

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: April 9, 2012

Council meeting date: April 25, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
	Date: March 21, 2012
	Subject: 2012-2015 TIP Amendment Request to reflect a scope change for Edina SP#120-020-037: France Avenue/72 nd Street Pedestrian Bridge (TAB Action 2012-11)
District(s), Member(s):	Elkins - 5
Policy/Legal Reference:	TAB Action
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, Director (651-602-1754) Amy Vennewitz, Dep. Dir. Finance & Planning (651-602-1058) Kevin Roggenbuck, TAB Coordinator (651-602-1728) James Andrew, Senior Planner (651-602-1721)
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to reflect a scope change and cost adjustment for Edina SP#120-020-037: France Avenue/72nd Street Pedestrian Bridge.

Background

This amendment is needed to change the project description and funding amounts for this project. The change in scope removes the original project which was for a pedestrian bridge crossing France Avenue at 72nd Street and replaces it with a project to construct improved at-grade intersections at four locations along France Avenue in the vicinity of the original bridge. The City conducted more detailed planning and changes in City staff and planning efforts resulted in the desire to not construct the bridge and instead improve intersections. The scope change, approved by TAB, reduces the project cost from \$2,180,000 (\$1,090,000 federal) to \$2,045,000 (\$1,090,000 federal).

Project Description	Federal (Transportation Enhancements) Funds	Local Match (City of Edina, and State Aid)
SP#120-020-037: France Avenue Pedestrian Crossings	\$1,090,000	\$955,000

Rationale

The Transportation Advisory Board approves formal amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program. The Metropolitan Council concurs with the action of the TAB. This project and the amendment is exempt from air quality conformity analysis, is consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan and does not affect fiscal constraint as it replaces a project already in the TIP and adds no additional federal funds.

Funding

This project was selected to receive federal Transportation Enhancements funds from the 2007 Regional Solicitation administered by the Transportation Advisory Board. The local match is provided by the City of Edina.

Known Support / Opposition

There was considerable discussion about this request at TAB and its technical committees. The action of the TAB was concurrent with an action to extend the sunset date for one year. Both the sunset date extension and the scope change requests were a source of debate. The TAB has adopted policy regarding the request, evaluation and approval of project scope changes for projects awarded funding by the TAB. Although the city followed the process, the technical advisory committees of the TAB voted to deny the City's request for this scope change and sunset date extension on the grounds that this project proposal was too great of a departure from the original project and that it should have been withdrawn and the City should have submitted a new application for this new scope in the Regional Solicitation. The vote at TAB was not unanimous because some members shared this sentiment but the majority voted in favor of the change in scope because the project appeared to be superior to the original project as described in the TIP. The TAB will refine its scope change policy in consultation with the FHWA to clarify how to address scope changes of this magnitude.