

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: April 13, 2015

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of April 22, 2015

**Subject:** Authorization to enter into a Construction and Transit Operations and Maintenance Interface Agreement with the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority and the Minnesota Vikings.

**District(s), Member(s):** District 7 - Gary Cunningham

**Policy/Legal Reference:** Minnesota Statutes 473.129 and 471.59

**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 authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into a Construction and Transit Operations and Maintenance Interface Agreement with the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority and the Minnesota Vikings related to the Downtown East Light Rail Station area, surrounding block and proposed pedestrian bridge.

### Background

Metro Transit is working with the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority (MSFA), City of Minneapolis, Minnesota Vikings, and other stakeholders regarding improvements to the Downtown East Plaza and Stadium area. These improvements provide safe post-event pedestrian movements and light rail service at stadium events for up to 40% of game day attendees (approximately 50,000 rides). One item of significant concern is the ability to move pedestrians safely across the LRT tracks to their destinations. The number and frequency of trains that move through the Downtown East station create operational and safety challenges. Metro Transit is working with the stakeholders to design a pedestrian bridge to alleviate these concerns.

The existing Downtown East LRT station is located within an easement on MSFA property. In addition to the station, the surrounding MSFA property is required for queuing, access, bridge construction, etc. to ensure transit operations can meet the anticipated 40% ridership goal.

Council staff are negotiating an agreement with the MSFA and the Minnesota Vikings that defines responsibilities for operations and maintenance in the areas required for transit use. Some of the key considerations of the agreement are:

- Provides for use of MSFA property for queuing areas, platform access, and pedestrian bridge to accommodate transit needs.
- Provides for \$300,000 in annual promotional support from Vikings and the MSFA in exchange for LRT station naming rights and certain restrictions on station advertising
  - \$250,000 from Vikings
  - \$50,000 from MSFA

- All construction, operation and maintenance costs of the pedestrian bridge are the responsibility of Met Council. The construction contract will be a future Council business item.
  - Construction cost estimated at \$5.5M - \$6M

The agreement defines the rights and obligations of all parties with respect to the installation, ownership, operations, maintenance and shared use of the Downtown East plaza areas required for transit purposes.

### **Rationale**

Authorization to negotiate and execute this agreement requires Council Approval.

### **Funding**

All construction, operation and maintenance costs of the pedestrian bridge are the responsibility of Met Council. Capital costs are available in project 62322. Operating costs are to be included in future operating budgets.

### **Known Support / Opposition**

None