

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

FINAL COMMITTEE AGENDA

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024
1:30 PM

Chair: Kevin Anderson, District 7
ViceChair: Marion Greene, District 3
Members: Jeff Lunde, District 1
Irene Fernando, District 2
Angela Conley, District 4
Debbie Goettel, District 5
Vacant, District 6

1. Minutes from Previous Meeting

1.A. January 30, 2024 Minutes

2. New Business

Routine Items

2.A. [24-0071](#)

Agmt PW 59-40-23 with MnDOT for reimbursement of road life consumed by Trunk Highway 101 detour through Shorewood, Excelsior, Chanhassen, and Eden Prairie (est recv \$1,169)

2.B. [24-0072](#)

Agmts PW 13-27-24 with Excelsior and PW 14-40-24 with MnDOT (1055913) for sponsorship of federal and state grants totaling \$337,000; establish budget of \$337,000 for CP 2230800; amend 2023 Prioritized Bridge Replacement List

2.C. [24-0073](#)

Various agmts related to Minnetonka Boulevard (CSAH 5) and West Lake Street (CSAH 25) Reconstruction Project; transfer funds (CP 2201100 to CP 2168100); amend budget (est county cost: \$7 million federal funds, \$8,411,802 state aid, \$500,000 property tax; est recv: \$6,713,700)

2.D. [24-0074](#)

Authorization to submit a grant application under USDOT's Bridge Investment Program for Hennepin Avenue Bridges Reconditioning Project, County Project (CP) 2164000

2.E. [24-0075](#)

Agmt CON000000001096 with the U.S. DOA to accept grant for the removal and replacement of trees on behalf of residents with lower incomes, 01/01/24-06/01/29, (recv \$10,000,000; supp app of \$2,000,000 to 2024 Environment and Energy budget)

HENNEPIN COUNTY

300 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, MN
55487-0240

MINNESOTA

Board Action Request

TMP-0839

Item Description:

January 30, 2024 Minutes

HENNEPIN COUNTY

MINNESOTA

COMMITTEE MINUTES

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2024
1:30 PM

Chair: Kevin Anderson, District 7
ViceChair: Marion Greene, District 3
Members: Jeff Lunde, District 1
Irene Fernando, District 2
Angela Conley, District 4
Debbie Goettel, District 5
Vacant, District 6

Commissioner Kevin Anderson, Chair, called the meeting of the Public Works Committee for Tuesday, January 30, 2024 to order at 3:07 p.m.

Present: Kevin Anderson, Marion Greene, Irene Fernando, Angela Conley, Debbie Goettel and Jeff Lunde

1. Minutes from Previous Meeting

1.A. January 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes

APPROVE

Commissioner Angela Conley moved, seconded by Commissioner Irene Fernando, to approve the Minutes.

Aye: Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Greene, Commissioner Fernando, Commissioner Conley, Commissioner Goettel and Commissioner Lunde

2. New Business

Routine Items

2.A. [24-0048](#)

Contract No. CM00001155 with Millerbernd Manufacturing Co. to purchase traffic signal poles for Wayzata Boulevard and Minnetonka Boulevard (CPs 2091103 and 2168100), 03/01/24-06/30/25; est county cost \$495,000 (\$138,000 state turnback, \$312,355 state aid, and \$44,645 recv)

CONSENT

Commissioner Irene Fernando moved, seconded by Commissioner Debbie Goettel, to approve the Resolution.

Aye: Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Greene, Commissioner Fernando, Commissioner Conley, Commissioner Goettel and Commissioner Lunde

2.B. [24-0049](#)

Agmt PR00005867 with HDR Engineering, Inc. for design engineering and professional services for Park Avenue (CSAH 33) and Portland Avenue (CSAH 35) multimodal improvements (CP 2220300 and 2220700), 02/26/24-12/31/27, county cost NTE \$1.9 million state aid

CONSENT

Commissioner Irene Fernando moved, seconded by Commissioner Debbie Goettel, to approve the Resolution.

Aye: Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Greene, Commissioner Fernando, Commissioner Conley, Commissioner Goettel and Commissioner Lunde

2.C. [24-0050](#)

Designate new roadway, Fletcher Bypass between Territorial Road and CR 81, as CSAH 116; designate and number part of CR 116 as CSAH 159; renumber part of CSAH 116 as CSAH 159 (no county cost)

CONSENT

Commissioner Irene Fernando moved, seconded by Commissioner Debbie Goettel, to approve the Resolution.

Aye: Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Greene, Commissioner Fernando, Commissioner Conley, Commissioner Goettel and Commissioner Lunde

2.D. [24-0051](#)

Neg Agmt PR00005964 with Ever-Green Energy to manage, operate and maintain the Hennepin County Energy Center, 03/01/24-12/31/34, estimated NTE \$40,000,000

CONSENT

Commissioner Irene Fernando moved, seconded by Commissioner Debbie Goettel, to approve the Resolution.

Aye: Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Greene, Commissioner Fernando, Commissioner Conley, Commissioner Goettel and Commissioner Lunde

Items for Discussion and Action

2.E. [24-0052](#)

Neg 12 fall 2023 ERF grant agmts for cleanup and assessment of contaminated sites, various periods, total combined NTE \$1,842,279

CONSENT

Commissioner Marion Greene moved, seconded by Commissioner Jeff Lunde, to approve the Resolution.

Aye: Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Greene, Commissioner Fernando, Commissioner Conley, Commissioner Goettel and Commissioner Lunde

2.F. [24-0053](#)

Authorization to apply for federal discretionary grants through the 2024 RAISE program for projects on West Broadway Avenue, CSAH 81 (CP 1005877) and Washington Avenue, CSAH 152 (CP 2221000)

CONSENT

Commissioner Irene Fernando moved, seconded by Commissioner Kevin Anderson, to approve the Resolution.

Aye: Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Greene, Commissioner Fernando, Commissioner Conley, Commissioner Goettel and Commissioner Lunde

Addendum

2.G. [24-0061](#)

Approval of agreements for operations and maintenance of HERC (A165757), ash disposal services (PR00005989), metal recovery and recycling services (A2412182), and steam service from HERC (A2412184)

CONSENT

Commissioner Irene Fernando moved, seconded by Commissioner Angela Conley, to approve the Resolution.

Aye: Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Greene, Commissioner Fernando, Commissioner Conley, Commissioner Goettel and Commissioner Lunde

There being no further business, the Public Works Committee for Tuesday, January 30, 2024 was declared adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Maria Rose
Clerk to the County Board

MINNESOTA

Board Action Request

24-0071

Item Description:

Agmt PW 59-40-23 with MnDOT for reimbursement of road life consumed by Trunk Highway 101 detour through Shorewood, Excelsior, Chanhassen, and Eden Prairie (est recv \$1,169)

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that Agreement PW 59-40-23 (State Agreement 1054657) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for payment by the state to the county for the use of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) No. 82 as a detour route during the construction to be performed upon, along, and adjacent to Trunk Highway (TH) 101 from TH 5 to 500 feet south of CSAH 62/Townline Road under State Project No. 2736-46, at an estimated receivable of \$1,169, be approved; that the Chair of the Board be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the county; and that the Controller be authorized to accept funds as directed.

Background:

In 2024, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) will be constructing improvements along TH 101 in the cities of Chanhassen and Eden Prairie. The project will include bituminous mill and overlay, signal revisions, Americans with Disabilities Act improvements, and trail reclamation construction.

During construction TH 101 will be closed to through traffic in the northbound direction for approximately 60 days, with traffic detoured onto CSAH 82 for a distance of 0.8 miles. MnDOT will provide the county with advance notice identifying the dates it intends to establish the detour.

Minnesota Statutes, section 161.25 authorizes the Commissioner of Transportation to designate any public street as a temporary trunk highway detour when determined that such detour is necessary for the purpose of maintaining or constructing a trunk highway. MnDOT will reimburse Hennepin County for the road life consumed on CSAH 82 during its use as a detour while Truck Highway 101 is under construction. The reimbursement will be based on an average daily traffic count of 4,747 vehicles diverted from northbound TH 101 onto CSAH 82. The estimated \$1,169 will be received as revenue in the operating budget for the Transportation Operations Department.

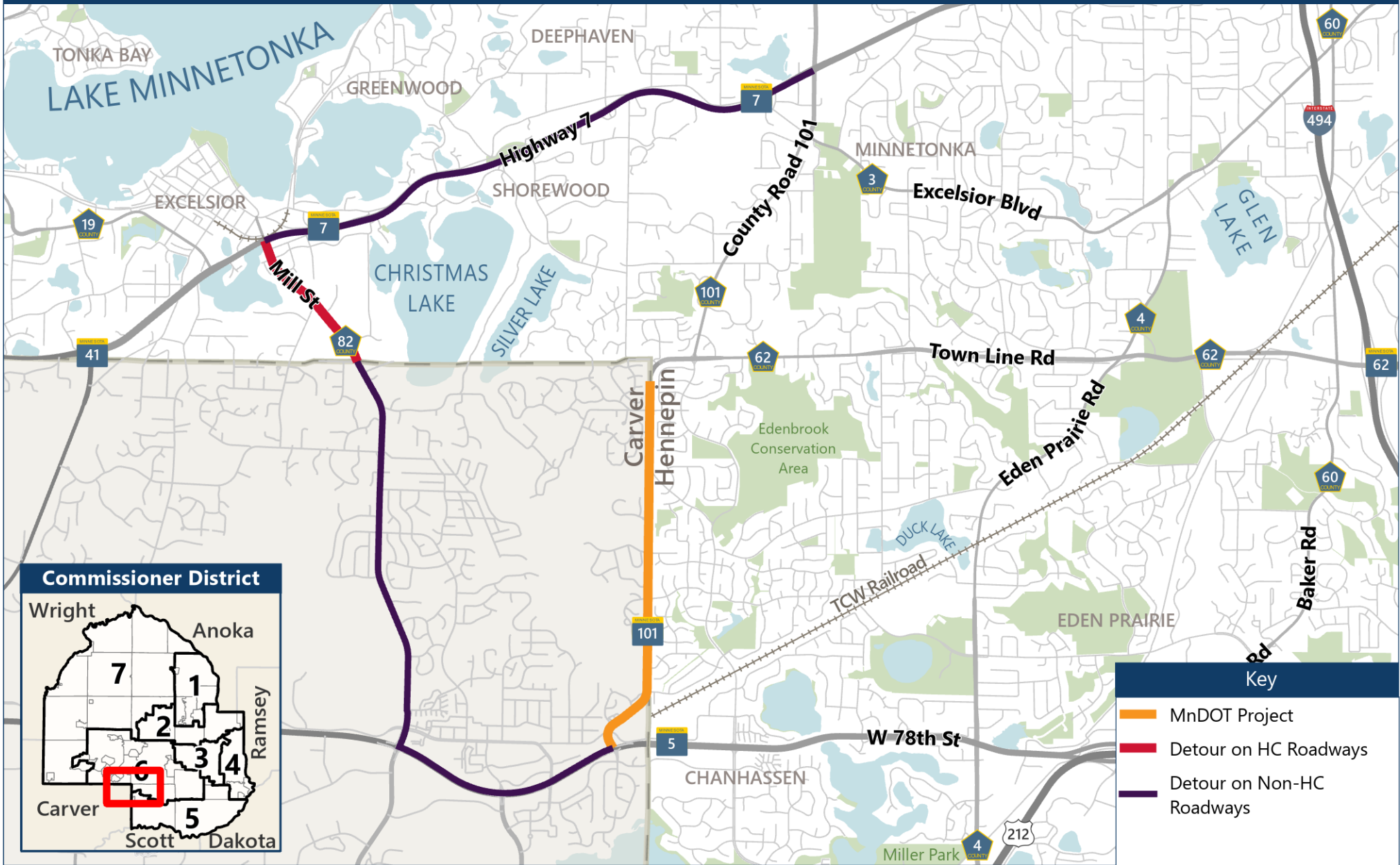
Impact/Outcome:

This action supports the county's disparity reduction efforts by utilizing a county roadway to provide accessibility and mobility for the transportation network users that typically use Trunk Highway 101 to reach their destinations.

Recommendation from County Administrator: Recommend Approval

Detour Agreement No. 1054657 SP 2736-46 | PW 59-40-23

Trunk Highway 101 Detour in Shorewood, Excelsior, Chanhassen and Eden Prairie



Disclaimer: This map (i) is furnished "AS IS" with no representation as to completeness or accuracy; (ii) is furnished with no warranty of any kind; and (iii) is not suitable for legal, engineering or surveying purposes. Hennepin County shall not be liable for any damage, injury or loss resulting from this map.

Publication date: 1/3/2024

Data sources (if applicable):

MINNESOTA

Board Action Request

24-0072

Item Description:

Agmts PW 13-27-24 with Excelsior and PW 14-40-24 with MnDOT (1055913) for sponsorship of federal and state grants totaling \$337,000; establish budget of \$337,000 for CP 2230800; amend 2023 Prioritized Bridge Replacement List

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Administrator be authorized to execute Agreement PW 13-27-24 with the City of Excelsior for county sponsorship of a Bridge Investment Program (BIP) Planning Grant in the amount of \$269,600 and an Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Discretionary Match Program Grant in the amount of \$67,000 for improvements to bridge number 90608, carrying Minnetonka Boulevard over St. Alban's Bay Channel, county project (CP) 2230800, at no county cost; that upon review and approval by the County Attorney's Office, the Chair of the Board be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the county; and that the Controller be authorized to accept and disburse funds as directed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Administrator be authorized to execute Agreement PW 14-40-24 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) (State Contract Number 1055913) authorizing the Commissioner of Transportation to act as the county's agent, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, §161.36, in accepting federal funds on its behalf for the Minnetonka Boulevard Bridge over St. Alban's Bay Channel replacement project (CP 2230800), bridge number 90608, in the amount of \$269,600 from the BIP Planning Grant; that the Chair of the Board be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the county; and that the Controller be authorized to accept and disburse funds as directed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CP 2230800 be identified as a project in the 2024 Capital Budget with a budget of \$337,000 to be funded by the grants; and that the Controller be authorized to accept and disburse funds as directed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2023 Hennepin County Prioritized Bridge Replacement List, approved by Resolution 23-0429, be amended to include the Minnetonka Boulevard Bridge over St. Alban's Bay Channel replacement project (CP 2230800), bridge number 90608, with a local planning index of 32 and proposed replacement in 2027; that Hennepin County does hereby request financial assistance on behalf of the City of Excelsior from MnDOT with eligible construction, approach grading and engineering costs on such bridges, as provided by law.

Background:

The cities of Excelsior and Greenwood, in collaboration with the county, are planning to replace the Minnetonka Boulevard Bridge over St. Alban's Bay Channel. Built in 1941, the bridge is currently weight restricted due to its structural condition.

In 2022, the City of Excelsior was awarded a federal discretionary BIP Planning Grant for project development to replace the bridge. This federal funding requires a local match. In 2023, the city was awarded an IIJA Discretionary Match Program Grant to be used as the local match.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) allows state agencies to be the recipients of federal funds for transportation infrastructure improvements by local agencies. An agreement is needed for MnDOT to act as the county’s fiscal agent in accepting the federal funds for this bridge project.

Additionally, the City of Excelsior has a population of less than 5,000 and therefore requires the county’s sponsorship to serve as the fiscal agent on its behalf. The agreement with the city will name the county as the project sponsor, set up project roles and responsibilities, and enable the city to receive the funds totaling \$337,000. The city will handle any ineligible expenditures and own and maintain all improvements.

To accommodate the county’s sponsorship, CP 2230800 will be identified as a project in the 2024 Capital Budget with a budget of \$337,000.

When the project advances to the construction phase, the city intends to request state bridge funds from MnDOT to offset a portion the bridge construction costs. To be eligible for state bridge funds, bridge no. 90608 needs to be listed in the 2023 Hennepin County Prioritized Bridge Replacement List.

Current Request:

This request is for authorization to execute the following agreements for bridge no. 90608:

- PW 13-27-24 with the City of Excelsior for county sponsorship to receive federal and state grant funds, and identify CP 2230800 as a project in the 2024 Capital Budget with a budget of \$337,000 to be funded by the grants and
- PW 14-40-24 (State Contract No. 1055913) for MnDOT to act as the county’s agent in accepting federal funds on its behalf in the amount of \$269,600 in BIP Planning Grant.

Additionally, the request seeks authorization to amend the 2023 Hennepin County Prioritized Bridge Replacement List to include the Minnetonka Boulevard Bridge over St. Alban’s Bay Channel replacement project (CP 2230800), bridge no. 90608.

Impacts/Outcomes:

Approval of this request will allow the county to sponsor the City of Excelsior to receive funding for improvements to bridge no. 90608, CP 2230800, protecting the safety and structural integrity of the bridge that holds historical significance in Minnesota.

Budget Table: CP 2230800 Minnetonka Boulevard Bridge over St. Alban’s Bay Channel Replacement Project (bridge no. 90608)

REVENUE	Budget to Date	Current Request	Future CIP Requests	Total Project
Federal		269,600		269,600
State - Other		67,400		67,400
Total	0	337,000	0	337,000
EXPENDITURES				
Consulting		337,000		337,000
Total	0	337,000	0	337,000

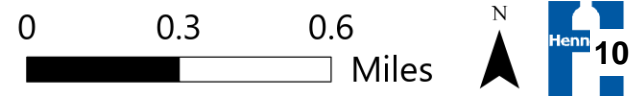
Recommendation from County Administrator: Recommend Approval

CP 2230800 | PW 13-27-24

Bridge Investment Program Sponsorship & 2023 Prioritized Bridge Replacement List Amendment in Excelsior



BAR map date:
1/10/2024



MINNESOTA

Board Action Request

24-0073

Item Description:

Various agmts related to Minnetonka Boulevard (CSAH 5) and West Lake Street (CSAH 25) Reconstruction Project; transfer funds (CP 2201100 to CP 2168100); amend budget (est county cost: \$7 million federal funds, \$8,411,802 state aid, \$500,000 property tax; est rcv: \$6,713,700)

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Administrator be authorized to negotiate Agreement PW 10-05-24 with the City of St. Louis Park for cost participation and maintenance responsibilities relating to the reconstruction of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 5 (Minnetonka Boulevard) from Trunk Highway (TH) 100 to CSAH 17 (France Avenue) and a segment of CSAH 25 (West Lake Street) at the convergence of Minnetonka Boulevard, county project (CP) 2168100, at an estimated county receivable of \$6,390,000 (\$5,360,000 capital, \$1,030,000 operating); that upon review and approval by the County Attorney's Office, the Chair of the Board be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the county; and that the Controller be authorized to receive and disburse funds as directed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Administrator be authorized to negotiate Agreement PW 11-20-24 with the City of Minneapolis for cost participation and maintenance responsibilities relating to the reconstruction of Minnetonka Boulevard from TH 100 to France Avenue and a segment of West Lake Street at the convergence with Minnetonka Boulevard, CP 2168100, at an estimated county receivable of \$323,700 (\$245,000 capital, \$78,700 operating); that upon review and approval by the County Attorney's Office, the Chair of the Board be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the county; and that the Controller be authorized to receive and disburse funds as directed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Administrator be authorized to negotiate Agreement PW 12-40-24 (State Contract No.1055670) for authorizing the Commissioner of Transportation to act as the county's agent, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, §161.36, in accepting federal funds on its behalf for the reconstruction of Minnetonka Boulevard and West Lake Street (CP 2168100), (S.P. 027-605-033), in the amount of \$7 million; that the Chair of the Board be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the county; and that the Controller be authorized to accept and disburse funds as directed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Administrator be authorized to execute Amendment 1 to the work authorization under Agreement PR00002153 with Bolton & Menk, Inc. to continue final design engineering services for CP 2168100, increasing the not to exceed amount by \$300,000 to a new total of \$1,500,000 and extending the work authorization to December 31, 2025; that following review and approval by the County Attorney's office, the Chair of the Board be authorized to sign the amendment to the authorization on behalf of the county; and that the Controller be authorized to disburse funds as directed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that \$500,000 in property tax be transferred from CP 2201100 (Cost Participation and Partnerships 2024-2028) to CP 2168100 (CSAH 5 Reconst Mntka Blvd fr TH 100 to France Ave); that the revenues for CP 2168100 be increased by \$1,140,000 from the City of St. Louis Park and \$125,000 from the City of Minneapolis; that the total project budget for CP 2168100 be increased by \$1,765,000 as part of the 2024 Capital Budget; and that the Controller be authorized to transfer and disburse funds as directed.

Background:

The county, in coordination with Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and the cities of St. Louis Park and Minneapolis, is leading a reconstruction project on Minnetonka Boulevard between TH 100 and France Avenue and a segment of West Lake Street at the convergence with Minnetonka Boulevard.

The project will reconfigure traffic lanes to improve safety and accessibility and will complement the Green Line Extension Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project by improving connections to the Beltline Boulevard and West Lake Street light rail stations.

The city and county have coordinated with Xcel Energy and other communication companies to underground overhead power and communication lines along the project corridor at an estimated cost of \$1,445,000, with a county cost share of \$500,000 through the Cost Participation and Partnerships program.

In 2022 the county entered into a work authorization with Bolton & Menk, Inc. for design engineering services. An increase of \$300,000, available in the project budget, is needed to complete the design.

The county began public engagement in 2021 and the project team will continue communication with the community as the project transitions into construction. This two-year construction project is anticipated to begin in spring 2024.

Current Request:

This request is for authorization to negotiate and execute the following:

- Agreement PW 10-05-24 with St. Louis Park for cost participation and maintenance responsibilities, at an estimated county receivable of \$6,390,000 (\$5,360,000 capital, \$1,030,000 operating)
- Agreement PW 11-20-24 with Minneapolis for cost participation and maintenance responsibilities, at an estimated county receivable of \$323,700 (\$245,000 capital, \$78,700 operating)
- Agreement PW 12-40-24 (State Contract No. 1055670) for MnDOT to act as the county's agent in accepting federal funds on its behalf and allows the county to receive \$7,000,000 in federal funding for CP 2168100
- Amendment 1 to the work authorization under Agreement PR00002153 with Bolton & Menk, Inc. for final design engineering services for CP 2168100, increasing the work authorization amount by \$300,000 to a new total not to exceed \$1,500,000 and extending the work authorization to December 31, 2025

Additionally, this request seeks authorization to transfer \$500,000 in property tax from CP 2201100 to CP 2168100 and adjust the revenues to add additional cost participation from St. Louis Park and Minneapolis, increasing the total budget for CP 2168100 by \$1,765,000 in the 2024 Capital Budget.

Impacts/Outcomes:

This action supports the county's Mobility 2040 goals, climate action, and disparity reduction efforts by improving accessibility and enhancing safety for people walking, biking, and rolling.

Budget table 1: 2168100 CSAH 5 - Reconst Mntka Blvd fr TH 100 to France Ave

REVENUE	Budget to Date	Current Request	Future CIP Requests	Total
Property Tax	150,000	500,000		650,000
Federal - Other - Roads	7,000,000			7,000,000
Mn/DOT State Aid - Regular	2,320,000		340,000	2,660,000
Mn/DOT State Aid - Flex ES	3,390,000		3,505,000	6,895,000
Minneapolis	120,000	125,000	10,000	255,000
St Louis Park	4,220,000	1,140,000	3,465,000	8,825,000
Total	\$17,200,000	\$1,765,000	7,320,000	\$26,285,000

EXPENSE	Budget to Date	Current Request	Future CIP Requests	Total
Right of Way	2,000,000			2,000,000
Construction	12,000,000	\$1,765,000	6,720,000	20,485,000
Consulting	1,020,000			1,020,000
Contingency	2,180,000		600,000	2,780,000
Total	\$17,200,000	\$1,765,000	7,320,000	\$26,285,000

Budget table 2: 2201100 Cost Participation and Partnerships 2024-2028

REVENUE	Budget to Date	Current Request	Future CIP Requests	Total
Property Tax	1,300,000	(500,000)	4,700,000	5,500,000
Bonds - GO Roads	2,950,000		2,600,000	5,550,000
State - Other - Roads			8,700,000	8,700,000
Total	\$4,250,000	(\$500,000)	\$16,000,000	\$19,750,000

EXPENSE	Budget to Date	Current Request	Future CIP Requests	Total
Construction	4,250,000	(500,000)	16,000,000	19,750,000
Total	\$4,250,000	(\$500,000)	\$16,000,000	\$19,750,000

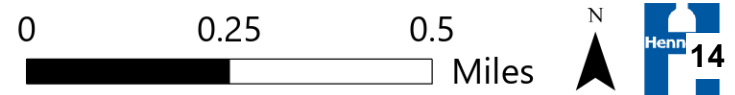
Recommendation from County Administrator: Recommend Approval

CP 2168100 | Various Agreements

CSAH 5 & 25 (Minnetonka Blvd/West Lake St) Reconstruction Project in St. Louis Park and Minneapolis



BAR map date:
12/19/2023



MINNESOTA

Board Action Request

24-0074

Item Description:

Authorization to submit a grant application under USDOT's Bridge Investment Program for Hennepin Avenue Bridges Reconditioning Project, County Project (CP) 2164000

WHEREAS:

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) has given notice that project funding through the Bridge Investment Program (BIP) for fiscal years 2023 through 2026 is available.

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that County Administrator be authorized to submit an application for a United States Department of Transportation Bridge Investment Program (USDOT BIP) grant for County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 52 (Hennepin Avenue) Bridges Reconditioning Project (CP 2164000); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that sponsorship and acceptance of grant funding by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners does not imply a continued funding commitment by the county for this project when grant funds are no longer available.

Background:

The USDOT BIP discretionary grant program has made \$9.6 billion available for bridge grant applications in federal fiscal years 2023 through 2026. Applications for funding in 2023 and 2024 are due March 19, 2024. Awards will be made on a competitive basis according to the established program criteria.

BIP discretionary grant awards range from \$2.5 million to \$80 million per project. A minimum local match is required for projects. The county's grant application is anticipated to request \$8.7 million in federal funds. The non-federal project funding is anticipated to include the following:

- \$3.5 million in state general obligation (GO) bond funds previously awarded
- \$8.6 million in additional state GO bond funds requested by Hennepin County
- \$3.4 million in state aid

The Hennepin Avenue Bridges Reconditioning Project reflect the county's priorities for asset condition, safety and accessibility. In addition, this project will complement a major regional transit investment, the E Line Arterial Bus Rapid Transit service.

Current Request:

This request seeks to authorize the county administrator to apply for a USDOT's BIP grant for the fiscal years 2023 and 2024 for the Hennepin Avenue Bridges Reconditioning project, CP 2164000.

Impacts/Outcomes:

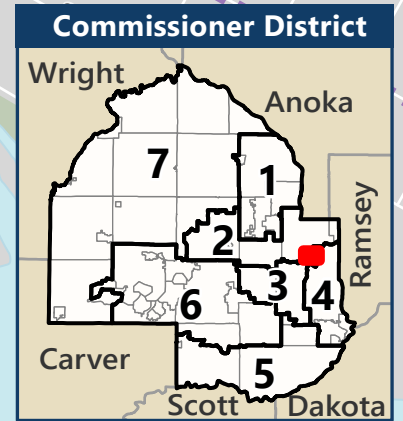
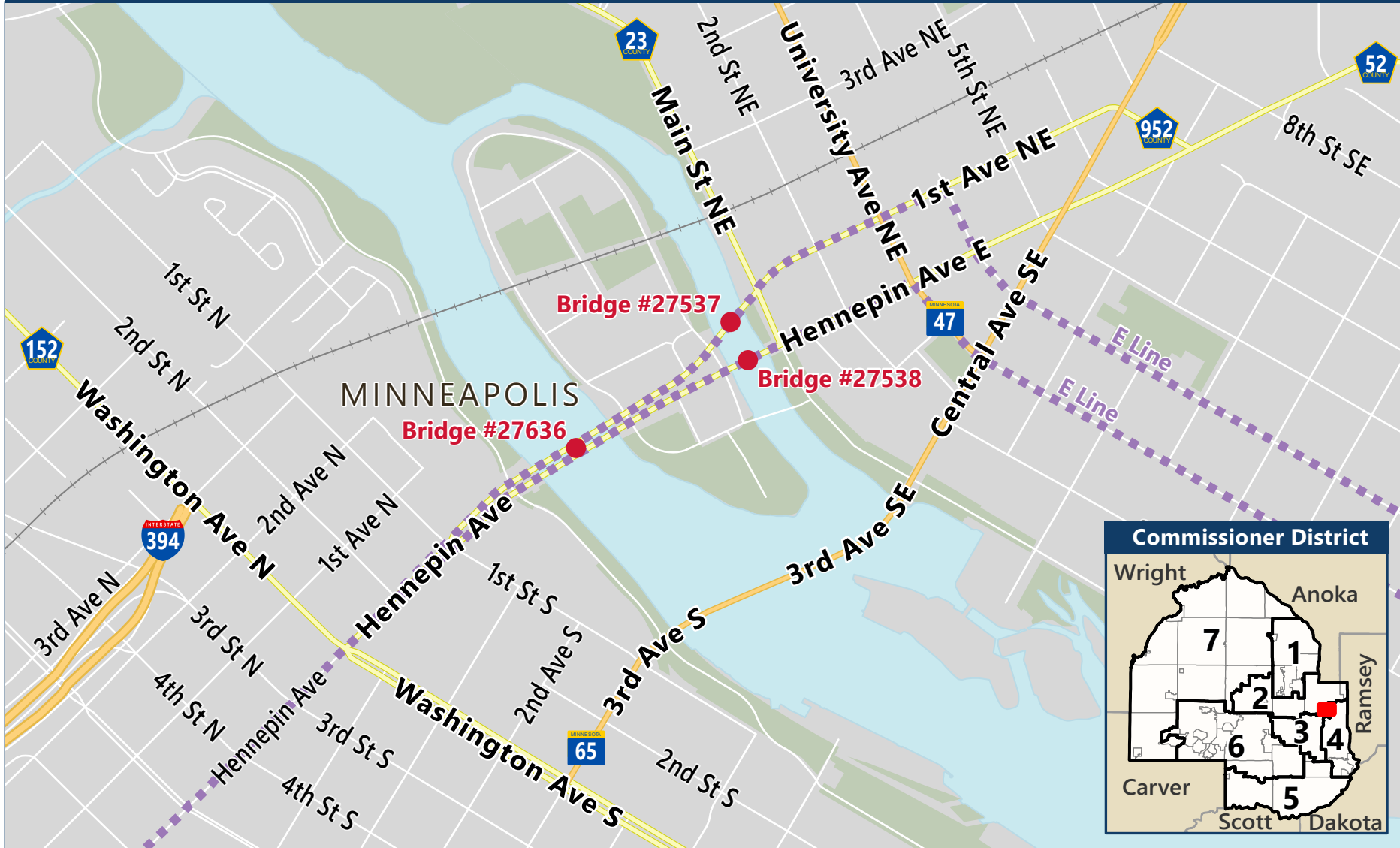
Funding for this project will support the county's transportation needs, disparity reduction efforts and climate action goals through the timely preservation of the nationally significant Hennepin Avenue bridges.

24-0074

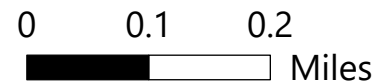
Recommendation from County Administrator: Recommend Approval

CP 2164000 | 2024 Bridge Investment Program

Hennepin Avenue (CSAH 52) Bridges Reconditioning Project



BAR map date:
1/12/2024



Board Action Request

24-0075

Item Description:

Agmt CON000000001096 with the U.S. DOA to accept grant for the removal and replacement of trees on behalf of residents with lower incomes, 01/01/24-06/01/29, (recv \$10,000,000; supp app of \$2,000,000 to 2024 Environment and Energy budget)

Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Administrator be authorized to negotiate Agreement CON000000001096 with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service to accept the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Urban and Community Forest grant for the removal and replacement of diseased, infested, or dangerous trees on residential lots of property owners with lower incomes, during the period January 1, 2024 through June 1, 2029, in the receivable amount of \$10,000,000; that following review and approval by the County Attorney's Office the Chair of the Board be authorized to sign the Agreement on behalf of Hennepin County; and that the Controller be authorized to accept and disburse funds as directed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Environment and Energy Department 2024 revenue and expenditure budget be increased by \$2,000,000 for grant related activities and 3.0 grant funded, limited duration, full-time employees for the IRA Urban and Community Forestry grant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sponsorship and acceptance of grant funding for this program by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners does not imply a continued funding commitment by the county for this program when grant funds are no longer available.

Background:

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has now been infesting trees within Hennepin County since 2010. EAB is expected to kill one million ash trees - approximately 15% of the County's tree canopy - and many of these trees are located on residential property. Ash trees, once infested, decline and die rapidly, creating risks to human health and property. The cost to remove these trees is a significant financial burden for residential property owners with lower incomes. Without assistance, these residents are not likely to replace the tree. If the tree removal costs are added as special assessments to their property taxes, this could add a significant financial burden and could result in tax forfeiture and someone losing their home. Hennepin County has some of the most severe racial disparities in health, housing and economic outcomes in the nation as well as some of the lowest rates of home ownership by persons of color.

Trees provide many benefits, including improving air quality by absorbing fine particulate matter and other pollutants and intercepting stormwater runoff. Trees also provide shade, reduce the urban heat island effect, reduce stress, and increase property values. Countywide data analysis has found a correlation between areas with less tree canopy and areas with health and income disparities. Without action, the loss of trees due to EAB will exacerbate existing disparities and cause the tree canopy to decline even further in these areas. These areas also represent the portions of Hennepin County most adversely impacted by climate change and the urban heat island effect.

The IRA Urban and Community Forest grant will help mitigate these impacts from EAB and other tree pests by

funding the removal of condemnable trees, which are trees that are diseased, infested, and dangerous, and replacement on behalf of residential property owners with lower incomes. For the purposes of this grant program, lower income is defined as 80% or less of the area median income as determined through a simple means test. While the grant program will place special emphasis on reducing disparities and improving the tree canopy in disparity areas, such as federally designated disadvantaged communities as identified by the federal Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool and Opportunity Zones census tracts, funding will be available to assist residential property owners with lower incomes throughout Hennepin County. There is no federal match requirement.

Current Request:

This request seeks authorization for the County Administrator to negotiate Agreement CON000000001096 with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service to accept the IRA Urban and Community Forest grant for the removal and replacement of diseased, infested, or dangerous trees on residential lots of residential property owners with lower incomes, during the period January 1, 2024 through June 1, 2029, in the total receivable amount of \$10,000,000.

This request also seeks approval of supplemental appropriation to the 2024 Environment and Energy budget by \$2,000,000 for grant related activities and 3.0 grant-funded, limited duration FTE for the IRA Urban and Community Forestry grant.

This request also seeks that the county board declare that the sponsorship and acceptance of grant funding for this program by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners does not imply a continued funding commitment by the county for this program when grant funds are no longer available.

Impact/Outcomes:

In accepting the IRA Urban and Community Forest grant, Hennepin County will assist residents with lower incomes by removing and replacing approximately 2,250 diseased trees countywide and planting an additional 2,250 trees in federally designated disadvantaged communities census tracts, which also are most affected by the urban heat island, with a total of 4,500 trees planted countywide. It is estimated at least 2,000 residential property owners will benefit from this program. The county will maximize this investment by planting climate-adaptive replacement trees, educating the residents about the care and benefits of trees, contracting with disadvantaged tree removal businesses, and expanding county and community-based workforce development programs to employ youth and young adults to plant and maintain the trees.

The grant will:

- Fund the removal and replacement of trees on residential property.
- Mitigate the effects of tree pests and pathogens by improving municipal forestry capacity.
- Create green jobs programming based on the care, maintenance, and removal of trees.
- Educate residents on the benefits of trees and engage them in planting efforts.
- Improve livability and reduce disparities by planting trees in neighborhoods throughout the county experiencing disproportionate economic, environmental, and health outcomes.
- Mitigate the impacts of climate change through trees' ability to reduce air pollution and stormwater runoff and counteract the urban heat island effect.

Recommendation from County Administrator: Recommend Approval