STAFF ANALYSIS:** While the program year policy only allows for one-year project extensions, this is a unique circumstance in that Metro Transit is making a request that better-aligns several impactful transit projects with other nearby construction activities. Further, Metro Transit is providing a solution that does not lead to any unbalanced program years from a financial perspective.

**COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND ACTION:** At its February 21, 2019, meeting, the Funding & Programming Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval Metro Transit's request to change the program years of four of its projects

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**ROUTING**

<b>TO</b>	<b>ACTION REQUESTED</b>	<b>DATE COMPLETED</b>
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	2-21-2019
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Approve	