

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 22, 2013

Subject: Interagency Agreements with City of Saint Paul to Facilitate Redevelopment Adjacent the Green Line Central Station

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute 1.) a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Saint Paul and the Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority for the purpose of facilitating redevelopment of the Central Station Block in downtown Saint Paul, 2.) an easement agreement with the Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority for bus waiting area improvements, and 3.) an operations and maintenance agreement with the City of Saint Paul for a stair and elevator tower.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

There was a short presentation of the Business Item by Maurice Roers, Manager Facilities Planning, Metro Transit. Councilmember Brimeyer asked if there are development opportunities on the remaining lot, particularly with regards to the feasibility of building over LRT track. Staff responded that the construction over LRT tracks is permitted and that there is precedent in other locations with LRT for this type of development.

Motion by Councilmember Commers, seconded by Councilmember Elkins, and passed.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: May 13, 2013

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 22, 2013

Subject: Interagency Agreements with City of Saint Paul to Facilitate Redevelopment Adjacent the Green Line Central Station.

District(s), Member(s): District 13, Richard Kramer

Policy/Legal Reference: *2030 Transportation Policy Plan*, Ch. 7, Strategies 15f & 15g; Minn. Stat. §§ 473.129 & 473.3999

Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510
Marilyn Porter, Director E & F, 612-349-7689
Maurice Roers, Manager Facilities Planning, 612-349-7684

Division/Department: Metro Transit/Engineering and Facilities

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute 1.) a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Saint Paul and the Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority for the purpose of facilitating redevelopment of the Central Station Block in downtown Saint Paul, 2.) an easement agreement with the Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority for bus waiting area improvements, and 3.) an operations and maintenance agreement with the City of Saint Paul for a stair and elevator tower.

Background

Metro Transit and the City of Saint Paul have been focused on the improvement of transit within Saint Paul, most notably through the development of the Green Line Light Rail Transit (LRT) line. In conjunction with the construction of the Green Line LRT Project the Metropolitan Council (the Council) acquired approximately 1.32 acres of real property located in the Central Station Block as depicted on Attachment A. The Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority owns 0.22 acres of real property in the northeast corner of the Central Station Block, a portion of which is needed for improvements to the bus waiting area. Additionally, it is proposed that a stairway and elevator be located on Council property adjacent to the Central Station to connect with the skyway system.

Given the nexus of the City and the Council's property interests and both entities' interests in promoting transit oriented development, it is desired that the City's and the Council's expectations are memorialized to further coordinate redevelopment efforts at the Central Station Block.

Rationale

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will better define the shared goals and individual responsibilities of each party to advance redevelopment on the block. The easement agreement will enable bus improvements at 5th Street & Minnesota Street as funded via a Federal Transit Administration Bus Livability Grant. The operations and maintenance (O&M) agreement will provide for shared maintenance costs of the stairway and elevator given the joint benefit that this facility will provide both to the City and to transit customers.

Funding

The MOU does not carry with it any financial implications. The easement agreement would be a no-cost agreement with the expectation that Metro Transit would implement bus improvements as funded via Project 62214. Under the proposed O&M agreement, the

City and Metro Transit would split approximately \$75,000 of annual costs related to operation and maintenance of the stairway and elevator.

Known Support / Opposition

The MOU, easement agreement and O&M agreement are supported by the City of Saint Paul and the Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

Attachment A

Map of property interests at the Central Station Block in downtown Saint Paul.

