

# T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: May 9, 2007

## ADVISORY INFORMATION

<b>Date:</b>	April 4, 2007
<b>Subject:</b>	American Boulevard Station Interagency Agreement with the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority
<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	Russ Susag, District 5
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Minnesota Statutes 473.129 and 473.405
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612 349-7510 Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager, 612 349-7513 Tom Thorstenson, Director, Engineering & Construction, 612 349-7689
<b>Division/Department:</b>	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 the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority (HCRRA) for funding the design of the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit station at the intersection of American Boulevard and 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Bloomington.

### Issue(s)

- Council authorization is required for interagency agreements.

### Overview and Funding

In 2003, the Hiawatha LRT Project realigned the south end of the project to bring light rail service directly to the Mall of America and deferred inclusion of the 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue/American Boulevard Station, due to funding limitations at that time. The original Hiawatha construction activity included installation of conduits in anticipation of this station. It was planned to reinstate the station by year end 2010. A \$1.5 million (federal portion) CMAQ grant will provide construction funding in 2009.

In accordance with a request from the City of Bloomington to advance the construction of the American Boulevard LRT station from 2009 to 2008, the approved Capital Improvement Plan identifies station design beginning in 2007 with construction anticipated in 2008 (Project 84467). Although it would be possible to advance construction to 2008, funds are not yet available to initiate design activity.

Accordingly, discussions between Metropolitan Council staff, City staff and the Hennepin County Regional Rail Authority (HCRRA) have identified an initial \$250,000 from HCRRA that may be used for such design purposes. In addition, HCRRA may provide additional funding of up to \$250,000 as partial construction funding in 2008.

Through the use of the \$250,000 from the HCRRA, it is possible to complete the design of the American Boulevard Station this year. This will enable construction to begin with the 2008 construction season.