

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: August 8, 2016

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of August 24, 2016

Subject: Authorization for Execution of the Blue Line LRT Extension Project's Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement	
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	16 U.S.C Section 470(f)
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager, 612-373-3810 Dan Soler, Project Director, 612-373-5371 MarySue Abel, Deputy Project Director, 612-373-5376 Kathryn O'Brien, Asst. Director, Environment/Agreements, 612-373-5377
Division/Department:	Metro Transit / Blue Line Extension Project Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute the Blue Line Extension Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), developed jointly between the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Minnesota Historic Preservation Office (MnHPO), and the Council pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended.

Background

As an outcome of the consultation process conducted in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the FTA determined that the Blue Line Extension Project will have an adverse effect on six historic properties. The MOA sets forth commitments to mitigate these effects, including design review as engineering proceeds, as well as development of treatment, interpretation, and other actions. The MOA was developed jointly with FTA, MnHPO, the Council, and MnDOT's Cultural Resources Unit, all of whom are signatories of the MOA. A draft of the MOA is included in the Blue Line Extension's Final Environmental Impact Statement published in July 2016. Upon completion of the Final EIS public comment period the MOA will be routed for execution to all signatories and consulting parties. A final, executed version of the MOA will be included in the project's Record of Decision.

Rationale

Developing and executing a Section 106 MOA is a statutory requirement as part of implementing the Blue Line Extension Project pursuant to federal regulations at 36 CFR Part 800, implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. Section 470f), as amended.

Funding

There are no funding considerations associated with this action. Any funding required to implement the stipulations of the MOA have been identified and are included in the overall cost estimate for the Blue Line Extension Project.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this action.