

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: September 10, 2018

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 26, 2018

Subject: Controlled Access Approval: MN 36 at Hadley Ave, Washington County

District(s), Member(s): District 11, Sandy Rummel

Policy/Legal Reference: Mn. Statute 473.166

Staff Prepared/Presented: Nick Thompson, Director, MTS, 651-602-1754

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Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services (Review #22030-1)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve a request by Washington County and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to convert a traffic signal at MN 36 and Hadley Avenue to a grade-separated interchange, 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.

MN 36 experiences high levels of traffic congestion and Hadley Avenue experiences long waits times during the AM and PM peak periods. This location is one of two remaining at-grade intersections along MN 36 within the I-694 beltway. This project will construct an interchange on MN 36 at Hadley Avenue. It will also provide a grade-separated bicycle crossing of Hadley Avenue for the Gateway Regional Trail and close an access along westbound MN 36 at Upper 51st Street North and Glenbrook Avenue North. It will improve safety and mobility for multiple modes of travel.

MN 36 at MN 120 will remain a signalized intersection pending funding.

Washington County prepared an Environmental Assessment/Environmental Worksheet and on April 17, 2018, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) made a Finding of No Significant Impact. The project is anticipated to begin construction in the Spring of 2019.

This project is part of Washington County's, MnDOT's and the region's ongoing efforts to improve the safety and mobility of regional highways to support economic development and quality of life.

Rationale and Consistency with Regional Policy

This project is included in Washington County's approved 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Program and in the region's 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program. It is consistent with regional policy as it most directly advances the Transportation Policy Plan's goals of Safety and Security, Access to Destinations and Competitive Economy. It also supports the Thrive MSP 2040 outcomes of Prosperity and Livability.

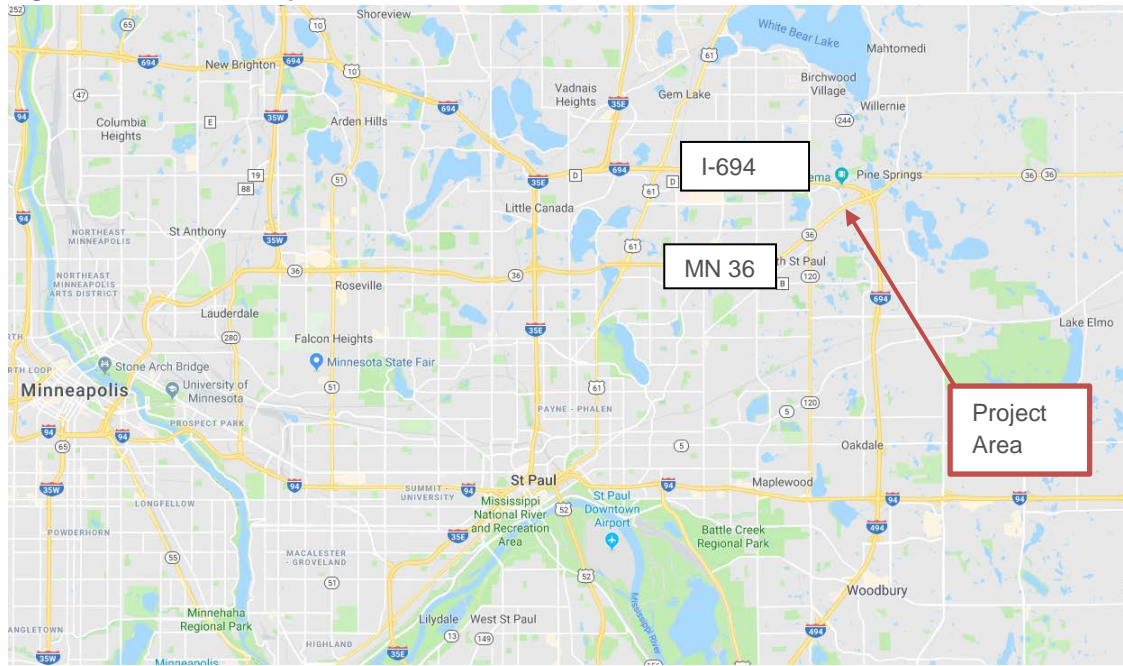
Funding

Washington County was awarded \$8 million from the 2014 Regional Solicitation, and \$5 million from MnDOT's Transportation Economic Development (TED) grant program. A commercial right-of-way donation was also a key aspect of making this project possible. The City of Oakdale and Washington County will also use State Aid funds for the remainder of this \$26 million project.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this project. It has been supported financially by a wide array of transportation partners noted above.

Figure 1: Context of Project Area



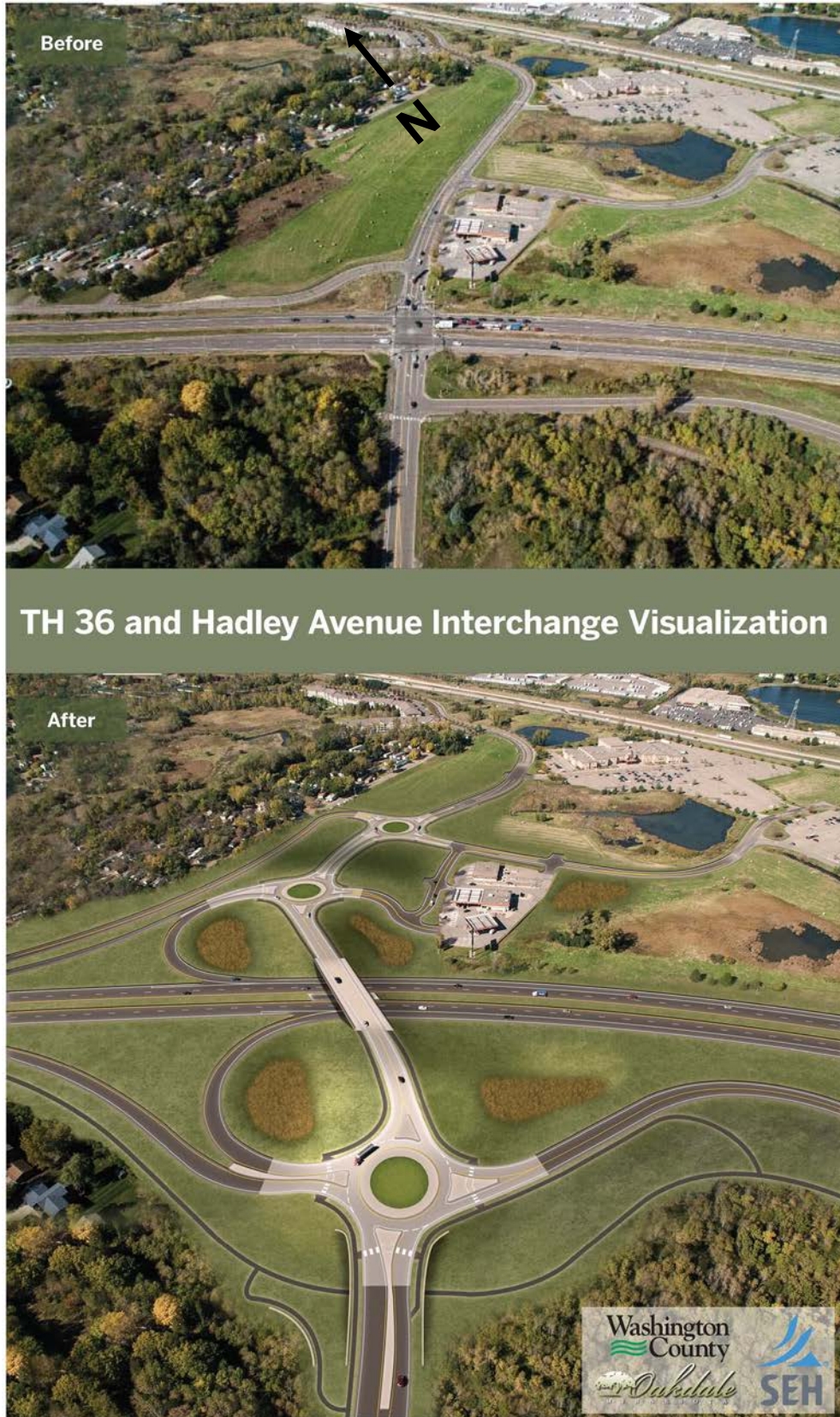
Source: Google Maps

Figure 2: Detailed Project Area



Source: Google Maps

Figure 3: Proposed Improvements at MN 36 and Hadley Avenue



Source: Washington County