

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: November 28, 2016

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 14, 2016

Subject: Funding Agreement with Hennepin Co. Regional Railroad Authority for METRO Orange Line

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 cooperative funding agreement 16I013 with Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) not to exceed \$2,600,000 to fund METRO Orange Line 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. In March 2016 the Council authorized a \$2,660,000 agreement with HCRRA to fund right-of-way acquisition activities planned in 2016. This agreement was not executed because required state funds to advance project work were not secured in 2016.

To meet coordinated MnDOT project schedule needs, local project partner funds are planned to be used for project construction near I-35W and Lake Street instead of the originally approved ROW acquisition elsewhere in the corridor. Expenditures under this agreement will become part of a MnDOT Partnership Agreement that the Council will be requested to approve in March 2017.

HCRRA is anticipated to authorize this agreement on November 29, 2016, and committed its full \$12.79 million share to the project in July 2015. A related \$400,000 agreement with Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority (DCRRA) was approved by DCRRA on November 15, 2016 and does not require Council authorization. Together, these \$3 million of local funds match \$8 million of CTIB funds anticipated for 2017 award. These agreements must be executed to receive 2017 CTIB disbursements.

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 a future budget amendment.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this project.