

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 22, 2020

Subject: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Master Utility Agreement with CenterPoint Energy – Amendment 2

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to the Master Utility Agreement (MUA) with CenterPoint Energy (CenterPoint) to add \$250,000 for reimbursement of costs, for a new total not to exceed amount of \$1,215,000, associated with relocation of utilities that conflict with the Southwest LRT Project (Project).

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

This item was approved as part of the consent list.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Sterner and carried to approve all consent items.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: July 13, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of July 22, 2020

Subject: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Master Utility Agreement with CenterPoint Energy – Amendment 2

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. 473.399

Staff Prepared/Presented: Wes Kooistra, General Manager, 612-349-7510
Jim Alexander, SWLRT Project Director, 612-373-3880
Joan Hollick, SWLRT Deputy Project Director, 612-373-3820

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

Proposed Action

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Background

On March 23, 2017, the Council entered into an MUA with CenterPoint to address compensable utility conflicts with the Project in the amount of \$800,000 for services and work that was anticipated to begin in 2017. Due to changes to the project schedule and additional impacts identified during the design phase the MUA was amended to add \$165,000 to the MUA, bringing the total amount of the MUA to \$965,000.

As relocation work has progressed, unforeseen impacts have resulted in the need to increase the MUA to \$1,215,000.

Rationale

Executing the MUA provides a mechanism to reimburse CenterPoint to relocate their facilities which is required to advance heavy construction on 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 MUA is necessary to reimburse CenterPoint for their design, engineering, and relocation costs. Reimbursement of these expenses is a Project eligible cost and included in the Project budget.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this action.