

ACTION TRANSMITTAL – 2022-04

DATE: December 29, 2021

TO: Technical Advisory Committee

FROM: TAC Funding & Programming Committee

PREPARED BY: Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator
(elaine.koutsoukos@metc.state.mn.us)
Joe Barbeau, Senior Planner (joe.barbeau@metc.state.mn.us)

SUBJECT: Program Year Extension Request: Blaine 99th Avenue / Baltimore Street Roundabout

REQUESTED ACTION: Blaine requests a program year extension for its 99th Avenue / Baltimore Street roundabout installation (SP# 106-101-010) from fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2023.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Technical Advisory Committee recommend that TAB approve Blaine’s program year extension request to move its 99th Avenue / Baltimore Street roundabout installation (SP# 106-101-010) from fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2023.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: The City of Blaine received \$1,530,000 from the 2020 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Solicitation to construct a roundabout at the intersection of 99th Avenue and Baltimore Street in program year 2022. The city is requesting an extension of the program year to 2023, as that would provide better coordination with nearby Trunk Highway (TH) 65 improvements. The city had applied for 2024 or 2025 funds to coordinate with that project but accepted earlier funding in anticipation that it would be further along at this point.

RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY: The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) adopted the Program Year Policy in April 2013 (updated in August 2014) to assist with management and timely delivery of transportation projects awarded federal funding through the TAB’s Regional Solicitation. The policy includes a procedure to request a one-year extension based on extenuating circumstances within certain guidelines.

STAFF ANALYSIS: Per the Program Year Policy’s progress assessment (pages 9 and 10), a minimum score of 7 is needed to be eligible for an extension. The city scored 6 for this request. That said, MnDOT Metro District is comfortable with approval of the request because the score is due to the city agreeing to an earlier program year to be on track with the TH 65 environmental study (phase I completed by MnDOT; phase II in process, led by the city), which was to be completed in 2020 but took longer than anticipated. The score being below 7 is not the result of the city not doing its part to deliver the project, which should be able to be delivered in May of 2023. Further, MnDOT Metro District believes it will be able to spend the project’s funds in 2022.

An extension of the program year does not guarantee federal funding will be available in that year. The project sponsor is responsible for completing the project in the new program year and covering the federal share of the project until federal funding becomes available. At this time the project would be in line for 2026 reimbursement of federal funds, though an earlier

reimbursement may occur if funding becomes available due to the recent increase in federal funds or if other projects withdraw.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND ACTION: At its December 16, 2021, meeting, the TAC Funding & Programming Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of Blaine's program year extension request to move its 99th Avenue / Baltimore Street roundabout installation from fiscal year 2022 to fiscal year 2023.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE SCHEDULED / COMPLETED
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	12/16/2021
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	1/5/2022
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Accept	1/19/2022



City of Blaine

1801 - 101st Avenue NE

Blaine MN 55449-1108

Public Works 763-785-6165 | BlaineMN.gov

November 15, 2021

Mr. Michael Thompson, Chair
TAC Funding and Programming Committee
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Program Year Extension Request for 106-101-010 99th Ave at Baltimore Intersection Improvements

Dear Mr. Thompson,

The City of Blaine respectfully requests that the Funding and Programming Committee consider a program year extension for the above project. The awarded program was 2022 to construct a roundabout for improved traffic flow and safety.

The City applied for \$1,530,000 of HSIP funds for program year 2024-2025. The project was originally being considered a related component of the overall Trunk Highway 65 corridor improvements. There are continuing efforts to complete the environmental review of this corridor segment to ensure all potential projects identified in the State's first Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study would work together to reduce congestion and improve the overall safety for the area. The City agreed to accept earlier funding in 2022 anticipating this process would be further along.

We request the Funding and Programming Committee's support for extending the City of Blaine's program year to 2023. Please let me know if additional information is needed.

Sincerely

Jon Haukaas, Director of Public Works

cc: Joe Barbeau, Metropolitan Council, Colleen Brown, MnDOT Federal Aid

REQUEST FOR PROGRAM YEAR EXTENSION

For

SP 106-101-010

99th Ave and Baltimore St Roundabout

City of Blaine, MN

REQUESTED BY:

Jon Haukaas, Director of Public Works

Phone: 763-785-6167

jhaukaas@blainemn.gov

Project Background

The City applied for \$1,530,000 of HSIP funds for program year 2024-2025. The project was originally being considered a related component of the overall Trunk Highway 65 corridor improvements. There are continuing efforts to complete the environmental review of this corridor segment to ensure all potential projects identified in the State's first Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study would work together to reduce congestion and improve the overall safety for the area. The City agreed to accept earlier funding in 2022 anticipating this process would be further along.

Progress on the environmental review has recently shown that this project does not have significant impacts to the 99th Ave intersection design and can therefore proceed separately. However, we will not be able to make the federal authorization deadlines for 2022.

The City does feel that this project can be delivered beginning in 2023 now that the environmental impacts are better understood.

Project Status

Project Schedule

- a) The City anticipates awarding the design and construction support contract by February 2022. This would allow ample time for project development, right of way, and agency coordination. We would anticipate a project construction award in late spring (April/May) of 2023.

Right of Way Acquisition

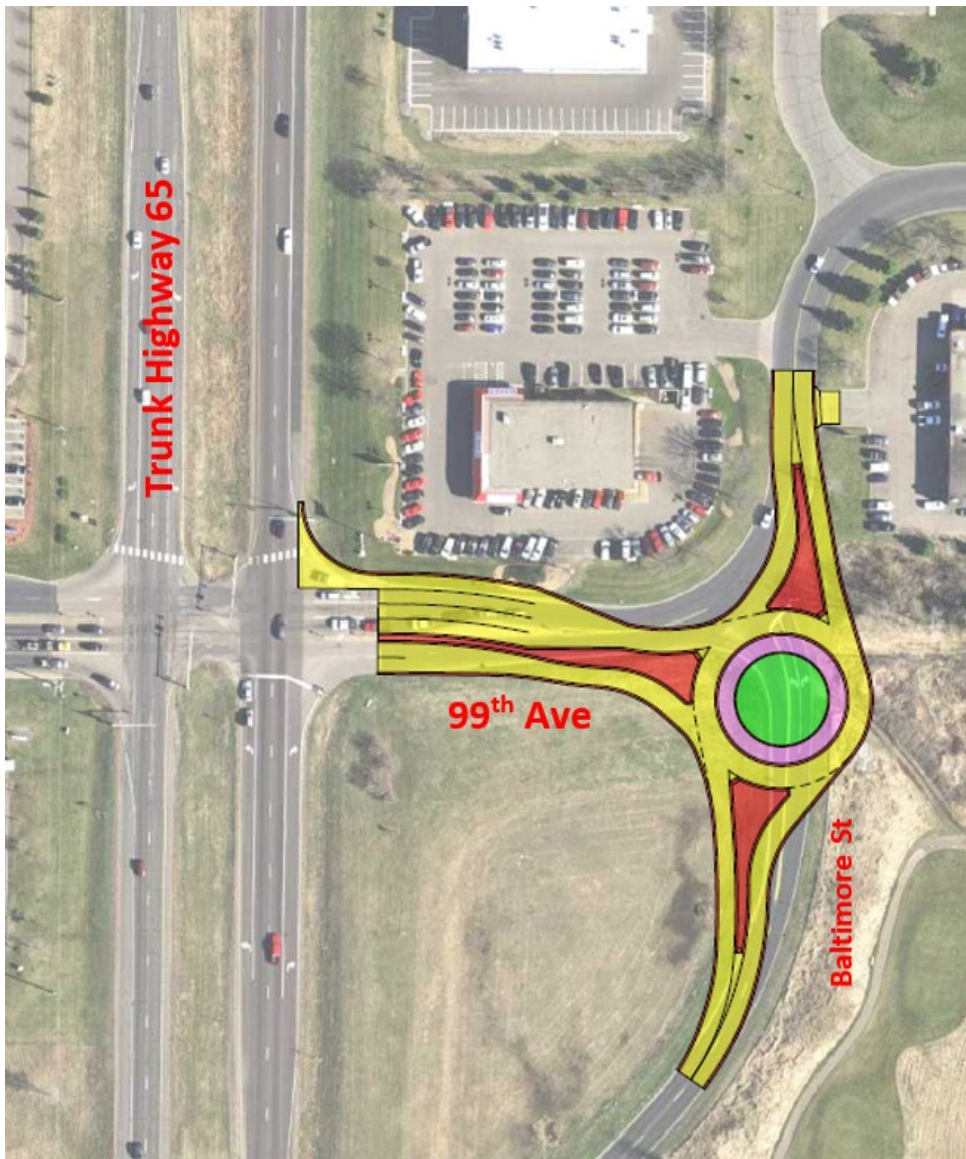
- b) The majority of the project is proposed to be constructed within easements on land owned by the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) similar to the existing frontage road. The project was presented to MAC staff at the conceptual stages on February 3, 2021 in anticipation of new easements. Staff was receptive to the concepts and prepared to work with us.

Minor additional right of way may be needed from two adjacent private properties dependent on the final geometric design.

Plans

- c) Preliminary survey work for the area has been completed as part of the TH 65 design work to include utility impact identification. Traffic modeling has also been completed for the highway and supporting roadway networks. This information will be utilized to bring the project plans through to the final design.

The conceptual layout is below:



Permits

- d) The following list of permits will all need to be requested as the project development continues.
- FHWA & MnDOT – Categorical Exclusion document
 - MAC - Easements
 - MPCA – NPDES Construction Stormwater Permit & SWPPP
 - CCWD – Watershed Permit

Approvals

- e) The City of Blaine is the only agency with approval authority outside the permitting process.

Identify funds and other resources spent to date on the project

- f) Blaine City staff have expended time on the scoping of this project. Additional time and effort has been completed under other contracts for the TH65 project the results of which will be available for use on this project.

Justification for Extension Request

What is unique about this project that requires an extension of the program year?

This project has been evaluated for environmental review and traffic impacts as part of a larger corridor project under the first Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study in Minnesota. This means the project can be designed and constructed separately and still be sure that it will work with all future construction projects without unanticipated adverse effects. The City agreed to an earlier program year believing that the PEL would be completed in 2020 and projects would be ready to move forward beginning in 2021. Being the first PEL, the study took longer than anticipated and the timelines were further complicated by scheduling delays related to COVID impacts.

Additionally, this project will support the future improvements on TH65 as an interim reliever during the project construction.

What are the financial impacts if the project does not meet its current program year?

If federal funds are surrendered, the proposed project will likely be postponed until an alternate source of funding can be secured, or the project will be eliminated. The only other available funds are City CIP funding or MSAS funding. Both sources have long range plans committing those dollars out to 2026 or beyond.

What are the implications if the project does not obtain the requested extension?

There are no alternative funding sources identified for the intersection improvement project. If the project does not receive the requested extension, it is highly likely that these improvements will not be constructed and existing safety needs will go unmet.

A fully functioning/supporting frontage road network has been identified as a necessity if Trunk Highway 65 is to operate efficiently. This is an identified deficiency and will continue to impact the functionality of the highway until resolved.

What actions will the agency take to resolve the problem facing the project in the next three to six months?

The City of Blaine is prepared to move this project forward immediately in 2022 if the extension is granted.

Attachment 1: PROGRESS SCHEDULE FOR PROGRAM YEAR EXTENSION

Enter request date 11/17/ 2021

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Check status of project under each major heading.
2. Enter dates as requested for each major heading.
3. Enter points as suggested by each applicable response.
4. Total points received in the TOTAL POINTS line on the last page. **The minimum score to be eligible to request an extension is seven points.**

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

PROJECT MEMORANDUM

Reviewed by State Aid
Date of approval _____ If checked enter 4. _____

Completed/Approved
Date of approval _____ If checked enter 5. _____

EA
 Completed/Approved
Date of approval _____ If checked enter 2. _____

EITHER
 Not Complete
Anticipated Date of Completion May 2022
If prior to January 31 of the program year, enter 1. 1

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC HEARING (not necessary for project memorandum)

Completed
Date of Hearing _____ If checked enter 2. _____

Not Complete
Anticipated Date of Completion February 2022
If prior to February 28 of the program year, enter 1. 1

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (not required for project memorandum)

Completed/FONSI Approved
Date of approval _____ If checked enter 2. _____

Not Complete
Anticipated Date of Completion March 2022
If prior to March 31 of the program year, enter 1. 1

STUDY REPORT (required for Environmental Assessment Only)

Complete/Approved If checked enter 1. _____
Date of Approval _____
 Not Complete
Anticipated Date of Completion August 2022

CONSTRUCTION PLANS

Completed (includes signature of District State Aid Engineer)
Date _____ If checked enter 3. _____
 Completed (approved by District State Aid as to SA Standards but not signed)
Date _____ If checked enter 2. _____
 Not Complete
Anticipated Date of Completion February 2023
If prior to June 30 of the program year, enter 1. 1

RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION

Completed (includes approval of R/W Cert. #1 or #1A) If checked enter 2. _____
Date _____
 Not Complete
Anticipated Date of Completion December 2022
If prior to December 31 of the year following the original program year, enter 1. 1

ENGINEERS ESTIMATE OF COSTS

Completed If checked enter 2. _____
Date _____
 Not Complete
Anticipated Date of Completion September 2022
If prior to December 31 of the year following the original program year, enter 1. 1

AUTHORIZED

Anticipated Letting Date May 2023.
Anticipated letting date must be prior to June 30
in the year following the original program year,
so that authorization can be completed prior to
June 30 of the extended program year.

TOTAL POINTS 6