

# Action Transmittal

Transportation Advisory Board



**Committee Meeting Date:** February 19, 2025

**Date:** February 12, 2025

## Action Transmittal: 2025-07

Program Year Extension Request: Minneapolis's Whittier Neighborhood Safety Improvements

**To:** Transportation Advisory Board  
**From:** Technical Advisory Committee  
**Prepared By:** Joe Barbeau, Planning Analyst, 651-602-1750

### Requested Action

The City of Minneapolis requests a program year extension to move its Whittier neighborhood intersection safety improvements project from 2025 to 2026.

### Recommended Motion

That the Transportation Advisory Board approve Minneapolis's program year extension request for its Whittier neighborhood intersection safety improvements project from 2025 to 2026.

### Project History

This project has not had any scope changes or program year changes.

### Background and Purpose

Minneapolis was awarded \$1,350,000 in the 2022 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) solicitation for unsignalized safety improvements; ADA ramp upgrades, curb extensions and/or pedestrian medians, and bike buffer medians at five intersections on 26<sup>th</sup> Street and six intersections on 28<sup>th</sup> Street in the Whittier neighborhood.

The city is requesting an extension from 2025 to 2026 to better align with its 2027 Safe Routes to School project along 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup> streets in the Whittier neighborhood. The extension will allow for reduced construction impacts and general coordination between the two.

### Relationship to Regional Policy

The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) adopted the Program Year Policy in April 2013 (updated in August 2014) to assist with management and timely delivery of transportation projects awarded federal funding through the TAB's Regional Solicitation. The policy includes a procedure to request a one-year extension based on extenuating circumstances within certain guidelines.

### Staff Analysis

This project is on track to be authorized in 2026, despite not having scored seven points in the scoresheet. Staff and MnDOT Metro District State Aid believe that the project is on track given that the city has been actively working on the project, including a project kickoff meeting with the State Aid office. Further this request takes on the characteristics of an exception to the current program

year policy rule allowing for a one-year extension given that the request is meant to enable the project to coordinate with a later project.

### Committee Comments and Action

At its January 23, 2025, meeting, the TAC Funding and Programming Committee recommended approval of Minneapolis’s program year extension request for its Whittier neighborhood intersection safety improvements project from 2025 to 2026.

At its February 5, 2025, meeting, the Technical Advisory Committee recommended approval of Minneapolis’s program year extension request for its Whittier neighborhood intersection safety improvements project from 2025 to 2026.

### Routing

To	Action Requested	Date Completed (Date Scheduled)
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	January 23, 2025
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	February 5, 2025
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Adopt	<i>February 19, 2025</i>



## MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Michael Thompson, P.E.  
Chair, TAC Funding and Programming Committee

CC: Colleen Brown, MnDOT State Aid  
Josh Breid, SEH Engineering

Date: December 20, 2024  
Subject: Program Year Extension Request for SP 141-239-019

Dear Mr. Thompson

The City of Minneapolis has been awarded \$1,350,000 in federal funding through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) for FY 2025 to implement safety improvements at eleven intersections in the Whittier neighborhood (SP 141-239-019). These potential improvements include:

- Installation of ADA-compliant curb ramps at all non-compliant intersection quadrants,
- Curb extensions,
- Raised crossings for side streets, and/or
- Pedestrian refuge medians at selected locations

Additionally, the City has been awarded \$1,000,000 in federal funding through the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program for FY 2027. This funding is designated for safety improvements along six blocks of 26<sup>th</sup> St, 27<sup>th</sup> St, and 28<sup>th</sup> St in the Whittier neighborhood (SP 141-591-017).

To maximize efficiency and minimize disruption to the Whittier neighborhood and Whittier International Elementary School, the City requests the TAC Funding and Program Committee consider a program year extension for SP 141-239-019 from 2025 to 2026. The program year extension provides the necessary flexibility to better coordinate both projects, reduce construction-related disruption, and allows for the option of associating the projects. By providing the flexibility and option to align the projects, the City can streamline the implementation process, reducing impacts on the traveling public and avoid an interim period where only portions of the corridor are upgraded.

The City believes this approach provides a more cohesive and effective process to deliver traffic safety improvements for the community.

Please refer to the enclosed documentation and attachments for additional information. Please contact me at (612) 503-7921 or [kristian.zimmerman@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:kristian.zimmerman@minneapolismn.gov) with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kristian Zimmerman



Transportation Planner  
City of Minneapolis

# REQUEST FOR PROGRAM YEAR EXTENSION

SP 141-239-019

Whi?r Neighborhood Intersec?on Improvements

## 1. Project Progress

### a. Progress Schedule

Please see Attachment 1

### b. Right of Way Acquisition

No permanent right of way acquisition or temporary easements are anticipated for this project.

### c. Plans

Final plans are in the process of being created for this project. They are currently at the 15% design stage.

### d. Permits

No permits are anticipated to be needed for this project.

### e. Approvals

Plan approval will be required from MnDOT Federal Aid and the City of Minneapolis.

### f. Funding/Expenditures

To date the City of Minneapolis has utilized general operating funds for meetings, consultants, and public engagements pertaining to the project.

## 2. Justification for Extension Request

### a. What is unique about this project that requires an extension of the program year?

The City seeks a program year extension to better align and coordinate two critical infrastructure projects, SP 141-239-019 and SP 141-591-017. An extension allows for better design coordination and minimizes construction impacts within project limits. An extension also affords the option of associating the projects. By associating these projects, the City would have the option to design and construct them under one plan set, issue one bid, and complete all work within a single construction season. This approach, if pursued, could significantly minimize disruptions to the traveling public and nearby residents while also reducing design and construction costs.

To achieve this coordination, however, the advancement of SP 141-591-017, currently authorized for 2027, would be required. While the City is on track to meet the 2025 authorization deadline for SP 141-239-019, advancing SP 141-591-017 to the same timeline is not practical. Therefore, we are requesting a one-year program year extension

of the authorization deadline for SP 141-239-019 to provide the option for these projects to proceed in alignment.

We believe this program year extension provides the necessary flexibility for the projects to enhance project delivery, streamline resources, and maximize benefits for the community.

**b. What are the financial impacts if this project does not meet its current program year?**

The program year extension allows the city to better coordinate the design and construction of SP 141-239-019 and SP 141-591-017, resulting in a cost savings via design and construction efficiencies while still maintaining independent utility between the projects. If the option to associate these projects is pursued, there could be additional cost savings derived from combining plans and construction, including:

- **Design Efficiencies.** Reduced plan production effort by preparing a single planset.
- **Construction Efficiencies.** Decreased costs for traffic control, mobilization, and construction observation/inspection, as all work would be completed in one season by a single contractor under one contract.

The potential savings realized from these efficiencies will be reinvested to maximize the scope and impact of the planned improvements.

If the program year extension is not approved, the City will proceed with SP 141-239-019 for authorization in 2025 and deliver SP 141-239-017 later. This approach would require construction in separate years, negating the benefits of streamlined implementation and potentially increasing overall project costs and disruption to the community.

**c. What are the implications if the project does not obtain the requested extension?**

If the program year extension is not approved, the City will proceed with delivering SP 141-239-019 and SP 141-591-017 on their original schedules as separate projects, resulting in construction occurring in 2026 and 2028. This approach would delay the public's ability to benefit from the safety and accessibility improvements planned under SP 141-591-017. Additionally, it would subject the traveling public and nearby residents to disruptions over two separate construction seasons.

**d. What actions will the agency take to resolve the problems facing the project in the next three to six months?**

The City of Minneapolis will continue to advance the design of both projects, maintaining the flexibility and ability to integrate them into a single planset.

# **ATTACHMENT 1**

Progress Schedule for Program Year Extension

# Regional Program Year Policy

TAB Adopted: April 17, 2013  
Administrative Modifications: August 20, 2014

## Attachment 1: Progress Schedule for Program Year Extension

Enter request date  
**12/20/2024**

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Check status of project under each major heading.
2. Enter dates as requested for each major heading.
3. Enter points as suggested by each applicable response.
4. Total points received in the TOTAL POINTS line on the last page. **The minimum score to be eligible to request an extension is seven points.**

### ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

#### PROJECT MEMORANDUM

\_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed by State Aid \_\_\_\_\_ If checked enter 4. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of approval \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Completed/Approved \_\_\_\_\_ If checked enter 5. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of approval \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ EA \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Completed/Approved \_\_\_\_\_ If checked enter 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of approval \_\_\_\_\_

EITHER  
Not Complete  
Anticipated Date of Completion **1/31/2025**  
If prior to January 31 of the program year, enter 1. **1**

### OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC HEARING (not necessary for project memorandum)

**NA** Completed \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Hearing \_\_\_\_\_ If checked enter 2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Not Complete \_\_\_\_\_  
Anticipated Date of Completion \_\_\_\_\_  
If prior to February 28 of the program year, enter 1. \_\_\_\_\_

### FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (not required for project memorandum)

**NA** Completed/FONSI Approved \_\_\_\_\_ If checked enter 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of approval \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Not Complete \_\_\_\_\_  
Anticipated Date of Completion \_\_\_\_\_  
If prior to March 31 of the program year, enter 1. \_\_\_\_\_

### STUDY REPORT (required for Environmental Assessment Only)

**NA** Complete/Approved \_\_\_\_\_ If checked enter 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Approval \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Not Complete \_\_\_\_\_  
Anticipated Date of Completion \_\_\_\_\_



# Regional Program Year Policy

TAB Adopted: April 17, 2013

Administrative Modifications: August 20, 2014

## CONSTRUCTION PLANS

Completed (includes signature of District State Aid Engineer)  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ If checked enter 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Completed (approved by District State Aid as to SA Standards but not signed)  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ If checked enter 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Not Complete  
Anticipated Date of Completion 10/1/2025  
If prior to June 30 of the program year, enter 1. 1

## RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION

Completed (includes approval of R/W Cert. #1 or #1A) If checked enter 2. 2  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Not Complete  
Anticipated Date of Completion \_\_\_\_\_  
If prior to December 31 of the year following the original program year, enter 1. \_\_\_\_\_

## ENGINEERS ESTIMATE OF COSTS

Completed If checked enter 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Not Complete  
Anticipated Date of Completion 10/1/2025  
If prior to December 31 of the year following the original program year, enter 1. 1

## AUTHORIZED

Anticipated Letting Date 12/15/2025.  
Anticipated letting date must be prior to June 30  
in the year following the original program year,  
so that authorization can be completed prior to  
June 30 of the extended program year.

TOTAL POINTS 5