Transportation Committee

Meeting date: May 22, 2017

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 24, 2017

Subject: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Master Utility Agreement with Xcel	
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minn. Stat. 473.399
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager, 612-373-3810 Jim Alexander, Project Director, 612-373-3880 Joan Hollick, Deputy Project Director, 612-373-3820
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 Xcel to allow for reimbursement of costs, not to exceed $3,000,000, 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 Xcel, that conflict with the Project design. Staff has been working with Xcel to identify alternative locations. Xcel 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. Xcel 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.

Xcel may seek approval of the Master Utility Agreement from the Public Utilities Commission prior to execution.

Rationale

Executing the Master Utility Agreement provides a mechanism to reimburse Xcel 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.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this action.