

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: April 22, 2019

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of April 24, 2019

Subject: Controlled Access Approval: I-94 in Rogers, Dayton, and Maple Grove

District(s), Member(s): District 1, Judy Johnson

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 #22241-1)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve a request by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to add lanes along I-94 between MN 610 and MN 101, and construct a new full access interchange east of the existing Brockton Lane overpass, 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 request covers two projects that were studied together under one environmental document because of the overlapping areas. MnDOT will coordinate the construction of both so that they appear as one during construction and has submitted this request on behalf of both projects.

The City of Dayton is leading a project to construct a new interchange on I-94 one half mile east of Brockton Lane along with a new roadway, Dayton Parkway, that will connect Brockton Lane to the west and Hennepin County Road 81 to the east. This interchange will provide access to an approximately five-mile stretch of I-94 between MN 101 and MN 610 where there is not any access today. It will support economic development, distribute traffic better among I-94 interchanges and on area arterials, and improve emergency access to I-94. This project is expected to be constructed in 2020.

MnDOT is leading a project to construct a long-term pavement fix to I-94 between I-494 in Maple Grove and MN 101 in Rogers. This project includes an added lane in each direction between MN 610 and MN 101 and various noise walls. This project will provide a smooth ride to travelers, reduce congestion and mitigate traffic noise for nearby neighbors. To maintain six lanes for traffic throughout the project MnDOT intends to do some widening and shoulder reconstruction during 2019. Between spring 2020 and the fall of 2021 the principal part of the work will be completed. The City of Dayton project is within this project's geographic limits.

MnDOT prepared an Environmental Assessment covering both projects. This was signed by FHWA on January 7, 2019. A Finding of No Significant Impact is expected to occur in May of 2019.

These projects are part of the region's and its partners' ongoing efforts to preserve the regions highways, and improve the mobility and connectivity they provide.

Rationale and Consistency with Regional Policy

The new interchange at I-94 and Dayton Parkway is included in the current 2040 Transportation Policy Plan and the region's 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program. It is consistent with regional policy as it most directly advances the Transportation Policy Plan's goals of Access to Destinations and a Competitive Economy, and the Thrive MSP 2040 outcomes of Prosperity and Livability.

The I-94 project is included in the 2040 Transportation Policy Plan and the region's 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program pending today's actions on those two documents. It is consistent with regional policy as it most directly advances the Transportation Policy Plan's goals of Transportation System Stewardship and Access to Destinations, and the Thrive MSP 2040 outcomes of Stewardship, Prosperity and Livability.

Funding

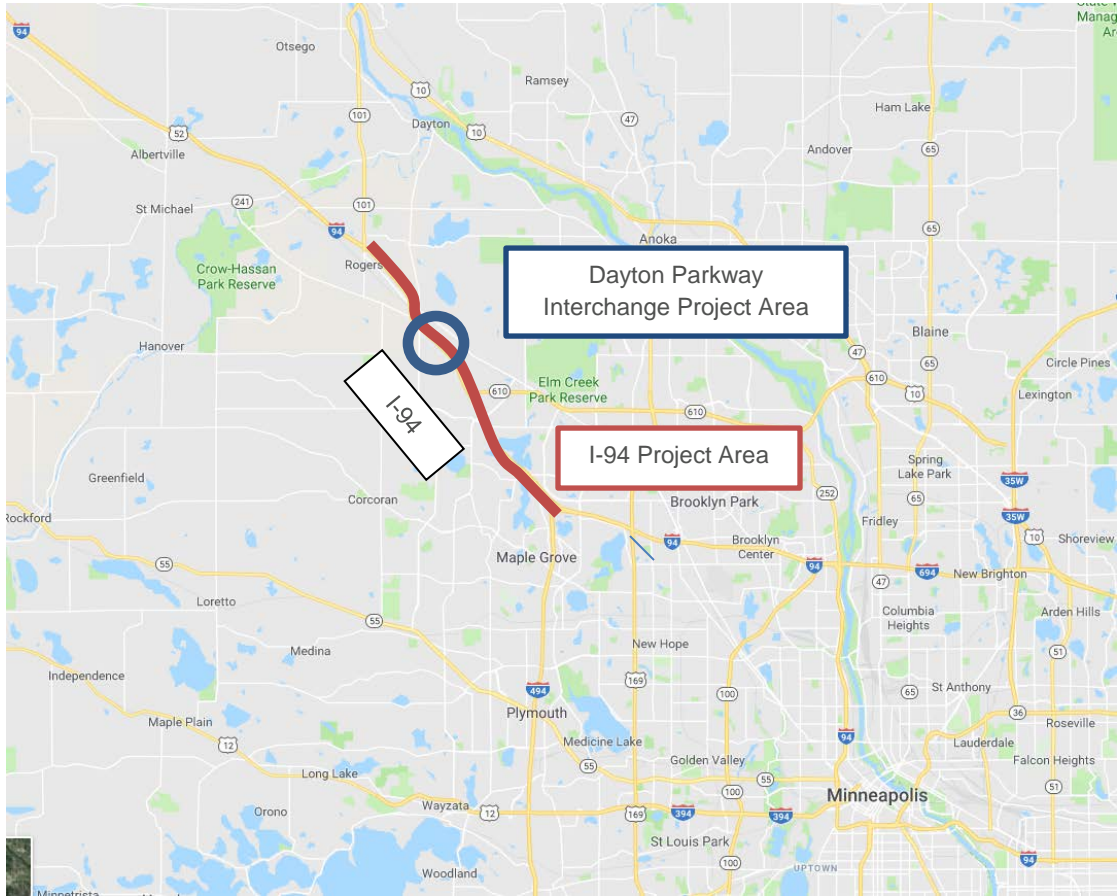
The Dayton Parkway interchange project is estimated to cost approximately \$27 million. The project was awarded \$7 million from the Regional Solicitation and it was granted \$13.5 million in general obligation bonds by the Minnesota Legislature. Additionally, local cities, Hennepin County, and MnDOT are contributing to the project. MnDOT is also supporting this project by including a \$3 million dollar added lane within their project (eastbound I-94 from Dayton Parkway to MN 610 is included in above description of the I-94 project) that was required by the Federal Highway Administration with the construction of the interchange.

The I-94 project is estimated to cost \$136 million and is funded entirely by MnDOT.

Known Support / Opposition

The Dayton Parkway interchange has strong support from the community and there is no known opposition. MnDOT's I-94 project, and included added lanes, is an investment that is highly valued by many of our partners in the northwest part of our region and as an important connection to Greater Minnesota.

Figure 1: Context of Project Areas



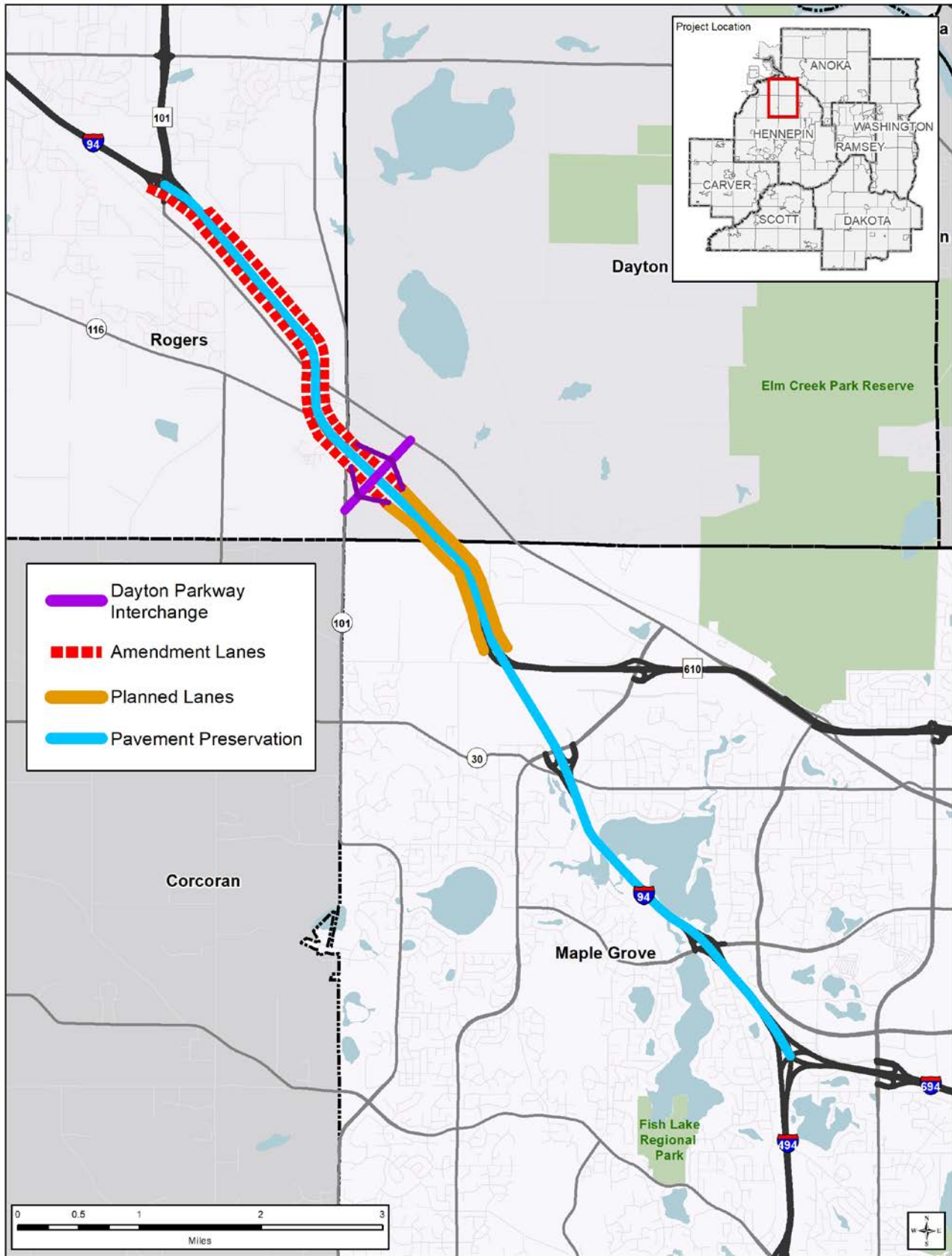
Source: Google Maps

Figure 2: Dayton Parkway Interchange Project



Source: City of Dayton

Figure 3: I-94 Improvements



12/19/2018

Source: MnDOT