

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of October 28, 2020

Subject: METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit – Subordinate Funding Agreement No. 05 with MnDOT

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (GBRT) Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 05 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for an amount not to exceed \$1,550,017.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Metro Transit BRT Projects Assistant Director Chris Beckwith presented this item. There were no questions or comments from Council Members.

Motion by Fredson, seconded by Chamblis. Motion carried, **consent** to Council.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: October 12, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of October 28, 2020

Subject: METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit – Subordinate Funding Agreement No. 05 with MnDOT

District(s), Member(s): District 11 (Vento), District 12 (Gonzalez), District 13 (Lee)

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statutes, Section 473.399

Staff Prepared/Presented: Wes Kooistra, General Manager, 612-349-7510
Charles Carlson, Director – BRT Projects, 612-349-7639
Chris Beckwith, Asst. Director – BRT Projects, 651-602-1994

Division/Department: Metro Transit BRT Projects – METRO Gold Line Project Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (GBRT) Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 05 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for an amount not to exceed \$1,550,017.

Background

This SFA will allow the Council to reimburse MnDOT for eligible professional services costs incurred during calendar year 2021 that are related to the GBRT Project.

The Metropolitan Council established a contractual framework with MnDOT at its August 23, 2017 meeting when it authorized the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Cooperative Agreement (CA) and a Master Funding Agreement (MFA) for the development the METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (GBRT) Project. Each SFA under the Master Funding Agreement provides a method for the transfer of funds and defines the specific purpose of the expenditures.

Rationale

Use of MnDOT staff is a cost-effective way to provide expertise in areas such as engineering and design, permitting, and right-of-way coordination. In 2021, MnDOT will assist the GBRT Project in design support, environmental oversight, utility coordination and right of way management activities.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The METRO Gold Line Project supports Thrive outcomes including livability, prosperity, and equity with its investment in high-quality transportation that will make the region more economically competitive by supporting major job creators and increasing workers' access to employment hubs. The Gold Line will distribute transit resources throughout the region, benefitting regional residents and increasing the quality of transit service available. The Gold Line will serve communities that are home to more than 20% of the seven-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area's zero-car households where approximately 36,000 adults in the corridor communities live without a vehicle.

Funding

Funding is fully available through a Capital Grant Agreement for 2020 and 2021 between the Council and the Gold Line Joint Powers Board, which consists of Washington County, Ramsey County, and Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority. All funding commitments are currently reflected in the Council's Authorized Capital Budget under Project #61402.

Known Support / Opposition

The Metropolitan Council and MnDOT have executed Cooperation and Master Funding Agreements, and both agencies are committed to working together to advance the GBRT Project. MnDOT has indicated its support of this agreement.