

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: October 28, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: November 13, 2024

Business Item: 2024-252

METRO Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Subordinate Funding Agreement No.4 (#211147D) with MnDOT for 2025 Staffing Support

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement No.4 (#211147D) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (“MnDOT”) in an amount not to exceed \$950,000 contingent upon the execution of the Second Amendment to the Capital Grant Agreement for the Project Development Phase of the Metro Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Project (“Second Amendment”) by the Council, Ramsey County (“County”), and the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (“RCRRA”).

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 10 (Lindstrom), District 11 (Cederberg), District 13 (Lee), District 14 (Carter)
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 Craig Lamothe, Purple Line Project Manager, 612-602-1978 Mike Ullmer, Agreements Specialist, 651-602-1957
Division/Department:	Metro Transit – METRO Projects / Guideway BRT – METRO Purple Line

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement No.4 (#211147D) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (“MnDOT”) in an amount not to exceed \$950,000 contingent upon the execution of the Second Amendment to the Capital Grant Agreement for the Project Development Phase of the Metro Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Project (“Second Amendment”) by the Council, Ramsey County (“County”), and the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (“RCRRA”).

Background

In 2021, the Council entered into a Master Funding Agreement (“MFA”) with MnDOT for the development of the METRO Purple Line Bus Rapid Transit Project (“Purple Line 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 and expenses incurred during calendar year 2025 that are related to the Purple Line Project. In 2025 MnDOT will be supporting preliminary design review, layout reviews, structural reviews, gathering preliminary right of way information, and overseeing the design and engineering process.

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.

Rationale

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 Purple Line 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.

Funding

Funding for this SFA is fully provided through an executed Capital Grant Agreement ("CGA") with the County and RCRRA and incorporated into the Council's Authorized Capital Budget under Project #61109. The Council, County, and RCRRA are currently negotiating the Second Amendment, identified in the Proposed Action above, which will allow expenditure of Purple Line Project funds after the Purple Line Project withdraws from the Federal Transit Administration ("FTA") Capital Improvement Grant ("CIG") Program. This SFA with MnDOT will be executed following execution of the Second Amendment, currently scheduled for early December 2024.

Small Business Inclusion

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

