

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: March 8, 2021

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 24, 2021

Subject: Orange Line Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority 2021 Capital Grant

District(s), Member(s): Districts- 5 (Cummings), 7 (Lilligren), 8 (Muse), 15 (Sterner)

Policy/Legal Reference: Council Policy FM 15-1

Staff Prepared/Presented: Wes Kooistra, General Manager (612-349-7510)

Charles Carlson, Director BRT Projects (612-349-7639)

Division/Department: Metro Transit Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Projects

Proposed Action

Authorize the Regional Administrator to apply for, negotiate, and execute capital grant agreement 211013 providing \$2,230,109 from the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority for the Orange Line BRT project.

Background

The Orange Line is a 17-mile BRT corridor from downtown Minneapolis to Burnsville. The project is fully funded and will complete construction in 2021. In addition to state sources and a \$74 million federal grant, county funding commitments to the project are disbursed through annual capital grant agreements with the Council. The proposed action will authorize application for and execution of a grant of funds from the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority (DCRRA) for expected Orange Line capital costs in 2021.

Rationale

Council Income/Grants policy requires approval for income/grants over \$500,000.

Thrive Lens Analysis

METRO Orange Line supports Thrive outcomes including livability, prosperity, and equity by providing new access to economic and personal opportunity through the I-35W south corridor. The project advances racial equity by providing new access to opportunity to BIPOC residents in the I-35W corridor. The proposed action provides project partner financial resources to execute this work; contracts utilizing these funds have set goals and received commitments for disadvantaged business enterprise (DBE) participation as applicable.

Funding

The proposed agreement will provide capital funding for the Orange Line, project 62405. These funds are included in the Council's Authorized Capital Program and available upon agreement execution.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition. DCRRA is anticipated to approve and execute the agreement in March 2021.