

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: October 12, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of October 28, 2020

Subject:	Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Subordinate Funding Agreement No. 13 with Minnesota Department of Transportation for Staffing to Master Funding Agreement #121021
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	MN Statutes, Section 473.399, Council Expenditures Policy 3-3, Expenditures with Other Governmental Entities
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Wes Kooistra, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Jim Alexander, SWLRT Project Director, 651-373-3880 Joan Hollick, SWLRT Project Deputy 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 Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 13 to the Master Funding Agreement (MFA) #121021 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for 2021 SWLRT staff support in a total amount not to exceed \$2.2 million.

Background

On February 22, 2012, the Council authorized the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Cooperation Agreement with MnDOT that established roles and responsibilities in the development of the SWLRT. On March 28, 2012, the Council authorized the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the MFA with MnDOT that established the contractual framework for engineering, technical, and professional services. The MFA authorizes SFAs that allow the Council to pay MnDOT for costs incurred in carrying out its project related responsibilities. Each SFA outlines the anticipated activities and estimates the amount of funds needed to conduct those activities. SFA No. 13 includes \$2.2 million for staff support for construction support, right-of-way acquisition, and other professional services for 2021.

Rationale

Council Policy requires Interagency Agreements valued at greater than \$500,000 be approved by Council. Use of MnDOT staff is a cost-effective way to provide expertise in areas such as construction inspection, right-of-way acquisition and environmental oversight.

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

Funds for SFA No. 13 are included in the project budget and the Council's authorized capital budget and are eligible project costs.

Known Support / Opposition

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