

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: March 14, 2022

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 23, 2022

Subject: Metro Freeway Project Approval: US Highway 10 – Rum River Bridge and Ferry Street Interchange in the City of Anoka

District(s), Member(s): 9 – Zeran

Policy/Legal Reference: Mn. Statute 473.166

Staff Prepared/Presented: Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director, Finance & Planning (651-602-1508)
Tony Fischer, Highway Planning Analyst (651-602-1703)

Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services (Review # 22374-1)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve a request by the Minnesota Department of Transportation to replace the Rum River Bridge on US Highway 10 with added auxiliary lanes along with a conversion of the existing diamond interchange at Ferry Street to a single point urban interchange (SPUI) in the City of Anoka, 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 the construction of the Rum River bridge replacement project and the conversion of the existing diamond interchange at Ferry Street to a SPUI and construct auxiliary lanes between Ferry Street and 7th Avenue.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is leading this project to improve infrastructure condition and safety, while accommodating future capacity and operational needs to increase travel mobility and reliability along US Highway 10. It is expected this project will reduce crash rates, delay, and queueing that spills back onto Highway 10. The auxiliary lanes will improve mainline US Highway 10 reliability and safety, especially given the close spacing and vehicle weaving between this interchange and the 7th Avenue interchange to the east.

This project is an important element in a partnership to improve US Highway 10/169 through the Cities of Ramsey and Anoka that includes both cities, Anoka County and the Minnesota Department of Transportation. In 2016 the City of Ramsey completed the construction of an interchange at US Highway 10/169 at Armstrong Boulevard. The City of Anoka is leading a project immediately to the west to convert a signal at Fairoak Avenue to an underpass and at Thurston Avenue to an interchange. The City of Ramsey is further leading the development of solutions to what will be the last remaining full access signalized intersections along US Highway 10/169 in these communities at Ramsey Boulevard and Sunfish Lake Boulevard.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation completed a Non-Programmatic Categorical Exclusion which was approved on January 25, 2021.

Rationale

This project is included in the current 2040 Transportation Policy Plan and the region's 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program. It is consistent with regional policy and it most directly advances the Transportation Policy Plan goals of System Stewardship, Safety and Security, and Access to Destinations.

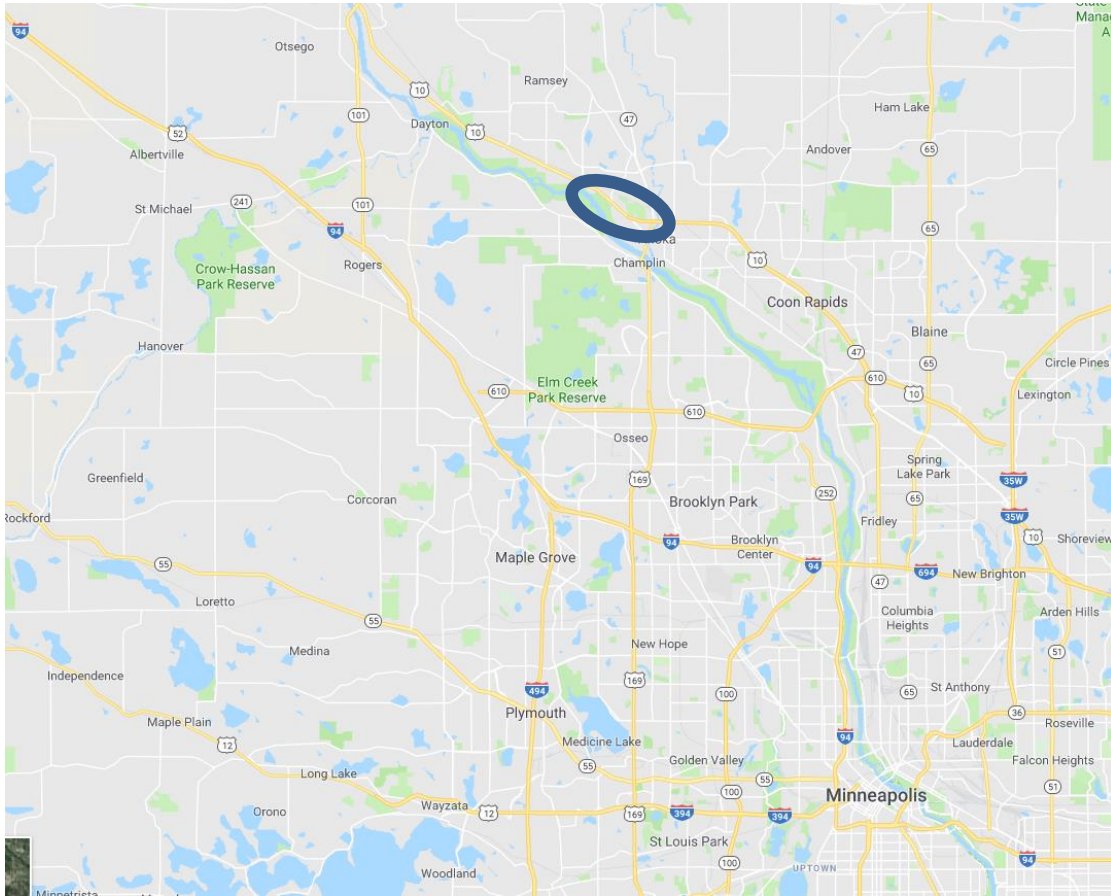
Thrive Lens Analysis

This project supports prosperity by improving safety and mobility on an important commercial and commuter corridor connecting local, regional and statewide movement of people and goods. It supports livability for local travelers and in that US Highway 10/169 is an important recreational corridor.

Funding

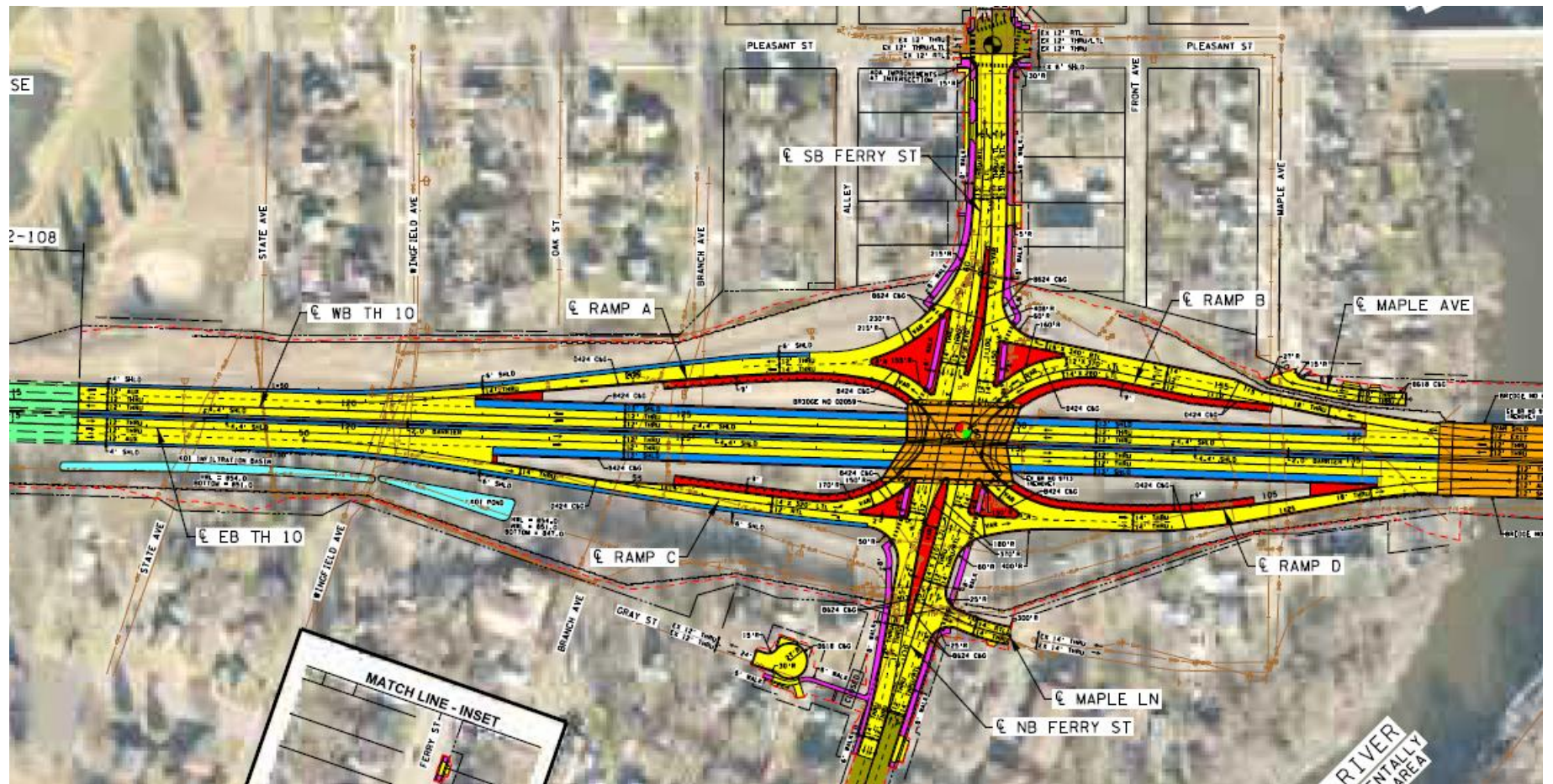
The project is estimated to cost \$61 million. The project is anticipated to be funded with a combination of federal, state, and local funds.

Figure 1: Context of Project Area



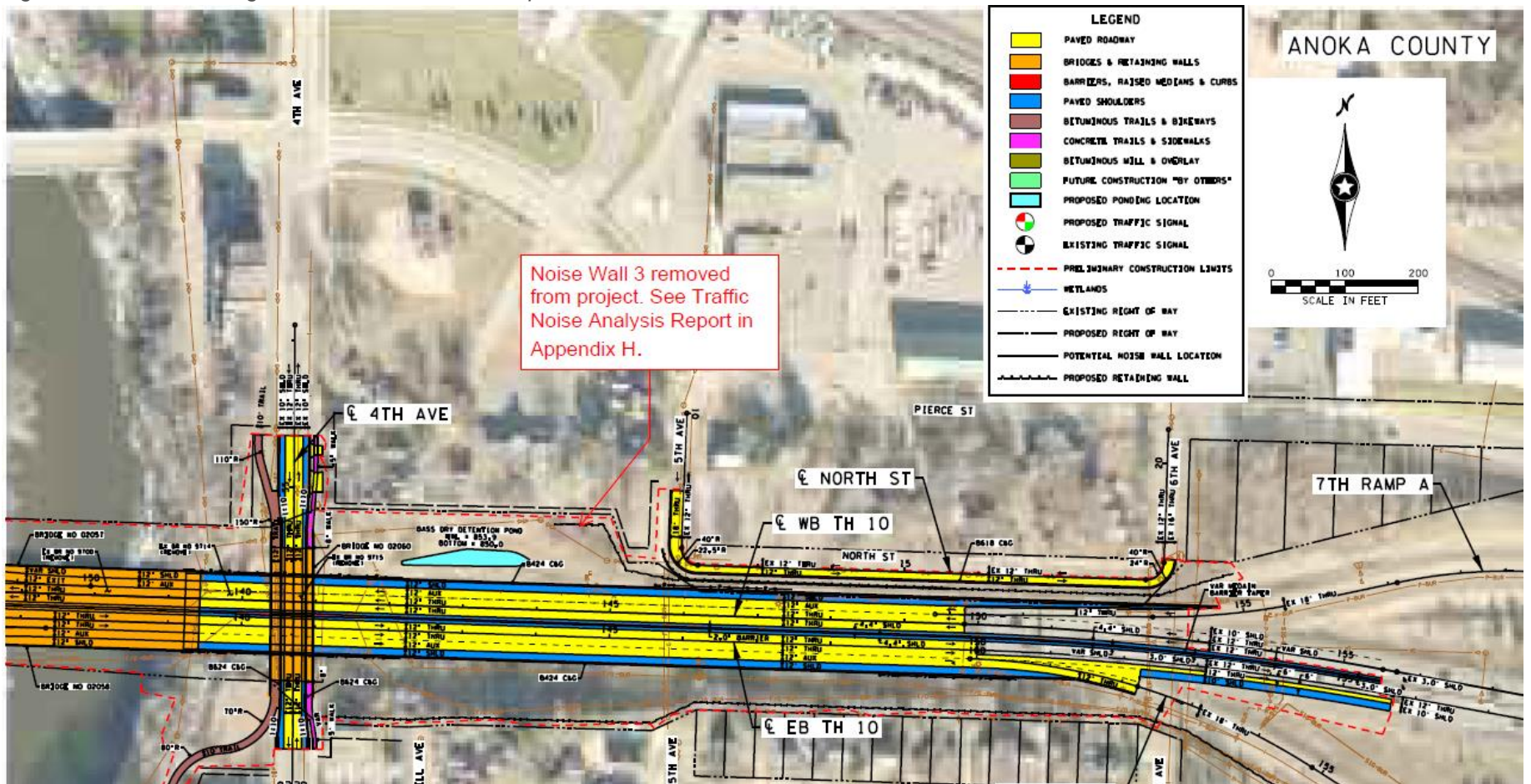
Source: Google Maps

Figure 2: Ferry Street Interchange Reconstruction



Source: MnDOT

Figure 3: Rum River Bridge and 4th Avenue Grade Separation



Source: MnDOT