

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: June 8, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of June 24, 2020

Subject: Gold Line BRT Master Funding Agreement and Subordinate Funding Agreement #1 with Minnesota IT Services for Duct Bank Relocation Design

District(s), Member(s): District 12 (Gonzalez), District 11 (Vento), District 13 (Lee)

Policy/Legal Reference: Council Income/Grants Policy 3-2-2

Staff Prepared/Presented: Wes Kooistra, General Manager, (612) 349-7510
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Division/Department: Metro Transit – BRT Projects (Gold Line Project Office)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (Gold Line) Master Funding Agreement (MFA) and Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 01 with Minnesota IT Services (MnIT), the latter in an amount not to exceed \$770,000.

Background

The MFA establishes a framework for the transfer of funds between the Council and MnIT for reimbursement of professional services and construction related to the Gold Line Project. Upon MFA execution, specific funding transfers and allowed expenditures would be authorized under subsequent SFAs.

SFA No. 01 will transfer Council funds to MnIT for design and engineering services for the relocation of a MNIT-owned fiber duct bank. The duct bank is located generally north of Interstate 94 and would be impacted by construction of the Gold Line Project. Under this SFA, MnIT would lead design for its future relocation and would coordinate with the Council to ensure compatibility with the Gold Line Project's design.

Rationale

Execution of the MFA establishes a framework for future funding transfers and the ability to execute SFAs between the Council and other agencies. SFA No. 1 is a necessary contractual mechanism to transfer Project funds to MnIT. Relocation of this duct bank is required for the Gold Line's construction and operations. Execution of this SFA would result in design efficiencies for both agencies.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The Gold Line Project supports Thrive outcomes including livability, prosperity, and equity with its investment in high-quality transportation that will make the region more economically competitive by supporting major job creators and increasing workers' access to employment hubs. These agreements additionally support stewardship by ensuring congruence with the region's existing fiber infrastructure.

Funding

Master Funding Agreements do not require funding. Funding for SFA No. 01 is available through an existing Capital Grant Agreement with the Gold Line Joint Powers Board and is currently reflected in the Council's Authorized Capital Budget under project 61402.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this agreement. The Council and MnIT are committed to working together to advance the Gold Line Project.