

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 27, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 12, 2020

Subject: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Amendment #1 to Master Utility Agreement with CenturyLink Communications, LLC

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. 473.399

Staff Prepared/Presented: Wes Kooistra, General Manager, 612-349-7510
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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 amendment to the Master Utility Agreement (MUA) with CenturyLink Communications, LLC (CenturyLink) to add \$3.175 million for reimbursement of costs, for a new total not to exceed amount of \$3.525 million, associated with relocation of utilities that conflict with the Southwest LRT Project.

Background

In October 2019, the Council entered into a Master Utility Agreement (MUA) with CenturyLink to address compensable utility conflicts with the SWLRT Project. The MUA included an estimated not to exceed amount of \$350,000 for services and work. The work scope covered under this amendment includes the relocation of CenturyLink cable into a shared utility trench shared by multiple private utility companies on and adjacent to the BNSF-owned Wayzata Subdivision. The amount of the amendment is \$3.175 million, bringing the new total not to exceed amount to \$3.525 million.

Rationale

The shared utility trench was originally contemplated to be constructed by the SWLRT civil construction contractor through a change order. However, based on scheduling constraints and cost efficiencies, staff determined that it would be more advantageous for the private utility companies impacted by this work to take the lead in constructing the shared utility trench. Through Business Item 2019-305, Council previously authorized the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an amendment to the MUA with Sprint to perform this work. Subsequent to this action, Sprint determined that due to a pending merger, it would be unable to finalize the MUA amendment and CenturyLink agreed to perform this work. Allowing CenturyLink to perform this work will result in a cost savings compared to the estimate provided by the civil construction contractor. This amendment to the MUA allows the Council to reimburse CenturyLink for this work.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Livability: The Green Line Extension (SWLRT) 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 work for this amendment is a Project eligible cost. Funds for the work are available in the project budget and included in the Council's authorized capital budget.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this action.