



## Hennepin County Transportation Department

1600 Prairie Drive  
Medina, MN 55340-5421

612-596-0300, Phone  
763-478-4000, FAX  
763-478-4030, TDD  
[www.hennepin.us](http://www.hennepin.us)

October 4, 2011

Mr. Steven Kotke, P.E.  
Public Works Director and City Engineer  
City of Minneapolis  
Room 203 City Hall  
350 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minneapolis MN 55415-1390

RE: Municipal Consent for CP 1105/SP 2783-136 (I-35W/4<sup>th</sup> Street South)  
Access to Northbound I-35W at 4<sup>th</sup> Street South

Dear Mr. Kotke:

On behalf of a partnership consisting of the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT), I respectfully request Municipal Consent from the City of Minneapolis pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 161.162 through 161.167 for the proposed construction of a new access to northbound I-35W from 4<sup>th</sup> Street South. As the partners have discussed, the proposed entrance ramp will supplement the currently over-taxed Washington Avenue South entrance to northbound I-35W. By supplementing the Washington Avenue South entrance to northbound I-35W with the 4<sup>th</sup> Street South entrance, the parties believe delays of downtown traffic access to northbound I-35W will be significantly reduced during the afternoon peak hours, thus allowing transit buses to once again use the Washington Avenue South access and use an alternate access out of downtown at 4<sup>th</sup> Street South.

As proposed in the accompanying "draft" final layout, the proposed entrance ramp will enter mainline I-35W via an auxiliary lane created by reducing the Trunk Highway 55 entrance to northbound I-35W from two lanes to one, allowing the other lane to be used by traffic from the new northbound I-35W entrance ramp from 4<sup>th</sup> Street South. The project also includes adding an auxiliary lane north of 4<sup>th</sup> Street SE to the Johnson Street exit. The project will involve several agencies including the City of Minneapolis, Mn/DOT, Hennepin County, the Federal Highway Administration, the Metropolitan Council, Metro Transit, and the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit project office.

Normally one would expect a request of this nature to be presented to the city by Mn/DOT. As we are aware, Hennepin County, with the support of the city, submitted an application to Mn/DOT for project funding from the state's "Transportation Economic Development" Pilot Program. The county was awarded \$9,441,600 to partially write down the cost of the \$13,488,000 project (see attached estimate). Insofar as the county is the official "project lead" and the project itself includes a change of access to a regional highway, and by way of auxiliary lane construction, added capacity to the regional highway in the vicinity of the access, the county submits this request for Municipal Consent. Although this request acknowledges that the introduction of the auxiliary lane increases highway capacity in the vicinity, the

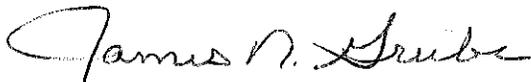
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lane predominantly serves traffic entering and exiting I-35W in the area, providing a lane for necessary weaving to occur. Please note the plan does not increase the number of general purpose lanes from the current count.

Please be advised this project is using the design-build process and as such, the current schedule calls for a February 15, 2012 bid opening with construction to start April 15, 2012. Under this schedule the project should be substantially complete November 30, 2012.

Questions regarding this request for Municipal Consent may be directed to my office.

Sincerely,



James N. Grube, P.E.  
Director of Transportation and County Engineer

JNG/cu

Enclosure

cc: Commissioner Mark Stenglein  
Commissioner Peter McLaughlin  
Richard Johnson, Hennepin County  
John Griffith, Mn/DOT  
Scott Pederson, Mn/DOT

**PROJECT COST ESTIMATE**  
**CP 1105/SP 2783-136**  
**I-35W/4<sup>TH</sup> Street South Access Project**  
**Minneapolis, MN**

**Expenditures**

Preliminary Design Engineering	\$1,011,000
Right of Way	--
Design-Build Contract	\$9,887,000
Construction Oversight	\$1,124,000
Contingency	\$1,466,000
<i>TOTAL</i>	<b>\$13,488,000</b>

**Revenues**

State Funds	\$9,441,600
County Funds	\$2,046,400
City Funds	\$2,000,000
<i>TOTAL</i>	<b>\$13,488,000</b>