

Other Business

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of November 14, 2018

Subject: SWLRT (Green Line Extension) Agreements with Hennepin County for Glenwood Avenue Bridge

District(s), Member(s): All

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

Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510
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Division/Department: Metro Transit / Green Line Extension Project Office

Proposed Action

That the Council authorize the Regional Administration to negotiate agreements with Hennepin County (1) for the assignment, demolition, and reconstruction of the Glenwood Avenue Bridge; (2) governing the operations, maintenance and capital repair of the reconstructed bridges and the bisecting light rail transit bridge; and (3) other legal documents necessary to implement the above-described agreements.

Background

As part of the Southwest Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project and pursuant to a Cooperative Construction Agreement with the County, the Council will remove the Glenwood Avenue (County State-Aid Highway 40) Bridge and reconstruct the bridge in three complementary structures. Two of the structures are dedicated to roadway use and will be conveyed to the County at the revenue service date of the SWLRT Project. The third structure will be an LRT bridge that intersects the roadway bridges and will be owned by the Council. Together, the bridge structures will be used by LRT, passenger vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians.

The current Glenwood Avenue Bridge crosses BNSF right-of-way and operates pursuant to an easement from BNSF. With the proposed actions, the existing BNSF easement with the County will be terminated and replaced with a new easement granted by BNSF to the Council, which the Council will assign to the County.

Hennepin County and the Council will also enter into an Operations and Maintenance Agreement (OMA). Under the OMA, the Council's contractor will be responsible for maintaining the Glenwood Avenue Bridge until completion of the SWLRT Project. Thereafter, the County will be responsible for the maintenance and repair of the roadway bridges and the Council will be responsible for the maintenance and repair of the LRT bridge and intersecting elements. In addition, the Council will be responsible for any liability, maintenance and repair that would not have arisen but for LRT.

The proposed action would authorize negotiation and execution of all of the agreements and other legal documents necessary to implement the above-described arrangements.

Rationale

Entering into these agreements allows the Council to fulfill its obligations to construct the Project.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The Construction Agreement will allow implementation of the Green Line Extension that will increase the region's prosperity as it will provide access to

80,900 forecasted jobs and a new transportation option for 55,800 forecasted residents within ½ mile of the planned new stations in addition to the 145,300 forecasted jobs and 35,600 forecasted residents in downtown Minneapolis.

Funding

The activities are Project eligible costs and included in the project budget of \$2.003 billion.

Known Support / Opposition

Hennepin County has taken necessary actions to authorize negotiation and execution of these agreements.