

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 10, 2014

Subject: Southwest Light Rail (Green Line Extension) – Authorize negotiation and execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of St. Louis Park, Minnesota.

Proposed Action

The Metropolitan Council (Council) authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of St. Louis Park, Minnesota (City) on matters pertaining to the design and construction of the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Project as proposed within the City.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Craig Lamothe presented. Motion by Reynoso; seconded by Elkins. Consent to Council.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: August 25, 2014

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 10, 2014

Subject: Southwest Light Rail (Green Line Extension) – Authorize negotiation and execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of St. Louis Park, Minnesota

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statutes, Section 473.399

Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510
Mark W. Fuhrmann, Deputy Gen Manager, 651-602-1942
Craig Lamothe, SWLRT Acting Project Director, 612-373-3830
Nani Jacobson, SWLRT Asst. Dir. Envir & Agreements, 612-373-3808

Division/Department: Metro Transit / Southwest LRT Project Office (SPO)

Proposed Action

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Background

The Council, at its April 9, 2014 meeting, adopted the SWLRT Project scope and budget and authorized Council staff to submit plans reflecting the physical components of the preliminary design plans (Municipal Consent Plans) to Hennepin County and the five host cities for their approval or disapproval as provided in Minnesota Statutes. Within the City, the SWLRT Project design includes 2.8 miles of LRT track, 3 LRT stations, and a shift of freight rail tracks to allow for greater development potential within the City.

On July 7, 2014, the City adopted a resolution approving the Municipal Consent Plans. The City also approved entering into a MOU with the Council regarding design and planning for the SWLRT Project's route through the City. Likewise, the Council desires to memorialize its commitment to continue coordination on design related items located within the City.

Rationale

The Council has engaged in collaborative discussions with the City throughout the SWLRT Project's beginning planning stages. Entering into a MOU that identifies items for continued coordination during Project Development, Engineering, and Construction phases memorializes the Council's and City's commitment to work cooperatively to achieve successful delivery of the Southwest LRT Project in St. Louis Park.

Funding

This MOU does not require funding.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.