

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: February 22, 2016

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 9, 2016

Subject: Interagency Agreement with HCRRA to fund METRO Orange Line Project Development

District(s), Member(s): District 5 – Steve Elkins, District 7 – Gary Cunningham, District 8 – Cara Letofsky, District 15 – Steven Chavez

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 BRT/Small Starts

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Interagency Agreement 16I013 with Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) to fund METRO Orange Line Project Development activities.

Background

The METRO Orange Line is a 17-mile highway BRT project along I-35W connecting the cities of Minneapolis, Richfield, Bloomington and Burnsville, with a future extension to Lakeville. The project is expected to be funded with Federal (50 percent), Counties Transit Improvement Board (30 percent), state (10 percent), and local (10 percent) funds. The project's ten percent local share will be provided by HCRRA and the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority (DCRRA).

On July 21, 2015, HCRRA unanimously approved a funding commitment for the project of \$12.78 million, including \$2.66 million planned to support 2016 project activities in the proposed agreement. Funds will be used for project property acquisition and related professional services. HCRRA funding will be matched by state, Metropolitan Council, Counties Transit Improvement Board, and DCRRA funds.

Rationale

Council Policy requires interagency agreements valued at greater than \$1,000,000 be approved by the Council.

Funding

The proposed action will authorize an agreement to bring local funding into project 62405, METRO Orange Line. Approval to authorize these funds will be included in the Metropolitan Council's 2016 Carryforward Budget Amendment, Business Item 2016-36.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this project.