

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: December 8, 2014

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 10, 2014

Subject: 2015-2018 TIP Amendment: Ladders of Opportunity award to improve, replace, and construct bus facilities

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: TAB Action

Staff Prepared/Presented: Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS (651-602-1754)
Mark Filipi, MTS Technical Services Manager (651-602-1725)
Joe Barbeau, Senior Planner (651-602-1705)

Division/Department: Transportation / Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include in the 2015-2018 TIP funding to improve, replace, and construct bus facilities in Minneapolis and St. Paul (SP# TRF-TCMT-15BB).

Background

Metro Transit was awarded an FTA section 5309 Bus & Bus Facilities discretionary award (Ladders of Opportunity) on September 25, 2014. Metro Transit will receive funding to improve, replace, and construct bus facilities in the Minneapolis-St. Paul region, particularly focused on areas of high poverty and high dependence on transit. The focus will be on bus stop improvements to ensure safe, quality facilities in disadvantaged areas. The project will result in new customer waiting shelters, addition of heat and light to existing shelters, improved transit information, and pedestrian connections.

Rationale

The Transportation Advisory Board approves formal amendments to the TIP and the Metropolitan Council concurs with the action of the TAB. The project is consistent with the Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) and meets fiscal constraint because the federal and local funds are sufficient to fully fund the project. The Minnesota Interagency Air Quality and Transportation Planning Committee determined that the amendment is exempt from air quality conformity analysis. This TIP amendment is using the streamlined process adopted by TAB on April 19, 2014.

Funding

The project is fully funded with the federal and local funds.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.

Amendment to the Twin Cities 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION:

STATE FISCAL YEAR	ATP	ROUTE SYS	PROJECT NUMBER (S.P. #) (Fed # if available)	AGENCY	DESCRIPTION include location, description of all work, & city (if applicable)	MILES
2015	M	BB	TRF-TCMT-15BB	Metropolitan Council - MT	Section 5309 – Ladders of Opportunity Award – Improve, replace and construct bus facilities, Minneapolis & St. Paul	N/A

PROG	TYPE OF WORK	PROP FUNDS	TOTAL \$	FHWA \$	AC \$	FTA \$	TH \$	OTHER \$
B3	FTA Capital Program	FTA	\$4,075,000	0	0	\$3,260,000	0	\$815,000

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

1. Briefly describe why amendment is needed (e.g., project in previous TIP but not completed; illustrative project and funds now available; discretionary funds received; inadvertently not included in TIP).

The Metropolitan Council / Metro Transit was awarded an FTA section 5309 Bus & Bus Facilities discretionary award on 9/25/2014 (SP# TRF-TCMT-15BB). This new funding requires a TIP amendment in order for the FTA grant to be executed (i.e., made available to the Council).

Metro Transit, serving the Twin Cities in Minnesota, will receive funding to improve, replace, and construct bus facilities in the Minneapolis-St. Paul region, particularly focused on areas of high poverty and high dependence on transit. The focus will be on bus stop improvements to ensure safe, quality facilities in disadvantaged areas. The project will result in new customer waiting shelters, addition of heat and light to existing shelters, improved transit information, and pedestrian connections. In addition, partnerships with local schools and training centers will better connect residents to education and employment opportunities.

2. How is Fiscal Constraint Maintained as required by 23 CFR 450.216 (check all that apply)?

- New Money X
- Anticipated Advance Construction
- ATP or MPO or MnDOT Adjustment by deferral of other projects
- Earmark or HPP not affecting fiscal constraint
- Other

This project is receiving FTA Section 5309 funds from the Bus and Bus Facilities “Ladders of Opportunity” initiative and will also be using local Regional Transit Capital (RTC) funds. The federal and local funds slated for this project are sufficient to fully fund the project. Therefore, fiscal constraint is maintained.

CONSISTENCY WITH MPO LONG RANGE PLAN:

This amendment is consistent with the Metropolitan Council Transportation Policy Plan, adopted by the Metropolitan Council on September 10, 2014, with FHWA/FTA conformity determination established on October 6, 2014.

AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY:

- Subject to conformity determination
- Exempt from regional level analysis..... X
- N/A (not in a nonattainment or maintenance area).....

The Minnesota Interagency Air Quality and Transportation Planning Committee determined that the project was...