

**T** Transportation Committee  
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of Sept 9, 2009

Item: 2009-288

**Date Prepared:** Sept 26, 2009

**Subject:** State Safety Oversight Intergovernmental Agreement

**Proposed Action:**

Authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an intergovernmental agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, which provides for the transfer of funds for the purpose of contracted safety oversight of the Light Rail System (LRT) system, including Hiawatha and Central Corridor Light Rail Transit. The agreement would govern the time from fall 2009 until June 30, 2013, and specifies \$240,000 of funding for the State Safety Oversight Agency (SSOA).

**Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:**

Mike Conlon presented the business item. There were no questions. A motion was made by Hilker, seconded by Beach, and the item passed unanimously.

**T** Transportation Committee  
Meeting date: August 24, 2009

Metropolitan Council Meeting: September 9, 2009

<b>ADVISORY INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Date:</b>	August 18, 2009
<b>Subject:</b>	State Safety Oversight Intergovernmental Agreement
<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	District 5, Polly Bowles District 7, Annette Meeks District 8, Lynette Wittsack
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	49 CFR 659 The State Safety Oversight Rule
<b>Staff</b>	Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510
<b>Prepared/Presented:</b>	Michael J. Conlon, Director of Rail and Bus Safety 612-349-7516
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Metro Transit Safety

**Proposed Action**

Authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an intergovernmental agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, which provides for the transfer of funds for the purpose of contracted safety oversight of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) system, including Hiawatha and Central Corridor Light Rail Transit. The agreement would govern the time from fall 2009 until June 30, 2013, and specifies \$240,000 of funding for the State Safety Oversight Agency (SSOA).

**Background**

The State Safety Oversight Rule (49 CFR 659) requires each state having a rail fixed guideway system (Hiawatha LRT) to establish an oversight agency. Responsibilities of the SSOA include auditing the transit agency's system safety planning functions, accident investigation, etc. Subsequently, the SSOA was established by the state of Minnesota in 2000 by the Governor's executive direction. The function resides in the Department of Public Safety, State Patrol.

Funding for the SSOA has been provided by Metro Transit since the beginning of LRT passenger operations, at a rate of \$60,000 annually. The intergovernmental agreement that provided this funding expired June 30, 2009.

**Rationale**

This new intergovernmental agreement replaces the recently-expired agreement, at an unchanged support level of \$60,000 per year.

**Funding**

Funding is available within the Metro Transit approved budget.

**Known Support / Opposition**

Metropolitan Council Deputy General Counsel has updated the new agreement, and Minnesota Department of Public Safety has approved the updated language in the new agreement.