

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



**Quarterly Report No. 2
(December 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017)**

Prepared by:

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On behalf of:

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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 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), conduct surveys to identify and evaluate historic properties within the APE for the National Register of Historic Places, assess effects of the Project on historic properties, and resolve 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
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
TH	Trunk Highway
TPSS	Traction Power Substation(s)

Implementation Efforts

This is quarterly report No. 2 prepared under the terms of the Project MOA and covers the reporting period from December 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017.

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 	To be completed prior to the completion of the 90% Plans, anticipated schedule: Q3 2016-Q3 2017	In process
<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.	On-going, as needed, no activity during reporting period
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 2017	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 2017	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 	Q3 2016	Completed September 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of 30% Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MnDOT CRU/FTA ○ MnHPO 	Q3-Q4 2016	Completed November 2016

MOA Action Item	Implementation Schedule	Implementation Status
<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) 	<p>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, anticipated schedule: Q4 2016, also see Stipulation XI</p>	<p>In process. A design consultation meeting was held with owners and residents of properties in the district on December 3, 2016, to discuss the design of Project elements within and in the vicinity of the historic district. The focus was Project elements within the Plymouth Avenue Station Area, including the Plymouth Avenue bridge, vertical circulation building, retaining walls and a TPSS located near the southwest corner of the district. Attendees requested an opportunity to provide input on fencing and landscaping. The design of these elements will not be included in the 60% Plans. Therefore, the Project will consult on these elements after the 60% Plans are completed to inform the 90% Plans. Also see Stipulations II and XI.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Owners and residents of properties in the West Broadway Avenue Residential Historic District (Stipulation XII) 	<p>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, anticipated schedule: Q4 2016, also see Stipulation XII</p>	<p>Completed December 2016. A design consultation meeting was held with owners and residents of properties in the district on December 14, 2016, to discuss the design of Project elements within and in the vicinity of the historic district. The focus was the LRT bridge over TH 100 and approach structure, and associated landscaping. Noise mitigation and Project elements within the Robbinsdale Station Area were also discussed. Also see Stipulations II and XII.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MnHPO and other consulting parties 	<p>To be completed prior to the completion of the 60% Plans, anticipated schedule: Q4 2016-Q1 2017</p>	<p>In process. A series of consultation meetings were held with MnHPO and other consulting parties in January and February 2017, to discuss the design of Project elements that need to meet the SOI's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 18, 2017: Plymouth Avenue Station Area. The focus was the station area as a whole, and specific designs for the Plymouth Avenue Bridge and vertical circulation building. • February 2, 2017 (a.m.): Golden Valley Road Station Area. The focus was the station area as a whole, and specific designs for vertical circulation building, trailhead, retaining and barrier walls, landscaping, and roadway intersection. <p>In follow up to the January 18, 2017 consultation meeting, a focused, small group meeting was held with MnHPO and the MPRB to begin development of a mission statement and guiding principals for the design of the Plymouth Avenue Station Area.</p> <p>No formal written comments were requested from these meetings. Formal comments from consulting parties will be requested on the Final 60% Plans per Stipulation III.C (see below).</p>

MOA Action Item	Implementation Schedule	Implementation Status
		Consultation to inform the 60% Plans will continue during the next reporting period. Also see Stipulation II.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of 60% Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MnDOT CRU/FTA ○ MnHPO 	Anticipated schedule: Q1-Q2 2017	Expected to begin in next reporting period
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with MnHPO and other consulting parties to inform the design of the 90% Plans 	Anticipated schedule: Q2-Q3 2017	<p>In process. A consultation meeting was held with MnHPO and other consulting parties on February 15, 2017, to discuss the design of Project elements along TH 55 that need to meet the SOI's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. The focus was streetscape design along TH 55 and the station platform designs for the Van White and Penn Avenue Stations. No formal written comments were requested from this meeting. Formal comments from consulting parties will be requested on the Final 90% Plans per Stipulation III.C (see below).</p> <p>Consultation to inform the 90% Plans will continue after the 60% Plans are completed. Also see Stipulation II.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of 90% Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MnDOT CRU/FTA 	Anticipated schedule: Q3-Q4 2017	Not started
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of 100% Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MnDOT CRU/FTA 	To be completed prior to the start of Project construction, anticipated schedule: Q4 2017-Q1 2018	Not started
Stipulation IV. Construction Protection Plan		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction Protection Plan 	To be completed prior to the start of Project construction, anticipated schedule: Q4 2016-Q4 2017	In process. Work on the draft plan will continue during the next reporting period. Also see Stipulation 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: Q2-Q3 2018	Not started
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Post-Construction Survey Reporting 	On-going during Project construction, to be completed in the quarter following completion of Project construction, anticipated timeframe: Q3 2018-2021	Not started
Stipulation V. Noise Mitigation		

MOA Action Item	Implementation Schedule	Implementation Status
<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 2016-2021	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. Design work will continue during next reporting period.
<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: Q2 2017-Q2 2018	Not started
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Noise Mitigation Plan 	As needed, to be completed only if, as a result of interior testing, FTA determines there is an adverse effect. If needed, anticipated schedule: Q2 2017-2021	Not started
Stipulation VI. National Register of Historic Places Nominations		
<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: 2021-2022	Not started
<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: 2021-2022	Not started
Stipulation VII. Interpretation of Historic Properties¹		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretive Plan 	To be completed prior to, and incorporated into, the Project's 100% Plans, anticipated schedule: Q3 2016-Q4 2017	In process. Work on the Draft Interpretive Plan, which will include standards, themes, subthemes, locations and media for the interpretation, is underway. The draft plan is anticipated to be completed early in the next reporting period and provided to consulting parties for comment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of Interpretation 	To be installed prior to the initiation of revenue service operations, anticipated timeframe: Q2 2018-2021	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 prior to initiation of revenue service operations, anticipated timeframe: Q2 2018-2021	Not started
Stipulation VIII. Floyd B. Olson Memorial		

¹ 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"> • Treatment Plan 	<p>Anticipated to be completed prior to, and incorporated into, the Project's 100% Plans (MOA does not specify a timeframe), anticipated schedule: Q4 2016-Q1 2018</p>	<p>In process. Initial research for the treatment plan was completed in February 2017. The Draft Treatment Plan is anticipated to be completed early in the next reporting and will be provided to consulting parties for comment. A consultation meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 29, 2017 to review the Draft Treatment Plan.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Improvements 	<p>To be completed no later than one year from the date the Project initiates revenue service operations, anticipated schedule: Q2 2017-Q4 2022</p>	<p>Not started</p>
<p>Stipulation IX. Osseo Branch of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad / Great Northern Railway Historic District</p>		
<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 	<p>To be completed no later than one year from the date the Project initiates revenue service operations, anticipated timeframe: 2018-2022</p>	<p>Not started</p>
<p>Stipulation X. Grand Rounds Historic District</p>		
<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 	<p>To be completed prior to, and incorporated into, the Project's 100% Plans, anticipated schedule: Q3 2016-Q1 2018</p>	<p>In process. Design work to continue during next reporting period. A series of consultation meetings were held during the reporting period to discuss the design of Project elements within and in the vicinity of the historic district:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 3, 2016: Meeting with owners and residents of properties in the Homewood Historic District to discuss the design of Project elements within and in the vicinity of the Homewood Historic District, all of which are also within or in the vicinity of the Grand Rounds Historic District. The focus was the Plymouth Avenue Station Area and a TPSS. • January 18, 2017: Meeting with MnHPO and other consulting parties. The focus was the Plymouth Avenue Station Area. • January 18, 2017: Meeting with MnHPO and MPRB. The focus was the Plymouth Avenue Station Area.

MOA Action Item	Implementation Schedule	Implementation Status
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> February 2, 2017 (a.m.): Meeting with MnHPO and other consulting parties. The focus was Golden Valley Road Station Area. Consultation will continue during the next reporting period. 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"> o Preservation Plan 	To be completed no later than one year from the date the Project initiates revenue service operations, anticipated timeframe: 2019-2022	Not started
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Treatments Plan 	To be completed no later than one year from the date the Project initiates revenue service operations, anticipated timeframe: 2019-2022	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, anticipated schedule: Q4 2016-Q1 2017, also see Stipulations II and III for timeline for other design consultation related to this district and the completion of 60% Plans	In process. A design consultation meeting with owners and residents of properties in the district was held on December 3, 2016. Additional consultation is required after the completion of the 60% plans to gain input on Project elements of concern to be included in the 90% Plans. Consultation to be held prior to the completion of the 90% Plans. Also see Stipulations III and X.
Stipulation XII. West Broadway Avenue Residential Historic District		
<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, anticipated schedule: Q4 2016-Q1 2017, 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. A design consultation meeting was held with owners and residents of properties in the district on December 14, 2016. Also see Stipulation III.
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 2017	In process. Also see Stipulation IV.
<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 2018-2021	Not started

MOA Action Item	Implementation Schedule	Implementation Status
<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: Q2 2018-2021	Not started
Stipulation XIV. Resolution of Additional Adverse Effects	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 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 meet the <i>SOI's Professional Qualifications Standards</i> 	Duration of MOA implementation, anticipated timeframe: Q3 2016-Q3 2026, or earlier if all MOA measures implemented	On-going
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, 2016. 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