

Action Transmittal

Transportation Advisory Board



Committee Meeting Date: August 2, 2023

Date: July 27, 2023

Action Transmittal: 2023-40

Draft Amendment to the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan (Amendment #2) to add Five Highway Projects

To: Technical Advisory Committee
From: TAC Planning Committee
Prepared By: Steve Peterson, Senior Manager of Highway Planning, 651-602-1805
David Burns, Planning Analyst, 651-602-1887

Requested Action

MnDOT District 3, MnDOT Metro District, Anoka County, Scott County, Dakota County, Wright County, and the Cities of Andover, Coon Rapids, Blaine, Savage, Burnsville, Otsego, Dayton, St. Michael, Monticello, and Albertville request that the attached draft amendment to the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan to add five regionally significant highway projects be released for public review and comment.

Recommended Motion

That the Technical Advisory Committee recommend the release of the attached draft 2040 Transportation Policy Plan Amendment #2, which adds five regionally significant projects, for public review and comment.

Background and Purpose

The 2040 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) includes a fiscally constrained list of major projects for investment in the region by 2040, known as the Current Revenue Scenario. Projects that add new lanes to a Principal Arterial Highway or construct an interchange are considered regionally significant projects. These projects must be identified as funded in the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan in order to be included in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and begin construction.

Highway projects are added to the fiscally constrained TPP when the following criteria are met:

- Documentation is submitted showing how the project can be built with revenue in the fiscally constrained plan (or reasonable proposed additional revenues);
- The proposal is consistent with the goals, objectives, and strategies of the 2040 TPP; and
- Public involvement is conducted.

This amendment adds five regionally significant projects to the 2040 TPP, as described below:

- The US 10 Highway Congestion Mitigation Project expands US Highway 10 (US 10) in Anoka County from two to three mainline travel lanes in Coon Rapids between County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 78 (Hanson Boulevard) and CSAH 9 (Round Lake Boulevard).
- The US 169/CSAH 59 Interchange Project converts an at-grade intersection on US Highway 169 in Scott County to a grade-separated interchange with CSAH 59 (Delaware

Avenue), roughly 2.5 miles southwest of the City of Jordan.

- The I-94 Albertville to Monticello Lane Expansion Project in Wright County expands approximately 8 miles of I-94 from two to three travel lanes in each direction between the cities of Albertville and Monticello.
- The MN Highway 65 Access Improvement Project converts an intersection on Highway 65 in the City of Blaine to a grade-separated interchange. The project is at 117th Avenue and will be combined with a larger project that is already in the Current Revenue Scenario.
- The MN Highway 13 Grade Separations in Dakota and Scott counties will convert at-grade intersections to grade separations between Quentin Avenue in Savage and Nicollet Avenue in Burnsville. The project at eastern project termini, MN 13 and Nicollet, is already in the Current Revenue Scenario as it was funded with the Regional Solicitation.

Funding

All projects are fully funded through a variety of funding programs and sources. The US 10, I-94, MN 65, and MN 13 projects were awarded Corridors of Commerce funds that will fully fund the projects when combined with their existing funds. The Corridors of Commerce program was created by the Minnesota Legislature in 2013 and is administered by MnDOT. The project awards were announced by Governor Waltz on July 11, 2023. The press release reads: “We’re making historic investments in our state’s transportation system to improve the safety and connectivity of communities across the state,” said Governor Walz. “We depend on our roads and highways to safely get us to our jobs, education, child care, and businesses. These projects help grow our economy and support our goal of making Minnesota the best state to live, work, and grow up in – no matter where you live.” The Metropolitan Council wrote letters of support for the four Corridors of Commerce projects within the MPO planning area as part of the application process.

Many of the projects also received direct appropriations during the last state legislative session, won other federal discretionary funding, or were provided funding through Congressional directed Community Project Funding (formerly called earmarks). For instance, in 2023, the US 10 project received a \$30 million appropriation as part of the State’s Transportation Omnibus Bill for the project.

The US 169 project will be funded entirely with local funds from Scott County, primarily through the county’s transportation sales tax.

Consistency with the 2040 TPP

All projects were analyzed to determine if they are consistent with the goals and strategies of the 2040 TPP. The projects were determined to be consistent with the Plan and assist the region in reaching its 2040 TPP goals in Safety and Security, Access to Destinations, and Competitive Economy, as outlined in the amendment text. Additionally, the interchange projects were also vetted by the Interchange Review Committee (Appendix F of the 2040 TPP) and met all criteria.

Staff Analysis

The projects assist in helping the region reach the outcomes articulated in the 2040 TPP while simultaneously not affecting the fiscal constraint of the plan. The TPP amendment will include a public comment period.

Committee Comments and Action

At its July 13, 2023, meeting the TAC Planning Committee voted to recommend that an amendment to the Transportation Policy Plan to add two regionally significant highway projects (the US 10 and US 169/CSAH 59 Projects) be released for public review and comment. Around the time of the TAC Planning meeting, Governor Waltz released the list of Corridors of Commerce awards. This list included the US 10 project, and an additional three projects within the MPO Planning Area. Given the construction timelines for the projects, especially the I-94 project that is

starting in 2024, it is recommended that the additional three Corridors of Commerce projects also be included in this TPP Amendment.

Routing

To	Action Requested	Date Completed (Scheduled)
TAC Planning	Review & Recommend	July 13, 2023
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	<i>August 2, 2023</i>
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Recommend	<i>August 16, 2023</i>
Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee	Review & Recommend	<i>August 28, 2023</i>
Metropolitan Council	Review & Release for Public Comment	<i>September 13, 2023</i>
Transportation Advisory Board	Information Only	<i>November 15, 2023</i>
Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee	Accept Public Comments & Recommend	<i>November 27, 2023</i>
Metropolitan Council	Accept Public Comments & Approve	<i>December 13, 2023</i>

