

Transportation Advisory Board

of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

ACTION TRANSMITTAL No. 2021-17

DATE: March 31, 2021

TO: Technical Advisory Committee

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

SUBJECT: 2021-2024 Streamlined TIP Amendment for Metro Transit: Farebox Replacement

REQUESTED ACTION: Metro Transit requests an amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP to add two projects replacing the fareboxes for its regional bus fleet (TRS-TCMT-22D and TRS-TCMT-23D).

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Technical Advisory Committee recommend that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend adoption of an amendment to the 2021-2024 TIP to add two projects replacing the fareboxes for Metro Transit's regional bus fleet (TRS-TCMT-22D and TRS-TCMT-23D).

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: Metro Transit was awarded funding from the 2020 Regional Solicitation for replacement of fareboxes. While this is only one grant application and award, it is scheduled to be programmed as two separate projects in order to accept limited funding available for 2022 with the balance of the funding to be programmed in 2023.

Projects from the 2020 Regional Solicitation are scheduled to be included in the 2022-2025 TIP. However, Metro Transit anticipates the 2022 project beginning before that TIP is adopted in the fall of 2021. Therefore, it needs to be added to the 2021-2024 TIP, which will be active for roughly the first one to two months of fiscal year 2022. No deviation from the cost or scope of the original application is proposed.

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 recommend TIP amendments to the Council for adoption.

The streamlined TIP amendment process allows projects that meet certain conditions to be streamlined, which entails forgoing TAC Funding & Programming Committee review and results 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 project. The amendment is consistent with the 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 Council's regular meetings. The Minnesota Interagency Air Quality and Transportation Planning Committee determined that the project is exempt from air quality conformity analysis.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE SCHEDULED / COMPLETED
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	4/7/2021
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Adopt	4/21/2021
Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee	Review & Recommend	5/10/2021
Metropolitan Council	Adopt	5/12/2021

Please amend the 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add this project to program years 2022 and 2023. This project is being submitted with the following information:

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION:

Fiscal Year	ATP / Dist	Route System	Project Number (S.P. #)	Agency	Description	Miles
2022	M	BB	TRS-TCMT-22D	Metro Transit	CMAQ: Replace fareboxes for regional bus fleet	-
2023	M	BB	TRS-TCMT-23D	Metro Transit	CMAQ: Replace fareboxes for regional bus fleet	-

Fiscal Year	Prog	Type of Work	Prop Funds	Total \$	FTA \$	FHWA \$	Other \$
2022	BB	Transit (P)	CMAQ	\$2,752,774	\$2,202,219	-	\$550,555
2023	BB	Transit (P)	CMAQ	\$5,997,226	\$4,797,781	-	\$1,199,445

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

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

This formal amendment is needed to add a new CMAQ-funded project into the 2021-2024 TIP/STIP for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. This is one award is being split into two years (and, therefore, two projects, per the TIP) due to the amount of funding available in the earlier year. The project was awarded funding in the 2020 Regional Solicitation and needs to be placed into the 2021-2024 TIP because it may be authorized prior to federal approval of the 2022-2025 STIP, in which it will appear with identical information.

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 MnDOT Adjustment by deferral of other projects
 - Earmark or HPP not affecting fiscal constraint **X***

*This project was recently awarded funding in the 2020 Regional solicitation.

CONSISTENCY WITH MPO LONG RANGE PLAN:

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.

AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY:

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

*Exempt from regional level analysis: T-5: Purchase of operating equipment for vehicles (e.g., radios, fareboxes, lifts, etc.).