

## ACTION TRANSMITTAL 2016-14

**DATE:** Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
**TO:** TAC Planning  
**FROM:** MTS Staff  
**PREPARED BY:** Rachel Wiken (651) 602-1572  
**SUBJECT:** Functional Class Changes #1337 (existing) & # 1338 (planned) – Nicollet Ave Reliever  
**REQUESTED ACTION:** City of Minneapolis requests changing Nicollet Ave from Other Arterial to A Minor reliever, with addition of one block section of Planned A Minor Reliever between 29<sup>th</sup> and Lake Street.  
**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That TAC Planning recommend to TAC the approval of the changes as requested.

### BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION:

Nicollet Avenue is a critically important north-south connection that extends from downtown Minneapolis to the City border and into Richfield. It serves as reliever to the I-35W corridor that frequently experiences significant congestion in the peak hours. A one-block section from Lake Street to 29th Street West does not presently exist and is requested to be identified as a planned roadway. The City of Minneapolis intends to complete the missing segment of Nicollet Avenue, although the exact timing is not known at this time. The requested change is to an A-Minor Reliever.

### STAFF ANALYSIS:

Staff agrees that Nicollet Ave does function as a reliever of I-35W in its current configuration. With the planned completion of the avenue between Lake Street and 29<sup>th</sup>, Nicollet will become a direct connection from Downtown Minneapolis to residential areas of South Minneapolis and freeway connections to the south and west.

One concern would be the duplicity in classifications with Lyndale Ave and Park/Portland, which are relievers of I-35W. While not specifically spelled out in the TPP, previously relievers have been limited to one or two per Principal Arterial. However, Nicollet is functioning as a reliever to the congestion of I-35W, and the reclassification meets all the other criteria for the Reliever status.

Spacing with Lyndale and Park/Portland are ½ mile, which is within the ½ to 1 mile spacing range for urban communities.

MnDOT has reviewed and concurs that Nicollet Ave does function as a reliever of I-35W.

---

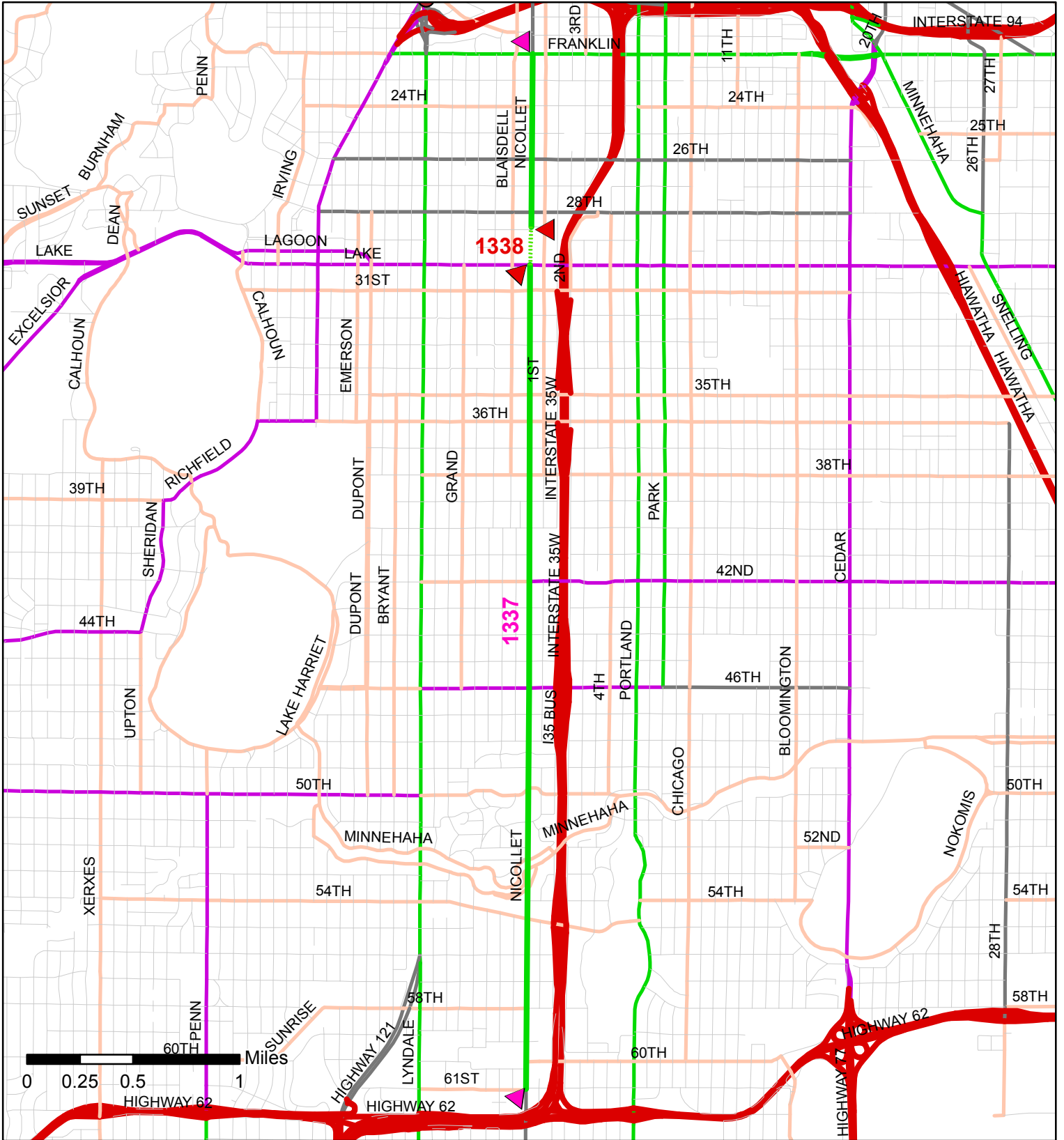
### ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
TAC - Planning	Review and Recommend	
Technical Advisory Committee	Review and Approve	

# Functional Class Roads Change Requests

## City of Minneapolis

ID# 1337 - 1338



### Existing Regional Functional Class Roads

- Principal Arterial
- B Minor
- Major Collector
- Minor Collector
- A Minor Augmentor
- A Minor Reliever
- A Minor Expander
- A Minor Connector

### Planned Regional Functional Class Roads

- Principal Arterial
- B Minor
- Major Collector
- Minor Collector
- A Minor Augmentor
- A Minor Reliever
- A Minor Expander
- A Minor Connector

City / Township Boundaries

Street Centerlines

County Boundaries



# Regional Functional Classification Change Request Form

ID Number: 1337-1338

Date of Request: 1/4/15

## Roadway Name: Nicollet Avenue

Roadway CSAH #

Roadway MSA # 430

Roadway County Rd #

Request Type: Existing

## Functional Classification Information:

### Existing Roadway

Current Classification:

Other Minor Arterial

Requested Classification: A Minor Reliever

If other:

Planned to existing Contingent Conditions: -----

Other / Explain:

### Planned Roadway

Current Classification: N/A

Requested Classification: A Minor Reliever

If other:

## Request Information:

Change Start Location: Franklin Avenue

Change End Location: 61<sup>st</sup> Street West

Length of Requested Change (Miles): 4.9

Dependent on other Requested Changes: No

Road name(s) or ID Number(s) of dependent requests:

Involves other jurisdictions (No) If "yes" please attach letter(s) of support

**Purpose of Change:** Please explain rationale for requested Change  
Nicollet Avenue is a critically important north-south connection that extends from downtown Minneapolis to the City border and into Richfield. It serves as reliever to the I-35W corridor that frequently experiences significant congestion in the peak hours. A one-block section from Lake Street to 29<sup>th</sup> Street West does not presently exist and is requested to be identified as a planned roadway. The City of Minneapolis intends to complete the missing segment of Nicollet Avenue, although the exact timing is not known at this time. The requested change is to an A-Minor Reliever.

## Following Section Required for All Principal and Minor Arterial Requests

**Criteria:** Illustrate how the requested change to a roadway functional classification complies with the following criteria:

Place Connections: Nicollet Avenue connects into downtown Minneapolis where it becomes Nicollet Mall. From downtown it connects south Minneapolis with Richfield and Bloomington. It connects major employment and entertainment concentrations in downtown with communities to the south.

Spacing: The nearest A-Minor Arterial to the west is Lyndale Avenue, ½ mile away; the nearest A-Minor Arterial to the east is Portland Avenue, ½ mile away.

# Regional Functional Classification Change Request Form

ID Number: 1337-1338

Date of Request: 1/4/15

Management: No recent speed study has been completed, however, 15 MPH speeds are maintained during peak periods based on observations from traffic operations.

System Connections & Access Spacing: Nicollet Avenue provides important connections to major east-west routes including Franklin Avenue, Lake Street, 50th Street W and into Richfield and Bloomington.

Trip Making Services: Nicollet Avenue serves short, medium, and some longer length trips during peak hours at moderate speeds. It also serves as an important multi-modal corridor serving significant numbers of transit users as well as pedestrians and some bicyclists. Metro Transit Route 18 uses Nicollet Avenue and is one of the most heavily used routes in the system. Express Route 554 also uses the Nicollet corridor. The planned Nicollet-Central Streetcar line will use the Nicollet Avenue corridor from north of 46<sup>th</sup> Street W.

Mobility vs. Land Access: Nicollet Avenue provides primarily a mobility function rather than land access. It provides mobility to major east-west corridors, major employment and entertainment destinations, and population concentrations.

## **IF request impacts the A-Minor Arterial Sub-Classification, provide these attributes:**

(from Table D-4 in TPP, [http://metro council.org/Transportation/Planning-2/Key-Transportation-Planning-Documents/Transportation-Policy-Plan-\(1\)/The-Adopted-2040-TPP-\(1\)/Final-2040-Transportation-Policy-Plan/2040-TPP-Appendix-D-Functional-Class.aspx](http://metro council.org/Transportation/Planning-2/Key-Transportation-Planning-Documents/Transportation-Policy-Plan-(1)/The-Adopted-2040-TPP-(1)/Final-2040-Transportation-Policy-Plan/2040-TPP-Appendix-D-Functional-Class.aspx))

**Use:** Nicollet Avenue supplements the Principal Arterial I-35W, as well as A-Minor Arterials Lyndale, Park, and Portland Avenues.

**Location:** From just south of downtown Minneapolis to close to the city border.

**Trip Length:** Primarily short and medium length trips.

**Problem Addressed:** Supplements and relieves I-35W as well as Lyndale, Park, and Portland Avenues and other north-south collectors.

**(Optional) Typical Characteristics:** Providing the following to support the request

Intersection Treatments: Many signalized intersections.

Present AADT: 6,800 - 12,000

Estimated Future AADT/Year: NA

Source of Estimated AADT/Date: NA

# Regional Functional Classification Change Request Form

ID Number: 1337-1338

Date of Request: 1/4/15

Posted Speed: 30 MPH

----- **Required for All Requests** -----

**MAP:** Please attach an 8.5 by 11 map of the requested change. Please include all appropriate labels and highlight the roadway in question.

**Contact Information:**

Agency/City/County: City of Minneapolis

Contact Person: Steven Hay

Phone: 612-673-3884

Fax: 612-673-2048

Email: steven.hay@minneapolismn.gov

Address: 309 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue S, Room 300

City: Minneapolis

State: MN

Zip: 55401

----- *Committee Staff ONLY* -----

**Staff Recommendation:**

Consent Approval: -----

Technical Correction: -----

Staff Recommendation:

MnDOT Consent: YES

NO

Comments:

Potential Issues:

**Change Tracking:**

TAC Planning Record of Decision:

Date:

TAC Record of Decision:

Date:

TAB Record of Decision (PA ONLY):

Date:

Mn/DOT Notification:

Date:

*Geography Recorded:* -----

*Date:*

*Previous Action ID:*

*Date:*