

# Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: July 10, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: July 26, 2023

## Business Item: 2023-123

METRO E Line – Cooperative Construction Agreement with Hennepin County for Hennepin / 1st Avenues

**District(s), Member(s):** District 7 (Osman)

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

**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Lesley Kandaras, Interim General Manager, 612-349-7513  
Nick Thompson, Interim Executive Director, 612-349-7507  
Katie Roth, Director, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7772  
Evan Owens-Ambrogio, Principal Engineer, Arterial BRT, 612-349-7605

**Division/Department:** Metro Transit / Arterial BRT

### Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute agreement 23I031 with Hennepin County for the County's construction of METRO E Line BRT station platforms in conjunction with the County's Hennepin and 1st Roadway Improvement Project in the amount of \$725,000.

### 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 the E Line stations at Hennepin & 2nd Street NE and 1st Avenue & 2nd Street NE coincide with the County's roadway improvement project along Hennepin and 1st Avenues from Main Street to 8th Street in Minneapolis, also known as the Hennepin-1st Project. Metro Transit and Hennepin County have coordinated for the foundation and subgrade construction of the E Line platforms to be completed in conjunction with the County's Hennepin-1st Project.

Across a multi-year collaborative design process, Metro Transit and Hennepin County staff have determined that including E Line construction elements in a single construction contract to be held by the County is most advantageous to both agencies and the public. Through this agreement, the Council will contribute funds to the County's construction contract for the two METRO E Line station platforms along Hennepin and 1st Avenues.

### 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 Hennepin County.

## **Funding**

The proposed action will authorize payment to Hennepin County in the amount not to exceed \$725,000 for construction of the E Line stations on Hennepin and 1st Avenues. Funding for this agreement is available within the Metro Transit authorized capital program in project 61004 (E Line).

## **Small Business Inclusion**

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

