

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: November 24, 2008

For Metropolitan Council meeting: December 10, 2008

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	November 14, 2008
Subject:	Amendment to Interagency Cooperative Agreement with Northstar Corridor Development Authority for Staff Resources
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Executed Interagency Cooperative Agreement
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Mark W. Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager, 651-602-1942 Richard M. Rovang, Asst. General Manager – TSD, 651-602-1941 Chris Weyer, Director, Transitways Des. & Const. 651-366-5825
Division/Department:	Metro Transit

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator:

- to execute Amendment No. 5 to the Interagency Cooperative Agreement with the Northstar Corridor Development Authority relative to the provision of Council staff resources in 2009, valued at \$1,296,000.

Background

Metropolitan Council entered into the first Interagency Cooperative Agreement for the Northstar project with the Northstar Corridor Development Authority (NCDA) to provide staff resources in 2005. Amendment No. 1 was executed for 2006 with Amendment No. 2 executed to reduce some budget staff resources at Metropolitan Council and transfer resources to Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). Amendment No. 3 was executed to provide staff resources for 2007, with Amendment No. 4 providing for 2008.

Rationale

The Northstar project is well into construction and procurement of the project’s rolling stock. As the lead for purchase of locomotives and passenger coaches, Northstar continues to require support from Metro Transit rail vehicle staff for on-site inspection of passenger coaches. In addition, several Metropolitan Council staff are engaged in a full or part-time capacity supporting the project during construction at the Northstar Project Office.

This Amendment No. 5 to the Interagency Cooperative Agreement enables the Northstar project to benefit from in-house expertise that Metropolitan Council and Metro Transit can offer to the project. This reduces the need for external consultant support. This amendment extends the Interagency Cooperative Agreement one year to December 31, 2009. Metropolitan Council will continue to invoice the Northstar Corridor Development Authority for direct salary, fringes and overhead for the hours devoted to Northstar activities and any direct costs in an amount not to exceed \$1,296,000 during 2008.

Funding

With the execution of Northstar’s Full Funding Grant Agreement on December 11, 2007, local and federal funding to reimburse the Metropolitan Council for these project expenses has been committed.

Known Support / Opposition

The Northstar Corridor Development Authority (NCDA) is expected to act recommending approval of this amendment at their Board Meeting on December 4, 2008. Along with the NCDA, the State of Minnesota has shown support of Northstar with the commitment of bonding funds for its portion of the project. With the execution of the Full Funding Grant Agreement on December 11, 2007, the Federal government has confirmed its support of and commitment to funding their portion of the Northstar project.