

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: December 11, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: January 10, 2024

Business Item: 2023-280

METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit – Subordinate Funding Agreement (19I054E) with Washington County

District(s), Member(s):	District 11 (Cederberg), District 12 (Vento), District 13 (Lee)
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM 14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Lesley Kandaras, General Manager, 612-349-7513 Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager, 612-349-7507 Alicia Vap, Gold Line Project Director, 612-349-7079 Mike Ullmer, Agreements Specialist, 651-602-1957
Division/Department:	Metro Transit / METRO Gold Line Project Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute Subordinate Funding Agreement #19I054E (“SFA”) with Washington County (“County”) for reimbursement of costs for the procurement of snow removal equipment for the Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit Project (“Gold Line Project”) in an amount not to exceed \$859,040.00.

Background

In 2020, the Council and the County entered into Master Funding Agreement #19I054 to establish a framework for interagency funding transfers for the Gold Line Project.

The Gold Line Project requires a strategy for addressing snow and ice control for portions of the Bus Rapid Transit (“BRT”) Guideway to ensure that BRT level of service is consistent throughout the year. The Council is responsible for ensuring a snow and ice control strategy is in place for the section of the BRT Guideway generally from the intersection of Mounds Boulevard and East Kellogg Boulevard in St. Paul eastward to the Project’s terminus at the Woodlane Park and Ride in Woodbury (“BRT Guideway Section”).

The Parties have agreed that Washington County is in the best position to provide snow and ice control for the BRT Guideway Section. The County’s Public Works Department has a program in place to address snow and ice control on its roadways, including equipment and trained personnel. However, additional snow removal equipment is needed to support the addition of the BRT Guideway Section. The Parties have agreed the Council will provide funding for the procurement of this additional snow removal equipment. This equipment will be owned by the Council and leased to the County through a separate lease agreement between the Parties. Use of this equipment for snow and ice removal for the BRT Guideway will comply with 2 CFR § 200.313 – Equipment. Funding for the snow and ice control services the County will provide for the Gold Line Project will

be negotiated in a separate agreement between the Parties. Washington County will begin snow and ice control for the BRT Guideway beginning in winter 2024 during the Integration Testing and Activation Planning phases of the Project.

Rationale

Council Policy requires interagency agreements greater than \$500,000.00 be approved by the Council. This SFA with Washington County will enable the additional snow removal equipment required to provide snow and ice control for the BRT Guideway to be procured and maintain a consistent BRT level of service throughout the year.

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

Funds for this SFA are an eligible cost and are included in the Gold Line Project budget and the Council's authorized capital budget under Project #61402.

Small Business Inclusion

There are no direct impacts to Small Business Inclusion associated with this action.

