

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: May 13, 2013

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 22, 2013

Subject: The Interchange – Authorization to Negotiate and Execute a Grant Agreement

District(s), Member(s): District 7, Gary L. Cunningham

Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Statutes, section 473.4057

Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510
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Division/Department: Metro Transit/Engineering & Facilities

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Subrecipient Grant Agreement (SGA) with Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority (HCRRA) in the amount of \$1,956,484 for the development of The Interchange project.

Background

The Interchange, located adjacent to the Target Field Station, is going to be an intermodal, vehicle and passenger terminal facility accommodating existing light rail and commuter rail as well as future light rail, commuter rail, high speed intercity rail and charter and public bus. An additional light rail transit (LRT) platform and public plaza for pedestrians and transit customer queuing are key features of the proposed project as well as LRT storage tracks supporting multiple lines for post-event staging. The success of Target Field and the existing Target Field Station is a key reason for the need of this new intermodal facility.

Earlier this year, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) re-allocated \$28,000,000 in unspent federal transportation funds from the Surface Transportation Program (STP), Construction Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Transportation Enhancements (TE) programs from fiscal year 2013. FHWA transferred \$1,956,484.00 to the FTA to use for the construction of the Interchange.

A SGA is required with HCRRA to apply this funding to the Interchange project.

Rationale

This action will allow the Council to execute an agreement for a total of \$1.9 million dollars with HCRRA for funding of the Interchange project. The total cost of the Interchange project remains \$77.0 million.

Funding

The project is to be funded through financial contributions from HCRRA, USDOT (TIGER III), the State of Minnesota (State G.O. Bonds), the FTA, the Council, the Minnesota Ballpark Authority, City of Minneapolis, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization and additional funding opportunities sought by HCRRA.

Known Support / Opposition

Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority supports the execution of this grant.