

W Committee of the Whole

Meeting date: May 16, 2007
Metropolitan Council Meeting May 23, 2007

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: May 9, 2007

Subject: Master Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the Central Corridor Light Rail Project

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Mn Statutes, Section 473.399

Staff: Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612.349.7510

Prepared/Presented: Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager, 612.349.7513

Gary Berger, Central Corridor Manager of Administration, 612.215.8208

Division/Department: Metro Transit

Proposed Action/Motion: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a Master Funding Agreement with Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) for the Central Corridor Light Rail Project.

Issue(s) Establish the contractual framework with MnDOT for the development of light rail transit in the Central Corridor to provide a method for transfer of funds from the Council to the Commissioner to enable the Commissioner to carry out MnDOT's responsibilities.

Overview and Funding: This agreement will serve as the framework for the transfer of funds from the Council to MnDOT and assures that appropriate funding is in place before tasks are undertaken by MnDOT.

The Metropolitan Council is the fiscal agent for the Central Corridor light rail transit project and will be the recipient of the federal funds (grantee) from the Federal Transit Administration. The Council will be the passthrough agent to MnDOT for federal, state and local funds. All federal and state requirements will apply to MnDOT in order to utilize these funds. The agreement will not obligate the Council to any financial commitments other than what is funded through available federal, state and local monies.

The Master Funding Agreement allows the Council to make use of and the Commissioner to provide engineering and other technical and professional services of MnDOT, including regular staff and qualified consultants, to assist in the design and/or construction of the Project. The Council will pass through Project funds for the costs related to these activities. The passthrough of funds will be in accordance with executed Subordinate Funding Agreements which will define the amount of federal, state and local funds committed by the Council to the Commissioner and the specific purpose for the funds.

Funding agreements will also be executed by the Council between the Ramsey and Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authorities for each phase of the project to ensure the availability of funds for necessary contract awards.

Summary: That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Master Funding Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for transfer of funds from the Council to MnDOT for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit Project.