

T Transportation Committee
Meeting date: November 22, 2010
Metropolitan Council Meeting: December 8, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	November 15, 2010
Subject:	Southwest Light Rail Transit: Cooperative Funding Agreement for Preliminary Engineering with Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Met Council Policy 3-2-2
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Mark W. Fuhrmann, Program Director, 651-602-1942 Chris Weyer, Project Director, 651-602-1932
Division/Department:	Metro Transit / Southwest Project Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute the Cooperative Funding Agreement for Preliminary Engineering (PE) of the Southwest Light Rail Transit Project (SWLRT) with the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (HCRRA) contingent upon a corresponding action by HCRRA.

Background

To date, no federal funding has been appropriated to the project for the PE phase. At this time, there is no federal funding identified to assist with PE activities. As such, the three local funding partners, the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB), the State of Minnesota (State), and HCRRA, will be respectively responsible for 60 percent, 20 percent, and 20 percent of eligible project costs incurred for PE. Ultimately, the total project costs are expected to be funded at a 50 percent, 30 percent, 10 percent and 10 percent split between the Federal government, CTIB, the State, and HCRRA, respectively.

The cost for PE during 2011 and 2012 is estimated at \$93 million. Under this cooperative funding agreement, HCRRA would commit to funding \$18.6 million, or 20 percent of the estimated cost.

Rationale

HCRRA funds for the Southwest LRT capital project would contribute to the successful implementation of the Council's 2030 Transportation Policy Plan, which lists Southwest LRT as a Corridor under Study or Development.

Funding

HCRRA funds will provide 10% of overall capital funding and will be used in conjunction with other local sources of funding available to the Southwest LRT Project, including funding from the State (10%), and the CTIB (30%).

Known Support / Opposition

Anticipated to be scheduled for action on either December 14, 2010 or the first cycle in January 2011, HCRRA will be asked to authorize the negotiation and execution of the Cooperative Funding Agreement for PE of the SWLRT Project with the Council.