



June 1, 2011

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee
From: Paul Thompson
Subject: 5.b: STP-U Funding Recommendation for Lane County Hyacinth Road sidewalk project

Action Recommended: Approve Resolution 2011-05 amending MTIP and programming funding.

Issue

The purpose of this agenda item is to request that the MPC program Surface Transportation Planning-Urban (STP-U) federal MPO funding for the Lane County Hyacinth Road sidewalk project in the amount of \$171,542 in federal fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

Background

The Hyacinth Street Sidewalk Installation project adds a 5.5-foot wide sidewalk on the west side of Hyacinth St between Calla Street and Irvington Drive. The project is programmed primarily to address pedestrian safety involving schoolchildren who walk to Irving Elementary school. Additionally, a future project envisions providing a convenient connection for bicyclists traveling between Irving Road and Irvington Drive by creating bike lanes within the existing pavement.

In April, 2010, the MPC approved Resolution 2010-03 establishing funding for Preservation, Project Development and Modernization (PPM) category projects. The Hyacinth project was funded with STP-U dollars, in the amount of \$388,530.

Current cost information indicates that the available funds will not be adequate to build the 0.66 mile (about 3,190 feet) of sidewalk. This is due to inclusion of unforeseen design elements that were not scoped originally. The revised cost of the project is estimated to exceed the available funding by an estimated \$191,174. This request for additional STP-U funding would necessarily mean an increase in the Lane County non-federal portion of the project funding, in order to provide the required minimum match for the federal STP-U funds. Thus, after that match amount is accounted for, the County is requesting an additional \$171,542 in STP-U funding.

The design team looked into various design options to remain within the budget. Options considered were to utilize existing sidewalk on the east side, or constructing sidewalk within the existing paved roadway, or making the project length shorter by a

block (about 850 feet) at the north end. None of these options could bring the cost down to the approved funding level. Furthermore, they are not preferred from effectiveness, efficiency, or project objective points of view. The County prefers completing the sidewalk project as originally planned, i.e., providing a continuous 5.5-foot wide sidewalk on the west side of the street to connect with the south side sidewalk on Irvington Drive.

Public Involvement

The Central Lane MPO Public Participation Plan calls for a public comment period, a public hearing, notice to interested parties, web notice, an open house, and a newspaper display ad for proposed STP-U fund allocations. In May the MPC approved the staff request to waive the requirement for an open house and newspaper display ad.

At the May 12, 2011 MPC meeting, a public hearing was held. Two members of the audience spoke at the beginning of the MPC meeting, noting current safety concerns along Hyacinth Street near Irving Elementary School and advised the MPC to approve the proposed funding request.

As of the issuance of this memorandum, two written public comments have been submitted (see Attachment 2) expressing support for the funding request. The public comment period remains open until 5 PM on June 5, 2011. Should any public comments be submitted between the issuance of this memorandum and the close of the public comment period, the comments will be made available to the MPC at the June 9th meeting.

TPC Involvement

The Transportation Planning Committee (TPC) reviewed this request at their May meeting and unanimously recommended approval pending the results of the public comment period and MPC review.

Recommendation

Approve Resolution 2011-05 amending MTIP and programming funding.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution 2011-05 and Exhibit A
2. Public Comment Letters
 - a. Comment Letter from Drew Braun, PhD, Director of Instruction, Bethel School District
 - b. Comment Letter from Krista Bushnell