

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: August 14, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: August 23, 2023

Business Item: 2023-180

Joint Powers Agreement with the Metropolitan Airports Commission, Contract 23I016

District(s), Member(s): District 5, Council Member Anjuli Cameron

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statutes §§ 471.59, 473.407; FM 14-1 Procurement Policy; FM 14-2 Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy

Staff Prepared/Presented: Ernest Morales III, Chief of Police, Metro Transit, 612-349-7200
Richard Grates, Captain, Office of the Chief, Metro Transit Police
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Division/Department: Metro Transit Police Department

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a Joint Powers Agreement (“JPA”) # 23I016 with the Metropolitan Airports Commission (“MAC”) in an amount not to exceed \$708,000 for law enforcement assistance to the Council along with adding additional police presence on the Blue Line Light Rail Transit (LRT).

Background

The Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) currently has 106 full time police officers (budgeted at 171). The continued staffing shortages at MTPD are making the provision of police services along the transit system a challenge. Specifically, the Metro Blue Line is experiencing a rise in quality of life calls for service and customer complaints. Due to these unforeseen staffing circumstances, including challenges in hiring police officers at MTPD, it is recommended the Council enter into a JPA with the MAC on behalf of its Airport Police Department (APD). By entering into this JPA, there will be additional police presence and visibility at Airport LRT Terminals One and Two.

Rationale

This JPA acknowledges and provides the APD the ability and authority to act as an authorized representative of MTPD and can be compensated for it. This JPA also addresses the ability for MTPD to exercise general conduct law enforcement activities within the MAC jurisdiction to support Council assets and protect its property. Minnesota Statutes section 473.407, subd. 1 authorizes the MTPD to “exercise general law enforcement agency authority to assist any law enforcement agency in implementing or carrying out law enforcement activities, programs, or initiatives” upon request from, or under an agreement with, any law enforcement agency and subject to the availability of MTPD’s personnel and other resources.

Council policy requires that joint powers agreements in any amount and interagency agreements valued at greater than \$500,000 be approved by the Council.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Execution of this JPA will support the Council's Thrive Outcomes of Prosperity, Livability, and Equity.

Investment in high-quality transportation options make the region more economically competitive through increased access to employment, and support to employers by increasing available workforce with affordable, convenient transportation.

Ensuring the region's existing transit resources are maintained and protected allows the Council to provide efficient, reliable, and safe service to our customers. Safeguarded transit facilities support functions for operations that increase mobility and access to opportunities for all residents, across race, economic means, and ability.

Funding

The costs associated with this contract will come from the Metro Transit Operating Budget.

Small Business Inclusion

There are no direct impacts to small businesses with this action.

