
Sponsor: Public Works

Meeting Date: 2/7/2023

Title: Minnesota Department of Transportation Corridors of
Commerce Grant Application for Interstate-35E / County Road J

File Number: 2023-048

Background and Rationale:

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is currently soliciting projects statewide for its 2022-2023 Corridors of Commerce grant application process. There is \$250 million available for this program statewide with approximately 50% available for the metro area and 50% available for greater Minnesota. The Ramsey County Interstate-35E (I-35E) / County Road J interchange project is a good candidate for this funding since it involves a locally-led improvement to the MnDOT highway network and is scheduled for construction in the next four years.

The I-35E / County Road J interchange project will involve adding ramps to the north side of the existing I-35E interchange, reconstructing the County Road J bridge over I-35E and reconstructing County Road J from Centerville Road to Otter Lake Road, including new roundabouts and bicycle/pedestrian improvements.

This project is currently programmed for construction in the Ramsey County Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for 2025 and is undergoing required federal environmental clearances and final design reviews with MnDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). In addition to this Corridors of Commerce grant request, the project was also recently awarded a \$10 million federal construction grant from Metropolitan Council through its Regional Solicitation process.

Ramsey County is the lead agency for the project. The policy bodies of other project partners including Anoka County, the city of Lino Lakes, the city of North Oaks and White Bear Township are also providing resolutions of support for the grant application. The White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce has also provided a letter of support for the application.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

Support submittal of a Corridors of Commerce grant application to the Minnesota Department of Transportation in the amount of \$8.7 million for the Interstate-35E / County Road J project.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Frethem, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Frethem, MatasCastillo, McGuire, Moran, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

By: 

Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board