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Transportation Committee

Meeting date: February 13, 2012

Metropolitan Council Meeting: February 22, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: February 2, 2012
Subject: Southwest Light Rail Transit Project (Green Line Extension): Cooperative Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation
District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statutes 473.3999 and 473.405
Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager 612-349-7510
Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager, 651-602-1942
Chris Weyer, SWLRT Project Director 651-602-1932
Division/Department: Metro Transit/ Southwest Project Office (SPO)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Cooperation Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Project.

Background

Minnesota law requires that for each proposed light rail transit facility in the metropolitan area, the Governor designate either the Metropolitan Council or the State of Minnesota, acting through the Commissioner of Transportation as the entity responsible for planning, designing, acquiring, constructing, and equipping the facility (Minn. Stat. 2011 §473.3944, subd. 1).

In January, 2012, the Governor designated the Metropolitan Council as the entity responsible for planning, designing, acquiring, constructing, and equipping the SWLRT Project. The Governor further asks the Council and MnDOT to enter into a Cooperation Agreement to support delivery of the project.

To date, MnDOT and the Metropolitan Council have been involved in planning and development of the SWLRT Project. Both parties wish to work cooperatively on the SWLRT Project with MnDOT specifically supporting right of way acquisition, utility relocation, environmental management and compliance, as well as providing other engineering and technical support. The distribution of roles and responsibilities is similar to those designated for the Central Corridor LRT Project.

Rationale

This Cooperation Agreement will establish the roles and responsibilities of the parties for the purpose of designing and constructing the SWLRT Project. Cooperation agreements require Metropolitan Council authorization.

Funding

This cooperation agreement does not require funding. The parties will enter into subsequent funding agreements as the SWLRT Project progresses.

Known Support / Opposition

MnDOT supports this cooperative agreement. No known opposition.