

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: April 28, 2014

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 14, 2014

**Subject:** Southwest Light Rail (Green Line Extension) – Authorize negotiation and execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with SouthWest Transit on Cohabitation of Bus and Rail Service at SouthWest Station

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** MN Statutes, Section 473.399

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510  
Mark W. Fuhrmann, Deputy Gen Manager, 651-602-1942  
Chris Weyer, SWLRT Project Director, 612-373-3820  
Nani Jacobson, SWLRT Asst. Dir. Envir & Agreements, 612-373-3808

**Division/Department:** Metro Transit / Southwest LRT Project Office (SPO)

### Proposed Action

The Metropolitan Council (Council) authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SouthWest Transit (SWT) regarding the cohabitation of the SWT's bus service and the Council's rail service –at the SouthWest Station.

### Background

SWT is a suburban transit agency, operated under a joint powers agreement by the Cities of Eden Prairie, Chaska, and Chanhassen to provide public transit services to their communities. SWT provides fixed route express, reverse commute, and local fixed route services. Additionally, SWT operates seven park and ride facilities.

The Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) as recommended by the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority on November 3, 2009 and adopted by the Council on May 26, 2010 is supported by the City of Eden Prairie, a member of the SouthWest Transit Commission. The Council working closely with entities along the alignment, including the SouthWest Transit, City of Eden Prairie, and Hennepin County, continue to advance the design of the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Project between Downtown Minneapolis and Eden Prairie, Minnesota. On April 9, 2014, the Council approved the SWLRT Project scope, which included a LRT station and a structured parking expansion for LRT at SouthWest Station, and budget of \$1.683 billion.

The Council in collaboration with SWT has developed a preferred design layout (Exhibit 1) that accommodates the needs of bus and rail service at SouthWest Station. Additional discussions are continuing on other matters including passenger safety, traffic management, marketing, signage, and operations & maintenance.

### Rationale

An MOU is desired by both Parties to establish goals, flesh out areas of interaction among the separate transit systems, and identify possible future agreements. The MOU is also an understanding that the Parties are committed to collaboratively identifying and strategizing on solutions to solve complex ownership, operation, and maintenance issues anticipated to arise with the design, development and operation of the Project.

**Funding**

This MOU does not require funding.

**Known Support / Opposition**

SWT is anticipated to consider approval of the MOU at the May 22, 2014 SWT Commission meeting.