
From: Vlaming, Jonathan <Jonathan.Vlaming@threeriversparks.org>
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2022 3:46 PM
To: Carlson, Charles
Subject: RE: TAB recommendation to use an additional \$5.5 million of Carbon Offset funding for this round of Federal STIP projects

Hi Charles,

As you are surely aware, the TAB is recommending an additional \$5.5 million in Carbon Offset funds be used to fund a Bike/Ped project that “tied” in scoring with another project proposed to be funded through regular STIP funds. I believe the TAB recommendation goes to the Transportation Committee for consideration next Monday.

The proposed project to be funded with the additional CO funds is the Bryant Lake Regional Trail project submitted by Three Rivers Park District.

In addition to addressing the tie situation, funding for the Bryant RT would be ideal from a timing standpoint. Another trail – Eagle Lake – is already proposed to be funded in this STIP. Bryant is a logical southern extension of the Eagle trail project. Combined, the two trails will create a 17 mile north/south active transportation route that will traverse 5 cities, connect to several east/west trails within the network, and will provide access to two park and rides and the SWLRT Opus area station. Being able to construct both trails at the same time allows for reducing impacts on residents, potential cost savings through scale, and better aligns with SWLRT project timing goals.

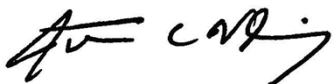
I’m not sure how set in stone the Tspt Committee is on their desire to hold off on years 3-5 of the CO funding until a plan can be put in place. In this instance, it makes sense to waive any concerns over that knowing that the proposed project already qualifies for use of CO funds, that the proposed project is the highest rated unfunded project in the current applicant list for the STIP, and that there is the additional benefit of pursuing construction of the entire north/south active transportation corridor within one STIP cycle.

Your thoughts on this matter would be much appreciated, and it would be great if you could give me a call @ (612)-490-5220

Thank you!

Respectfully,

Jonathan



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