

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: October 12, 2009

Metropolitan Council meeting: October 28, 2009

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	October 6, 2009
Subject:	Hiawatha Light Rail Transit Tail Track Ground Lease with Hennepin County
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	MN Statutes, Chapter 174.82, 174.90 and 473.399
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510
	Mark W. Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager, 651-602-1942
	Richard M. Rovang, Asst. General Manager – TSD, 651-602-1941
	Chris Weyer, Director-Transit Systems Design & Construction, 651-366-5825
Division/Department:	Metro Transit

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Ground Lease with the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority to set forth responsibilities for the ownership, operation and maintenance of the Tail Track area in support of the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit (LRT) extension portion of the Northstar Corridor Commuter Rail Project.

Background

The Northstar Corridor Commuter Rail project scope with the Federal Transit Administration includes the extension of the Hiawatha LRT line to the new Target Field Station along with construction of two tail tracks for storage of light rail vehicles adjacent to Hennepin County’s Environmental Services Building. These tail tracks are located on property owned by the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority. The Northstar Project, through a Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) contract, is constructing these tail track improvements under a permit to construct with Hennepin County. Once complete, MnDOT will convey ownership of these improvements to the Council.

Rationale

The Ground Lease sets forth the responsibilities of the Council and the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority. The Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority intends to retain long term ownership of the property. The term of the Ground Lease will be for 50 years.

Funding

The Hiawatha LRT Tail Track Ground Lease does not require any capital expenditure by the Council. The Council will be responsible for the operating and maintaining of these improvements; and therefore will be responsible for those expenses necessary for operation and maintenance of the track. These operating expenses have been incorporated in the 2009 and future year Hiawatha operating budgets.

Known Support / Opposition

Hennepin County and the Northstar Corridor Development Authority support this Ground Lease for the Hiawatha LRT Tail Tracks. There is no known opposition to this recommended action.