

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 28, 2019

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 13, 2019

Subject:	Approval of the Orange Line BRT Small Starts Grant Agreement
District(s), Member(s):	District 5 (Elkins), District 7 (Cunningham), District 8 (Letofsky), District 15 (Chavez)
Policy/Legal Reference:	Policy 3-4-3
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Wes Kooistra, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Charles Carlson, Director, BRT/Small Starts, 612-349-7639 Christina Morrison, Project Manager, BRT/Small Starts, 612-349-7690
Division/Department:	Metro Transit Bus Rapid Transit Projects

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the METRO Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Small Starts Grant Agreement in the amount of \$74,078,782.

Background

The Orange Line entered Small Starts Project Development in November 2014. The project obtained a Medium-High rating in 2017 and maintained this rating in 2018. The project proceeded through FTA's Readiness Review and Risk Assessment processes in 2018 while advancing final design and beginning heavy construction under a federal Letter of No Prejudice.

In August 2018, FTA invited Metropolitan Council to submit a formal application for the Small Starts request, and in November 2018, FTA announced full funding the 5309 federal share of \$74.1 million. This single-year Grant will use federal 5309 Capital Investment Grant FY18 funds.

All local funds needed to match the Small Starts grant were secured in 2017. Effective management of cost and scope resulted in an unchanged project cost of \$150.7 million, while maintaining a contingency of 21.98% percent.

Rationale

Council authorization is required pursuant to Policy #3-2-2 for grant applications above \$500,000.

Thrive Lens Analysis

METRO Orange Line BRT supports Thrive outcomes in outcomes including livability, prosperity, and equity by providing new access to economic and personal opportunity through the I-35W South corridor. The proposed action advances the stewardship outcome by advancing Orange Line implementation with agency partners.

Funding

The proposed action will bring in new funds from the Federal Small Starts program as a single-year grant. These funds will be authorized in the Capital Program through the upcoming 2019 carry forward amendment.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition.