

# Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: August 14, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: August 23, 2023

## Business Item: 2023-163

METRO E Line – Joint Powers Agreement with City of St. Paul

<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	District 14 (Carter)
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Council Policy FM 14-1 Procurement; MN Statutes 117.012, 473.405, and 471.59
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Lesley Kandaras, General Manager, 612-349-7513 Nick Thompson, Interim Executive Director, 612-349-7507 Katie Roth, Director, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7772 Adam Smith, Manager, BRT Projects, 612-349-7160
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Metro Transit / Arterial BRT

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Joint Powers Agreement 23I095 (“Agreement”) with the City of St. Paul for right-of-way management authority needed for construction of the METRO E Line project.

### Background

The METRO E Line is a planned arterial BRT line that will operate on a 13.3-mile corridor substantially replacing Route 6. The northern terminus of the E Line is located within the City of St. Paul, including the planned University & Berry Station and a bus operator restroom facility.

Through this Agreement, the City of St. Paul will exercise its right-of-way management powers necessary for the construction of the E Line, including but not limited to those powers pertaining to the relocation of utilities within City rights-of-way. The City will also grant access to easements and rights-of-way owned or maintained by the City for E Line construction at no cost to the Council.

### Rationale

Council policy requires that all Joint Powers Agreements be approved by the Council. A Joint Powers Agreement with the City of St. Paul will make the necessary construction right-of-way interests available to award and advance the construction contract for the E Line project in a future Council action.

### Thrive Lens Analysis

The E Line will upgrade Route 6, one of Metro Transit’s highest ridership bus routes. Investment in high-quality transit options in the Route 6 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 E Line project advances the Thrive outcome of Equity by improving transit access for communities of color and for workers at low wage jobs. Investment in the E 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 planning for E Line corridor improvements efficiently with regional partnership with the City of St. Paul.

### **Funding**

There are no funds exchanged through the execution of this agreement.

### **Small Business Inclusion**

There is no contracting, and therefore no small business inclusion, associated with this action.

