

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: July 9, 2007

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	June 19, 2007
Subject:	Interagency Agreement with Hennepin County for Traffic Signal and Pedestrian Improvements
District(s), Member(s):	Lynette Wittsack, District 8
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minnesota Statutes 473.129 and 473.405
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Tom Thorstenson, Director, Engrg & Construction, 612-349-7689 Pat Jones, Manager, Facilities Engineering, 612-349-7606
Division/Department:	Metro Transit/Engineering and Facilities Division

Proposed Action/Motion

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an Interagency Agreement with Hennepin County for traffic signal and pedestrian improvements at the intersection of Lake Street and Hiawatha Avenue, Minneapolis.

Issue(s)

- Council authorization is required for interagency agreements.

Overview and Funding

In 2006, a \$125,000 McKnight grant financed a pedestrian and traffic review at the intersection of Lake Street and Hiawatha Avenue. The review resulted in recommendations to enhance pedestrian safety and traffic flow. Feedback was solicited from representatives from the local community, Metro Transit, Hennepin County, City of Minneapolis, and an engineering consultant. Improvements to the operation, safety and security of the intersection of Lake Street and Hiawatha Avenue, related to pedestrian traffic and bus service, will benefit Metro Transit and its customers, as the Lake Street/Midtown Light Rail Transit (LRT) station is located at this intersection.

Hennepin County has been making improvements to Lake Street (CSAH 3) and prepared construction documents for the recommended enhancements. The cost to construct the improvements is approximately \$735,000. The total scope includes: traffic lane reconfiguration, sidewalk improvements, traffic signal changes, lighting additions, pedestrian crosswalks, pedestrian fences, and signage.

Scope elements attributable to the Council were estimated at \$89,000, but favorable bidding lowered projected costs to \$72,500. The Council's costs are related to construction of the signal controls to accommodate north-south bus maneuvers through the intersection, pedestrian fencing, and lighting under the LRT bridge. Should the Council approve this action, Hennepin County will perform the construction, subject to the Council's financial participation of \$72,500. Funds are available from project 63950, Public Facilities Improvements.