



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA SECTION	SECTION INFORMATION
MEETING DATE	JUNE 8, 2026

ITEM:	Authorizing The Pursuit Of 2026 Local Regional Solicitation Funding for the 44th Avenue Multimodal Improvements Project.		
<i>Presenting Item: Aaron Chirpich, City Manager</i>			
DEPARTMENT: Engineering		BY/DATE: Rochelle Widmer / June 3, 2026	
CORE CITY STRATEGIES: <i>(please indicate areas that apply by adding an "X" in front of the selected text below)</i>			
☐ Community that Grows with Purpose and Equity		☐ Engaged, Effective and Forward-Thinking	
☐ High Quality Public Spaces		☐ Resilient and Prosperous Economy	
☒ Safe, Accessible and Built for Everyone		☐ Inclusive and Connected Community	

BACKGROUND

The Regional Solicitation Program provides federal transportation funding for projects as part of the Metropolitan Council's federally required continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative transportation planning process for the 7-County Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

The Metropolitan Council is accepting candidate projects for the Fiscal Years (FY) 2028-2031 and providing up to 80 percent of the project construction cost for transportation projects. The proposed year for project construction is 2030.

The City of Columbia Heights is seeking Regional Solicitation funds to construct 44th Avenue Multimodal Improvements Project, generally located along 44th Avenue NE, including corridor improvements such as the addition of a shared-use path, sidewalks, and intersection crossing enhancements.

Construction of this Safety Reactive project will improve conditions for all users by introducing dedicated pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, reducing vehicle speeds through roadway reconfiguration, shortening crossing distances, and incorporating raised crossings to enhance safety and visibility.

The project addresses current deficiencies along the corridor, including the lack of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and supports improved connectivity across a critical east-west route, including access near a key railroad crossing.

The project is consistent with local and regional plans that prioritize safety, multimodal transportation, and improved access, and will support anticipated growth and future transit investments, including planned Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service along Central Avenue (TH 65).

State statute requires every grant to be accepted by council resolution.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT STATUS

The Regional Solicitation funds can be applied to the estimated total project cost of \$7,800,000, which excludes right-of-way and engineering costs. The City's responsibility will be 20 percent of the total project cost or \$1,560,000 and the estimated right-of-way and engineering costs, resulting in a total of \$3,293,000.

City staff is currently pursuing Letters of Support from multiple local entities including: MnDOT, Anoka County, Columbia Heights School District, HeightsNEXT, and the Chamber of Commerce.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION**RECOMMENDED MOTION(S):**

MOTION: Move to waive the reading of Resolution 2026-040, there being ample copies available to the public.

MOTION: Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-040, authorizing the pursuit of 2026 local Regional Solicitation funding for the 44th Avenue Multimodal Improvements Project.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Resolution 2026-040

Proposed 44th Ave Preliminary Layout

44th Ave Preliminary Cost Estimate