

Business Item

Metropolitan Council



Committee Meeting Date: May 8, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: May 23, 2023

Business Item: 2023-92

Hennepin Ave and 1st Ave NE Bus Lane Project

District(s), Member(s):	District 8, Council Member Yassin Osman
Policy/Legal Reference:	FM14-2 - Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Lesley Kandaras, Interim General Manager, 612-349-7517 Adam Harrington, Director of Service Development, 612-349-7797 Michael Mechtenberg, Program Manager, 612-349-7793
Division/Department:	Metro Transit / Service Development

Proposed Action

Request authorization to execute agreement # 23I017 with Hennepin County for up to \$650,000 to paint bus lanes on portions of Hennepin Ave NE and 1st Ave NE in Northeast Minneapolis.

Background

Metro Transit, in partnership with the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County, is planning bus lanes on Hennepin Ave NE and 1st Ave NE between NE Main St and SE 7th St. We saw an opportunity to add bus lanes to an existing Hennepin County-lead bike lane improvement project in this segment, and the county agreed. Hennepin County is the lead agency on design and construction, and both the bikeway and bus lanes improvements will be implemented together in 2024.

Four local bus routes – Route 4, 6, 25, and 61 – operate in this corridor, providing about 280 bus trips each weekday. Together, nearly 2,200 customers travel this corridor originating from Minneapolis, Richfield, Edina, Bloomington, and Saint Paul. Note: trip counts and ridership figures are from fall 2022, and do not include Route 10 or Route 17, which are currently operating through this segment on detour.

In 2025 the METRO E Line will begin bus rapid transit service through this segment, adding 80 percent more trips in this area than Route 6 today. Both METRO E Line and local bus service will benefit from these bus lanes through improved speed and reliability of operations.

Red paint, specifically methyl methacrylate (MMA), is commonly used in bus lane applications. Painting the bus lane has shown to reduce bus lane violations between 42-61 percent, improving bus lane performance and reducing the need for more labor-intensive enforcement strategies. MMA has an expected lifespan of 4-10 years and has not shown significant damage or color degradation due to plowing, salting, or freeze/thaw. This combination of longevity and durability make it the preferred material for bus lanes.

Rationale

Hennepin County is the lead agency on design and construction, and both the bikeway and bus lanes improvements will be implemented together in 2024. This business item authorizes Metro Transit to reimburse Hennepin County for costs related to the bus lane.

Council Policy requires Interagency agreements with expenditures valued at greater than \$500,000 be approved by Council.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Investment in high-quality transportation options like bus lanes 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 proposed action also advances the Thrive outcome of **stewardship** by delivering bus lane improvements efficiently with regional partnership from Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis.

Funding

The project is anticipated to be approximately \$650,000. Funding has been identified in the Metro Transit Bus Operations budget.

Small Business Inclusion

There is no direct impact on small businesses with this funding action. The Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity confirmed with Hennepin County that they will be utilizing Federal Funds, received from FHWA, as part of a regional solicitation grant. Therefore, MnDOT's DBE program will be applied to this project.

