

**T** Transportation Committee  
Metropolitan Council meeting of July 27, 2011

Item: 2011-186

CONSENT

**Date**

**Prepared:** July 20, 2011

**Subject:** I-35W Transit / Access Project – Interagency Agreement with Hennepin County

**Proposed Action:**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute an Interagency Agreement with Hennepin County to participate in the 30% design of improvements along the I-35W corridor between approximately 31<sup>st</sup> Street and its intersection with I-94 at a cost of \$135,000.

**Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:**

Pat Jones, Metro Transit Assistant Director, Facilities Engineering, presented.

Council Member Brimeyer asked if 30% Design Development was the same as Preliminary Engineering and what the schedule was for completion. Jones responded in the affirmative that 30% Design Development was essentially the same as Preliminary Engineering and that Hennepin County’s consultant, SEH, planned to complete their work in 2013. Brian Lamb also commented that a station at I-35W and Lake Street is the critical component to rapid transit service along the I-35W corridor and that a 2013 completion is in advance of legislatively mandated 2018 replacement of the Braid and Flyover Bridges.

Following the Committee meeting, staff confirmed that the 2013 deliverables include the 30% design of the transit station and roadway layout, as well as the completion of federal NEPA environmental documentation. The environmental process alone is expected to take approximately one year.

A motion by Council Member Brimeyer was seconded by Council Member Munt and passed unanimously. After hearing all of the Business Items, the committee approved placing this item on the Consent agenda for the July 27<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

**T Transportation Committee  
Meeting date: July 11, 2011**

**Metropolitan Council Meeting: July 27, 2011**

**ADVISORY INFORMATION**

**Date:** June 27, 2011  
**Subject:** I-35W Transit / Access Project – Interagency Agreement with Hennepin County  
**District(s), Member(s):** District 7, Gary L. Cunningham  
**Policy/Legal Reference:** Minnesota Statutes 471.59 and 473.405  
**Staff Prepared/Presented:** Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510  
Pat Jones, Asst. Director Engineering & Facilities, 612-349-7606  
**Division/Department:** Metro Transit / Engineering and Facilities

**Proposed Action**

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**Background**

Hennepin County, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), the City of Minneapolis and the Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit have partnered to develop a conceptual layout for the I-35W Transit / Access Project.

Partner organizations have identified various transportation and transit needs within the project area. These include supporting future Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) operations, a transit connection with east-west operations on Lake Street, connectivity to the Greenway, replacement of aging bridges, and direct highway access ramps to and from Lake Street.

A MnDOT consultant, SRF, identified and evaluated alternatives to satisfy the needs. Partner organizations participated in the reviews and identified a preferred conceptual layout. The conceptual layout includes a median-based Transit Station in the vicinity of I-35W and Lake Street, similar in concept to that being constructed at I-35W and 46<sup>th</sup> Street.

Hennepin County issued a contract to Short Elliot Hendrickson (SEH) for preparation of a 30% design of the conceptual layout. In total, the 30% design is anticipated to cost the partners approximately \$5 million with the Metropolitan Council / Metro Transit share established at \$135,000.

Upon completion of the 30% design in 2013 and aggregation of required funding, the partners will be positioned to seek final design and construction services. Currently, such funds have not been identified. The overall cost of the project is estimated in the range of \$225 million.

## **Rationale**

Participating with the partner organizations ensures that future transit operations are considered in the design. The \$135,000 represents less than 3% of the proposed 30% design contract. In comparison, the entire design of the similar I-35W and 46<sup>th</sup> Street BRT station completed last year totaled \$376,000. The \$135,000 share is reasonable.

The project at I-35W and Lake Street is moving along one step at a time without full funding. Council involvement will result in a coordinated (30%) design for a BRT station on I-35W at Lake Street. There is no assurance that funds will be identified for final design and construction or that future conditions may require changes to the 30% design. However, participation ensures that transit operations are incorporated into planned facilities.

## **Funding**

Funding from local RTC is available for this project.

## **Known Support / Opposition**

Hennepin County, MnDOT and the City of Minneapolis support this action. There is no known opposition.