

ACTION TRANSMITTAL – 2018-47

DATE: October 4, 2018

TO: TAC Planning

PREPARED BY: Cole Hiniker, Multimodal Transportation Planning Manager

SUBJECT: Draft 2040 Transportation Policy Plan Amendment to Add Riverview Modern Streetcar Locally Preferred Alternative

REQUESTED ACTION: That the draft amendment to the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan to add Riverview Modern Streetcar Locally Preferred Alternative be released for public review and comment

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Recommend that the Transportation Advisory Board recommend that the Metropolitan Council release the draft amendment to the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan for public review and comment to add Riverview Modern Streetcar Locally Preferred Alternative

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: 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. All fixed-guideway rail transit projects are considered major projects under federal guidance. These projects must be identified as funded in a region's long-range transportation plan, which for this region is the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan, in order to qualify for Federal Transit Administration capital investment grants. Transitway projects generally originate as locally led projects to recommend a locally preferred alternative (LPA) for adoption. This amendment proposes to add the Riverview Modern Streetcar LPA to the TPP's Current Revenue Scenario at the request of Ramsey County following the conclusion of its Riverview Corridor Pre-Project Development Study.

The attached text for the amendment is a new format being proposed by MTS staff to simplify how amendments are presented. Previously, amendments resulted in red-lined versions of chapters of the TPP for public comment with the final text resulting in reposting of updated chapters affected by an amendment to the Council's website. This revised approach provides all necessary information on the amendment in one document that will be posted on the website as an addition to the full Plan. The attached text also references the project website, hosted by Ramsey County, and some basic information about the Riverview Modern Streetcar LPA.

In addition, this amendment is advancing on an accelerated timeline at the request of Ramsey County. The 2040 TPP Update is currently being prepared for final adoption by the Metropolitan Council on October 24. This amendment would alter the updated Plan and its consideration by TAC and TAB will be contingent upon the updated Plan being adopted by the Council beforehand.

RELATIONSHIP TO REGIONAL POLICY: The Metropolitan Council and its Transportation Advisory Board are required, under both state and federal law, to develop a multimodal long-range regional transportation plan that identifies transportation system

goals, needs, and investment priorities over at least a 20-year period. All fixed-guideway rail transit projects are considered major projects under federal guidance and must be identified as funded in a region's long-range transportation plan in order to qualify for Federal Transit Administration capital investment grants.

Transitway projects can be added to the fiscally constrained Transportation Policy Plan when the following criteria are met.

- A locally preferred alternative (LPA) designating the mode and alignment is identified and adopted by a lead agency and the LPA report is submitted to the Council documenting the planning process including a summary of the project's public input process and content
- Local affected governments adopt resolutions of support for the LPA, validating their support for the project moving forward
- A reasonable project timeline is submitted with key milestones for federal action and construction and opening dates for the project
- A reasonable financial plan is submitted documenting how the project can be built and operated with revenues in the fiscally constrained plan (or reasonable proposed additional revenues)

Ramsey County has provided the appropriate information to meet these criteria for the Riverview Modern Streetcar LPA.

STAFF ANALYSIS: This draft amendment to the 2040 TPP is proposed for review and recommendation for release for public comment. The document provides background on the relationship to the existing plan, the local project development process, and a project definition for the Plan.

The amendment also provides information on the impacts of the amendment to the Plan, particularly addressing any federal requirements for project additions. This includes an assessment of fiscal constraint, an assessment of effects on the environment and air quality conformity, an assessment of effects on equity and environmental justice populations, and an assessment of the revised Plan outcomes. An assessment of public comments will be added to the text prior to final adoption.

With these elements included, the necessary information has been provided to release an amendment of the TPP for public comment.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
TAC Planning	Review & Recommend	
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Recommend	
Metropolitan Council Transportation Committee	Review & Recommend	
Metropolitan Council	Review and Release for Public Comment	
Metropolitan Council	Review & Adopt	