

Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

ACTION TRANSMITTAL – 2020-06

DATE: December 20, 2019

TO: TAC Funding & Programming Committee

PREPARED BY: Elaine Koutsoukos, TAB Coordinator (651-602-1717)
Joe Barbeau, Senior Planner (651-602-1705)

SUBJECT: Program Year Extension Request: St. Louis Park CSAH 25 /
Beltline Pedestrian Improvements

REQUESTED ACTION: St. Louis Park requests a program year extension for its CSAH 25 /
Beltline Pedestrian Improvements project (SP# 163-291-008) from
fiscal year 2020 to fiscal year 2021.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the TAC Funding & Programming Committee recommend
approval of St. Louis Park's program year extension request to
move its CSAH 25 / Beltline Pedestrian Improvements project (SP#
163-291-008) from fiscal year 2020 to fiscal year 2021.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: St. Louis Park received \$560,000 from the 2016 Regional Solicitation to fund Beltline Boulevard pedestrian improvements in program year 2020. The City is requesting an extension of the program year to 2021 following schedule delays related to delays in the Southwest Light Rail Transit extension, to which the project will connect.

RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY: The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) adopted the Program Year Policy in April 2013 and updated it 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: Based on the score on the attached worksheet, staff recommends approval of the program year extension to 2021. It is important to note that 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 2024 reimbursement of federal funds, though an earlier reimbursement may occur if funding becomes available. In that case 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 & Accept	

November 8, 2019

Mr. Paul Oehme
Chair, TAC Funding and Programming
Committee Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street
North St. Paul, MN
55101-1805

RE: PROGRAM YEAR EXTENSION REQUEST FOR SP 163-291-008
CSAH25/Beltline Pedestrian Improvements

Dear Mr. Oehme,

City of St. Louis Park respectfully requests that the Funding and Programming Committee consider a program year extension for the above referenced project. The project's current program year is 2020 and includes construction and upgrading pedestrian facilities that will help transform the CSAH25 corridor to an urban corridor with pedestrian friendly features, while accommodating improvements identified in the Beltline Transitional Station Area Action Plan.

The City applied for and was awarded 2016 STBGP funds for program year 2020. The City has worked with Metro Transit for the past few years to locate a station for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) project at Beltline Boulevard and CSAH 25. The SWLRT was delayed on being approved, which included commencement of construction, therefore the City delayed starting the design of this project in order to avoid major design changes. We are now ready to go forward with the public engagement and final design of the project. The schedule for this work will take us beyond the June 2020 deadline and therefore a program year extension is necessary.

The City can demonstrate that we will be on schedule to accomplish the predesign and final design of the project for a program year of 2021. A one-year time extension would allow the City of St. Louis Park to retain the funding to keep this needed safety improvement.

We therefore request the Funding and Programming Committee's support for extending the City of St. Louis Park's program year to 2021. If additional information is needed, please contact me at 952.924.2691 or by email at jsullivan@stlouispark.org.

Sincerely,



Jack Sullivan, PE
City of St. Louis Park

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

REQUEST FOR PROGRAM YEAR EXTENSION

For

SP 163-291-008

PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AT CSAH 25 AND BELTLINE BOULEVARD

CITY OF ST. LOUIS PARK, HENNEPIN COUNTY

REQUESTED BY:

JACK SULLIVAN

CITY OF ST. LOUIS PARK PROJECT MANAGER

Phone: 952.924.2691

Email: jsullivan@stlouispark.org

1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

a. Project Name:

County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 25 & Beltline pedestrian improvements in the City of St. Louis Park.

b. Location Map:

See **Figure 1 – Location Map and Project Area Map** for the project location and adjacent roadways.

c. Sponsoring Agency:

City of St. Louis Park, Minnesota

d. Other Participating Agencies:

Hennepin County, and FHWA

e. Project Description:

The proposed project will complete the gaps in the pedestrian system along Beltline Boulevard, CSAH 25, Ottawa Avenue, and Lynn Avenue, which will also improve the pedestrian access across busy CSAH 25 corridor and connect to the planned Beltline LRT station. The project consists of constructing pedestrian facilities on the following roadways: along Beltline Boulevard from West 36th Street to Minnetonka Boulevard; replacing and completing gaps in the sidewalks along both sides of Ottawa Avenue and Lynn Avenue from CSAH 25 to Minnetonka Boulevard; and constructing a walkway along CSAH 25 from Beltline Boulevard to Lynn Avenue. In addition, streetscaping elements will be installed along CSAH 25 and Beltline Boulevard.

f. Funding Category:

The project is funded with 2016 Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) funds.

g. Federal Funds Allocated:

Federal funds in the amount of \$560,000.00 have been secured for Fiscal Year 2020.

2. PROJECT PROGRESS

a. Project Schedule:

The schedule below outlines the progress of the project to date as well as the schedule moving forward without the program year extension.

Activity / Milestone	Date Completed
Design - Layout Options	January / February 2020
Draft Project Memorandum	December 2019
Project Memorandum Submittal	July 2020
Submit 30% Construction Plans for review	August 2020
Right of Way Acquisition	July to December 2020
Plan Approval and Authorization	Spring 2021
Project Bid Opening	Spring 2021
Project Construction	Summer 2021

b. Right of Way Acquisition:

Permanent and temporary easement needs will be identified and ROW (if needed) will be acquired by end of December 2020.

c. Plans:

The preliminary layout will be developed through a public engagement process.

d. Permits:

Table 1 – Permits Required

Permits Required		
Agency	REQ'D	Status/ Date Received
USACE Section 404	N	Not applicable (N/A) (no wetlands within the project area)
Coast Guard	N	N/A
DNR - Water	N	N/A
DNR - Public Waters	N	N/A (no DNR public waters within the project area)
MPCA - NPDES	Y	Permit will be obtained prior to construction
MPCA - Section 401	N	N/A
Watershed District	Y	Permit will be obtained prior to construction

Permits Required		
Agency	REQ'D	Status/ Date Received
Wetland Conservation Act/ BWSR	N	N/A (no wetlands within the project area)
Railroad	N	N/A sidewalks along Beltline Blvd will start and stop prior to light rail right-of-way; LRT project to complete sidewalks within ROW
Other	N	N/A

e. Approvals:

The following is a list of agencies with approval authority and the status of each approval:

Agency	Approval Required	Status
MnDOT State Aid	Project Memorandum	Draft submitted November 2019
	Final Plan Approval	Not yet submitted, December 2020
Hennepin County	Preliminary Layout	Not yet completed
	Final Plan Approval	Not yet submitted, November 2020
City of St. Louis Park	Preliminary Layout	Not yet completed
	Final Plan Approval	Not yet submitted, November 2020

f. Identified Funds Spent to Date on Project:

To date, the City of St. Louis Park has contracted approximately \$19,000 on preliminary design and anticipates approving an overall contract for \$140,000 for the design of project.

3. JUSTIFICATION FOR EXTENSION

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

This project completes the missing pedestrian gaps along Beltline Blvd, CSAH 25, Ottawa Ave and Lynn Ave for pedestrians getting to and from the new Beltline LRT station.

b. 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. The City of St. Louis Park has spent funds in excess of \$30,000 and anticipate continued design work costs of an additional \$140,000 to prepare the plan. The City of St. Louis Park feels strongly that this project is a high priority segment and delaying the improvements on this segment will likely cause increased traffic delays/ congestion and crashes.

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

A delay in this project will affect the pedestrians that will be accessing the new Beltline LRT Station to use unsafe or undesignated pedestrian facilities. Therefore, potentially causing harm to the pedestrians.

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

The City will continue to gather public input through the design process with the intent to have final plans in the late fall of 2020. The City is in the process of contracting the remaining preliminary and final design services for this project which include a robust public engagement process.

Attachment 1: PROGRESS SCHEDULE FOR PROGRAM YEAR EXTENSION

Request Date: November 8, 2019

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reviewed by State Aid	If checked enter 4.	<u>4</u>
Date of approval <u>TBD</u>		

<input type="checkbox"/> Completed/Approved	If checked enter 5.	<u> </u>
Date of approval <u> </u>		

<input type="checkbox"/> EA		
<input type="checkbox"/> Completed/Approved	If checked enter 2.	<u> </u>
Date of approval <u> </u>		

EITHER		
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Complete		
Anticipated Date of Completion <u> </u>		
	If prior to January 31 of the program year, enter 1.	<u> </u>

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC HEARING (not necessary for project memorandum)

<input type="checkbox"/> Completed		
Date of Hearing <u> </u>	If checked enter 2.	<u> </u>

<input type="checkbox"/> Not Complete		
Anticipated Date of Completion <u> </u>		
	If prior to February 28 of the program year, enter 1.	<u> </u>

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (not required for project memorandum)

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

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

STUDY REPORT (required for Environmental Assessment Only)

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 November 2020
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 December 2020
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. 2
Date _____

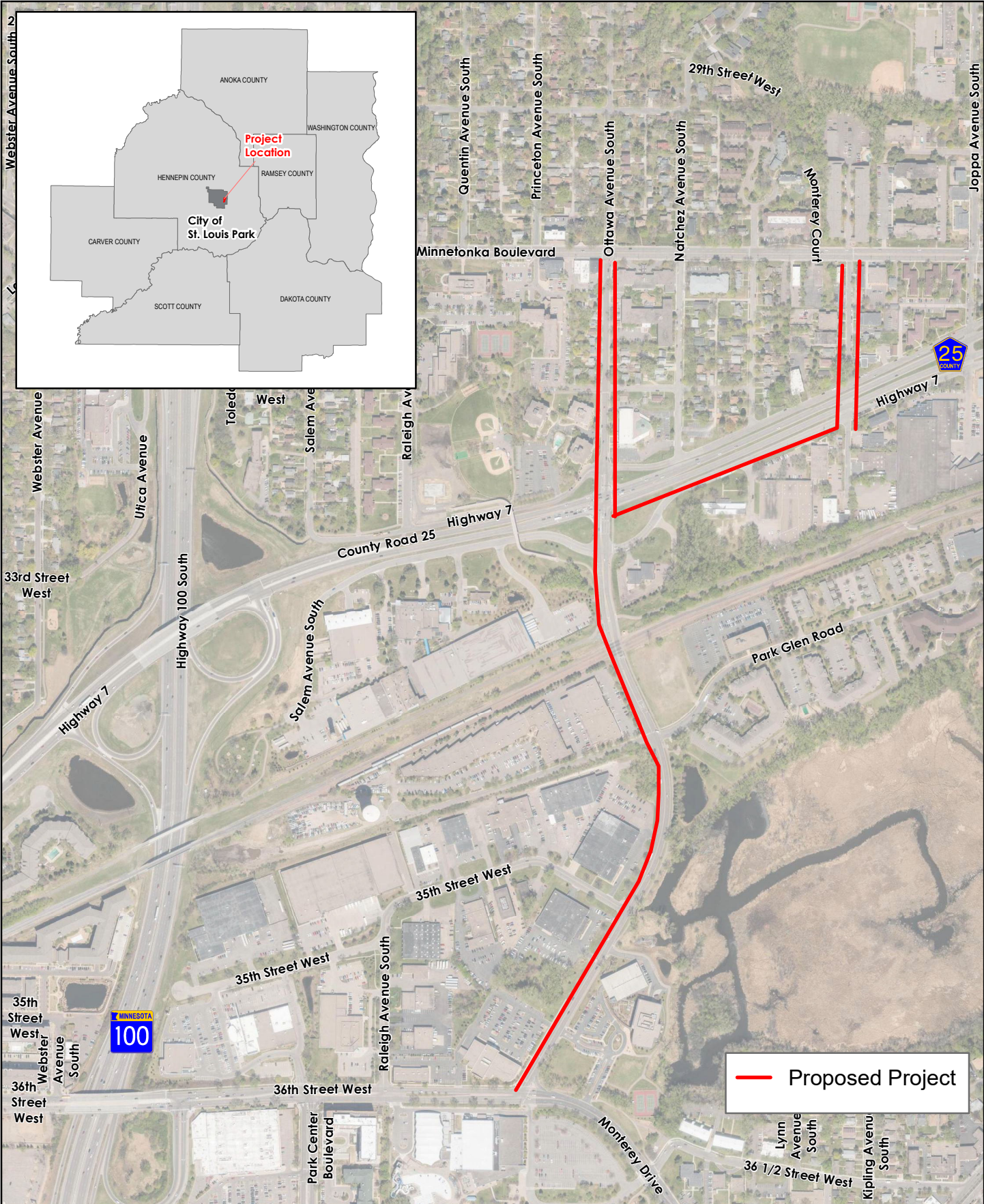
Not Complete
Anticipated Date of Completion November 2020 – see attached preliminary construction cost estimate
If prior to December 31 of the year following the original program year, enter 1. _____

AUTHORIZED

Anticipated Letting Date Spring 2021.

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



Path: P:\PT\GIS\Stlou153156\GIS-fmap-dsgm\51-drawings\90-GIS\Maps\Beltline_CSAH25.mxd

— Proposed Project



Project: STLOU 153156
Print Date: 10/29/2019

PROJECT LOCATION
Beltline/CSAH 25 Pedestrian Improvements
(S.P. 163-291-008)
2016 Regional Solicitation
St. Louis Park, Minnesota

Figure
1

This map is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey map and is not intended to be used as one. This map is a compilation of records, information, and data gathered from various sources listed on this map and is to be used for reference purposes only. SEH does not warrant that the Geographic Information System (GIS) Data used to prepare this map are error free, and SEH does not represent that the GIS Data can be used for navigational, tracking, or any other purpose requiring exacting measurement of distance or direction or precision in the depiction of geographic features. The user of this map acknowledges that SEH shall not be liable for any damages which arise out of the user's access or use of data provided.