

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: July 24, 2017

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of August 9, 2017

Subject: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension) Cooperative Funding Agreement Amendment #1 with Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: 16 U.S.C Section 470(f)

Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510
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Division/Department: Metro Transit / Green Line Extension Project Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute amendment #1 to the Project Development (PD) Continuance and Engineering Cooperative Funding Agreement for the Southwest LRT (SWLRT), (Green Line Extension) Project between the Council and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) to extend the HCRRA 20% share of funding for this phase through March 2018, for an amount not to exceed \$59.9 million.

Background

The Council and HCRRA entered into a Cooperative Funding Agreement (CFA) for SWLRT Project Development Continuance and Engineering in October 2016. The Agreement set forth terms by which the parties would work cooperatively to successfully complete activities required to complete the Project Development Continuance and Engineering phases of FTA's New Starts program. The Project completed the PD Continuance Phase when FTA granted approval to enter the Engineering Phase in December 2016.

Changes in the Project schedule have shifted heavy construction activities into 2018. As a result, the Engineering phase has been extended. Amendment #1 will extend the HCRRA 20% share, or \$59.9M, of funding for this phase through March 2018. The remaining funding will be provided by CTIB, the Council, and Hennepin County. This CFA includes expenses eligible for pre-award authority including right-of-way-acquisition and light rail vehicle procurement activities. The Parties have agreed to enter into a subsequent CFA for the Construction phase activities in 2018.

Rationale

Executing the CFA amendment is consistent with actions taken by the Council and by other stakeholders, including CTIB and HCRRA, to continue development of the SWLRT Extension Project. On August 30, 2016, the HCRRA Board passed resolution 16-HCRRA-0032 authorizing HCRRA to negotiate and execute this Cooperative Funding Agreement. HCRRA approved amendment #1 to this agreement at their July 18, 2017 meeting.

Thrive Lens Analysis

Advancing Engineering Phase activities is necessary to implement the Green Line Extension that will increase the region's prosperity as it will provide access to 80,900 forecasted jobs and a new transportation option for 55,800 forecasted residents within ½ mile of the planned new stations in addition to the 145,300 forecasted jobs and 35,600 forecasted residents in downtown Minneapolis.

Funding

The Cooperative Funding Agreement amendment #1 will allow the Council to draw down funds committed by HCRRA to continue Engineering phase activities of FTA's New Starts program.

The Council will continue to provide its 20% match from internal borrowing per Council approved Business Item 2017-127. Council funds paid through internal borrowing are subject to repayment by Hennepin County.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to this action.