

# Transportation Committee

CONSENT

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 23, 2013

## ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date Prepared: January 16, 2013

Subject: Property Acquisition for the I-35E and County Road E Park-and-Ride, Vadnais Heights

### Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and purchase, at up to the appraised value, a 2.6-acre property from a private owner for a park-and-ride facility in the southwest quadrant of I-35E and County Road E in Vadnais Heights.

### Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

After a brief presentation by staff, Council Member Jon Commers asked whether the four small I-35E North corridor park-and-rides slated to close as a result of the proposed park-and-rides in Vadnais Heights and Lino Lakes are owned or leased facilities. Staff responded that the four park-and-rides are leased facilities and that our goal is to consolidate the four facilities into two larger, Metropolitan Council-owned facilities.

Council Member Jon Commers also asked whether there would be any opportunity to place Metro Transit signage along I-35E to advertise the proposed park-and-ride. Staff responded that City of Vadnais Heights code does allow for a freeway pylon sign on the property; however, Wal-Mart Corporation also has a freeway pylon sign that will remain on the northernmost parcel that will need to be worked around.

The item was moved by Councilmember Commers, seconded by Councilmember Smith, and passed unanimously. This item was approved to go to the full Council as Consent.

**Transportation Committee**

Meeting date: January 14, 2013,

For the Council Meeting of January 23, 2013

**ADVISORY INFORMATION**

<b>Date:</b>	January 14, 2013
<b>Subject:</b>	Property Acquisition for the I-35E and County Road E Park-and-Ride, Vadnais Heights
<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	District 11, Sandy Rummel
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Minnesota Statutes MN Statutes 473.129, 473.405, 117.025 and 117.042
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Marilyn Porter, Director, E&F, 612-349-7689 Julie Quinn, Facilities Planning, E&F, 612-349-7333
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Metro Transit/Engineering & Facilities

**Proposed Action**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and purchase, at up to the appraised value, a 2.6-acre property from a private owner for a park-and-ride facility in the southwest quadrant of I-35E and County Road E in Vadnais Heights.

**Background**

Metro Transit proposes to construct a 300-space surface park-and-ride lot in the southwest quadrant of the I-35E and County Road E interchange in Vadnais Heights. Transit service to the facility will be in conjunction with service to a second park-and-ride being planned at I-35E and County Road 14 in Lino Lakes. Metro Transit received a Chapter 152 grant from MnDOT to construct both park-and-rides in 2013.

The project in Vadnais Heights involves purchasing and developing approximately four acres of property available as three distinct parcels from two different owners. The four acres of property will accommodate projected 2030 demand for park-and-ride spaces to downtown St. Paul with additional flexibility for service to Minneapolis. Metro Transit now seeks to affect the immediate purchase of a single parcel totaling 2.6 acres owned by Lori Misenor.

The Metropolitan Council approved a prior business item (#2012-214) on July 25, 2012 that authorized the Regional Administrator to negotiate and purchase two properties owned by Wal-Mart Realty Company totaling 1.8 acres. Purchase of these two Wal-Mart properties is currently in progress. Acquisition of this additional 2.6-acre property owned by Lori Misenor is critical for accommodating the projected 300-space park-and-ride demand.

The property to be purchased from Lori Misenor as a part of this action is shown in **Figure 1**.

## Rationale

The proposed location is the best available option for establishing a park-and-ride along the I-35E north corridor in Vadnais Heights. The property owner is a willing seller. The City of Vadnais Heights endorses the concept of constructing a park-and-ride in this location.

## Funding

Funding for this property acquisition will be available from Regional Transit Capital and Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 funds available in Project 62117. The construction of the park-and-ride will be funded via State of Minnesota, Chapter 152 Trunk Highway bonds.

## Known Support / Opposition

The City of Vadnais Heights supports the development of a park-and-ride facility at the proposed location.

**Figure 1 – Map of Project Area**

