

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: February 25, 2019

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 13, 2019

Subject: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Subordinate Funding Agreement No. 12 with Hennepin County

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statutes, Section 473.399

Staff Prepared/Presented: Wes Kooistra, General Manager, (612) 349-7510
Joan Hollick, Interim Director, New Starts Program, (612) 373-3820
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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 execute Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 12 to the Master Funding Agreement (MFA) with the Hennepin Co. for construction support services in the total amount not to exceed \$650,000.

Background

In January 2015, the Council and County entered into a Southwest Light Rail Transit Project (“Project”) Master Funding Agreement (“MFA”) (Council contract No. 14I062) which govern SFAs. The MFA authorizes SFAs that allows the Council to pay Hennepin County for costs incurred in carrying out project related responsibilities. Each SFA outlines the anticipated activities and cost estimate needed to conduct those activities. The SFA No. 12 includes staff support in the areas of bridge and utility construction, construction inspection, and traffic management during construction. The cost estimate for these services is not to exceed \$650,000.

Rationale

Use of Hennepin County staff is a cost-effective way to provide expertise in areas of bridge and utility construction and traffic management. The Council could hire additional temporary staff, but our project partner has staff available to provide necessary support services.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Construction of 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 55,000 forecasted residents within ½ mile of the planned new stations in addition to the 145,300 forecasted jobs and 35,600 forecasted residents downtown Minneapolis.

Funding

Funds for this SFA are included in the project budget and are eligible project costs that will be funded 46% by the Federal Transit Administration and 54% by local funding partners.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition. The Council and Hennepin Co. have executed Cooperation and Master Funding Agreements; both agencies are committed to working together to advance the SWLRT Project.