

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: March 10, 2014

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 26, 2014

Subject: Interagency Agreement with DCRRA relating to the Red Line Cedar Grove Transit Station

District(s), Member(s): District 5-Steve Elkins, District 15-Steven T. Chávez, District 16-Wendy Wulff

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statutes 473.405 and 471.59

Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager, (612) 349-7510

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Division/Department: Metro Transit / Engineering and Facilities

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an interagency agreement with the Dakota County Regional Rail Authority (DCRRA) providing funding for the Red Line Cedar Grove Transit Station.

Background

On January 10, 2012, the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority (Authority) authorized an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT) to develop concepts to improve access to the Cedar Grove Transit Station, a stop on the METRO Red Line (Resolution No. 12-005). Unlike other stations on this route, Cedar Grove does not have direct access to Trunk Highway (TH) 77. Transit vehicles must exit the freeway and travel a significant distance to the existing station, causing a considerable increase in travel times. Improving access will reduce travel times, which is important for the continued success of the METRO Red Line. The DCRRA took action to adopt the METRO Red Line Cedar Grove Transit Station Access Improvement Concept G at its January 7, 2014 meeting. On February 12, 2014, the Council adopted Concept "G" (Business Item 2014-31), which is a center median station with an enclosed walkway connecting to the existing Cedar Grove Transit Station. In those actions, Dakota County staff and Metropolitan Council staff also recommend that Metro Transit serve as the lead agency for the station design and construction. This action was supported by the project's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and recommended by the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC). These committees involved participating agencies in project recommendations.

Concept G provides the best overall travel time improvement, reducing the METRO Red Line round trip travel time by 4.3 minutes (15.4%) in the northbound direction and 5.9 minutes (24.6%) in the southbound direction. The new station will reduce annual Red Line O&M costs by an estimated \$223,000 for CTIB/Council and annual MVTA operation costs by an

estimated \$30,000. This concept is aligned with the 2030 Transportation Policy Plan.

The next phase of the Cedar Grove Transit Station project includes preliminary engineering, environmental documentation and final design of Concept "G." This agreement will provide \$1,500,000 for the design phase and associated project costs.

Rationale

Council action is required on agreements over \$1,000,000.

Funding

The agreement will provide \$1,500,000 of DCRRA, CTIB, and State Bond funds to the Council for preliminary engineering, environmental documentation and final design. These funds will be included a future capital budget amendment. The anticipated total project budget is \$13 million.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition. The PAC had representation from MnDOT, Metropolitan Council, DCRRA, Hennepin County, Bloomington, Eagan, Apple Valley, and MVTA.