

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: August 12, 2019

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of August 28, 2019

**Subject:** Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Operations and Maintenance Agreement for Southwest Station

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

**Policy/Legal Reference:** Minn. Stat. 473.399

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Wes Kooistra, General Manager, 651-349-1723  
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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 an Operations and Maintenance Agreement with SouthWest Transit (SWT) related to the SouthWest Station.

### Background

SWT provides local and express bus service in the cities of Eden Prairie, Chanhassen and Chaska, and bus service between the SWT Service Area and other cities in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) which will operate from downtown Minneapolis through the cities of St. Louis Park, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and Eden Prairie, and will terminate at the SouthWest Station. The existing bus facilities, operated by SWT will be demolished and reconstructed to accommodate a new co-located bus and light rail facility including a light rail station platform, a new 450 stall parking ramp, a new passenger drop-off area, new bus turnaround and layover, bus passenger platform and canopy, and new indoor waiting facility.

On December 19, 2017, the Parties executed the SouthWest Station Property Agreement to address certain fee and easement conveyances; the parties also executed a Construction Agreement to address construction activities. Construction is underway and anticipated to be substantially complete by Winter 2021.

The Property Agreement requires that the Council and SWT execute a mutually agreeable Operations and Maintenance Agreement (OMA) to define operational and maintenance responsibilities with respect to SouthWest Station. The OMA outlines roles and responsibilities; (1) the Council will be responsible for the operation, maintenance, and capital replacement of all LRT facilities at SouthWest Station, (2) SWT will be responsible for the operation, maintenance, and capital replacement of all bus facilities at SouthWest Station, and (3) shared responsibility for costs to maintain and replace shared facilities at SouthWest Station.

Operating costs are included in the LRT operating cost projections that will be funded by the LRT operating sources.

## **Rationale**

The OMA defines the Council and SWT roles and responsibilities with respect to the operation and maintenance of SouthWest Station which will be jointly used for SWT bus operations and Council LRT operations. The OMA establishes the cost sharing framework for maintenance at SouthWest Station represents the commitment by the Parties to provide high quality, safe, reliable and cost-effective services to all patrons at SouthWest Station.

## **Thrive Lens Analysis**

- **Livability**  
The Green Line Extension 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.
- **Prosperity**  
The Green Line Extension reflects strategic investment in regional infrastructure that will promote economic competitiveness and create prosperity for the region.

## **Funding**

The OMA obligates the Council to future service contracts which the Council will fund through revenue operation funding sources.

## **Known Support / Opposition**

There is no known opposition to this action. Staff anticipates SWT will take action on the OMA at their August 21, 2019 board meeting.