

T Transportation Committee
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of January 23, 2008

Item: 2008-21

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date Prepared: January 15, 2008

Subject: American Boulevard Light Rail Transit (LRT) Station -- Interagency Agreement with the City of Bloomington

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an Interagency Agreement with the City of Bloomington relative to the partial funding of the proposed American Boulevard Light Rail Transit (LRT) Station.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

After a brief presentation by staff, Council Member Scherer inquired about the distance between stations on that section of the Hiawatha Line. He expressed concern that the close proximity of stations would delay the majority of travelers and may tend to be used as precedent when planning station locations on the proposed Central Corridor line.

Staff responded that the stations were about a half mile apart. Subsequently and upon further review after the meeting, it appears that there is about a quarter of a mile between the existing 28th Ave and Bloomington Central stations. The American Boulevard station is to be located about another quarter of a mile beyond Bloomington Central.

It was noted that the American Boulevard station was included in the original Hiawatha plan, but had been removed due to budget reasons when the line was extended to the east parking structure at the Mall of America. Arlene McCarthy also noted that the projected population density in that area supports placement of the stations as planned.

The recommended action was approved as presented.

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 14, 2008

For Metropolitan Council meeting: January 23, 2008

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	January 4, 2008
Subject:	American Boulevard Light Rail Transit (LRT) Station -- Interagency Agreement with the City of Bloomington
District(s), Member(s):	District 5, Russ Susag
Policy/Legal Reference:	Council Policy 3-2-2, Income/Grants
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612 349-7510 Tom Thorstenson, Director Engineering & Construction 612 349-7689
Division/Department:	Metro Transit / Engineering and Facilities Department

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an Interagency Agreement with the City of Bloomington relative to the partial funding of the proposed American Boulevard Light Rail Transit (LRT) Station.

Background

In 2003, the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit (HLRT) Project realigned the south end of the project to provide light rail service directly to the Mall of America and deferred construction of the American Boulevard Station at 34th Avenue, due to funding limitations at that time. The City of Bloomington now desires to design and construct the American Boulevard Station.

Accordingly, on May 9, 2007 the Council authorized the Regional Administrator to execute an Interagency Agreement with the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority (HCRRA) accepting funds of \$250,000 to be applied to the cost of the stations' design.

On November 14, 2007, the Council authorized the Regional Administrator to execute a professional services contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates for the design of the station. Funds for the design of the station are to be provided by HCRRA and the City of Bloomington.

Rationale

The execution of the Interagency Agreement with the City of Bloomington will provide sufficient funds to complete the design of the American Boulevard LRT Station.

Funding

Current funding for the American Boulevard Station totals \$3,375,000. This total consists of numerous funding sources including a 2009 federal CMAQ grant, HCRRA funds, funds from the City of Bloomington (per this proposed agreement) and RTC funds for Council staff costs.

Known Support / Opposition

The design and construction of the American Boulevard Station is supported by the City of Bloomington and Hennepin County. The Council also supports the design and potential construction of the station through its approval of Council actions on May 9 and November 14 as referenced above.