

T Transportation Committee
Metropolitan Council meeting of January 25, 2012

Date Prepared: January 10, 2012

Subject: Northstar Commuter Rail: Authorization to Execute Agreements for Ramsey Station with Burlington Northern Railway Company(BNSF)

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Purchase and Sale Agreement for a Ramsey Station Easement with BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) in a not-to-exceed amount of \$3,400,000; and

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Platform Agreement and an Overpass Agreement with BNSF for the Ramsey station; and

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute amendments to the Joint Use Agreement and the Commuter Service Agreement with BNSF.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Ed Byers, Director of Commuter Rail, presented an information item detailing the Agreements with BNSF required for a new Northstar station at Ramsey.

Councilmember Schreiber asked what additional costs to BNSF would be required for the Ramsey station. Mr. Byers responded that the \$3.4 Million would cover all the capital costs but, as the Council pays a portion of all maintenance on the corridor, there will be an incremental cost increase as new infrastructure is being added for the station.

Councilmember Reynoso commented that the city and the region are excited to get this station built.

A motion to approve the item was made by Councilmember Reynoso, seconded by Councilmember Schreiber and passed unanimously.

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 9, 2012

For the Council Meeting of January 25, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: January 3, 2012

Subject: Northstar Commuter Rail: Authorization to Execute Agreements for Ramsey Station with Burlington Northern Railway Company(BNSF)

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statute 473.4057

Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, 612.349.7510
Vince Pellegrin, Chief Operating Officer, 612.349.7511
Ed Byers, Director, Northstar Commuter Rail, 612.349.7080

Division/Department: Metro Transit

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Background

Northstar operates commuter rail service from Big Lake, MN to Minneapolis "Northstar Corridor" under easement agreements with BNSF. The easement agreements along with our Joint Use and Commuter Service Agreements with BNSF allow Northstar to provide commuter rail service along the Northstar Corridor serving Big Lake, Elk River, Anoka, Coon Rapids, Fridley and Target Field stations.

Rationale

The purchase of additional easement rights and amendments to the Joint Use and Commuter Service Agreements are required to provide service to a station at the City of Ramsey.

Additionally, a Platform Agreement and an Overpass Agreement with BNSF are required to construct and operate the two platforms located on BNSF right-of-way and a pedestrian overpass serving the platforms.

Funding

The project is funded through financial contributions from the State of Minnesota (State G.O. Bonds), the Metropolitan Council, the Anoka County Regional Rail Authority, the City of Ramsey and the Counties Transit Improvement Board.

Known Support / Opposition

No Known Opposition