

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: November 25, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: December 11, 2024

Business Item: 2024-247

METRO Blue Line Extension Subordinate Funding Agreement No. 3 (#211032C) with Hennepin County Staffing Services for 2025

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement No. 3 (#211032C) with Hennepin County for the METRO Blue Line Extension Project (“the Project”), in an amount not to exceed \$1,270,142.

Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

Metro Transit Deputy General Manager - Capital Programs Nick Thompson presented this item.

Motion by Morales, seconded by Chamblis. Motion carried.



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District(s), Member(s):	District 2 (Chamblis), 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, Deputy General Manager, 612-349-7507 Annie Xiong, Blue Line Ext. Agreements Lead, 651-602-1996
Division/Department:	Metro Transit – Blue Line Extension Project Office (BPO)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement No. 3 (#211032C) with Hennepin County for the METRO Blue Line Extension Project (“the Project”), in an amount not to exceed \$1,270,142.

Background

The Council and Hennepin County entered into a Master Funding Agreement (MFA) effective January 1, 2022. The MFA provides the framework for transferring funds between the Council and Hennepin County to reimburse professional and engineering services related to the Project. It also authorizes the Council to enter into future subordinate funding agreements (SFAs), detailing the scope of work, funding, and timelines for fund transfers.

SFA No. 2 with Hennepin County Staffing Services for calendar year 2024 was executed on February 21, 2024, with a termination date of December 31, 2024. SFA No. 3 will extend the termination date to December 31, 2025, and allocate additional funding to allow the Council to continue reimbursing Hennepin County for staff support services related to the Project activities.

Use of Hennepin County 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

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 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 Hennepin County 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 #221038 with Hennepin County and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority and has been authorized by the Council in Project 61403.

Small Business Inclusion

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

