

**METRO BLUE LINE EXTENSION
LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT PROJECT**
Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement



**Quarterly Report No. 14
(December 1, 2019 – February 29, 2020)**

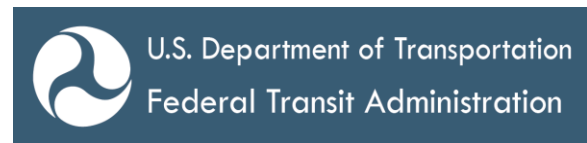
Prepared by:

Minnesota Department of Transportation
395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-1899



On behalf of:

Federal Transit Administration
Region V
200 West Adams Street, Suite 320
Chicago, IL 60606



and

Metropolitan Council
Blue Line Extension Project Office
5514 West Broadway, Suite 200
Crystal, MN 55428



March 2020

Introduction

The METRO Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit (LRT) Project (Project), previously known as the Bottineau Transitway, is an approximately 13.5-mile long extension of the METRO Blue Line (Hiawatha LRT) located in Hennepin County, Minnesota. The line will begin at the existing Target Field Station (previously known as the Interchange Station) in Minneapolis, where it will connect with the existing METRO Blue and Green LRT lines, and the Northstar Commuter Rail line, and extend along a northwesterly alignment, to connect the cities of Minneapolis, Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, Crystal and Brooklyn Park. The Project includes 11 new stations; five park-and-ride facilities (one existing and four new); accommodations for passenger drop off, bicycle and pedestrian access, and new or restructured local bus routes connecting stations to nearby destinations; and one new operations and maintenance facility (OMF).

The Project sponsor, the Metropolitan Council, may receive funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and permits from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to construct the Project. Therefore, the Project is a federal undertaking and must comply with Section 306108 (previously Section 106 and hereinafter referred to as Section 106) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 United States Code § 306108) and its implementing regulations, 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800 et. seq. In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800.2(a)(2), the USACE has recognized FTA as the lead federal agency responsible for fulfilling their collective responsibilities for the Project under Section 106.

Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 et. seq., FTA, with assistance from the Minnesota Department of Transportation Cultural Resources Unit, consulted with the Minnesota Historic Preservation Office and other interested parties to define an Area of Potential Effect (APE), conducted surveys to identify and evaluate historic properties within the APE for the National Register of Historic Places, assessed effects of the Project on historic properties, and resolved adverse effects. The measures FTA agreed to implement as part of the Project to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse effects on historic properties are documented in the Memorandum of Agreement between the *Federal Transit Administration and the Minnesota Historic Preservation Office Regarding the METRO Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project, Hennepin County, Minnesota* (MOA), which was executed on August 23, 2016.

This quarterly summary report was prepared to meet the reporting requirements of MOA Stipulation X.A. It provides an itemized listing of all measures required to implement the terms of the MOA, identifies actions FTA has taken during the reporting period to implement those measures, and includes a timetable of activities proposed for implementation within the following reporting period. It also identifies any problems or unexpected issues encountered during the reporting period, any proposed scheduling changes, any disputes and objections submitted or resolved as part of FTA's efforts to carry out the terms of the MOA, and any changes recommended in implementation of the MOA.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

The following is a list of commonly used acronyms and abbreviations that may be found in the reporting table found in the Implementation Efforts section of this report.

APE	Area of Potential Effect
Council	Metropolitan Council
CRU	Cultural Resources Unit
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GN	Great Northern Railway
GRHD	Grand Rounds Historic District
HPC	Heritage Preservation Commission
LRT	Light Rail Transit
MnDOT	Minnesota Department of Transportation
MnHPO	Minnesota Historic Preservation Office
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MPRB	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
Project	METRO Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit Project
Q1	Quarter of the year, in this example, the First Quarter
SOI	Secretary of the Interior
StPM&M	St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad

Implementation Efforts

This is quarterly report No. 14 prepared under the terms of the Project MOA and covers the reporting period from December 1, 2019, through February 29, 2020.

MOA Action Item	Implementation Schedule	Implementation Status
Stipulation I. Identification of Additional Historic Properties		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey and evaluation – post-1965 architecture/history properties and previously unsurveyed historic properties within revised APE 	Survey of post-1965 architecture/history properties within the Project’s APE (as of August 2016) are to be completed prior to the completion of the 90% Plans. Survey of historic properties in areas added to the Project’s revised archaeological and architecture/history APEs are dependent on when the APE is revised.	Completed April 2019 for APE revisions submitted in July 2018.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of Effects 	As needed, to be completed only if National Register listed or eligible properties are identified during the survey and evaluation required by Stipulation I.A as identified above, anticipated schedule: Q3-Q4 2020. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robbinsdale Municipal Building Bethune Complex Prince Rogers Nelson Second Childhood Home 	On-going, as needed, work will continue pending the outcome of future coordination and discussion with BNSF.
Stipulation II. Project Design Development		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design Project to meet the SOI’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minneapolis-Golden Valley Segment Robbinsdale Segment 	On-going through completion of the 100% Plans, anticipated schedule: Q3 2016-Q4 2020	On-going, also see Stipulation III
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation on Project design – segments required to meet the SOI’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties 	On-going through completion of the 100% Plans, anticipated schedule: Q3 2016-Q4 2020	On-going, also see Stipulation III
Stipulation III. Pre-Construction Design Review		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with MnHPO and other consulting parties to inform the design of the 30% Plans 		Completed September 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of 30% Plans 		Completed November 2016

MOA Action Item	Implementation Schedule	Implementation Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MnDOT CRU/FTA ○ MnHPO 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation to inform the design of the 60% Plans 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Owners and residents of properties in the Homewood Residential Historic District (Stipulation XI) 	Required by Stipulation XI, but included here to document progression of the design consultation. To be completed prior to the completion of the 60% Plans.	Completed December 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Owners and residents of properties in the West Broadway Avenue Residential Historic District (Stipulation XII) 	Required by Stipulation XII, but included here to document progression of the design consultation. To be completed prior to the completion of the 60% Plans.	Completed December 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MnHPO and other consulting parties 	To be completed prior to the completion of the 60% Plans.	Completed. Also see MOA Action Item “Consultation to inform the design of the 90% Plans” and Stipulation II.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of 60% Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MnDOT CRU/FTA ○ MnHPO 	To be completed prior to the review of the 90% Plans, but will be completed in stages as 60% Plans for different Project construction packages are completed.	<p>Completed April 2018.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil 1: Completed June 2017, except for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plymouth Avenue Station Area: Completed December 2017 ○ Robbinsdale Park & Ride Facility: Completed April 2018. • Civil 2: Completed June 2017 • OMF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brooklyn Park OMF: Completed June 2017 ○ Franklin OMF: Completed October 2017¹ • Bridges: Completed October 2017 • Systems: Completed October 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with MnHPO and other consulting parties to inform the design of the 90% Plans 	Anticipated schedule: Q2 2017-Q3 2020	In process. Consultation is complete with the exception of the Robbinsdale Park & Ride Facility. Consultation to inform the 90% Plans for it will continue pending the outcome of future coordination and discussion with BNSF. Also see Stipulation II and VIII.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of 90% Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MnDOT CRU/FTA 	<p>Anticipated schedule: Q4 2017-Q3 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robbinsdale Park & Ride Facility (Civil 1): anticipated Q2 2017-Q3 2020 	In process. Work will continue pending the outcome of future coordination and discussion with BNSF.

¹ The Franklin OMF expansion was transferred from the Blue Line Extension LRT Project to the Southwest Line Rail Transit Project in the reporting period covered by Quarterly Report 9 (September 1, 2018 – November 30, 2018).

MOA Action Item	Implementation Schedule	Implementation Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brooklyn Park OMF: anticipated Q4 2017-Q3 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bassett Creek Tunnel Early Construction: Reviewed at 100% • Civil 1, 2, Early Construction Theodore Wirth Bridge, OMF, Bridges, & Systems: Completed August 2018 (with the exception of the Robbinsdale Park & Ride Facility and the Brooklyn Park OMF): Completed August 2018. • Floodplain Mitigation/MCES Early Construction: Completed June 2018. • Bassett Creek Tunnel Removal (advanced utility project): During the reporting period, MnDOT CRU completed review of the final 90% Plans and specifications, and concluded the plans have no substantive changes and continue to meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. MnDOT CRU submitted its findings, along with the plans, specifications, and a draft Construction Protection Plan for Historic Properties to FTA on December 11, 2019. On December 13, 2019, FTA adopted MnDOT CRU’s findings and notified MnHPO and consulting parties pursuant to Stipulation III.A. See also Stipulation IV.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of 100% Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MnDOT CRU/FTA 	<p>To be completed prior to the start of Project construction, anticipated schedule: Q4 2017-Q4 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plymouth Avenue Station Area: anticipated Q4 2020 ○ Robbinsdale Park & Ride Facility: anticipated Q4 2020 • Civil 2: anticipated Q4 2020 • Early Construction (Theodore Wirth Bridge and Floodplain Mitigation/MCES): anticipated Q3 2020 • Brooklyn Park OMF: anticipated Q4 2020 • Bridges: anticipated Q4 2020 • Systems: anticipated Q4 2020 • Bassett Creek Tunnel Removal (advanced utility project: Q2 2020 	<p>In process. Work will continue pending the outcome of future coordination and discussion with BNSF.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bassett Creek Tunnel Early Construction: Completed October 2017 • Floodplain Mitigation/MCES Early Construction: In process. <p>Also see Stipulation IV.</p>
Stipulation IV. Construction Protection Plan		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction Protection Plan 	<p>To be completed prior to the start of Project construction, anticipated schedule: Q4 2016-Q4 2020</p>	<p>In process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on the project-wide Construction Protection Plan for Historic Properties will continue pending the outcome of future coordination and discussion with BNSF. Also see Stipulation XIII. • The Council, with the assistance of MnDOT CRU, developed a draft Construction Protection Plan for Historic Properties specifically for the Bassett Creek Tunnel Removal Project, an advanced utility project. On

MOA Action Item	Implementation Schedule	Implementation Status
		December 11, 2019, MnDOT CRU submitted the draft plan to FTA for review and approval. On December 13, 2019, FTA adopted the draft plan and submitted it, along with special provisions, to MnHPO and consulting parties for review and comment. On January 7, 2020, the City of Minneapolis HPC notified MnDOT CRU that they have no comments on the plan. On January 13, 2020, MnHPO concurred that the draft plan and special provisions are sufficient. The Council will incorporate the plan, as final, into contract documents. Also see Stipulations III and XIII.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vibration Management and Remediation Monitoring Reporting 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pre-Construction Survey Reporting 	To be completed prior to the start of Project construction, anticipated schedule: Q1 2021-2023	Not started
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Post-Construction Survey Reporting 	Will be on-going during Project construction, to be completed in the quarter following completion of Project construction, anticipated timeframe: Q1 2021-2023	Not started
Stipulation V. Noise Mitigation		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiet Zones 	Design to be developed and reviewed per Stipulations II and III, infrastructure to be installed before Project construction is completed and FRA approval to be requested before the Project initiates revenue service operations, anticipated timeframe: Q3 2016-2023	In process. All at-grade shared crossings of LRT and freight rail are being designed to include supplemental safety measures and to qualify for FRA Quiet Zone designation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property Specific Noise Mitigation 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interior Testing 	To be completed prior to the start of Project construction, anticipated schedule: Q1 2021-2023	Not started
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Noise Mitigation Plan 	As needed if, as a result of interior testing, FTA determines there is an adverse effect. If needed, anticipated schedule: Q1 2021-2023	Not started
Stipulation VI. National Register of Historic Places Nominations		

MOA Action Item	Implementation Schedule	Implementation Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Floyd B. Olson Memorial 	To be completed no later than one year from the date the Project initiates revenue service operations, anticipated timeframe: 2021-2024	In process. The MnHPO informally reviewed a Draft NRHP nomination in April 2018 and indicated it was adequate. Further revisions and formal action will be taken when the statue is in its final location; see Stipulation VIII.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wayman A.M.E. Church 	To be completed no later than one year from the date the Project initiates revenue service operations, anticipated timeframe: 2021-2024	Not started
Stipulation VII. Interpretation of Historic Properties²		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretive Plan 	To be completed prior to, and incorporated into, the Project's 100% Plans.	Completed November 2018. MnDOT CRU will ensure integration of the Interpretive Plan into the Project as part of their continued review of the 100% Project Plans under Stipulation III.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of Interpretation 	To be installed prior to the initiation of revenue service operations, anticipated timeframe: Q1 2021-2023	Not started
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website to interpret the Osseo Branch of the StPM&M/GN Historic District and the GRHD: Theodore Wirth Segment 	To be developed after the Final Interpretative Plan is approved and completed and prior to initiation of revenue service operations, anticipated timeframe: Q1 2020-2023	Not started
Stipulation VIII. Floyd B. Olson Memorial		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treatment Plan 	Anticipated to be completed prior to, and incorporated into, the Project's 100% Plans (MOA does not specify a timeframe).	Completed March 2018.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site Improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation to inform the design of 30%, 60%, and 90% Plans Review of 30%, 60%, and 90% Plans 	Consultation and reviews anticipated to be completed prior to, and incorporated into, the Project's 100% Plans. Implementation to be completed no later than one year from the date the Project initiates revenue service operations, anticipated schedule: Q2 2017-2024	In process. MnDOT CRU completed its review of the 30% Plans for the proposed relocation site of the Memorial and notified FTA of its findings. FTA completed its review of 30% Plans, adopted MnDOT CRU's findings, and submitted the Plans to MnHPO and concurring parties for comment on December 13, 2019. MnHPO concurred with FTA's findings and provided additional comments on January 13, 2020.
Stipulation IX. Osseo Branch of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad / Great Northern Railway Historic District		

² Interpretation is only for the Osseo Branch of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad / Great Northern Railway Historic District and the Grand Rounds Historic District: Theodore Wirth Segment.

MOA Action Item	Implementation Schedule	Implementation Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase II Intensive Level Inventory and Evaluation of Historic Railroad Line(s) in Minnesota: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One (1) mainline across the entire state of Minnesota, or ○ Up to a total of five (5) shorter mainlines and/or branch lines 	To be completed no later than one year from the date the Project initiates revenue service operations, anticipated timeframe: 2018-2024	Not started
Stipulation X. Grand Rounds Historic District		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vegetation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Golden Valley Road Park-and-Ride Facility ○ Golden Valley Road Station Trailhead 	To be completed prior to, and incorporated into, the Project's 100% Plans, anticipated schedule: Q3 2016-Q4 2020	In process. Work will continue pending the outcome of future coordination and discussion with BNSF. Also see Stipulations II and III.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans for the Grand Rounds Historic District: Theodore Wirth Segment 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preservation Plan 	To be completed no later than one year from the date the Project initiates revenue service operations, anticipated timeframe: 2020-2024	Not started
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Treatments Plan 	To be completed no later than one year from the date the Project initiates revenue service operations, anticipated timeframe: 2020-2024	Not started
Stipulation XI. Homewood Residential Historic District		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional design consultation – meeting with owners and residents of properties in the district to inform Project design 	To be completed prior to the 60% Plans, also see Stipulations II and III for timeline for other design consultation related to this district and the completion of 60% Plans	Completed December 2017. See Stipulation III.
Stipulation XII. West Broadway Avenue Residential Historic District		

MOA Action Item	Implementation Schedule	Implementation Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional design consultation with owners and residents of properties in the district to inform Project design 	To be completed prior to the 60% Plans, also see Stipulations II and III for timeline for other design consultation related to this district and the completion of 60% Plans	Completed December 2016.
Stipulation XIII. Review Process During Construction		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan for Unexpected Discoveries 	To be developed and included as part of the Construction Protection Plan, anticipated schedule: Q3 2016–Q4 2020, also see Stipulation IV.	<p>In process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Construction Protection Plan was finalized for the Basset Creek Tunnel Removal Project, an advanced utility project, in January 2020. Also see Stipulation IV. Work on the project-wide Construction Protection Plan for Historic Properties, which will include a Plan for Unexpected Discoveries, will continue pending the outcome of future coordination and discussion with BNSF. Work on a Construction Protection Plan for the Floodplain Mitigation (Early Construction) portion of the project work will also continue pending the outcome of future coordination and discussion with BNSF.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Modifications 	As needed after the completion of the 100% Plans, through the completion of Project construction, anticipated timeframe: Q1 2021-2023	Not started
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic Properties Discovered or Unexpectedly Affected as a Result of Project Construction 	As needed during Project construction, anticipated schedule: Q1 2021-2023	Not started
Stipulation XIV. Resolution of Additional Adverse Effects		
Stipulation XV. Standards		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out work pursuant to the MOA in accordance with the <i>SOI's Standards for Archaeology and Historic Preservation</i> 	Duration of MOA implementation, anticipated timeframe: Q3 2016-Q3 2026, or earlier if all MOA measures implemented	On-going
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FTA oversight to ensure that all activities carried out pursuant to the MOA are done by, or under the direct supervision of, historic preservation professionals who 	Duration of MOA implementation, anticipated timeframe: Q3 2016-Q3 2026, or earlier if all MOA measures implemented	On-going

MOA Action Item	Implementation Schedule	Implementation Status
meet the <i>SOI's Professional Qualifications Standards</i>		
Stipulation XVI. Monitoring and Reporting		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly MOA Implementation Summary Report 	Every 3 months following MOA execution until it expires or is terminated, anticipated schedule: Q3 2016-Q3 2026, or earlier if all MOA measures implemented	On-going. The quarterly summary report for the previous reporting period was submitted to MnHPO on December 9, 2019. The next quarterly report will be prepared and submitted at the end of the next reporting period.
Stipulation XVII. Coordination with Other Federal Reviews	As needed during duration of MOA implementation, anticipated timeframe: Q3 2016-Q3 2026, or earlier if all MOA measures implemented	On-going, as needed, no activity during reporting period
Stipulation XVIII. Dispute Resolution	As needed during duration of MOA implementation, anticipated timeframe: Q3 2016-Q3 2026, or earlier if all MOA measures implemented	On-going, as needed, no activity during reporting period
Stipulation XIX. Duration, Amendments, and Termination	As needed during duration of MOA implementation, anticipated timeframe: Q3 2016-Q3 2026, or earlier if all MOA measures implemented	On-going, as needed, no activity during reporting period