

METRO BLUE LINE EXTENTION PROJECT PROJECT DECISIONS BOARD

Proposed Board Action

24-PDB-005

For the PDB Meeting: September 24, 2024

Item Description

Approval of additional station at Washington and West Broadway Avenues

Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Project Decisions Board approves the inclusion in the project scope of construction of a station at Washington and West Broadway Avenues in Minneapolis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Project Decisions Board directs that, when final design plans are prepared for the project, such plans should include this station; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the approvals provided in this Resolution are subject to and conditioned on the receipt of a Record of Decision from the Federal Transit Administration determining that the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act are satisfied for the project.

Background

Section 6.01(D)(3) of the Capital Grant Agreement for Engineering and Construction of the Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project requires that the Project Decisions Board “approve the scope, schedule, and budget of the [Blue Line Extension] Project and any changes thereto.”

On July 26, 2024, the Metropolitan Council submitted the physical design component of the preliminary design plans for the project to Hennepin County and each of the four cities in which the project is proposed to be located, as required by Minnesota Statutes section 473.3994, subd. 3. These design plans included necessary infrastructure for a station at Washington and West Broadway Avenues in Minneapolis, but they assumed that the station itself would be added at a future point in time.

Since July 26, 2024, the project office has continued to analyze and develop the physical design of the project. It has determined that the station at Washington and West Broadway Avenues should occur along with the rest of the Blue Line Extension Project and should be included in the final design of the project. This determination is based on a variety of factors, including updated forecasts related to development in the station area.

This Resolution provides the approval of the PDB for including construction of this new station as part of the current project. The first resolving clause provides the PDB’s approval for inclusion of this station in the project scope. The second resolving clause directs that this station be included in the final design plans for the project. The third resolving clause makes clear that the project scope approved by this resolution is not final and is subject to the outcome of the environmental review process currently underway for the project.