

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: October 28, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: November 13, 2024

Business Item: 2024-250

METRO Green Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project Subordinate Funding Agreement No.18 (#12I021R) with MnDOT for 2025 Staffing

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement No.18 (#12I021R) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (“MnDOT”) in an amount not to exceed \$505,000.

Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

Consent business adopted.

Motion by Chamblis, seconded by Morales. Motion carried.



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District(s), Member(s):	District 3 (Carter), District 6 (Lilligren), District 7 (Osman), District 8 (Cameron)
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM 14-2 Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy; Minn. Stat. § 473.3999
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Lesley Kandaras, General Manager, 612-349-7513 Nick Thompson, Interim Executive Director, 612-349-7507 Jim Alexander, Green Line Extension Project Director, 612-373-3880
Division/Department:	Metro Transit / METRO Green Line Extension Project Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement No.18 (#12I021R) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (“MnDOT”) in an amount not to exceed \$505,000.

Background

In 2015, the Council entered into a Master Funding Agreement (“MFA”) with MnDOT for the development of the METRO Green 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 2025 that are related to the Project. In 2025, MnDOT will assist the Project in design support, construction support, environmental oversight, utility coordination, and right-of-way management activities.

Use of MnDOT staff is a cost-effective way to provide expertise in areas such as engineering and design, and other professional services.

Rationale

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

Thrive Lens Analysis

Successful completion of the METRO Green Line Extension will advance the following Thrive MSP 2040 outcomes:

Stewardship: Transit investment provides an opportunity to reinvest and grow the capacity of our communities, with more inclusive development and intentional investment. It encourages businesses to invest in communities, which means access to resources, community amenities, jobs, and other community assets.

Equity: Connections to other METRO lines and countless local bus routes will bring people to jobs, jobs to communities, and returns to communities across the region.

Livability: The METRO Green Line Extension will add 14.5 miles to the existing Line, which connects downtown Minneapolis, downtown Saint Paul, and places in-between. This segment connects Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, Hopkins, and St. Louis Park to both downtown Minneapolis and Saint Paul, and major destinations at the University of Minnesota and the State Capitol.

Prosperity: The METRO Green Line Extension reflects strategic investment in regional infrastructure that will promote economic competitiveness and create prosperity for the region. Despite being under construction, the METRO Green Line Extension has already seen \$2.8 billion of investment within a half-mile of the line. Another \$780 million in investment is planned.

Sustainability: As many as 700,000 more people will be living, working, and moving around the Twin Cities region by 2040. As a result, a robust transportation system is needed to provide the region with choices and more mobility.

Funding

The cost for this SFA is a METRO Green Line Extension Project (61001) eligible cost. Funds are available in the Project budget and included in the Council's authorized capital budget.

Small Business Inclusion

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

