Committee Report

Management Committee

Committee meeting date: July 22, 2026 **For the Metropolitan Council:** August 12, 2026

Business Item: 2026-132

Joint Powers Cooperative Agreement with Washington State Department of Enterprise Services

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute joint powers cooperative agreement #26I040 with the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services ("DES") to allow the Council to utilize their master contracts for cooperative purchasing of rolling stock and associated equipment and technology.

Summary of Management Committee discussion/questions

Jody Jacoby, Chief Procurement Officer, presented this item. Ms. Jacoby provided background information on statutory authority to enter into cooperative agreements with other entities and the value these agreements deliver for the Council. Ms. Jacoby also discussed the changes between the 2022 cooperative agreement with the Washington State DES and the 2026 proposed cooperative agreement; these changes will be beneficial to the Council. There were no Committee questions.

Motion by Lilligren, seconded by Osman. Motion carried, consent to Council.

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Joint Powers Cooperative Agreement with Washington State Department of Enterprise Services

District(s), member(s):	All
Policy/legal reference:	FM 14-1 Procurement Policy; Minnesota Statutes § 471.59
Staff prepared/presented:	Jody Jacoby, Chief Procurement Officer, 651-602-1144
Division/department:	Procurement Department/Regional Administration

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute joint powers cooperative agreement #26I040 with the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services ("DES") to allow the Council to utilize their master contracts for cooperative purchasing of rolling stock and associated equipment and technology.

Background

DES is a Washington State governmental agency that was established as a cooperative purchasing entity. The Council previously authorized Agreement #22I002 in BI 2022-260 with DES to allow the Council to utilize DES's master contracts for purchase of rolling stock. DES's process for procuring rolling stock complies with Federal Transit Administration ("FTA") procurement requirements.

Pursuant to Section 3019 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, FTA grantees may enter into cooperative procurement contracts between a State and one or more vendors. In these cooperative contracts, vendors agree to provide an option to purchase rolling stock and related equipment to multiple participants. FTA grantees may participate in a cooperative procurement contract without regard to whether the grantee is in the same state as the parties to the contract.

Minnesota Statutes § 471.59 authorizes two or more governmental unities to enter into agreements through which they jointly or cooperatively exercise any power common to the contracting parties. Both the Council and DES have the authority to procure transit rolling stock and associated equipment and technology. Minnesota Statutes § 471.59 authorizes Minnesota governmental units to enter into joint powers agreements with "another state."

Rationale

Procurement Policy 14-1 requires that all joint powers agreements be authorized 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, this action supports several Thrive outcomes:

1. Stewardship: Use of the Washington State DES cooperative agreement allows the Council to efficiently procure rolling stock resources. This leverages staff time and resources and provides bus availability and maintains compliance with funding requirements.
2. Livability: Rolling stock procured from the DES cooperative help reduce traffic in congested corridors. It improves regional residents' quality of life and experience by expanding available transportation through providing more transit options within the region. More public transportation options help improve air quality which increases the livability of the region.
3. Prosperity: This cooperative agreement is another tool to better plan and invest in rolling stock in the region. It increases the connection of residents with employment reachable by transit and improves social and entertainment opportunities in high density areas.
4. Equity: Expansion of rolling stock fleet options supports growth in ridership and increases mobility and access to opportunities for all residents, regardless of race, economic means and ability.

Funding

This is a zero-cost cooperative agreement. Funding for rolling stock, equipment, and technology purchases will be approved separately.

Small business inclusion

The cooperative purchasing agreement is authorized under Minnesota Statutes § 471.59. Therefore, the Office of Civil Rights and Small Business did not establish a small business inclusion goal.