

# Request for Council Action

Originator PW - Engineering	Item <b>Interagency agreement with Met Council for cost sharing on the Blue Line Signal and Operations Study</b>
Agenda Section Consent	Date 11/2/2015

Description

**Background**

When it became operational in 2004, the Blue Line LRT (formerly the Hiawatha Line) was the first modern light rail transit line in the state. Almost immediately after going into service, the systems that control both track operations and the traffic signals for vehicles along the line underwent a number of revisions in response to operational issues. Today the intersections along the line operate using a combination of train gates, light rail priority pre-emption, and older railroad pre-emption originally designed for freight rail. Train detection is inadequate for efficient signal operations along 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and, except for the upgrades at the 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue/494 Interchange most of the vehicle traffic systems in use are outdated and no longer supported by their manufacturers. Minor changes to signal timing and system parameters to increase transit and vehicle efficiency along the line are difficult and in some cases not possible. As a result, train operations have caused increased traffic congestion and delay on the adjacent street system.

In response to these issues, a study was initiated by the City, the MAC, and Metro Transit along the entirety of the line (From the MOA to the Airport) to develop operational improvements along the line and develop a short and long term capital plan for upgrades to the system by the City and Metro Transit.

**Analysis**

This agreement between the City and the Metropolitan Council is being established to allow the agencies to share equally in the approximately \$100,000 cost of the study. Under the agreement, Met Council will reimburse the City up to 50% (approximately \$50,000) of the consultant costs for the study work. The City's portion of the cost will be funded thru the South Loop Development Fund.

Requested Action

Staff recommend that Council approve and authorize the Mayor and City Manager to sign the Blue Line Traffic and Transit Signal System Study Cooperative Agreement with the Metropolitan Council.

Attachments: