



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

KIRK T. STEUDLE  
DIRECTOR

**DATE:** October 20, 2017

**TO:** Abed Itani, Transportation Director  
Grand Valley Metro Council

**FROM:** Dennis Kent, Region Transportation Planner  
MDOT/Grand Region

**SUBJECT: FY 2017-20 MDOT Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Revisions**

Based on the meeting with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), MDOT and MPO staff on October 11<sup>th</sup>, MDOT is requesting an amendment to the FY 2017-20 GVMC TIP and an Administrative Modification to the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) for the following projects changes:

- **JN 45790: I-196; Fuller to I-96 Junction – Reconstruction and Operational Improvements**
  - **\$20,000,000**
- **JN 126499: I-196WB bridge over I-96EB – Bridge Replacement and Operational Improvements**
  - **\$14,500,000**

Both of these projects are currently the MPO TIP and Plan. Based on opportunities to balance funding between years in the Grand Region and Statewide, operational improvements to enhance traffic flow, are being incorporated with the reconstruction projects already planned. MDOT is proposing the following changes to these projects, in addition to the original road and bridge reconstruction:

- **JN 45790: I-196; Fuller to I-96 Junction – including the following:**
  - Reconstructing I-196 EB and WB roadway from Fuller Avenue east to I-96, this portion of freeway reconstruction from the eastern terminus of the I-196 'FIX' project at Fuller Avenue
  - Reconstruction/lengthening of the I-196 bridges over Plymouth Avenue, to accommodate wider sidewalks with the City of Grand Rapids (WB JN 118558, already in the TIP)
  - Construction of a third lane on I-196 WB from I-96 to Fuller Avenue
  - Extension of the on-ramp acceleration lane from Fuller Avenue to I-196 EB (JN 127354 already in the TIP)
  - Separating EB through and local traffic exiting at the East Beltline (M-44), with related bridge work, to reduce conflicting through and exiting traffic merging from I-96EB
  - Maintaining traffic modifications
    - **New Cost: \$23,000,000**

- **JN 126499: I-196WB** bridge over I-96EB – including the following:
  - Construction of the I-96 EB bridge over I-196 WB, and raising the I-96 road profile to accommodate this bridge, and relocating the I-96 EB roadway in the median to connect existing I-96 EB to the new alignment
  - Construction of a new I-96 EB ramp to M-44/M-37 (East Beltline), including the construction of bridge(s) over I-196 EB and WB
  - Reconstruction of I-196 WB to provide three lanes of traffic and lowering the road profile to relocate I-196 WB lanes under the I-96EB bridge
  - Reconstruction of I-96 WB in the vicinity of the gore with I-196 WB due to changes in the road profile of I-196 WB
  - Construction of the I-96WB inside lane/shoulder from I-196 WB split to the GRE railroad bridge for maintenance of traffic, and future transition lane from I-96WB to I-196WB
  - Reconstruction of I-196 EB from the Maryland Avenue bridge east to I-96 EB, these two lanes will be carried beyond the Maryland Avenue bridge and past the M-44/M-37 (East Beltline) EB ramp, then transition to one lane prior to merging with I-96 EB, to separate through and local traffic exiting to the East Beltline
  - Construction of M-44/M-37 (East Beltline) ramp from I-196 EB to the existing ramp
  - Maintaining traffic modifications
    - **New Cost: \$17,000,000**

These proposed modifications are included in the approved Environmental Assessment (EA) and the approved MPO MTP. An EA Re-Evaluation is being processed with FHWA concurrently. These design changes will allow elements of the EA and MTP projects to be constructed between FY 2018 and 2020.

**Action requested:**

- Amend the current MPO FY 2017-20 TIP to include the changes in scope and costs noted above for JN 45790 in FY 2019 and 126499 in FY 2018.