

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: September 10, 2018

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 26, 2018

Subject: Controlled Access Approval: I-494 Westbound from Concord Street South to MN 52, Dakota County

District(s), Member(s): Districts 13 and 15, Richard Kramer and Steven T. Chavez

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 #22038-1)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve a request by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to add a lane along westbound I-494 from Concord Street South to Minnesota State Highway (MN) 52, 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.

Westbound I-494 in the project area (see Figure 1) experiences between one and two hours of congestion each morning (MnDOT 2017 Congestion Report). The bridge carrying I-494 over Concord Street South and the pavement along I-494 in this area need attention. The proposed project (see Figures 2 and 3) will couple the identified mobility and asset preservation needs by adding a lane along westbound I-494 from Concord Street South to MN 52, resurfacing the bridge carrying I-494 over Concord Street South, repairing concrete pavement between Hardman Avenue and MN 52, placing noise walls to meet current standards and replacing a trunk storm sewer line to ensure adequate drainage capacity.

A Categorical Exclusion for this project was approved on January 23, 2018.

This project is part of MnDOT and the region's ongoing efforts to preserve the region's highways and improve their safety and mobility in order to support economic development and quality of life.

Rationale and Consistency with Regional Policy

This project is included in the region's 2018-2021 Transportation Improvement Program. It is consistent with regional policy as it advances the Transportation Policy Plan's goals of Transportation System Stewardship and Access to Destinations. It also most supports the Thrive MSP 2040 outcomes of Stewardship and Livability.

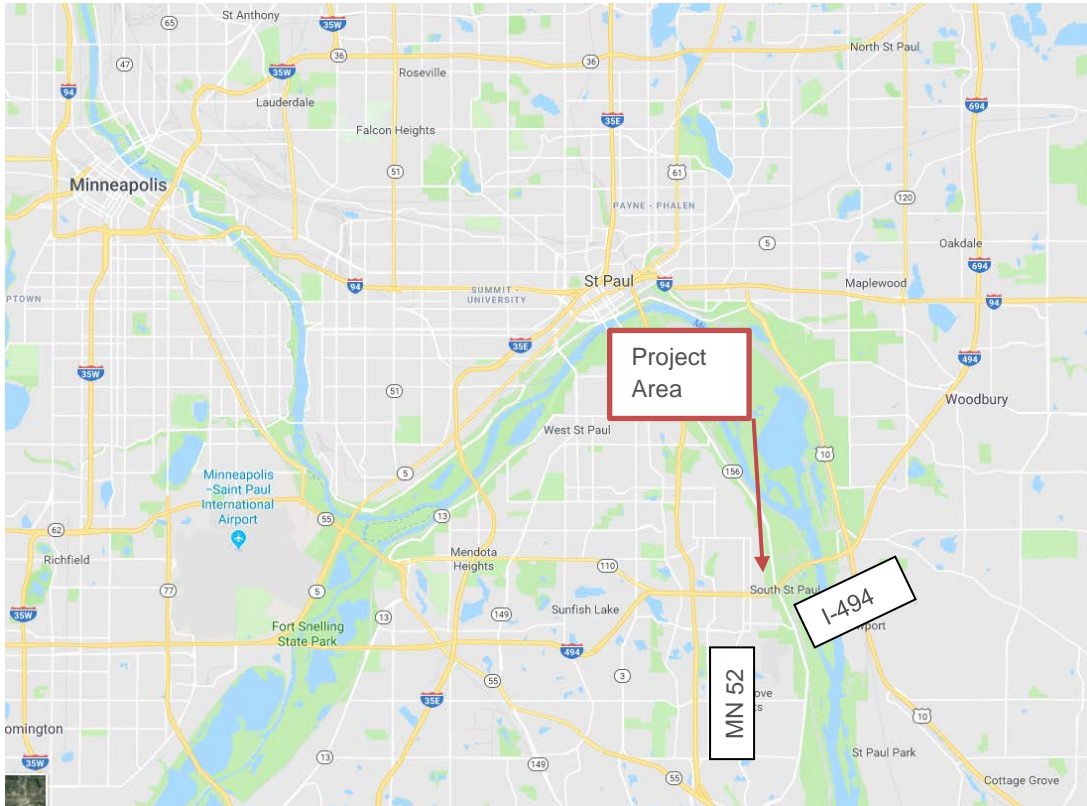
Funding

This project is estimated to cost \$16 million and is funded entirely by MnDOT.

Known Support / Opposition

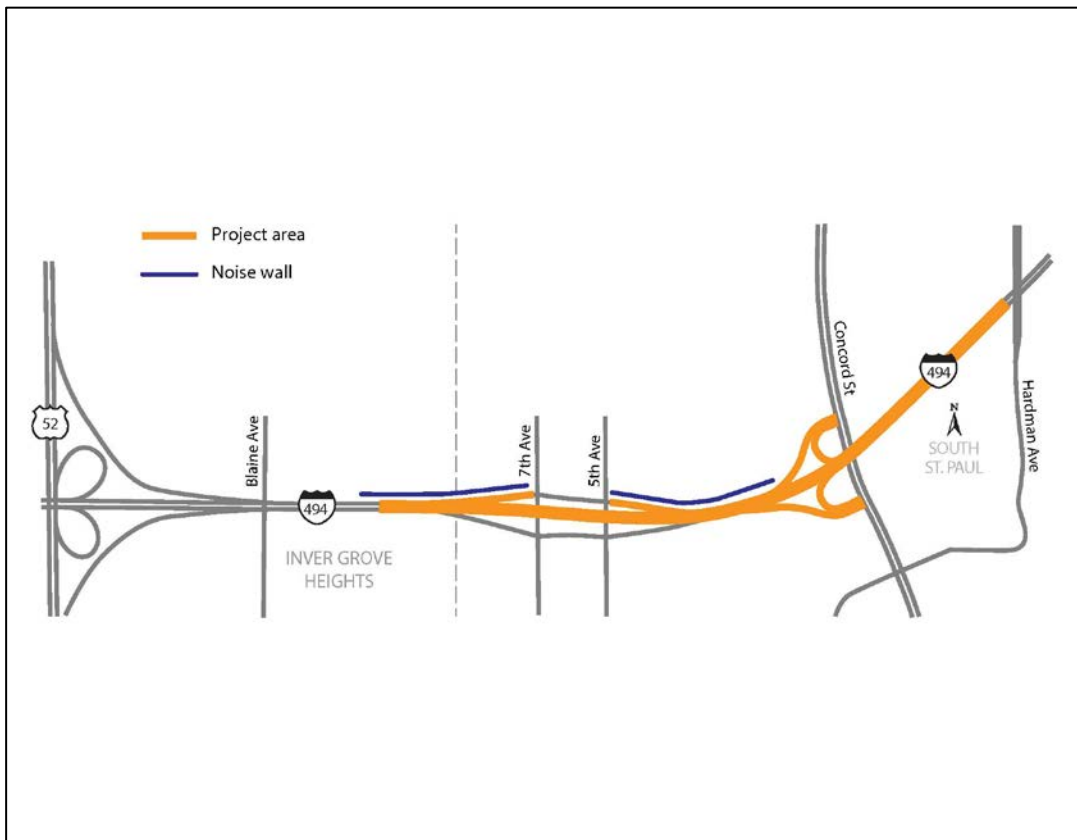
There is no known opposition to this project.

Figure 1: Context of Project Area



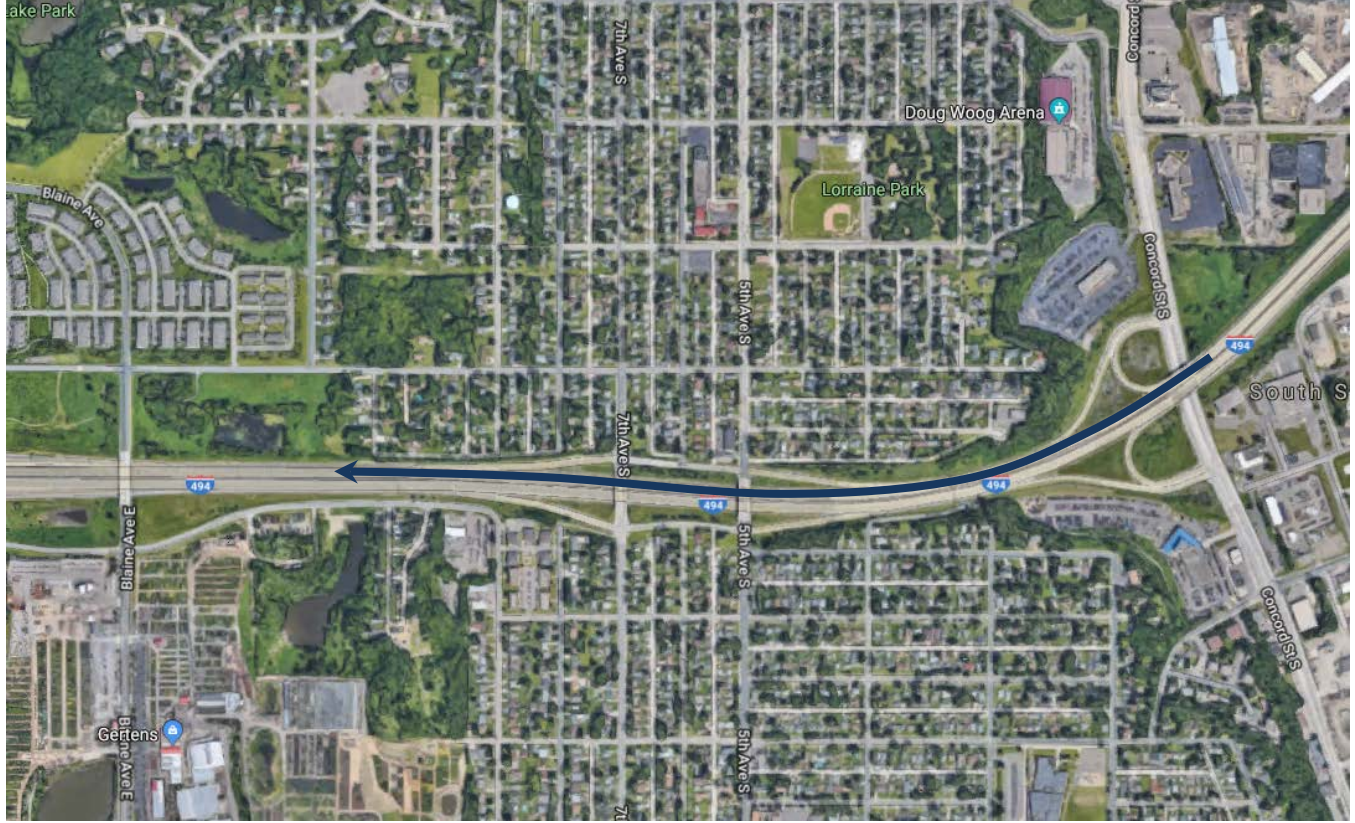
Source: Google Maps

Figure 2: Detailed Project Area



Source: MnDOT

Figure 3: Proposed Westbound I-494 Auxiliary Lane



Source: Google Maps