



February 11, 2019

Elaine Koutsoukos
TAB Coordinator
390 N. Robert St.
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Program Year Change Request

Dear Ms. Koutsoukos:

Metro Transit is pleased to be selected for project awards through the 2018 regional solicitation. To maximize the benefit of TAB's investment, and to closely coordinate with an awarded 2018 roadway project, a revised program year is requested for two Metro Transit projects programmed in 2020 and 2021. Newly selected 2018 projects can advance to these program years to maintain funding balance.

Last month, TAB awarded a roadway modernization grant to the City of Minneapolis for full reconstruction of Hennepin Avenue in 2023. This would closely follow the implementation of a project awarded by TAB in 2016 to Metro Transit for expanded transit service on Hennepin Avenue, programmed in 2021 and opening late 2022. Service expansion during heavy road construction is likely to impair Metro Transit's ability to attract new customers and deliver expected results. Shifting the transit project's implementation to follow Minneapolis' road construction would obtain better outcomes for the public. Metro Transit requests a shift of program year from 2021 to 2023.

Another awarded project in 2016 would expand transit service in the Lake Street corridor, currently programmed for 2020. The project will connect to major transitway projects including Green Line Extension (Southwest LRT) and Orange Line (I-35W BRT). The opening years of those projects has shifted since the 2016 application, now planned for late 2021 (Orange) and 2023 (Green). Delivering expanded bus service to West Lake Station ahead of the other transitway project openings would not optimize TAB's investment, so Metro Transit requests a shift of program year from 2020 to 2022.

To maintain program year balance, new Metro Transit modernization projects awarded funds in 2018 can shift to earlier program years, to 2020 (Emerson-Fremont modernization) and to 2021 (Chicago-Portland modernization). Each awarded project totals \$7 million of federal funding. Taken together, these shifts in project years will result in better transit service and increased coordination between projects selected for TAB funding across modes. Thank you for considering this change and please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Charles Carlson'.

Charles Carlson
Director, Bus Rapid Transit Projects

CC: Mary Gustafson, Grants Manager

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