

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: December 9, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: December 11, 2024

Business Item: 2024-317 SW

METRO G Line – Cooperative Construction Agreement (24I001) with Ramsey County for Rice Street Visioning and Reconstruction Project

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Agreement 24I001 with Ramsey County for the County's construction of METRO G Line BRT station platforms in conjunction with the County's Rice Street Visioning and Reconstruction Project in an amount not to exceed \$1,800,000.

Summary of Transportation Committee Discussion/Questions

Metro Transit Manager of BRT Projects Adam Smith and Arterial BRT Agreements Lead Reed Sherlock presented this item. Vento asked about the impact on community members. Adam Smith responded with an explanation of the engagement efforts led by Ramsey County as the roadway authority implementing this project and how Metro Transit has supported these efforts.

Motion by Morales, seconded by Carter, Tyronne. Motion carried, consent to Council



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District(s), Member(s): District 14 (Carter)

Policy/Legal Reference: FM 14-2 – Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy

Staff Prepared/Presented: Lesley Kandaras, General Manager, 612-349-7513
Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager, 612-349-7507
Katie Roth, Director, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7772
Adam Smith, Manager, BRT Projects, 612-349-7160
Reed Sherlock, Agreements Lead, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7455

Division/Department: Metro Transit / Arterial BRT

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Agreement 24I001 (“Agreement”) with Ramsey County (“County”) for the County’s construction of METRO G Line BRT station platforms in conjunction with the County’s Rice Street Visioning and Reconstruction Project in an amount not to exceed \$1,800,000.

Background

The G Line is a planned arterial BRT line that will operate on an 11.5-mile corridor primarily along Rice Street and Robert Street. The construction of G Line stations at Rice & Arlington, Rice & Maryland, Rice & Cook, Rice & Front, and Rice & Atwater coincides with the County’s roadway improvement project along Rice Street between Wheelock Parkway and Pennsylvania Avenue in the City of St. Paul, also known as the Rice Street Visioning & Reconstruction Project. The Council and the County have coordinated for the foundation and subgrade construction of the G Line platforms to be completed in conjunction with the County’s Rice Street Project.

Across a multi-year collaborative planning and design process, Council and County staff have determined that including G Line construction elements in a single construction contract to be held by the County is most advantageous to both agencies and the public. Through this Agreement, the Council will contribute funds to the County’s construction contract for ten G Line station platforms at five intersections along Rice Street.

Rationale

Council policy requires that interagency agreements valued at greater than \$500,000 be approved by the Council.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The G Line will enhance transit in the Rice Street / Robert Street corridor, currently served by Route 62 and Route 68. Investment in high-quality transit options in the G Line 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 G Line project advances the Thrive outcome of Equity by improving transit access for people with low incomes and communities of color. About 70 percent of Route 62 and Route 68 customers live in households with lower than average incomes, and over half of Route 62 and Route 68 customers are people of color. Investment in the G Line will provide riders with faster and more reliable service and a more comfortable waiting and riding experience.

The proposed action also advances the Thrive outcome of Stewardship by planning for G Line corridor improvements efficiently with the County.

Funding

The proposed action will authorize payment to Ramsey County in the amount not to exceed \$1,800,000 for construction of G Line stations on Rice Street. Funding for this agreement is available within the Council's authorized capital program in project 61225 (G Line).

Small Business Inclusion

Ramsey County will award contract(s) following procedures for federally funded projects.

