

Action Transmittal

Transportation Advisory Board



Committee meeting date: October 7, 2026

Date: September 30, 2026

Action Transmittal: 2026-40

Program Year Extension Request: The City of Richfield 64th Street Sidewalk Active Transportation Pilot Project

To: TAB Technical Advisory Committee
From: TAC Funding & Programming
Prepared by: Joe Widing, Planning Analyst, 651-602-1822

Requested action

City of Richfield 64th Street Sidewalk project, a 2024 Active Transportation pilot project, requests a program year extension from 2026 to 2027.

Recommended motion

Recommend that the Technical Advisory Committee recommend approval of the program year extension request to shift the program year from 2026 to 2027 for the City of Richfield 64th Street Sidewalk project.

Background and purpose

In 2024, the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) awarded \$19 million in regional sales tax funds for 17 pilot projects in the 2024 Regional Solicitation. As part of the pilot round, the TAB requested communities accelerate their project delivery timelines to bid projects by the end of 2026.

Applicants who indicated that was possible were selected for the pilot round. The TAB also approved policy-level grant requirements ([AT 2024-42](#)) for the pilot projects, which included a modified program year policy for the projects. This modified policy required project sponsors to release projects for bid by the end of 2026. Nine projects began the construction process before the accelerated program year deadline. However, the policy indicated that if projects were not able to meet the accelerated timeline, project start dates may be extended an additional year beyond 2026 with TAB approval. This request must be approved by the end of 2026.

The City of Richfield 64th Street Sidewalk project proposes to construct one mile of new sidewalk along 64th Street including a new railroad crossing and accessibility improvements. However, the city requests additional time for coordination required with the railroad operator (Progressive Rail) to approve a new rail crossing on 64th Street. The project sponsor anticipates this agreement to be finalized in early 2027, to bid the project in March, and for construction to begin in summer 2027.

Relationship to regional policy

The TAB adopted the Program Year Policy in April 2013 (last updated in February 2025) to assist with management and timely delivery of transportation projects awarded federal funding through the Regional Solicitation. The 2024 active transportation pilot projects had a different program year requirement established due to the unique nature of the projects. With the accelerated

timeline to begin by the end of 2026, projects were granted a provision to request a one-time, one-year extension to develop the projects. The project sponsors are requesting this one-year extension to finalize project development and begin construction of the awarded projects in 2027. All projects will still be completed earlier than initially applied for in the 2024 Regional Solicitation, which had program years of 2028 and 2029.

Staff analysis

This project is one of the first program year extension requests for the active transportation pilot projects. As part of the pilot approval process, all selected projects were required to begin project bidding by the end of 2026. As all these projects initially applied for federal funding with program years beyond 2026, it was anticipated that some projects may not be able to meet the shorter project delivery timeline. Of the 17 selected projects, 6 have requested extensions into 2027 to begin bidding for construction of their projects. This request is due to longer than anticipated coordination needs with the railroad operator to cross the existing railroad tracks. The applicant has noted that coordination has advanced and that agreements with the railroad are anticipated to be complete in early 2027.

Typically, program year requests are required to include information on negative impacts from the requested delay or interim steps to mitigate issues from delaying a project. However, the active transportation pilot projects were selected for an accelerated timeline and even with the program extension will still be under construction earlier than the earliest program year for 2024 projects (2028).

Additionally, as the program year for active transportation projects follows the calendar year and not federal fiscal years, as is the case for typical Regional Solicitation projects. Projects that are released for bid, on time, by the end of 2026 or in the winter of 2027 are to be under construction at the beginning of the 2027 construction season and so the impact of a program year extension would be minimal from an implementation perspective. The 64th Street sidewalk project is anticipated to be on schedule for construction.

Finally, the program year policy was developed for federally funded projects to ensure that selected projects maintained programmed schedules to limit complications or funding shortfalls for future federal funding. With the active transportation funded projects, this risk is not present. Funding for the pilot projects has already been collected and allocated to the specific projects. Program year extensions will not impact future project selection or implementation.

Given these considerations and the accelerated nature of the pilot projects, staff recommends approval of City of Richfield's program year extension from 2026 to 2027.

Committee comments and action

At its September 24, 2026, meeting, the TAC Funding & Programming Committee recommended approval of the program year extension request to shift the program year from 2026 to 2027 for the City of Richfield 64th Street Sidewalk project. The motion was approved by a vote of 20 to 0.

Routing

To	Action Requested	Date Completed (Scheduled)
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review and recommend	September 24, 2026
Technical Advisory Committee	Review and recommend	October 7, 2026
Transportation Advisory Board	Review and adopt	October 21, 2026





Memorandum

MAYOR

MARY SUPPLE

CITY COUNCIL

WALTER BURK

SHARON CHRISTENSEN

RORI A. COLEMAN-
WOODS

SEAN HAYFORD OLEARY

CITY MANAGER

KATIE RODRIGUEZ

Date: August 24th, 2026

To: Jim Kosluchar, Chair, TAC Funding and Programming Committee

From: Matt Hardegger, Transportation Engineer, City of Richfield Public Works

CC: Joe Widing, Senior Transportation Planner, Metropolitan Transportation Services
Arin Knutson, Senior Grant Administrator, Metropolitan Transportation Services
Kristin Asher, Public Works Director, City of Richfield
Joe Powers, City Engineer, City of Richfield
Ryan Peterson, Municipal Senior Project Manager, Bolton & Menk, Inc.

Subject: Program Year Extension Request for City of Richfield 64th Street Sidewalk Project (SG-25M-AT-13)

Dear Mr. Kosluchar,

The City of Richfield respectfully requests that the Metropolitan Council's Funding and Programming Committee consider a program year extension for the city's 64th Street Sidewalk Project (SG-25M-AT-13), which was awarded Active Transportation funding in the 2024 Regional Solicitation. The extension is being requested due to delays finalizing a right-of-way permit with CPKC (ROW owner) and Progressive Railroad (rail infrastructure owner).

Project Background

The City of Richfield was awarded \$853,660 in Regional Transportation Sales and Use Tax Revenue funding through the 2024 Regional Solicitation to construct a sidewalk along 64th Street between Lyndale Avenue and Portland Avenue. The project application was to fill an identified sidewalk gap in the City's Pedestrian Master Plan, improving pedestrian safety and comfort along a collector route. The scope of the project also included new ADA-compliant curb ramps for the length of the project and a new railroad crossing at the tracks between West Pleasant Avenue and East Pleasant Avenue.

Staff have coordinated with representatives from Progressive Rail and CPKC over the course of the design and have received verbal confirmation of the project plans. However, staff do not feel comfortable advertising the project for bids without an approved right of way permit for the railroad crossing.

Project Progress

100% plans have been finalized and reviewed by MnDOT Metro State Aid, and the title sheet is ready to be routed for signature upon finalization of the railroad permit.

Request and Anticipated Timeline

Section 7.02 of this project's grant agreement requires that *"A formal solicitation for bids must be advertised by December 31, 2026. The Grantee may seek an extension by submitting a written letter of request for TAB approval."*

Richfield is seeking a six-month extension to the deadline for formal solicitation for bids. City staff have received verbal agreement from both railroad entities that the proposed design is acceptable, and are currently working with both the railroads and their contractor to work through specifics of the permitting process, which could take an additional 3 to 6 months.

Upon receipt of the right of way permit, city staff can have the project advertised for bid within one month. Projected bid opening is in late February/early March of 2027, but would be accelerated upon completion of the right of way permit.

We look forward to your committee's deliberation and discussion. I can be reached at mhardegger@richfieldmn.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Hardegger", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Matt Hardegger, PE
Transportation Engineer
City of Richfield Public Works