

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 27, 2015

Subject: Authorization to enter into a Construction and Transit Operations and Maintenance Interface Agreement with the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority and the Minnesota Vikings.

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into a Construction and Transit Operations and Maintenance Interface Agreement with the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority and the Minnesota Vikings related to the Downtown East Light Rail Station area, surrounding block and proposed pedestrian bridge.

Summary of Committee Discussion/Questions

Jim Harwood, Lead Project Manager with Metro Transit Engineering and Facilities, provided a short presentation and overview of the item. Mr. Harwood reviewed the transit concerns related to pedestrian safety and operations for events at the new stadium. The proposed pedestrian bridge addressing those concerns was then presented. Finally, Mr. Harwood reviewed the business item related to the agreement. There were several questions posed from the committee members.

In response to a question from Councilmember Dorfman, Mr. Harwood stated that there has been no final position taken as yet by the City of Minneapolis regarding street closures during events until an event Traffic Management Plan is finalized. Metro Transit staff has been coordinating with City staff throughout the planning and design of the pedestrian bridge.

Councilmember Schreiber asked what the term is for the \$300,000 in annual promotional support from Vikings and MSFA. Mr. Harwood and Brian Lamb, General Manager of Metro Transit, stated that there is no set term to the promotional support and that it is considered to be for the life of the agreement. Mr. Lamb added that both parties have options for discontinuing the agreement and that the operating plans will be looked at annually.

There was a brief discussion on the projected number of events planned at the stadium and Mr. Lamb stated the MSFA is planning over 300 events per year at the stadium.

Councilmember Commers asked if public art is included as part of the estimated construction cost of the bridge. Mr. Harwood stated that the design contemplates future opportunities for public art however there is no separate public art solicitation as part of the current project.

Councilmember Munt stated that she understands the need for this project but questioned why Council would pay the costs and not the Vikings. Councilmember Reynoso agreed with Munt and questioned why this was not in the funding package for the stadium, and that the need for transit should have been no surprise to the Vikings. Mr. Harwood stated that the MSFA has invested \$17M for property acquisition and has another \$2M budgeted for development of the plaza so it can be used for transit purposes.

A motion by Councilmember Rodriguez was seconded by Councilmember Barber and passed **(6 yes, 4 no)**. Non-consent to Council.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: April 13, 2015

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 27, 2015

Subject: Authorization to enter into a Construction and Transit Operations and Maintenance Interface Agreement with the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority and the Minnesota Vikings.

District(s), Member(s): District 7 - Gary Cunningham

Policy/Legal Reference: Minnesota Statutes 473.129 and 471.59

Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510

Marilyn Porter, Director Engineering & Facilities, 612-349-7689

Pat Jones, Asst. Director Facilities Engineering, 612-349-7606

James Harwood, Lead Project Manager, 612-349-7339

Division/Department: Metro Transit/Engineering & Facilities

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into a Construction and Transit Operations and Maintenance Interface Agreement with the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority and the Minnesota Vikings related to the Downtown East Light Rail Station area, surrounding block and proposed pedestrian bridge.

Background

Metro Transit is working with the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority (MSFA), City of Minneapolis, Minnesota Vikings, and other stakeholders regarding improvements to the Downtown East Plaza and Stadium area. These improvements provide safe post-event pedestrian movements and light rail service at stadium events for up to 40% of game day attendees (approximately 50,000 rides). One item of significant concern is the ability to move pedestrians safely across the LRT tracks to their destinations. The number and frequency of trains that move through the Downtown East station create operational and safety challenges. Metro Transit is working with the stakeholders to design a pedestrian bridge to alleviate these concerns.

The existing Downtown East LRT station is located within an easement on MSFA property. In addition to the station, the surrounding MSFA property is required for queuing, access, bridge construction, etc. to ensure transit operations can meet the anticipated 40% ridership goal.

Council staff are negotiating an agreement with the MSFA and the Minnesota Vikings that defines responsibilities for operations and maintenance in the areas required for transit use. Some of the key considerations of the agreement are:

- Provides for use of MSFA property for queuing areas, platform access, and pedestrian bridge to accommodate transit needs.
- Provides for \$300,000 in annual promotional support from Vikings and the MSFA in exchange for LRT station naming rights and certain restrictions on station advertising
 - \$250,000 from Vikings
 - \$50,000 from MSFA

- All construction, operation and maintenance costs of the pedestrian bridge are the responsibility of Met Council. The construction contract will be a future Council business item.
 - Construction cost estimated at \$5.5M - \$6M

The agreement defines the rights and obligations of all parties with respect to the installation, ownership, operations, maintenance and shared use of the Downtown East plaza areas required for transit purposes.

Rationale

Authorization to negotiate and execute this agreement requires Council Approval.

Funding

All construction, operation and maintenance costs of the pedestrian bridge are the responsibility of Met Council. Capital costs are available in project 62322. Operating costs are to be included in future operating budgets.

Known Support / Opposition

None