



# METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION PROJECT

## Project Decisions Board

Proposed Board Action  
24-PDB-001  
For the PDB Meeting: February 08, 2024

### Item Description

Approval and adoption of the Project Decisions Board (PDB) Bylaws for PDB's governance and oversight of the Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project.

### Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, that the PDB hereby adopts the Project Decisions Board Bylaws for the Metro Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project (Attachment A).

### Background

In October 2023, Hennepin County, the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, and the Metropolitan Council executed the Capital Grant Agreement for Engineering and Construction for the Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project (Agreement). Section 6.01 of the Agreement, established the PDB with specific powers, duties, and responsibilities. Subsection 6.01(C) of the Agreement requires the PDB to adopt bylaws for efficient operation and effective performance of duties. A copy of the proposed bylaws is attached for discussion and approval. This Resolution would adopt those proposed bylaws as the bylaws of the PDB.



# METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION PROJECT

## Project Decisions Board

Proposed Board Action  
24-PDB-002  
For the PDB Meeting: February 08, 2024

### Item Description

Appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Blue Line Extension Project Decisions Board (PDB).

### Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, that the PDB hereby appoints Charles A. Zelle as the Chair and Irene Fernando as the Vice-Chair of the PDB.

### Background

In October 2023, Hennepin County, the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, and the Metropolitan Council executed the Capital Grant Agreement for Engineering and Construction for the Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project (Agreement). Subsection 6.01(C) of the Agreement requires the PDB to adopt the bylaws that provide for the election of officers. Section 3.4 of the proposed bylaws require the PDB to appoint a Chair and a Vice-Chair from among its members, that the appointed Chair must be a member of the Metropolitan Council, and that the appointed Vice-Chair must be either a Hennepin County or HCRRA Commissioner. This resolution would make those appointments in accordance with the requirements of the proposed bylaws.



# METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION PROJECT

## Project Decisions Board

Proposed Board Action  
24-PDB-003  
For the PDB Meeting: February 08, 2024

### Item Description

Approval of the PDB meeting location and schedule for the year 2024.

### Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, that the PDB hereby approves the scheduled dates for assembly of the PDB in 2024 (Attachment B), to be held at the Blue Line Project Office.

### Background

Section 3.2 of the proposed PDB Bylaws requires the PDB to select a location for its regular meetings, and Section 3.5 of proposed Bylaws requires the PDB to adopt a schedule of regular meetings, providing for a meeting at least once per month. The proposed Bylaws authorize the Chair to cancel or change the location of any regularly scheduled meeting upon notice to each Board member and the public in accordance with the Open Meeting Law.



# METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION PROJECT

## Project Decisions Board

Proposed Board Action  
24-PDB-004  
For the PDB Meeting: February 08, 2024

### Item Description

Authorization to negotiate and execute the Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (SFEIS) Contract #23P182 with HDR Engineering for environmental consulting services for the METRO Blue Line Light Rail Transit Extension (BLE) Project in an amount not to exceed \$3,858,246.

### Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, that the PDB hereby authorizes the negotiation and execution of the Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement (SFEIS) Contract #23P182 with HDR Engineering for environmental consulting services for the METRO Blue Line Light Rail Transit Extension (BLE) Project in an amount not to exceed \$3,858,246.

### Background

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) gave the BLE Project approval to enter the Capital Investment Grant (CIG) Project Development Phase on August 22, 2014. The Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was released in July 2016, followed by FTA's issuance of a Record of Decision in September 2016 and then Entry into the Engineering Phase on January 19, 2017. At its June 22, 2022, meeting, the Metropolitan Council advanced a proposed route modification so as to not utilize freight rail right-of-way, as outlined in the 2022 Route Modification Report. The FTA determined that the appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Class of Action required for addressing the route modification was to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). The proposed new route forms the basis of additional technical and environmental analysis and community outreach and engagement which is currently underway.

The SEIS development process consists of a Supplemental Draft EIS (SDEIS), and a Supplemental Final EIS (SFEIS). The Project is currently undergoing preparation and publication of the SDEIS. The project office anticipates that this document will be published in May 2024, and a public comment period of 45 days will follow. Upon completion of this comment period, the project office will start preparing for the SFEIS which is anticipated to be published in the Spring of 2025.

Preparation of the SFEIS requires substantial environmental consulting services. The current environmental consulting services contract is nearing its end. The project office therefore identified the need for a new environmental services contract to complete the SFEIS and to avoid significant schedule delays to the BLE NEPA process and the overall BLE project.

The Metropolitan Council therefore issued a Request for Proposals for environmental consulting services to prepare the SFEIS on September 11, 2023. Council staff hosted a pre-proposal meeting that outlined the solicitation requirements, discussed project specifications, and responded to plan holder inquiries. The Council received one proposal for the SFEIS contract to be evaluated for the consideration of award, from HDR Engineering. This Resolution would thus negotiate and execute a new environmental services contract with HDR Engineering in an amount not to exceed \$3,858,246.

# ATTACHMENT A – Draft Bylaws



# **ATTACHMENT B – Proposed PDB Schedule for 2024**