

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: September 28, 2020

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of October 14, 2020

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| Subject: | METRO D Line – City of Richfield Joint Powers Agreement |
| District(s), Member(s): | District 2 (Chamblis); District 5 (Cummings); District 7 (Lilligren); District 8 (Muse) |
| Policy/Legal Reference: | MN Statutes 117.012 and 473.405 |
| Staff Prepared/Presented: | Wes Kooistra, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Charles Carlson, Director, BRT Projects, 612-349-7639 Katie Roth, Assistant Director, BRT Projects, 612-349-7772 Shahin Khazrajafari, Project Manager, D Line, 612-349-7764 |
| Division/Department: | Metro Transit / BRT Projects |

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Joint Powers Agreement 201058 with the City of Richfield for easements, permits, and right-of-way management authority needed for construction of the D Line project.

Background

The D Line project involves construction of 40 BRT stations at 30 intersections along an 18-mile corridor from the Mall of America Transit Center through Portland Avenue, Chicago Avenue, and Emerson and Fremont Avenues, to the Brooklyn Center Transit Center. Since 2016, Metro Transit has coordinated D Line corridor planning and design with Hennepin County and the cities of Minneapolis, Richfield, and Bloomington.

Through this agreement, the City of Richfield will grant permits, access to easements, and rights-of-way owned or maintained by the City for D Line construction at no cost to the Council. The City will also exercise its right-of-way management powers necessary for the construction of the D Line, including but not limited to those powers pertaining to the relocation of utilities within City rights-of-way.

Rationale

Council policy requires that all Joint Powers Agreements be approved by the Council. A Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Richfield will make the necessary construction right-of-way interests available to award and advance the construction contract for the D Line project in a future Council action.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The D Line will upgrade and substantially replace Route 5, Metro Transit’s highest ridership bus route. Investment in high-quality transportation options in the Route 5 corridor will advance the thrive outcome of prosperity, by making the region more economically competitive through increased workers’ access to employment, and support to employers by increasing available workforce with affordable, convenient transportation.

The D Line project advances the equity outcome by investing in a transit corridor serving communities of color. Nearly three-quarters of Route 5 riders identify as

Black, Indigenous, or people of color. Investment in the D Line will provide riders with faster service and a more comfortable waiting and riding experience.

The proposed action advances the stewardship outcome by advancing D Line project delivery efficiently with regional partnership from Hennepin County, Minneapolis, Richfield, and Bloomington.

Funding

There are no funds exchanged through the execution of this agreement.

Known Support / Opposition

The Richfield City Council will consider this agreement at an upcoming meeting. There is no known opposition to the project.