

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee meeting date: October 13, 2025

For the Metropolitan Council: October 22, 2025

Business Item: 2025-246

METRO G Line – Real Estate Acquisition and Condemnation, Resolution 2025-23

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council pass Resolution 2025-23 declaring the METRO G Line Project as a public purpose, authorizing acquisition of all real estate interests necessary for the Project, and authorizing staff to initiate condemnation proceedings on behalf of the Council for parcels that cannot be acquired by negotiation.

Summary of Transportation Committee discussion/questions

Metro Transit BRT Projects Manager Adam Smith presented this item. Council members discussed easements, including the estimated quantity and complexity. Carter, Tyronne stated his appreciation for the engagement efforts associated with the preliminary design phase of the project.

Motion by Carter, Toni; seconded by Osman. Motion carried.

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District(s), Member(s):	District 10 (Lindstrom), District 13 (Lee), District 14 (Carter), District 15 (Obisakin)
Policy/Legal Reference:	MN Statutes 117.012 and 473.405; FM 14-2 – Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate and FM 9-1 – Real Estate 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
Division/Department:	Metro Transit / Arterial BRT

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council pass Resolution 2025-23 declaring the METRO G Line Project as a public purpose, authorizing acquisition of all real estate interests necessary for the Project, and authorizing staff to initiate condemnation proceedings on behalf of the Council for parcels that cannot be acquired by negotiation.

Background

Metro Transit will lead construction of the METRO G Line project. The Council's Real Estate Office will lead acquisition efforts for Metro Transit-led construction.

The project and associated locally funded improvements require the acquisition of approximately 25-30 temporary and 15-20 permanent easements from parcels along the METRO G Line corridor. There are no anticipated fee acquisitions or relocations associated with the project.

All reasonable efforts will be made to acquire property through direct purchase; however, in some circumstances it may be necessary to use condemnation under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 117 to acquire property. Minnesota Statutes Section 117.12 requires that there be a public purpose for the use of condemnation. The attached resolution formally declares that the METRO G Line Project is a public purpose for the use of condemnation.

Rationale

Temporary and permanent easement acquisitions are necessary to implement the planned METRO G Line Project. This action resolves that the Project is a valid public purpose under Minnesota Statutes Sections 117.012 and 473.405.

Thrive Lens Analysis

On Feb. 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Under the Thrive lens, investment in high-quality transit options in the Rice Street / Robert Street G Line corridor currently served by Route 62 and Route 68 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.

Funding

Funding for right-of-way acquisition is available in the authorized Metro Transit capital program in Project 61225 (G Line).

Small Business Inclusion

There is no contracting, and therefore no small business inclusion, associated with this action.

