

# T Transportation Committee

**Business Item**

Item: 2009-85

**Meeting date: February 23, 2009**

**Council Meeting: March 11, 2009**

## ADVISORY INFORMATION

<b>Date:</b>	February 18, 2009
<b>Subject:</b>	2009-2012 TIP Amendment and Project Scope Change: MnDOT, Include SP#70-00118, Installation of Railroad Crossing Gates at Park Boulevard in St. Lawrence Twp. TAB Action 2009-09
<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	District 4 – C. Peterson
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	TAB Action
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Arlene McCarthy, MTS Director (651-602-1754) Amy Vennewitz, Dep. Director Finance & Planning( 651-602-1058) Carl Ohrn, Planning Analyst (651-602-1719)
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Metropolitan Transportation Services

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to amend the 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include SP#70-00118, installation of railroad crossing gates at Park Boulevard in St. Lawrence Township.

### Background

The scope of this project changed since it was first selected for federal funding. The modification is needed to reflect the changed project description and the funding split of 90% federal.

### Rationale

The TIP must reflect the scope and cost of the project which will be built.

### Funding

The federal funds are in the TIP. Railroad funds will be used for the 10% match.

### Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition.

**Transportation Advisory Board**  
of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

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**ACTION TRANSMITTAL**

No. 2009-09

**DATE:** February 11, 2009

**TO:** Transportation Advisory Board

**FROM:** Technical Advisory Committee

**SUBJECT:** 2009-2012 TIP Amendment and project scope change-Park Blvd in St. Lawrence Twp. – Install Railroad Crossing Gates

**MOTION:** That the Transportation Advisory Board amends the 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include SP#70-00118 Installation of Railroad Crossing gates at Park Blvd. in St. Lawrence Twp.

**BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION:** This project is currently in the 2009-2012 STIP in SFY 2010. The amendment is needed to change the project scope which has been redefined from eliminating two at-grade crossings to installing gates at one Crossing (Park Blvd). The cost split on this project has changed from 100% with a grade separation reflected in the original project to 90 percent federal and 10 percent other funds since gates only are to be installed with the amended project.

Additional background material is attached.

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**ROUTING**

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	January 15, 2009
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Recommend	February 4, 2009
TAB Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Adopt	
Metropolitan Council	Concurrence	



**Minnesota Department of Transportation**

**Metro District**  
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January 15, 2009

Karl Keel, Chair  
TAC Funding and Programming Committee  
Metropolitan Council  
230 East Fifth St.  
Mears Park Centre  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Re: Amendment to the Twin Cities 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)  
State Project Number: 70-00118 Park Blvd in St. Lawrence Twp – Install Gates

Dear Mr. Keel:

Please amend the 2009 – 2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include this project in 2010. This project is being submitted with the following information:

**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION:**

STATE FISCAL YEAR	ATP	DIST	ROUTE SYS	PROJECT NUMBER (S.P. #) (Fed # if available)	AGENCY	DESCRIPTION include location, description of all work, & city (if applicable)	MILES
2010	M	M	RR	70-00118	MnDOT	Park Blvd in St. Lawrence Twp – Install Gates	0.0

PROG	TYPE OF WORK	PROP FUNDS	TOTAL \$	FHWA Target	HPP \$	Earmark \$	FHWA Target AC \$	HPP AC \$	TH \$	OTHER \$
SR	RR X-ing Improvements	RRS	288,750	260,000	0	0	0	0	0	28,750 (Local Match)

#### PROJECT BACKGROUND:

1. Briefly describe why amendment is needed (e.g., project in previous STIP but not completed; illustrative project and funds now available; discretionary funds received; inadvertently not included in STIP).

This project is currently in the 2009-2012 STIP (Seq. # 1814) in SFY 2010. The amendment is needed to change the project scope. The project was redefined from eliminating two at-grade crossings to installing gates at one crossing (Park Blvd).

The initial project included Section 130 funding participation, up to the cost (\$288,750) of an active warning device (gates), for a proposed grade separation. St. Lawrence Township believed funds were available through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR); this funding combined with Section 130 and Union Pacific (UP) Railroad participation would potentially allow for a grade separation. The township offered the closure of Acorn Way, both for safety and to ensure maximum contribution from UP. Meetings were conducted with Scott County, St. Lawrence Township, UP and DNR. It became apparent that DNR funding was not available for grade separation after the second meeting. In addition, UP offered less than half the anticipated funding.

In 2008, the township acknowledged they would not fund the local match for active warning devices (gates) or pursue the closure of the Acorn Way crossing. Scott County has offered a crossing closure (at a different location in their county) in exchange for UP to fund St. Lawrence Township's local match – 90 percent federal funds and 10 percent railroad funds would be used to install gates at Park Blvd. in St. Lawrence Township. The cost split changed from 100% with a grade separation reflected in the original project to 90 percent federal and 10 percent other funds since gates only are to be installed with the amended project.

2. How is Fiscal Constraint Maintained as required by 23 CFR 450.216 (check all that apply)?

- New Money \_\_\_\_\_
- Anticipated Advance Construction \_\_\_\_\_
- ATP or MPO or Mn/DOT Adjustment by deferral of other projects \_\_\_\_\_
- Earmark or HPP not affecting fiscal constraint\* \_\_\_\_\_
- Other\*\*   X

\*\* The project is currently funded in 2010, therefore fiscal constraint is maintained.

#### AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY:

- Subject to conformity determination ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- Exempt from regional level analysis\* .....   Yes
- Exempt from project level analysis\*\* .....   Yes
- Exempt by virtue of interagency consultation ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- N/A (not in a nonattainment or maintenance area) ..... \_\_\_\_\_

\* S-8 Railroad/highway warning devices

Karl Keel  
January 15, 2009  
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**CONSISTENCY WITH MPO LONG RANGE PLAN:**

This amendment is consistent with the Metropolitan Council Transportation Policy Plan, adopted on December 14, 2004, with FHWA/FTA conformity determination established on February 1, 2005.

We are requesting approval of this TIP amendment at this time. If you have any questions, please contact Sherry Narusiewicz at 651.234.7793.

Sincerely,

Sherry Narusiewicz  
Transportation Program Coordinator  
Metro District

cc: Marv Lunceford, Metro Program Management  
Julie Carr, Office of Freight, Rail and Waterways