

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: April 24, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: May 10, 2023

Business Item: 2023-91

METRO B Line – Statement of Work 201066A Under Metropolitan Council and Hennepin County Fiber Infrastructure Master Agreement 201066

District(s), Member(s):	District 6 (Pacheco), District 7 (Lilligren), District 8 (Osman)
Policy/Legal Reference:	Council Policy FM 15-1 Income/Grants
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Lesley Kandaras, Interim General Manager, 612-349-7517 Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager, 612-349-7507 Katie Roth, Director, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7772 Frank Alarcon, Project Manager, BRT, 612-349-7692
Division/Department:	Metro Transit / Arterial BRT

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Statement of Work 201066A with Hennepin County to receive approximately \$1,350,000 of funds for Hennepin County financial participation in the construction of the fiber optic communication infrastructure along the METRO B Line corridor.

Background

In addition to construction of bus rapid transit (BRT) stations and other transportation improvements, the B Line project involves construction of fiber optic communication infrastructure along the 12-mile corridor from the Uptown area of Minneapolis to downtown Saint Paul. This fiber optic network supports the technology at BRT stations behind fare collection, security cameras, real-time transit information and other features that contribute to a high-quality customer experience on BRT lines.

Since 2018, Metro Transit has coordinated B Line corridor planning and design with Hennepin County, Ramsey County and the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul. Hennepin County has identified a need to grow its county-wide fiber optic network through investment in shared infrastructure implemented through the B Line project.

The Council executed Master Agreement 201066 with Hennepin County in 2021 to facilitate collaborative fiber optic infrastructure projects with Hennepin County. Work performed under this Master Agreement is recognized through a statement of work with terms and conditions outlining the scope of the project and the parties' responsibilities. The associated Statement of Work for this project addresses the parties' responsibilities and Hennepin County's financial contribution for design and construction of the fiber optic communication network infrastructure along the B Line corridor within Hennepin County. The Council will lead the construction of the fiber optic communication infrastructure. Hennepin County will own the completed network within Hennepin County and lease bandwidth back to the Council at no cost.

Rationale

Council Policy requires that income contracts valued at greater than \$500,000 be approved by the Council.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The B Line will upgrade and substantially replace Route 21, Metro Transit's second-highest ridership bus route. Investment in high-quality transportation options in the Route 21 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 B Line project advances the Thrive outcome of Equity by investing in a transit corridor serving communities of color. More than half of Route 21 riders identify as Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC). Investment in the B Line will provide riders with faster service and a more comfortable waiting and riding experience, and county-funded improvements along the corridor will improve safety and transit operations.

The proposed action also advances the Thrive outcome of Stewardship by planning for METRO B Line corridor improvements efficiently with regional partnership from Hennepin County.

Funding

The proposed action will authorize execution of Statement of Work 20I066A to make funds in the amount of approximately \$1,350,000 available from Hennepin County for financial participation in the B Line's fiber optic communication infrastructure. The County's funding is separate from the B Line project, and budget authorization is not required.

Small Business Inclusion

There is no contracting related to this action so no DBE goal was set. However, some of the work associated with this action is being delivered as part of the B Line East Package (22P365) which has a 15% DBE goal. In addition, the rest of the work will be delivered on a future Council contract and OEE0 will review that project for a DBE goal.

