

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: December 8, 2014

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 10, 2014

Subject: Southwest Light Rail (Green Line Extension) – Authorize negotiation and execution of a Cohabitation Agreement with SouthWest Transit on co-locating 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
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Division/Department: Metro Transit / Green Line Extension Project Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Cohabitation Agreement with SouthWest Transit (SWT) regarding the cohabitation of SWT's bus services and the Council's proposed light rail transit service at SouthWest Station located in Eden Prairie.

Background

On May 14, 2014 the Council approved Business Item No. 2014-90 authorizing the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SWT. As staff from the Council and SWT proceeded with negotiations, the MOU was reformatted to a Cohabitation Agreement. This proposed action authorizes the Regional Administrator to proceed with negotiations and execute the modified agreement.

Rationale

While the MOU was anticipated to capture the Council's and SWT's intentions to solve issues anticipated with the proposed SWLRT Project, the collaborative discussions with SWT progressed to identify shared understandings, specific goals and objectives, and general terms addressing various stages of the SWLRT Project's proposed development in coordination with continuing SWT operations. Entering into a Cohabitation Agreement that identifies items for continued coordination during the Project Development, Engineering, and construction phases memorializes the Council's and SWT's commitment to work cooperatively to achieve successful delivery of the SWLRT Project in Eden Prairie and at the SouthWest Station.

Funding

This Cohabitation Agreement does not require funding. The Council and SWT anticipate entering into subsequent agreements as the SWLRT Project advances.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.