

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: November 27, 2017

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 13, 2017

Subject:	C Line / Penn Avenue – Hennepin County Cooperative Construction Agreement
District(s), Member(s):	District 7 (Cunningham)
Policy/Legal Reference:	MN Statutes 473.405
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Charles Carlson, Senior Manager, BRT/Small Starts, 612-349-7639 Katie Roth, Manager, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7772
Division/Department:	Metro Transit BRT/Small Starts Project Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute agreement 171066 with Hennepin County for funding and construction of street improvements on Penn Avenue associated with the C Line rapid bus project.

Background

Since 2013, Metro Transit has coordinated C Line corridor planning through the Penn Avenue Community Works partnership with Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis. The C Line project will construct eight BRT stations along Penn Avenue. At these eight intersections, Hennepin County has coordinated with Metro Transit to fully reconstruct intersections concurrent with C Line implementation. In addition, the County wishes to reconstruct a 0.6-mile segment of Penn Avenue between Broadway and Lowry avenues.

Across a two-year collaborative design process, Metro Transit and Hennepin County staff have determined that constructing these projects under a single construction contract to be held by the Council is most advantageous to both agencies and the public. Through this agreement, Hennepin County will contribute funds to the Council's construction contract for non-BRT portions of the eight Penn Avenue intersections and the segment of full street reconstruction. The C Line project will fund construction of the remaining C Line portions of the project. This agreement also provides for the County's funding participation in acquisition of temporary easements needed to deliver the project.

Rationale

Council policy requires that interagency agreements valued at greater than \$1,000,000 be approved by the Council. An agreement with Hennepin County will make County funds available to award the construction contract for the C Line / Penn Avenue project in a future Council action.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Investment in high-quality transportation options in the Penn Avenue corridor will advance the thrive outcome of prosperity, by making the region more economically competitive through increased workers' access to employment, and support to employers by increasing available workforce with affordable, convenient transportation.

The combined C Line / Penn Avenue project advances the equity outcome by investing in transit in an area of concentrated poverty where more than 50 percent of the residents are people of color.

By laying the foundation for a productive partnership between agencies, this agreement with Hennepin County will increase the Council's ability to carry out its principle of working collaboratively.

Funding

The proposed action will authorize an agreement to make funds available from Hennepin County for street improvements on Penn Avenue. As the Penn Avenue improvements constitute a locally requested capital improvement (LRCI) associated with the C Line project, funding is separate from the C Line project and budget authorization is not required.

Known Support / Opposition

In its March 2016 approval of the Penn Avenue Vision and Implementation Framework, the Hennepin County Board documented its support for County-funded street improvements on Penn Avenue. The Hennepin County Board will consider a parallel action to negotiate and execute this agreement in its November 28, 2017 meeting.