

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: October 23, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: November 8, 2023

Business Item: 2023-199

METRO Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project Subordinate Funding Agreement No.9 (Contract #1410441) with MnDOT for Staffing

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council ("Council") authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement #9 (Contract #1410441) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation ("MnDOT") in an amount not to exceed \$1,522,589.

Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

This item was on the Consent list.

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Carter, Tyronne. Motion carried to approve all Consent items.



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METRO Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project Subordinate Funding Agreement No.9 (Contract #14I044I) with MnDOT for 2024 Staffing

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM 14-2 Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Lesley Kandaras, General Manager, 612-349-7513 Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager, 612-349-7507 Chris Beckwith, Blue Line Extension Project Director, 612-602-1994
Division/Department:	Metro Transit / METRO Blue Line Extension Project Office (BPO)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement #9 (Contract #14I044I) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (“MnDOT”) in an amount not to exceed \$1,522,589.

Background

In 2015, the Council entered into a Master Funding Agreement (“MFA”) with MnDOT for the development of the METRO Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project (“the Project”). Each Subordinate Funding Agreement (“SFA”) under the MFA provides a method for the transfer of funds and defines the specific purpose of the expenditures.

This SFA will allow the Council to reimburse MnDOT for eligible professional services costs incurred during calendar year 2024 that are related to the Project. In 2024, MnDOT will assist the Project in design support, environmental oversight, utility coordination, and right-of-way management activities.

Rationale

Use of MnDOT staff is a cost-effective way to provide expertise in areas such as engineering and design, construction oversight, permitting, and right-of-way coordination.

Council Policy requires Interagency Agreements valued at greater than \$500,000 be approved by the Council.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Investment in high-quality transportation options 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 Project advances the Equity outcome by distributing transit resources throughout the region and improving access to jobs, educational opportunities, and health services to diverse communities.

Advancing the BLRT Project addresses the Livability outcome by increasing access to transit connections to the greater METRO system, including current and planned light rail and bus rapid transit lines, for communities in the region.

By laying the foundation for a productive partnership between agencies, this agreement with MnDOT will increase the Council's ability to carry out its principle of working collaboratively.

Funding

Funding for this SFA is fully provided through the Capital Grant Agreement No. 221038 with Hennepin County and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority. Costs associated with this SFA are incorporated into the Council's Authorized Capital Budget under Project 61403.

Small Business Inclusion

There are no direct impacts to small business associated with this action.

