Subject: Orange Line Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority 2021 Capital Grant

Proposed Action
Authorize the Regional Administrator to apply for, negotiate, and execute capital grant agreement 21I013 providing $2,230,109 from the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority for the Orange Line BRT project.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions
Metro Transit BRT Projects Director Charles Carlson and Engineering and Construction Manager Derek Berube presented this item.

- Cummings expressed her excitement at seeing the transit system built out.
- Sterner asked about Safety Signs headquarter locations. Carlson said they are based in Lakeville, MN.
- Chamblis asked about I-35W & Lake Street Station staffing. Carlson said there are not plans for a continuous station attendant but plans are in development for the station’s maintenance and security.

Motion by Sterner, seconded by Cummings. Motion carried.
**Transportation Committee**  
Meeting date: March 8, 2021  
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 24, 2021

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<th><strong>Subject:</strong> Orange Line Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority 2021 Capital Grant</th>
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<td><strong>District(s), Member(s):</strong> Districts- 5 (Cummings), 7 (Lilligren), 8 (Muse), 15 (Sterner)</td>
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<td><strong>Policy/Legal Reference:</strong> Council Policy FM 15-1</td>
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| **Staff Prepared/Presented:** Wes Kooistra, General Manager (612-349-7510)  
Charles Carlson, Director BRT Projects (612-349-7639) |  |
| **Division/Department:** Metro Transit Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Projects |  |

**Proposed Action**  
Authorize the Regional Administrator to apply for, negotiate, and execute capital grant agreement 21I013 providing $2,230,109 from the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority for the Orange Line BRT project.

**Background**  
The Orange Line is a 17-mile BRT corridor from downtown Minneapolis to Burnsville. The project is fully funded and will complete construction in 2021. In addition to state sources and a $74 million federal grant, county funding commitments to the project are disbursed through annual capital grant agreements with the Council. The proposed action will authorize application for and execution of a grant of funds from the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority (DCRRA) for expected Orange Line capital costs in 2021.

**Rationale**  
Council Income/Grants policy requires approval for income/grants over $500,000.

**Thrive Lens Analysis**  
METRO Orange Line supports Thrive outcomes including livability, prosperity, and equity by providing new access to economic and personal opportunity through the I-35W south corridor. The project advances racial equity by providing new access to opportunity to BIPOC residents in the I-35W corridor. The proposed action provides project partner financial resources to execute this work; contracts utilizing these funds have set goals and received commitments for disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) participation as applicable.

**Funding**  
The proposed agreement will provide capital funding for the Orange Line, project 62405. These funds are included in the Council’s Authorized Capital Program and available upon agreement execution.

**Known Support / Opposition**  
No known opposition. DCRRA is anticipated to approve and execute the agreement in March 2021.