

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 23, 2017

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 8, 2017

Subject: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Master Utility Agreement with CenterPoint Energy

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. 473.399

Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510
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Division/Department: Metro Transit / Green Line Extension Project Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Master Utility Agreement with CenterPoint Energy to allow for reimbursement of costs, not to exceed \$800,000, associated with relocation of utilities that conflict with the Southwest LRT Project.

Background

The Southwest LRT Project design plans include above and below ground existing utility facilities located within the Project's limits of disturbance. Council staff identified existing utility facilities, including those owned by CenterPoint Energy, that conflict with the Project design. Staff has been working with CenterPoint Energy to identify alternative locations. CenterPoint Energy has property rights to be in their existing location.

The Council developed a Master Utility Agreement to provide a mechanism for reimbursing private utilities for required utility relocation work to be performed by the utility company. CenterPoint Energy will be responsible for engineering and relocating their utilities. The required utility work will be described in detail in work orders issued under the Master Utility Agreements.

Rationale

Executing the Master Utility Agreement provides a mechanism to reimburse CenterPoint Energy to relocate their facilities which is required in advance of heavy construction on the Project.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Relocating utilities is necessary to implement the Green Line Extension that will increase the region's prosperity as it will provide access to 80,900 forecasted jobs and a new transportation option for 55,800 forecasted residents within ½ mile of the planned new stations in addition to the 145,300 forecasted jobs and 35,600 forecasted residents in downtown Minneapolis.

Funding

The Master Utility Agreement is necessary to reimburse utility companies for their design, engineering, and relocation costs. Reimbursement of warranted expenses is a Project eligible cost and will be funded 50% by the Federal Transit Administration and 50% by local funding partners.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this action.