

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: November 13, 2023

For the Metropolitan Council: December 13, 2023

Business Item: 2023-266

METRO Blue Line Light Rail Extension Subordinate Funding Agreement No. 02 (Contract #23I032B) with Hennepin County for 2023 – 2024 Staffing Services

District(s), Member(s):	District 2 (Chamblis), District 7 (Osman), District 8 (Cameron)
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 Chris Beckwith, Blue Line Extension Project Director, 612-602-1994
Division/Department:	Metro Transit - METRO Blue Line Extension Project Office (BPO)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement No. 02 (Contract #23I032B) with Hennepin County in an amount not to exceed \$868,290 for the METRO Blue Line Light Rail Transit (BLRT) Extension Project.

Background

The Council and Hennepin County entered into a Master Funding Agreement (MFA) effective January 1, 2022. The MFA serves as the framework for the transfer of funds between the Council and Hennepin County for reimbursement of professional and engineering services related to the BLRT Extension Project. In addition, the MFA establishes the ability to enter into subsequent SFAs with Hennepin County that define work scopes, funding authorizations, and activity periods governing the transfer of funds between the Council and Hennepin County.

Recently, the 2023 – 2024 Capital Grant Agreement (CGA) #22I038 was approved and executed with an effective date of September 1, 2023. The CGA will provide funds for the LRT Project for the Engineering and Construction phase activities, including the costs of staffing provided in this SFA.

This SFA will allow the Council to reimburse Hennepin County for Staff Support Services with an estimated total cost of \$868,290. The County will provide staff for project activities related to engineering and design, communications and outreach, and other associated professional services.

Rationale

Use of Hennepin County staff is a cost-effective way to provide expertise in areas such as engineering and design, and other professional services.

Council Policy requires Interagency Agreements valued at greater than \$500,000 be approved by

the Council.

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 BLRT 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.

Advancing the BLRT Project addresses the Livability outcome by increasing access to transit connections to the greater METRO system, including current and planned light rail and bus rapid transit lines, for communities in the region.

By laying the foundation for a productive partnership between agencies, this agreement with Hennepin County will increase the Council's ability to carry out its principle of working collaboratively.

Funding

Funding for this SFA is fully provided through the Capital Grant Agreement #221038 with Hennepin County and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority and has been authorized by the Council in Project 61403.

Small Business Inclusion

There are no direct impacts to small business inclusion associated with the action.

