

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 9, 2017

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 25, 2017

Subject: Orange Line MnDOT Design Partnership Agreement

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 a partnership agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for funding of the final design of the I-35W and Lake Street Transit station and I-35W Transit Bridge in the amount of \$2,210,927.38.

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. All-day, frequent bidirectional service will complement local and express bus routes in the I-35W corridor, providing competitive running times for station-to-station trips and a new option for reverse-commute markets. The Orange Line will serve ten at-grade stations and one elevated station at Lake Street.

The 35W and Lake Street Transit Station and 35W transit bridge are planned to be designed and constructed in contracts held by MnDOT through agreements with the Council. This is separate from the Council held Orange Line design contract that was approved through Business Item #2015-273 that includes design of all other Orange Line elements.

In fall of 2016 MnDOT awarded a contract with Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc for design services for the I-35W bridges over Lake Street as well as the transit station and plaza areas. The transit elements of the design, including construction support services for the station, are currently estimated at \$2,210,927.38. This partnership agreement must be executed between MnDOT and Council in order to complete the design and provide the required transit elements are included with the overall MnDOT led project.

Rationale

The partnership agreement with MnDOT will ensure funds will be made available for the timely completion of the design of the 35W/Lake street transit station and transit elements in accordance with the larger MnDOT 35W Transit/Access project. Council Policy requires Interagency Agreements valued at greater than \$1,000,000 be approved by Council.

Thrive Lens Analysis

METRO Orange Line supports Thrive outcomes including livability, prosperity, and equity by providing new access to economic and personal opportunity through the I-35W south corridor. The proposed action advances the stewardship

outcome by advancing Orange Line design work efficiently and in close coordination with concurrent work by MnDOT and other agency partners.

Funding

Funding is available in project 62405.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to the project.