

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of August 23, 2017

Subject: Interagency Agreement with City of Bloomington to fund Mall of America Transit Station Renovations

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an Interagency Agreement with the City of Bloomington for \$5,000,000.00 in funding for the Mall of America Transit Station Renovation Project.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Pat Jones introduced Derek Berube who presented this item.

Barber mentioned there were several businesses in the district that utilize the transit system (charters), which can cause backups, etc. and asked if this was being addressed. Berube responded that the new vision of the Transit Center would be for all services (Metro Mobility, LRT, buses, etc.) but that taxis and charter buses would stay on the North side of the Mall.

Dorfman asked if there was any public art being incorporated into the renovated transit center and Berube confirmed there are specific locations within the project that art can be displayed.

Motion by Elkins, seconded by Barber and passed.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: 8/14/2017

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of 8/23/2017

Subject: Interagency Agreement with City of Bloomington to fund Mall of America Transit Station Renovations

District(s), Member(s): District 5, Steve Elkins

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statutes 473.405 and 471.59

Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager, (612) 349-7510

Marilyn Porter, Director, Engineering & Facilities, (612) 349-7689

Pat Jones, Assistant Director, (612) 349-7606

Derek Berube, Principal Contract Administrator, (612) 349-7560

Division/Department: Metro Transit / Engineering and Facilities

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an Interagency Agreement with the City of Bloomington for \$5,000,000.00 in funding of the construction of the Mall of America Transit Station Renovations Project.

Background

In 2015, Metro Transit began design on a reconfigured Transit Station at the Mall of America. The Mall of America Transit Station Project has now secured the remainder of the funding necessary to complete the construction of the project. Funds have been secured through grants, bonds and local match from the FTA, CTIB, State Bonds and Metro Transit. This Agreement will produce the remaining local funds from the City of Bloomington.

The proposed project involves constructing a reconfigured transit station at the Mall of America's East parking lot. This station will replace the existing station, provide a direct connection into the mall, create efficiencies in bus operations and enhance the overall experience on transit at Metro Transit's most utilized facility. The interagency agreement must be executed between the City of Bloomington and the Council prior to bidding the project and awarding a construction contract.

A combination of 7.00 million in federal dollars (FTA), 8.75 million dollars in local bonds (State of Minnesota), 5.00 million dollars in local match (City of Bloomington), 2.25 million dollars in local match (CTIB), and 2.00 million dollars in local match (RTC), amounting to \$25,00,000.00 has been/will be used to fund the entire project.

Rationale

An Interagency Agreement with City of Bloomington will ensure funds will be made available for the project. Council Policy requires Interagency Agreements valued at greater than \$500,000 be approved by the Council.

Thrive Lens Analysis

With the three principles of Thrive 2040 being: Integration, Collaboration and Accountability, this project hits all. The project will help integrate multiple modes of transit allowing for bus riders, bicyclists, pedestrians, LRT riders and others access to the transit. The design team has worked collaboratively with the City of Bloomington, Hennepin County, Dakota County throughout the design to ensure a successful design. Additionally, this project will bring results in an area that has needed a reconfiguration for years.

The project will show that Metro Transit is accountable to making our environment better by reducing emissions while improving efficiencies.

Funding

City of Bloomington is concurrently considering a business item for a funding total of \$5,000,000.00 for the Mall of America Transit Station Renovations Project. Approval to expend these funds will be included in the Third Quarter Budget Amendment.

Known Support / Opposition

Metro Transit's Community Outreach team has been working with the community and have found there to be large support. Metro Transit and the City of Bloomington staff support the construction of the new transit station. There is no known opposition.