

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 26, 2019

Subject: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension Master Utility Agreement Amendment with CenterPoint Energy)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to the CenterPoint Energy (CenterPoint) Master Utility Agreement (MUA) to add \$200,000 for a new total utility relocation reimbursement amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Metro Transit Transit System Development Assistant General Manager Jim Alexander presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Sterner. Motion carried, consent to Council.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: June 10, 2019

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 26, 2019

Subject: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Master Utility Agreement Amendment with CenterPoint Energy

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. 473.399

Staff Prepared/Presented: Wes Kooistra, General Manager, 651-349-1723
Jim Alexander, Project Director, 612-373-3880
Joan Hollick, Deputy Project director, 612-373-3820

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 amendment to the CenterPoint Energy (CenterPoint) Master Utility Agreement (MUA) to add \$200,000 for a new total utility relocation reimbursement amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.

Background

On March 23, 2017, the Council entered into an MUA with CenterPoint to address compensable utility conflicts with the Project. The MUA anticipated work would begin in 2017 and included an estimated not to exceed amount of \$800,000. Relocation costs increased for two reasons: (1) project schedule delayed utility relocation activities until 2019; and (2) the Council was able to gather further information from field work and CenterPoint that allowed the Council to better develop its utility relocation estimate. As a result, the cost estimate increased by \$200,000 to \$1,000,000 and staff is requesting an amendment to the MUA to increase the not to exceed amount.

Rationale

Executing the Master Utility Agreement provides a mechanism to reimburse CenterPoint Energy to relocate their facilities which is required by the Project.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Relocating utilities is necessary to implement 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 Master Utility Agreement is necessary to reimburse CenterPoint Energy for their design, engineering, and relocation costs. Reimbursement of warranted expenses is a Project eligible cost and included in the Council's authorized capital budget.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this action.