

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: November 13, 2017

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of November 29, 2017

**Subject:** METRO Blue Line Extension – Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 05 with Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)

**District(s), Member(s):** All

**Policy/Legal Reference:** MN Statutes, Section 473.399

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510  
 Mark W. Fuhrmann, Program Director for New Starts, 612-373-3810  
 Dan Soler, BLRT Project Director, 651-373-5371  
 MarySue Abel, BLRT Deputy Project Director, 651-373-5376

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

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a METRO Blue Line Extension Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 05 to the Master Funding Agreement (MFA) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) in the total amount not to exceed \$2,066,773 for calendar year 2018.

### Background

The Metropolitan Council (Council) established the contractual framework with MnDOT at its September 10, 2014 meeting when it authorized the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Master Funding Agreement for the development of light rail transit in the METRO Blue Line Extension corridor. Each SFA under the Master Funding Agreement provides a method for the transfer of funds from the Metropolitan Council to MnDOT so that MnDOT can carry out its METRO Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit (BLRT) Project responsibilities.

Each SFA defines the amount of funds committed and the specific purpose of the expenditures. The 2018 SFA will reimburse MnDOT for costs incurred in the delivery of the METRO Blue Line Extension Project.

### Rationale

Use of MnDOT staff is a cost-effective way to provide expertise in areas such as structural engineering, rights-of-way, and environmental oversight. In 2018, MnDOT will assist in design support, construction support, environmental oversight, utility relocation, freight rail coordination, and right-of-way activities.

### Thrive Lens Analysis

The METRO Blue Line Extension Project supports Thrive outcomes including livability, prosperity, and equity by providing new access to economic and personal opportunity through the project corridor.

### Funding

Funds are available in the BLRT budget from the Counties Transit Improvement Board, Hennepin County, and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority.

## **Known Support / Opposition**

The Metropolitan Council and MnDOT have executed Cooperation and Master Funding Agreements; both agencies are committed to working together to advance the METRO Blue Line Extension Project.