

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: October 12, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of October 28, 2020

Subject: METRO Blue Line Extension – Subordinate Funding Agreement No. 7 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation to complete the Bassett Creek Storm Sewer Utility Relocation to Master Funding Agreement #141044

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Metropolitan Council’s Transitway Guidelines, Council Expenditures Policy 3-3, Expenditures with Other Governmental Entities

Staff Prepared/Presented: Wes Kooistra, General Manager, (612) 349-7510
Nick Landwer, Director, Design and Engineering BLRT, (612) 373-3847

Division/Department: Metro Transit / Blue Line Extension Project Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Subordinate Funding Agreement (SFA) No. 7 to the Master Funding Agreement (MFA) #141044 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to pay MnDOT \$1.6 million of committed project funds to complete the Bassett Creek Storm Sewer Utility Relocation related to the Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project.

Background

On May 1, 2015, the Council and MnDOT entered into a Master Funding Agreement (141044 and MnDOT 06737) related to the Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project (Project).

On August 11, 2017, the Council and MnDOT entered into SFA 04 (141044D and MnDOT 06737-W04) for MnDOT to contribute \$3.25 million for the engineering and construction of the Bassett Creek Storm Sewer Utility Relocation. The scope of work involved installing box culvert Bridge #27311 and removing the old culvert Bridge #94277.

In fall 2017, the Council completed installation of the new box culvert. The Council completed the plans and specifications and prepared a cost estimate for the future removal of the old box culvert, which was originally planned for spring 2020. However, removal of the old box culvert #94277 did not proceed due to ongoing discussions over the BNSF corridor.

On August 3, 2020, the Council and Hennepin County announced it will work with agency and community partners to explore opportunities to advance this critical project without using BNSF Railway right of way. Therefore, MnDOT will remove old culvert Bridge #94277 since it is under a state highway. MnDOT seeks \$1.6 million of committed project funds to complete the work.

Rationale

Council Policy requires Interagency Agreements valued at greater than \$500,000 be approved by Council. Culvert Bridge #94277 is under a state highway and MnDOT has identified it as a structure that needs to be replaced and removed. MnDOT contributed \$3.25 million for the Bassett Creek Storm Sewer Utility Relocation. The replacement tunnel was constructed by the Council as part of advanced utility work for the BLRT Project. The SFA will provide \$1.6 million of committed project funds to MnDOT to complete the remaining work.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Moving this project in a new direction presents an exciting opportunity to revisit and improve the METRO Blue Line Extension project to serve even more people and destinations, while maintaining as much of the existing alignment as possible. The need for light rail that serves corridor cities including, North Minneapolis, Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn Park, is greater than ever. As the next leg of our planned regional light rail network, this line will connect people to opportunities for employment, education and health.

Funding

Funds for this SFA are committed to the BLRT Project and available in the Capital Budget.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this action.