

**T** Transportation Committee

Item: 2010-405

Metropolitan Council meeting: December 8, 2010

**ADVISORY INFORMATION**

**Date** December 2, 2010  
**Prepared:**  
**Subject:** Southwest Light Rail Transit: Cooperative Funding Agreement for Preliminary Engineering with Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority

**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.

**Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:**

Mark Fuhrmann presented the item. A motion was made by Councilmember Leppik, seconded by Councilmember Scherer, and then approved.

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

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