

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: June 13, 2016

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 22, 2016

Subject: East Bush Lake Road to Westbound I-494 Ramp Controlled Access Approval

District(s), Member(s): District 5, Steve Elkins

Policy/Legal Reference: Mn. Statute 473.166

Staff Prepared/Presented: Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS, 651-602-1754

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Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services (Review #21564-1)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve a request by the City of Bloomington, Hennepin County, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to construct a new westbound on-ramp to I-494 from East Bush Lake road in the City of Bloomington, subject to further review and approval by the Metropolitan Council if there are any significant changes in the design of the proposed project.

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.

This project includes a new bridge structure, retaining wall, and storm sewer components (see Figures 1-3). The inverted loop ramp design avoids the at-grade crossing of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, which is parallel to East Bush Lake Road, thereby increasing traffic flow and safety. If approved, construction is proposed to begin in 2017 and conclude in 2018. The Categorical Exclusion environmental document was signed by the Federal Highway Administration on May 19, 2016.

Rationale

The project is identified in the Increased Revenue Scenario in the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan (TPP) as a project that has successfully completed the MnDOT/Metropolitan Council Interchange Review Process. Since adoption of the TPP, the project was awarded \$7,280,000 through the 2014/15 Regional Solicitation process and \$8,000,000 through MnDOT's Transportation Economic Development (TED) competitive grant program and is now a fully funded project. It is shown in the draft 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program as a 2017 project.

Three of the four ramps currently exist at the I-494/East Bush Lake Road interchange. The lack of a westbound I-494 on-ramp causes traffic congestion on the local and regional system, including the on-ramps at I-494/TH 100 (just east of the project area).

Funding

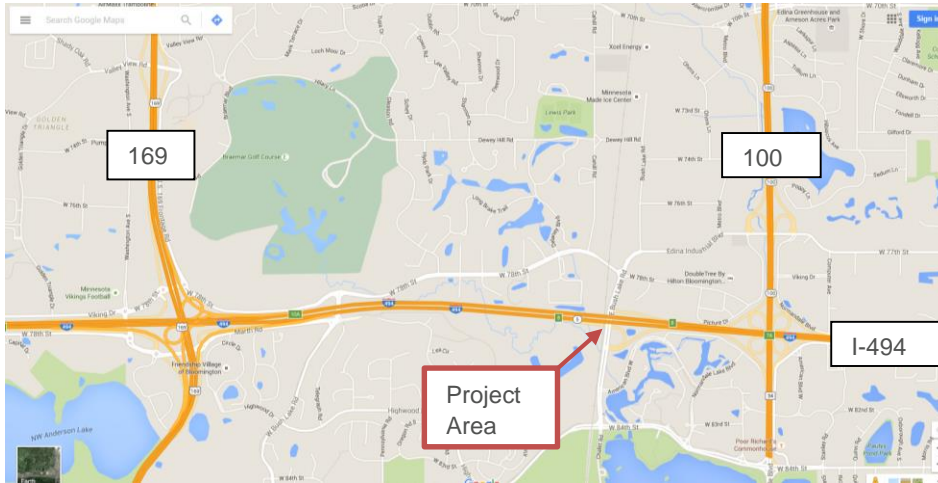
The estimated project cost is \$17,500,000 and is funded with \$7,280,000 of federal funds through the Regional Solicitation, \$8,000,000 million of TED funds,

and the remainder with Hennepin County and City of Bloomington Capital Improvement Program funds.

Known Support / Opposition

The Categorical Exclusion for the project documents the environmental impacts and mitigation measures for the project. The project would not result in relocations or substantial changes to the land uses in the area. Additional public involvement activities will be completed prior to the start of construction to inform area businesses of construction staging, closures, and detours.

Figure 1: Context of Project Area



Source: Google Maps

Figure 2: Detailed Project Area



Source: Google Maps

Figure 3: Project Improvements

