

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 24, 2022

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 9, 2022

Subject: Gold Line Joint Powers/Cooperative Construction Agreements with the City of St. Paul

District(s), Member(s): District 12 (Gonzalez), District 11 (Vento), District 13 (Lee)

Policy/Legal Reference: Minn. Stat. § 471.59 Joint Exercise of Powers; FM14-1 Procurement Policy

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

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Division/Department: Metro Transit / METRO Gold Line Project Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Joint Powers/Cooperative Construction Agreement (“JPCCA”) (#211057) with the City of St. Paul (“the City”) for the Gold Line Bius Rapid Transit Project (“the Project”).

Background

The Gold Line is a planned 10-mile transitway that would run generally along the north side of Interstate 94 in primarily an exclusive lane for buses within Ramsey and Washington Counties. The Council is the local project sponsor and lead agency for the Project and is pursuing no-cost JPCCAs with each of the cities along the project alignment – St. Paul, Maplewood, Landfall, Oakdale and Maplewood.

The JPCCA will serve four major purposes: (1) establish provisions for the Council to construct concurrent non-project work funded by the City, if applicable; (2) memorialize the transfer of parcel acquisitions to the City after acquisition or condemnation by the Council (or by joint condemnation); (3) have the City exercise their permit authority within city easements; and (4) have the City exercise their Right of Way authority if needed.

The JPCCA allows for efficient coordination of project work between the Council and the City and streamlines several processes between the entities.

Rationale

Minnesota Statute and Council Policy requires that Joint Powers agreements, regardless of value, be approved by the Council.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Investment in high-quality transportation options 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 Gold Line project advances the Equity outcome by distributing transit resources throughout the region and improving access to jobs, educational opportunities, and health services to diverse communities.

Funding

These are no cost agreements. The Project is included in the Council's Authorized Capital Program in project 61402 and is also included in the CIP.

Small Business Inclusion

There are no direct subcontracting opportunities associated with the agreements, however, if local work is constructed for the City as part of the Project, it will include DBE goals.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition. The Gold Line Project is a key transportation priority for the east metro communities.