

ACTION TRANSMITTAL No. 2015-10

DATE: January 7, 2015

TO: TAC Funding and Programming Committee

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

SUBJECT: Program Year Extension Request: Improvements at the Intersection of CSAH 10/TH 10/CR H in Mounds View

REQUESTED ACTION: Ramsey County requests a program year extension for its Improvements at the Intersection of CSAH 10/TH 10/CR H in Mounds View (SP# 062-610-004) to 2016.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Recommend that the Transportation Advisory Board approve the program year extension request to move Improvements at the Intersection of CSAH 10/TH 10/CR H in Mounds View (SP# 062-610-004) to 2016.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: Ramsey County received \$630,000 of federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding for the program year 2013. The county prepared to deliver the project in that program year. At the time, but MnDOT was also developing a bridge replacement and ramp reconstruction project at the T.C. Arsenal entrance at County Road H for 2015 (#6284-162) using state funds. Due to the proximity of the project locations, a February 2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment moved the County's HSIP-funded project to 2015 to coordinate with the MnDOT project.

MnDOT's project has been moved into 2016. Because the MnDOT project limits on County Road H overlap with the limits of Ramsey County's County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 10/Trunk Highway (TH) 10/County Road H intersection improvements, Ramsey County would like to delay its intersection project until 2016 so that the improvements can be designed and constructed concurrently in the MnDOT program year. This approach also provides a mechanism for MnDOT to contribute funds toward the replacement of the CSAH 10/TH 10/County Road H traffic signal, which is proposed with the Ramsey County project.

RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY: The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) adopted the Program Year Policy in April 2013 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.

While this project has not "officially" been sunset or extended, a TIP amendment did move the project from 2013 to 2015. This would involve a second delay.

The attached request includes reference to a “scope change.” The scope the MnDOT and County projects are not changing; the former is being combined with the latter. Therefore, staff feels that the scope change request process is not needed.

STAFF ANALYSIS: MnDOT State Aid staff has indicated their support for the project sponsor’s request. Based on the County’s work on the project and the nature of the delay, staff recommends approval of the program year extension to 2016. Given that this is the first time this project has gone through the program year policy and given the efficiency created by waiting for MnDOT’s project to be implemented, staff is comfortable granting this second extension. It is important to note that an extension of the program year does not guarantee federal funding will be available in that year, and the project sponsor is responsible for funding the project until federal funding becomes available. The program year change would be administered in the annual Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) update and does not require a separate TIP amendment.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Approve	

December 30, 2014

Mr. Karl Keel, P.E.
Chair, TAC Funding and Programming Committee
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert St. N.
St. Paul, MN 55101-1805

**PROGRAM EXTENSION & SCOPE CHANGE REQUEST FOR SP 062-610-004
IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF CSAH 10/TH 10/CR H IN MOUNDS VIEW**

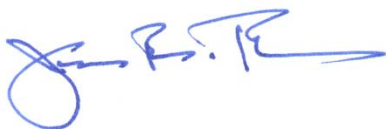
Dear Mr. Keel:

Ramsey County respectfully requests that the Funding and Programming Committee consider a program year extension and scope change for the above-referenced project. The project's current program year is 2015 and includes only reconstruction of the CSAH 10/TH 10/CR H intersection.

Because of the pending Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant (TCAAP) redevelopment, Ramsey County has been working with MnDOT to assume the lead for reconstruction of the CR H Bridge over I-35W, which includes CR H up to the intersection with CSAH 10/TH 10. The project is currently programmed by MnDOT for construction in 2016. Because the MnDOT project limits on County Road H overlap with the limits of Ramsey County's CSAH 10/TH 10/County Road H intersection improvements, we would like to delay the County's intersection project until 2016 so that the improvements can be designed and constructed concurrently in the MnDOT program year. This approach also provides a mechanism for MnDOT to contribute funds toward the replacement of the CSAH 10/TH 10/County Road H traffic signal, which is proposed with the Ramsey County project.

We request the Funding and Programming Committee's support for extending Ramsey County's project program year to 2016 and modifying the scope to include the MnDOT CR H Bridge Reconstruction project improvements. If additional information is needed, please contact project manager Beth Engum at 651-266-7115 or by e-mail at beth.engum@co.ramsey.mn.us.

Sincerely,



James E. Tolaas, P.E.
Director of Public Works/County Engineer

Enclosures

C: Joe Barbeau, Senior Transportation Planner, Met Council
Colleen Brown, MnDOT State Aid

**REQUEST FOR PROGRAM YEAR & SCOPE CHANGE REQUEST
FOR
SP 062-610-004
IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF CSAH 10/TH 10/CR H
IN
THE CITY OF MOUNDS VIEW, RAMSEY COUNTY**

**REQUESTED BY:
JAMES E. TOLAAS, P.E.
RAMSEY COUNTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS/COUNTY ENGINEER
651-266-7116; james.tolaas@co.ramsey.mn.us**

SCHEDULE:

The schedule below outlines the progress of the project to date as well as the schedule moving forward assuming the program year extension is granted. The schedule is consistent with the dates in Attachment 1.

County hired consultant for interchange concept analysis	September 2013
County hired consultant for design	July 2014
Concept refinement	July – September 2014
Traffic modeling	September – November 2014
Geometric Layout development	November 2014 – January 2015
Submit Geometric Layout for review & approval	January 2015
Submit Right of Way Plans	February 2015
Perform Value Engineering study	March 2015
60% construction plans complete	June 2015
Submit construction plans for review & approval	October 2015
Construction plan approval	December 2015
Project letting	February 2016
Project construction	April – December 2016

RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION:

Much of the project will be constructed within MnDOT right of way and on County property. We anticipate needing permanent and temporary easements from a few parcels along County Road H for roadway widening to accommodate the necessary turn lanes at the intersection of CSAH 10/TH 10/CR H. The right of way acquisition process will begin in early 2015 as soon as needs are identified.

PLANS:

We are in the process of developing the Geometric Layout. Attached is an exhibit showing the current layout.

PERMITS:

Below is a list of permits that will be required for the project. Coordination to obtain permits involving potential impacts to existing wetlands have been started. The rest of the permits will be applied for when final design begins.

- Permits required for the project include:
- Limited Use Permit from MnDOT for trail in MnDOT ROW
- Wetland Permit from MnDOT for impact to wetlands in MnDOT ROW
- Stormwater, Erosion Control, and Wetlands permit from Rice Creek Watershed District
- Wetland Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit

Permits required for the remainder of Rice Creek east of 35W and south of CR H will be obtained as a part of the TCAAP infrastructure project.

APPROVALS:

The proposed improvements will require approval from MnDOT and FHWA in addition to the permit approvals identified above. Although not required, we are also requesting municipal consent from both the City of Mounds View and Arden Hills. We continue to work closely with all approval agencies as has been the case for the past year.

JUSTIFICATION FOR PROGRAM YEAR EXTENSION & SCOPE CHANGE REQUEST:

MnDOT plans to reconstruct the County Road H Bridge over I-35W in 2016 due to structural deficiencies in the existing bridge. The limits of their project overlap with the limits of the County's planned improvements at the CSAH 10/TH 10/CR H intersection. Specifically, the entire easterly leg of the CSAH 10/TH 10/CR H intersection falls within the limits of the MnDOT project. In order to most efficiently and effectively coordinate the improvements of the two projects and avoid potential costly reconstruction of the overlapping leg and disruption to adjacent properties including the Metro Transit Park and Ride Facility, we would like to develop and construct both sets of improvements concurrently. Changing the County project's program year to 2016 will allow this.

Design of both sets of project improvements is well underway. In 2012, Ramsey County staff developed a layout for the intersection of CSAH 10/TH 10/CR H. Design of the intersection improvements was put on hold in order to coordinate with replacement of the CR H Bridge over I-35W. Since September 2014, project stakeholders have been meeting on a monthly basis to refine the scope of both sets of improvements, review interchange concepts, and coordinate improvements with adjacent projects including improvements on I-35W programmed by MnDOT and improvements to support the redevelopment of the TCAAP site, which abuts I-35W to the east. In May 2014 the County was successful in securing funding for transportation improvements in and around TCAAP, including design and construction of the CR H interchange at 35W. We will continue to work closely with MnDOT, FHWA, Arden Hills, Mounds View, Metro Transit, and other stakeholder agencies to ensure the project development is coordinated to meet the goal of construction in MnDOT's program year of 2016.

If the requested extension is not granted, the County will immediately proceed with development of the project to include the full scope of improvements on the westerly leg of the CSAH 10/TH 10/County Road H intersection, full replacement of the traffic signal, and only the improvements on the easterly leg of the intersection necessary for full utilization of the new traffic signal. Improvements on the east side of Highway 10 would be limited to what is necessary for safe and efficient operations at the intersection while minimizing the amount of new roadway that would require reconstruction as a part of the MnDOT project. We believe that designing and constructing the intersection in conjunction with MnDOT's project will result in the best possible set of roadway improvements for this area, rather than constructing two separate projects.

STUDY REPORT (required for Environmental Assessment Only) NA
 Complete/Approved _____ If checked enter 1. _____
Date of Approval _____
 Not Complete
Anticipated Date of Completion _____

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 _____
If prior to June 30 of the program year, enter 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 2/15/16
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 2/15/16
If prior to December 31 of the year following the original program year, enter 1. 1

AUTHORIZED
Anticipated Letting Date 2/15/16.
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 7

