

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: February 8, 2021

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 10, 2021

**Subject:** METRO D Line BRT Construction, Contract 20P279

**District(s), Member(s):** District 2 (Chamblis); District 5 (Cummings); District 7 (Lilligren); District 8 (Muse)

**Policy/Legal Reference:** FM 14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy

**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 award and execute contract 20P279 with Thomas and Sons Construction Inc. for the construction of the METRO D Line BRT project in an amount not to exceed \$26,142,556.

### Background

The D Line BRT project will construct 40 BRT stations at 30 intersections along an 18-mile corridor from the Mall of America Transit Center to the Brooklyn Center Transit Center, as well as the corridor-wide associated fiber communication infrastructure. The project will also construct locally requested pedestrian and signal improvements along the corridor, developed in coordination with Hennepin County, and the cities of Minneapolis and Bloomington.

The Invitation for Bids was advertised on December 3, 2020. There were sixty-two plan holders and nineteen identified as woman, minority, veteran or disadvantaged business enterprises. Procurement facilitated a public bid opening on January 7, 2021 and three bids were received. The Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) set a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal of fifteen percent. OEO determined that Thomas and Sons Construction, Inc., passed the DBE evaluation by meeting the numeric goal.

### Rationale

The three bids received, ranged from \$26,142,556 to \$32,421,040. Thomas and Sons Construction, Inc, was the low, responsive, and responsible bidder and is recommended for award. The execution of a construction contract in excess of \$2,500,000 requires Council approval.

### 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 Thrive outcome of Equity by investing in a transit corridor serving several areas of concentrated poverty where more than fifty percent of the residents are people of color. Nearly three-quarters of Route 5 riders identify as Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC). Investment in the D Line will provide riders with faster service and a more comfortable waiting and riding experience.

The proposed action also advances the Thrive outcome of Stewardship by delivering D Line corridor improvements efficiently with regional partnership from Hennepin County, Minneapolis, Richfield, and Bloomington.

### **Funding**

Funding is authorized and available in project 62800 (D Line) for Metro Transit participation in the amount of \$20,940,284. The remainder of the contract value will be funded by executed cooperative agreements for locally requested scope with Hennepin County, the City of Minneapolis, and the City of Bloomington.

### **Known Support / Opposition**

The Hennepin County Board, and the city councils of Minneapolis, Richfield, and Bloomington have each voiced project support, most recently through authorizing their participation in the respective joint powers and cooperative construction agreements for this project.