

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 Term Sheet with the City of Hopkins, Minnesota

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statutes, Section 473.399

Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510
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Division/Department: Metro Transit / Southwest LRT Project Office (SPO)

Proposed Action

The Metropolitan Council (Council) authorizes the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Term Sheet with the City of Hopkins, Minnesota (City) on matters pertaining to the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) and associated activities near the three anticipated Light Rail Transit (LRT) stations also located in the City.

Background

The Council and City are involved in activities focused on developing the Southwest LRT line between Downtown Minneapolis and Eden Prairie, Minnesota. The City has expressed support through Resolution 2006-088 adopted December 5, 2006 and Resolution 2010-002 adopted January 5, 2010 for the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) as recommended by the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) on November 3, 2009 adopted by the Council on May 26, 2010.

On September 11, 2013, the SWLRT Corridor Management Committee (CMC) voted to recommend Site 9A within the City as the preferred location for the SWLRT's OMF subject to the Council working with the City to analyze the benefits and burdens of SWLRT upon the City with particular focus on existing and future tax base impacts, employment (businesses and jobs), and redevelopment opportunities. On April 9, 2014, the Council approved the SWLRT Project scope, which included Site 9A as the location of the OMF, and a budget of \$1.683 billion.

Rationale

Staff is collaboratively engaged in discussions with the City to develop a Term Sheet identifying a framework of understandings and positions the Council will be asked to endorse as a result of an analysis of the burdens and benefits of locating an OMF and three LRT stations in the City.

Funding

This Term Sheet does not require funding. The parties will enter into subsequent agreements as the SWLRT Project advances.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.