

Committee Report

Transportation Committee



Committee meeting date: November 24, 2025

For the Metropolitan Council: December 3, 2025

Business Item: 2025-286

METRO Blue Line Extension Project Subordinate Funding Agreement No. 11 (#14I044K) with MnDOT for 2026 Staffing Services

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council ("Council") authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement No.11 (#14I044K) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation ("MnDOT") in an amount not to exceed \$2,574,957.32.

Summary of Transportation Committee discussion/questions

Metro Transit Blue Line Extension Project Director Alicia Vap and Agreements Lead Annie Xiong presented this item. Council Members offered a point of a clarification for the project.

Motion by Osman, seconded by Obisakin. Motion carried.

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District(s), member(s):	District 2 (Chamblis), District 7 (Osman), District 8 (Cameron)
Policy/legal reference:	FM 14-2 Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy; Minn. Stat. § 473.3999
Staff prepared/presented:	Alicia Vap, Blue Line Ext. Project Director, 612-340-7079 Annie Xiong, Blue Line Ext. Agreements Lead, 651-602-1996
Division/department:	Metro Transit – Blue Line Extension Project Office (BPO)

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council (“Council”) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute Subordinate Funding Agreement No.11 (#14I044K) with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (“MnDOT”) in an amount not to exceed \$2,574,957.32.

Background

In 2015, the Council entered into a Master Funding Agreement (“MFA”) with MnDOT for the development of the METRO Blue Line Extension Project (“the Project”). Each Subordinate Funding Agreement (“SFA”) under the MFA provides a method for the transfer of funds and defines the specific purpose of the expenditures.

This SFA will allow the Council to reimburse MnDOT for eligible professional services costs incurred during calendar year 2026 that are related to the Project. In 2026, MnDOT will assist the Project in design support, construction support, environmental support, utility coordination, and right-of-way management activities.

Use of MnDOT staff is a cost-effective way to provide expertise in areas such as engineering and design, construction oversight, permitting, and right-of-way coordination.

Rationale

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

Thrive lens analysis

On Feb 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Under the thrive lens, investment in high-quality transportation options will advance the Thrive outcome of prosperity by making the region more economically competitive through increased workers’ access to employment, and support to employers by increasing available workforce with affordable, convenient transportation.

The Project advances the Equity outcome by distributing transit resources throughout the region and improving access to jobs, educational opportunities, and health services to diverse communities.

Advancing the Project addresses the Livability outcome by increasing access to transit connections to the greater METRO system, including current and planned light rail and bus rapid transit lines, for communities in the region.

By laying the foundation for a productive partnership between agencies, this agreement with MnDOT will increase the Council's ability to carry out its principle of working collaboratively.

Funding

Funding for this SFA is provided through the Capital Grant Agreement No. 221038 with Hennepin County and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority and incorporated into the Council's Authorized Capital Budget under Project #61403.

Small business inclusion

There are no direct impacts to small business associated with this action. MnDOT employees will perform all activities listed in the proposed action.

