

ACTION TRANSMITTAL No. 2021-39

DATE: September 29, 2021

TO: Technical Advisory Committee

PREPARED BY: Joe Barbeau, Senior Planner (joseph.barbeau@metc.state.mn.us)

SUBJECT: Streamlined 2021-2024 and 2022-2025 TIP Amendment Request: Addition of Three Clean Transportation Grants Projects

REQUESTED ACTION: MnDOT requests an amendment to the 2021-2024 and 2022-2025 TIPs to add three projects: Start-up operating costs for electric carshare (SP # 8825-963); mobility hub equipment and engagement in Minneapolis (SP# 8825-964); and purchase of two battery electric buses and two charging stations for Southwest Transit (SP # TRS-TCMT-22G).

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Technical Advisory Committee recommend that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend adoption of an amendment the 2021-2024 and 2022-2025 TIPs to add three Clean Transportation Grant projects (SP# 8825-963, 8825-964, and TRS-TCMT-22G).

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: MnDOT provides three requested new projects funded through Clean Transportation Grants. These are:

1. A new project to fund start-up operating costs for electric carshare in Minneapolis and St. Paul (SP # 8825-963).
2. A new project funding mobility hub equipment and community engagement in Minneapolis (SP# 8825-964).
3. A new project funding the purchase of two battery electric buses and two charging stations with associated electrical upgrades for Southwest Transit (SP # TRS-TCMT-22G).

The proposed projects would be funded by Congestion Management and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds not programmed through the Regional Solicitation. The funding is from MnDOT-programmed Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds but will be transferred to CMAQ due to the nature of the projects.

RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY: Federal law requires that all TIP amendments 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 per these four requirements.

The streamlined TIP amendment process allows projects that meet certain conditions to be forgo the TAC Funding & Programming Committee review, resulting in saving a month of process time.

STAFF ANALYSIS: The TIP amendment meets fiscal constraint because the federal and local funds are sufficient to fully fund the projects. This amendment is consistent with the Metropolitan Council Transportation Policy Plan, adopted by the Metropolitan Council on November 18, 2020 with FHWA/FTA conformity determination established on December 4, 2020. Public input opportunity for this amendment is provided through the TAB's and the Council's regular meetings. The Minnesota Interagency Air Quality and Transportation Planning Committee determined that the projects are exempt from air quality conformity analysis.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE SCHEDULED / COMPLETED
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	10/6/2021
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Recommend	10/20/2021
Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee	Review & Recommend	10/25/2021*
Metropolitan Council	Review & Adopt	10/27/2021*

*Following the Transportation Advisory Board, the amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP will be forwarded to Transportation Committee. However, the amendment to the 2022-2025 TIP will not be forwarded until the 2022-2025 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is approved by the USDOT.