



## Transportation Committee

Meeting date: June 28, 2010

For Metropolitan Council Meeting: July 14, 2010

### ADVISORY INFORMATION

	<b>Date:</b> June 23, 2010
	<b>Subject:</b> Subrecipient Grant Agreement with Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority for The Interchange
<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	District 7, Annette Meeks, 612-341-8168
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Minnesota Statutes 473.129 and 473.405 FTA Master Agreement ( <a href="http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/14-Master.pdf">www.fta.dot.gov/documents/14-Master.pdf</a> )
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Ed Petrie, Director, Finance, 612-349-7624 Mary Gustafson, Manager, Grants, 612-349-7603 Craig A. Lamothe, Senior Project Mgr, 612-349-7690
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Metro Transit/Engineering & Facilities

### Proposed Action

Authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a subrecipient grant agreement (SGA) with the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority (HCRRA) passing through a \$500,000 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities grant for project management/administration and engineering and design activities associated with the Interchange project.

### Background

The Interchange, located adjacent to the Target Field Station, is proposed to be an intermodal, vehicle and passenger terminal facility accommodating existing light rail and commuter rail as well as future light rail, commuter rail, high speed intercity rail and charter and public bus. An additional LRT platform and public plaza for pedestrians and transit customer queuing are key features of the proposed project as well as LRT storage tracks supporting multiple lines for post-event staging.

In August 2006, HCRRA completed an initial siting and feasibility study for the project. In November 2008, HCRRA conducted a week-long workshop with all interested parties as part of a visioning process for the project. In mid-2009, HCRRA commissioned a second feasibility study which is expected to be completed mid-2010.

Later this summer, through separate local funding, HCRRA is planning to solicit and select a consultant to complete environmental documentation for the project. The current federal grant funding will be used to support the procurement of an engineering and design consultant as well as the project management staff and/or consultant overseeing the project. The completion of environmental documentation and preliminary design will better position the project to receive construction funding in the future.

Construction is anticipated to begin in March 2013 and be finished by June 2014 to coincide with the anticipated opening of the Central Corridor LRT line.

## **Rationale**

FTA requires that SGAs be established to ensure that FTA regulations flow through to all external partners administering FTA funds. Metropolitan Council (Council) approval is required to enter into interagency agreements, which includes SGAs.

## **Funding**

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, the Council made an application to the FTA on behalf of HCRRA for \$500,000 in 5309 funding, and is expected to receive the award in late summer. It is anticipated that the third amendment to the 2010 Authorized Capital Program and 2010 Capital Budget, expected to be submitted to the Council on September 8<sup>th</sup> for consideration, will include the \$500,000 in federal funds. HCCRA will provide \$125,000 in local funds as the required match for the federal funds.

## **Known Support / Opposition**

HCRRA supports this action. With the assistance of Congressman Ellison, HCRRA sought and secured this federal appropriation. HCRRA is expected to take an equivalent action on July 22, 2010.