

ACTION TRANSMITTAL 2014-35

DATE: May 19, 2014

TO: TAC Planning Committee

PREPARED BY: Mary Karlsson, Planning Analyst (651-602-1819)

SUBJECT: 2030 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) Amendment for MnDOT Corridors of Commerce Program and reprogramming Chapter 152 and Bridge Preservation program savings

REQUESTED ACTION: MnDOT requests a TPP amendment to add funding received through the Corridors of Commerce program for improvements to Interstate 694 between Lexington Avenue and Rice Street, and increased funding from cost savings in the Chapter 152 Bridge Preservation program for improvements to Interstate 494 between I-394 and I-94/694

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Recommend that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend release of a proposed amendment to the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan (adopted November 2010, last amended April 2014) to add the I-694 project and funding, and modify the project scope and add funding for the I-494 project for the purpose of receiving public comment and holding a public hearing

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: MnDOT is requesting that the Metropolitan Council amend the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) to include one new project, modify an existing project description, and include additional funding for both projects in the Council's fiscally constrained long-range plan.

The I-694 project was selected and is being funded as a result of state legislative action. The Corridors of Commerce program, authorized through MN Statutes 161.088 during the 2013 legislative session, established a "*program for trunk highway construction, reconstruction, and improvement, including maintenance operations, that improves commerce in the state*". This program is funded at \$300 million through the sale of trunk highway bonds.

Based on the Corridors of Commerce legislative criteria, the MnDOT Commissioner selected projects across the state that meet the criteria and are deliverable in the near term. Three of these projects are in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Two of these projects were initiated and are being led by the Metro District (TH 610 and I-694). One project was initiated and is being led by MnDOT District 3 (I-94). All three projects are within the Twin Cities Metropolitan planning area, and thus must be included in the long-range plan and Transportation Improvement Program. The Metropolitan Council adopted an amendment to the 2030 TPP for the I-94 and TH 610 projects on April 30, 2014. This proposed action addresses the I-694 project and its funding.

The I-494 project is already included in the plan and is described as a dynamic shoulder lane addition. Under the proposed amendment, the project description will be modified to be a general purpose lane addition, and an additional \$25 million will be added to the \$61.6 million already programmed in the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program. This \$25 million was identified from cost savings from other projects funded through the statewide Chapter 152 Bridge Preservation program. The additional \$25 million in funding is programmed through a statewide program and is new funding to the Metro District.

RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY: The Metropolitan Council and its Transportation Advisory Board are required, under both state and federal law, to develop a multimodal regional transportation plan that identifies transportation system goals, needs, and investment priorities over at least a 20-year period. The plan is required to identify regionally significant transportation investments that will be implemented within the timeframe of the plan. These projects must be consistent with the policies and plans adopted by the Metropolitan Council. The plan must balance anticipated revenues and project costs, thereby maintaining what is federally called fiscal constraint. The I-694 and I-494 projects are subject to Air Quality Conformity Analysis and the documentation is attached.

Upon review and recommendation of the proposed amendments by the TAC and TAB, the Metropolitan Council will release the proposed amendments for the purpose of receiving public comment and holding a public hearing. If the proposed changes are subsequently adopted by the Council, an amendment to the 2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program will be adopted to allow these projects to be built. The I-494 TIP amendment is being processed concurrently with the TPP amendment; both the I-494 and I-694 projects are included in the DRAFT 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program that is also being processed.

STAFF ANALYSIS: The attached revisions to the 2030 TPP are proposed for adoption. The new text and items in various tables are shown as underlined. Text or table items that are to be deleted are shown as strikeouts. The text below provides project details and additional analysis that is required prior to adopting the TPP amendment.

The **I-694** project will include pavement reconstruction and general purpose (GP) lane additions from Lexington Avenue to east of Rice Street in each direction for a distance of 2.5 miles. This project is not in the fiscally constrained 2030 TPP, but is identified as a problem area in MnDOT's Congestion Management Safety Plan II (CMSPII) as a problem safety/congestion location. The Corridors of Commerce program will provide up to \$42 million (based on actual project costs) for this project, thereby addressing the CMSP opportunity identified at this location. The design of this project will not preclude a future MnPASS lane in any way.

The **I-494** project from I-394 to I-94/694 provides pavement reconstruction, bridge replacement, operational improvements and general purpose (GP) lane additions in each direction from TH 55 to I-94/694, and operational improvements in each direction from I-394 to TH 55. The project is estimated at \$86 million and is scheduled for a state fiscal year (SFY) 2015 contract letting. The project will be funded through a combination of MnDOT Metro District funds (\$61.6 million identified in the SFY2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program) and \$25 million in cost savings from the

statewide Chapter 152 Bridge Preservation programs' St. Croix River Crossing and Red Wing bridge projects (construction savings on these bridge projects are anticipated at about \$50 million). The design of the I-494 project will not preclude a future MnPASS lane in any way.

Because the I-494 and I-694 projects are not in the fiscally constrained 2030 TPP, a number of changes to the text and tables have been recommended. The projects are subject to Air Quality Conformity Analysis.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND ACTION:

ROUTING

| TO | ACTION REQUESTED | DATE COMPLETED |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| TAC Planning Committee | Review & Recommend | |
| Technical Advisory Committee | Review & Recommend | |
| Transportation Advisory Board | Review & Recommend | |
| Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee | Review & Recommend | |
| Metropolitan Council | Review & Adopt | |