

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: September 12, 2016

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 28, 2016

Subject:	Cooperative Funding Agreement with HCRRA for Project Development Continuance for the Blue Line LRT (BLRT) Extension Project
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 a Project Development (PD) Continuance Cooperative Funding Agreement for the Blue Line LRT (BLRT) Extension Project between the Council and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) in an amount not to exceed \$10.34 million.

Background

The Council and HCRRA entered into a Cooperative Funding Agreement for BLRT Project Development on September 30, 2014. The 2014 PD Agreement set forth terms by which the parties would work cooperatively to successfully complete activities required to complete the Project Development phase of FTA's New Starts program. This work will result in a Met Council submittal to FTA of an application to advance the BLRT Extension Project into the Engineering phase of the New Starts program. The BLRT Engineering application will be submitted to FTA in September 2016 and the FTA will likely be considering this application for several months. PD Continuance phase activities are estimated to cost up to \$25.85 million and this HCRRA agreement will provide 40 percent of the funding required for this phase of work, or \$10.34 million. The remaining 60 percent will be funded by CTIB.

Rationale

Executing the Cooperative Funding Agreement is consistent with actions taken by the Council and by other stakeholders, including CTIB and HCRRA, to continue development of the BLRT Extension Project. On August 9, 2016, the HCRRA Board passed resolution 16-HCRRA-0027 authorizing HCRRA to negotiate and execute this Cooperative Funding Agreement.

Funding

There are no Council funding requirements associated with this action. The Cooperative Funding Agreement will allow the Council to draw down funds committed by HCRRA to continue advancing the BLRT project into the Engineering phase of FTA's New Starts program.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this action.