

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 23, 2017

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 8, 2017

Subject: Blue Line Extension LRT Project – HCRRA / Met Council Engineering Agreement

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Metropolitan Council's Transitway Guidelines

Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510

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

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an Engineering 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 \$50.89 million.

Background

The Council and HCRRA entered into Cooperative Funding Agreements for BLRT Project Development on September 30, 2014 and Project Development Continuance on November 15, 2016. The Council and HCRRA worked productively during these phases, including submittal to FTA of an application to advance the BLRT Extension Project into the Engineering phase of FTA's New Starts Program. The BLRT Extension Project was granted approval to enter Engineering by FTA in a letter dated January 19, 2017. During the Engineering phase, the Council and HCRRA, along with other Project stakeholders, will continue their efforts to finalize Project design and prepare for Project construction, resulting in a Met Council submittal to FTA of an application for Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) funding the federal share of the BLRT Extension Project. Engineering phase activities are estimated to cost up to \$139 million and this HCRRA agreement will provide a not-to-exceed 40 percent match for this phase of work, or \$50.89 million. The remaining amount is expected to 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.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The METRO BLRT Extension Project supports Thrive outcomes including livability, prosperity, and equity by providing new access to economic and personal opportunity through the project corridor. The proposed action advances the stewardship outcome by advancing Blue Line Extension design work efficiently and in close coordination with project partners.

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, making it possible for the Project to receive a full funding grant agreement from the FTA.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this action.