

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: June 10, 2013

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 19, 2013

**Subject:** Controlled Access Approval to construct MnPASS lanes on I-35E between I-94 and Little Canada Road (SP 6280-367).

**Metro Council Districts:** District 11, Sandy Rummel  
District 13, Richard Kramer  
District 14, Jon Commers

**Policy/Legal Reference:** Mn. Statute 473.166

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS 651-602-1754  
Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director, Finance and Planning, MTS, 651-602-1508  
Connie Kozlak, Manager, Transportation Planning and Programming 651-602-1720  
Ann Braden, Senior Transportation Planner, MTS, 651-602-1705

**Division/Department:** Transportation/Metropolitan Transportation Services

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve MnDOT's request to construct a new I-35E MnPASS lane from I-94 to Little Canada Road conditional upon any significant changes in the design of the proposed project being subject to further review and approval by the Metropolitan Council prior to construction.

### Background

Minnesota state law (MS. 473.166) requires that the Council approve any controlled access highway in the metropolitan area before construction or right-of-way acquisition begins. This is to ensure that proposed highway projects are consistent with regional policies and plans.

The proposed project in the cities of Little Canada, Maplewood and St. Paul will rehabilitate the existing highway pavement and construct a new MnPASS lane designated as a High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lane on the inside lane in each direction. The HOT lane extends through the Cayuga Bridge project by restriping the shoulder to the Cayuga Street exit/entry. The lane will provide a congestion-free travel lane alternative on I-35E and advantages for transit during peak hours of congestion. This project will also replace the Arlington, Wheelock and Larpenteur bridges and replace the mainline bridges at Roselawn Avenue, County Road B and Highway 36.

### Rationale

I-35E is a principal arterial highway that serves as an important component of the state and regional transportation system, supporting local and regional economic development. This MnPASS project is consistent with the regional Transportation Policy Plan which identifies it as a managed lane recommendation and its construction is included in the 2013-2016 adopted Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Metro Transit supports the I-35E MnPASS lane project because it will increase bus operating speeds, reduce travel time and improve schedule reliability. Metro Transit will also benefit from this facility for non-revenue (deadhead) bus operations to and from the East Metro Garage. Increased operating speeds will reduce Metro Transit operating costs.

If approved construction will begin in the winter/spring of 2014 and will be completed by spring of 2016.

**Funding**

The 2014 project cost is \$111 million and is funded with federal and state monies.

**Known Support / Opposition**

No known opposition.

