

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: June 10, 2019

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 26, 2019

Subject: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Amendment to Canadian Pacific Connecting Track Agreement

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. 473.399

Staff Prepared/Presented: Wes Kooistra, General Manager, 651-349-1723
Jim Alexander, Project Director, 612-373-3880
Joan Hollick, Deputy Project director, 612-373-3820

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 amendment to the Canadian Pacific Connecting Track Agreement (CTA) to add \$300,000 to the agreement reimbursement of AT&T utility relocation costs. With this amendment, the total CTA agreement is not to exceed \$799,000.

Background

As part of the SWLRT Project, the Council acquired a 6.8 mile linear corridor from CP known as the Bass Lake Spur in the cities of St. Louis Park, Hopkins, and Minnetonka. CP has operating rights on the MN&S Spur that connects to the BLS via a switching wye. As part of the construction of the SWLRT Project, the Council will remove the switching wye and replace it with a Southerly Connector. The Council's civil contractor will perform all site prep related to the Southerly Connector, and CP's forces will perform the work related to installation of a turnout and new rail to connect the Southerly Connector to the MN&S. Existing utilities on CP's property are to be relocated or modified if required for the construction of the Southerly Connector at the Council's expense.

On December 12, 2018, the Council and CP entered into the CTA for \$499,000 to fund the installation of the turnout and new rail to connect to the Southerly Connector. Since that time, CP has identified an AT&T utility which will need to be relocated. The estimated cost for the utility relocation is \$300,000 bringing the total amount of the CTA to \$799,000.

The parties desire to amend the CTA to add funds to cover the cost of the AT&T utility relocation.

Rationale

Executing the Connecting Track Agreement provides a mechanism to reimburse Canadian Pacific to relocate AT&T which is required by the Project.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Relocating utilities is necessary to implement the Green Line Extension that 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.

Funding

The Connecting Track Agreement is necessary to reimburse Canadian Pacific for their design, engineering, and relocation costs. Reimbursement of warranted expenses is a Project eligible cost and included in the Council's authorized capital budget.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this action.