

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: November 14, 2016

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of November 30, 2016

**Subject:** Blue Line Extension LRT Project - Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 3 to the Master Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for Staffing

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** MN Statutes, Section 473.399

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510  
Mark W. Fuhrmann, Program Director for New Starts, 612-373-3810  
Dan Soler, BLRT Project Director, 651-373-5371  
Kathryn O'Brien, Asst. Dir. Environ. & Agreements, 612-373-5377

**Division/Department:** Metro Transit / Blue Line Extension Project Office

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Blue Line Extension Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 3 to the Master Funding Agreement (MFA) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) in the total amount not to exceed \$1,300,000 for calendar year 2017.

### Background

The Metropolitan Council (Council) established the contractual framework with MnDOT at its September 10, 2014 meeting when it authorized the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Master Funding Agreement for the development of light rail transit for the Blue Line Extension Project. Each SFA under the Master Funding Agreement provides a method for the transfer of funds from the Metropolitan Council to MnDOT so that MnDOT can carry out its Blue Line Extension Project responsibilities.

The funds reimburse MnDOT for costs incurred in the delivery of the Blue Line Extension Project. Each SFA defines the amount of funds committed and the specific purpose of the expenditures.

### Rationale

Use of MnDOT staff is a cost effective way to provide expertise in areas such as structural engineering, rights-of-way, and environmental oversight. In 2017, MnDOT will assist in design support, environmental oversight, utility relocation, freight rail coordination, and right-of-way activities.

### Funding

Funds are available in the Blue Line Extension Project budget from the Counties Transit Improvement Board and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority.

### Known Support / Opposition

The Metropolitan Council and MnDOT have executed Cooperation and Master Funding Agreements; both agencies are committed to working together to advance the Blue Line Extension Project.