

Action Transmittal

Transportation Advisory Board



Committee meeting date: October 7, 2026

Date: September 30, 2026

Action Transmittal: 2026-42

Program Year Extension Request: The City of Farmington North Creek Greenway Active Transportation Pilot Project

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

Requested action

The City of Farmington North Creek Greenway 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 Farmington North Creek Greenway 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 Farmington North Creek Greenway project proposes to construct 1.7 miles of new multiuse trail to fill a gap in the North Creek Greenway Trail. However, Farmington requests additional time to coordinate with impacted property owners on the final trail design and alignment. The city anticipates final design to be completed in August 2027 with the project bid by December 2027 and construction in 2028.

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 property owners along the proposed alignment. The applicant has noted that coordination has advanced but not enough to finalize agreements with property owners yet. This coordination is anticipated to conclude in August 2027 to set up releasing the project for bid in December and construction in 2028.

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). With the program year extension, the North Creek Greenway project will be under construction later than anticipated with the original accelerated schedule, but on time for the original program year indicated in its application.

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 project 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 Farmington'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 Farmington North Creek Greenway 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	<i>October 7, 2026</i>
Transportation Advisory Board	Review and adopt	<i>October 21, 2026</i>





430 Third St., Farmington, MN 55024



651-280-6800



FarmingtonMN.gov

August 28, 2026

Katherine Schlinder, Grant Administrator
Metropolitan Council
390 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101-1805

RE: Extension Request for Active Transportation Funding for the North Creek Greenway – Farmington

Dear Ms. Schlinder:

The City of Farmington is requesting a one-year extension of the Project Commencement and Expiration Date for Active Transportation Funding awarded for the North Creek Greenway – Farmington.

Since November 2024, the City of Farmington, Dakota County, and an engineering consultant have been actively working on the final design and engineering of the trail. However, we have not yet been able to finalize the trail alignment with affected landowners or obtain the necessary rights of entry to complete required fieldwork, including wetland delineation, topographic survey, and cultural resource surveys.

The City and Dakota County have met with one of the affected landowners to discuss potential trail alternatives. At that time, the landowner requested that discussions be deferred while he considered interest from potential developers regarding his property. He remains open to the Greenway, and his property is an important component of determining the future alignment and development of the trail.

The City and Dakota County intend to reengage with all the landowners and continue advancing the project. Given these circumstances, we respectfully request a one-year extension to allow sufficient time to finalize the trail alignment, obtain the necessary access for fieldwork, and proceed with the project.

The City, Dakota County, and engineering consultant have discussed and developed the following anticipated project timeline:

- Alignment and design finalized: August 2027
- Agreement with landowner(s) in place: October 2027
- Construction plans approved: November 2027
- Project sent to bid: December 2027
- Anticipated construction date: Late summer / fall 2028

We appreciate your consideration of this extension request and the opportunity to continue advancing this important active transportation project.

If you have any questions, please contact me at kornlid@farmingtonmn.gov or 651.280.6851.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kellee Omlid".

Kellee Omlid
Parks and Recreation Director