

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: November 23, 2015

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 9, 2015

Subject: 2016-2019 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)

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

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include funding to improve, replace, and construct bus facilities in Minneapolis and St. Paul (SP# TRF-TCMT-16BE).

Background

Metro Transit was awarded an FTA section 5309 Bus & Bus Facilities discretionary award (Ladders of Opportunity) on September 25, 2014 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. In September 2015, a portion of the project was obligated by FTA in the amount of \$567,500. This amount covered those construction activities that have been cleared through the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process. FTA will not obligate any funding prior to NEPA clearance. The NEPA process is ongoing and the remaining balance of the federal project funding in the amount of \$2,806,000 will be obligated by FTA in FFY 2016. FTA requires that this \$2,806,000 be amended into the 2016-2019 TIP.

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.