

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: July 10, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: July 26, 2023

Business Item: 2023-122

METRO E Line – Cooperative Construction Agreement with City of Minneapolis for Hennepin Avenue South

District(s), Member(s): District 6 (Lilligren)

Policy/Legal Reference: FM 14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods and Services Policy

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Division/Department: Metro Transit / Arterial BRT

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute agreement 23I036 with the City of Minneapolis for the City's construction of METRO E Line BRT station platforms in conjunction with the City's Hennepin Avenue South Project in the amount of \$1,700,000.

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 construction of three E Line stations at Hennepin & Franklin, Hennepin & 25th Street, and Uptown Transit Station will coincide with the City's road reconstruction project along Hennepin Avenue South from Douglas Avenue to Lake Street, also known as the Hennepin South Project. Metro Transit and the City of Minneapolis have coordinated for the foundation and subgrade construction of the E Line platforms to be completed in conjunction with the City's Hennepin South Project.

Across a multi-year collaborative design process, Metro Transit and City of Minneapolis staff have determined that including E Line construction elements in a single construction contract to be held by the City is most advantageous to both agencies and the public. Through this agreement, the Council will contribute funds to the City's construction contract for the six METRO E Line station platforms along Hennepin Avenue.

Rationale

Council Policy requires intergovernmental agreements valued at greater than \$500,000 be approved by the Council.

Thrive Lens Analysis

The E Line will upgrade the 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 Minneapolis.

Funding

The proposed action will authorize payment to the City of Minneapolis in the amount not to exceed \$1,700,000 for construction of the E Line stations on Hennepin Avenue South. Funding for this agreement is available within the Metro Transit authorized capital program in project 61004 (E Line).

Small Business Inclusion

Minneapolis will award this construction contract following procedures for federally funded projects. MnDOT's DBE program will be applied to this contract.

