

## Other Business

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of November 14, 2018

**Subject:** SWLRT (Green Line Extension) Assignment Agreement with MnDOT for Luce Line Regional Trail Bridge

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** MN Statutes § 471.59, 473.3999, 473.405, and 473.411

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510  
Joan Hollick, Interim Director, New Starts Program, 612-373-3820  
Jim Alexander, SWLRT Project Director, 651-373-3880  
Kelly McKeon, SWLRT Agreements Lead, 651-373-3925

**Division/Department:** Metro Transit / Green Line Extension Project Office

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an Assignment Agreement with Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for the Luce Line Regional Trail Bridge.

### Background

The existing Luce Line Regional Trail Bridge crosses the BNSF Railway right-of-way pursuant to agreements entered into by BNSF, the City of Minneapolis, and MnDOT. MnDOT owns the Luce Line Regional Trail Bridge and the City maintains the bridge.

As part of the Southwest Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project, the Council will remove the Luce Line Regional Trail Bridge and reconstruct the bridge closer to the Bassett Creek Valley Station for better pedestrian and bike access. BNSF requires both MnDOT and the City to assign their existing rights related to the bridge to the Council.

With the proposed action, the existing BNSF agreements with MnDOT and the City will be terminated and replaced with an easement granted by BNSF to the Council after the new bridge is constructed. The Council will then assign the easement to the City. Upon assignment by the Council and assumption by the City, the City will be responsible for the ongoing operation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of the new bridge. MnDOT's ongoing interest in the existing bridge will terminate.

### Rationale

Entering into the Assignment Agreement allows the Council to fulfill its obligations to construct the Project.

### Thrive Lens Analysis

Construction of the Green Line Extension will increase the region's prosperity as it will provide access to 80,900 forecasted jobs and a new transportation option for 55,000 forecasted residents within ½ mile of the planned new stations in addition to the 145,300 forecasted jobs and 35,600 forecasted residents downtown Minneapolis.

### Funding

Funds for removal and construction of the new pedestrian bridge are included in the project budget.

**Known Support / Opposition**

No known opposition to this action.