

# Committee Report

Transportation Committee



**Committee Meeting Date:** October 9, 2023

**For the Metropolitan Council:** October 25, 2023

## Business Item: 2023-232

METRO E Line – Statement of Work 201066B under Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County Fiber Infrastructure Master Agreement 201066

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Statement of Work 201066B, an Income Agreement in an amount exceeding \$500,000, with Hennepin County for Hennepin County financial participation in the construction of the fiber optic communication infrastructure along the METRO E Line corridor.

### Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

This item was on the Consent list.

Motion by Morales, seconded by Carter, Tyrone. Motion carried to approve all Consent items.



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| <b>District(s), Member(s):</b>   | District 5 (Pacheco Jr.), District 6 (Lilligren), District 7 (Osman)   |
| <b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>   | MN Statutes § 473.405; Council Policy FM 14-2 Procurement Policy; FM 15-1 Income/Grants  |
| <b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b> | Lesley Kandaras, General Manager, 612-349-7513<br>Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager, 612-349-7507<br>Katie Roth, Director, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7772<br>Adam Smith, Manager, BRT Projects, 612-349-7160 |
| <b>Division/Department:</b>      | Metro Transit / Arterial BRT   |

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Statement of Work 201066B, an Income Agreement in an amount exceeding \$500,000, with Hennepin County for Hennepin County financial participation in the construction of the fiber optic communication infrastructure along the METRO E Line corridor.

### Background

This Statement of Work addresses the parties' responsibilities and Hennepin County's financial contribution, estimated at \$1,970,000, for design and construction of the fiber optic communication network infrastructure along the E Line corridor within Hennepin County.

In addition to construction of bus rapid transit (BRT) stations and other transportation improvements, the E Line project involves construction of fiber optic communication infrastructure along the 13-mile corridor from the University of Minnesota to Southdale Transit Center. This fiber optic network supports the technology at BRT stations behind fare collection, security cameras, real-time transit information and other features that contribute to a high-quality customer experience on BRT lines.

Since 2018, Metro Transit has coordinated E Line corridor planning and design with Hennepin County, Ramsey County and the cities of Minneapolis, Edina, and Saint Paul. Hennepin County has identified a need to grow its county-wide fiber optic network through investment in shared infrastructure implemented through the E Line project.

The Council executed Master Agreement 201066 with Hennepin County in 2021 to facilitate collaborative fiber optic infrastructure projects with Hennepin County. Work performed under this Master Agreement is recognized through a statement of work with terms and conditions outlining the scope of the project and the parties' responsibilities. The Council will lead the construction of the fiber optic communication infrastructure. It is anticipated that Hennepin County will own the

completed network within Hennepin County and lease bandwidth back to the Council at no cost.

### **Rationale**

Council Policy requires that income contracts valued at greater than \$500,000 be approved by the Council.

### **Thrive Lens Analysis**

The E Line will upgrade Route 6, one of Metro Transit's highest ridership bus routes. Investment in high-quality transit options in the Route 6 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 E Line project advances the Thrive outcome of Equity by improving transit access for communities of color and for workers at low wage jobs. Investment in the E Line will provide riders with faster service and a more comfortable waiting and riding experience.

The proposed action also advances the Thrive outcome of Stewardship by planning for E Line corridor improvements efficiently with regional partnership from Hennepin County.

### **Funding**

The proposed action will authorize execution of Statement of Work 20I066B to make funds in the amount of approximately \$1,970,000 available from Hennepin County for financial participation in the E Line's fiber optic communication infrastructure. The County's funding is separate from the E Line project, and budget authorization is not required.

### **Small Business Inclusion**

There is no contracting related to this action so no Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal was set. The construction work associated with this action will be delivered as part of a future Council contract and the Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity will review that project for a DBE goal.

