

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee Meeting Date: November 25, 2024

For the Metropolitan Council: December 11, 2024

Business Item: 2024-295 SW

Grant Agreement #24I051 with Hennepin County Anti-Displacement Community Prosperity Program for the Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project

District(s), Member(s): District 2 (Chamblis), District 7 (Osman), District 8 (Cameron)
Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Session Laws 2024, Regular Session, Ch. 127, Section 3
Staff Prepared/Presented: Lesley Kandaras, General Manager, 612-349-7513
Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager, 612-349-7507
Annie Xiong, BLE Agreements Lead, 651-602-1996
Division/Department: METRO Blue Line Extension Project Office (BPO)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a general fund grant agreement with Hennepin County (County) for the Anti-Displacement Community Prosperity Program (Program) in an amount of \$10,000,000.

Background

Under the Minnesota Session Laws 2024 Regular Session, Chapter 127, Section 3, the State of Minnesota allocated \$10,000,000 to the County. The grant proceeds were appropriated from the State of Minnesota's general fund to the Council for a grant to the County to administer the Blue Line Light Rail Transit Extension (Project) Anti-Displacement Community Prosperity Program (ACPP).

The Legislature appointed the members of the Anti-displacement Work Group members to a new ACPP Board to evaluate and approve proposed uses of these funds in the areas of affordable housing, business support, public infrastructure, and job training. The Legislature directed Hennepin County to provide administrative support for the ACPP, and the Legislature appropriated the funds to the Council for a grant to Hennepin County.

Rationale

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

Thrive Lens Analysis

Investing in high-quality transportation options will bolster the Thrive outcome of prosperity by enhancing the region's economic competitiveness. This will be achieved through improved access to employment for workers and by assisting employers in accessing a larger workforce through affordable and convenient transportation options.

The Project contributes to the Equity outcome by equitably distributing transit resources across the

region. It aims to enhance access to jobs, educational opportunities, and health services for diverse communities.

Advancing the BLE Project aligns with the Livability outcome by expanding transit connectivity to the broader METRO system. This includes existing and planned light rail and bus rapid transit lines, benefiting communities throughout the region.

Funding

Funds for this contract are an appropriation from the general fund of State of Minnesota for a grant to Hennepin County.

Small Business Inclusion

There are no direct impacts to small business with this action. Any future procurements will follow Hennepin County procurement and small business contracting policies.

