Transportation Committee
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of October 14, 2020

Subject: METRO D Line – City of Richfield Joint Powers Agreement

Proposed Action
That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Joint Powers Agreement 201058 with the City of Richfield for easements, permits, and right-of-way management authority needed for construction of the D Line project.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions
Metro Transit BRT Projects Assistant Director Katie Roth introduced Metro Transit BRT Project Manager Shahin Khazrajafari who presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council members.

Motion by Cummings, seconded by Chamblis. Motion carried, Consent to Council.
Subject: METRO D Line – City of Richfield Joint Powers Agreement

District(s), Member(s): District 2 (Chamblis); District 5 (Cummings); District 7 (Lilligren); District 8 (Muse)

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statutes 117.012 and 473.405

Staff Prepared/Presented: Wes Kooistra, General Manager, 612-349-7510
Charles Carlson, Director, BRT Projects, 612-349-7639
Katie Roth, Assistant Director, BRT Projects, 612-349-7772
Shahin Khazrajafari, Project Manager, D Line, 612-349-7764

Division/Department: Metro Transit / BRT Projects

Proposed Action
That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Joint Powers Agreement 201058 with the City of Richfield for easements, permits, and right-of-way management authority needed for construction of the D Line project.

Background
The D Line project involves construction of 40 BRT stations at 30 intersections along an 18-mile corridor from the Mall of America Transit Center through Portland Avenue, Chicago Avenue, and Emerson and Fremont Avenues, to the Brooklyn Center Transit Center. Since 2016, Metro Transit has coordinated D Line corridor planning and design with Hennepin County and the cities of Minneapolis, Richfield, and Bloomington.

Through this agreement, the City of Richfield will grant permits, access to easements, and rights-of-way owned or maintained by the City for D Line construction at no cost to the Council. The City will also exercise its right-of-way management powers necessary for the construction of the D Line, including but not limited to those powers pertaining to the relocation of utilities within City rights-of-way.

Rationale
Council policy requires that all Joint Powers Agreements be approved by the Council. A Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Richfield will make the necessary construction right-of-way interests available to award and advance the construction contract for the D Line project in a future Council action.

Thrive Lens Analysis
The D Line will upgrade and substantially replace Route 5, Metro Transit’s highest ridership bus route. Investment in high-quality transportation options in the Route 5 corridor will advance the thrive outcome of prosperity, by making the region more economically competitive through increased workers’ access to employment, and support to employers by increasing available workforce with affordable, convenient transportation.

The D Line project advances the equity outcome by investing in a transit corridor serving communities of color. Nearly three-quarters of Route 5 riders identify as
Black, Indigenous, or people of color. Investment in the D Line will provide riders with faster service and a more comfortable waiting and riding experience.

The proposed action advances the stewardship outcome by advancing D Line project delivery efficiently with regional partnership from Hennepin County, Minneapolis, Richfield, and Bloomington.

**Funding**
There are no funds exchanged through the execution of this agreement.

**Known Support / Opposition**
The Richfield City Council will consider this agreement at an upcoming meeting. There is no known opposition to the project.