

## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: March 8, 2021

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of March 24, 2021

**Subject:** Orange Line Hennepin 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 211012 providing \$8,040,000 from the Hennepin 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 Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) 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 for 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 as applicable by contract for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation.

### 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. HCRRA is anticipated to approve and execute the agreement in April 2021.