
Sponsor: Public Works

Meeting Date: 6/15/2021

Title: Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement Establishing the Gold Line Joint Powers Board

File Number: 2021-271

Background and Rationale:

The METRO Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project connects Saint Paul to Woodbury. The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority has partnered with the Washington County Regional Railroad Authority since 2009 on the advancement of this important transitway through the Gateway Corridor Commission/Gold Line Partners Joint Powers Board.

On January 19, 2018 the METRO Gold Line BRT Project entered the Project Development Phase of the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grants (New Starts) Program. The entry into Project Development was a major milestone that marked the transition of project leadership from the counties to the Metropolitan Council. Additionally, entry into the New Starts Program allowed funding from the Ramsey County and Washington County sales taxes to be used on the project in addition to the funding provided by the regional railroad authorities. The transition led to the creation of the Gold Line Project Office to manage the development of the project through the Project Development, Engineering and Construction phases of the New Starts Program. Creation of this office resulted in a duplication of efforts with the Gateway Corridor Commission/Gold Line Partners Joint Powers Board, while leaving gaps in how the project's finances would be overseen by its funders.

On July 23, 2019 Ramsey County approved Resolution B2019-184 forming the Gold Line Joint Powers Board with Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority, Washington County, and the Washington Regional Railroad Authority. This joint powers board provides fiscal oversight and contingency management, and holds funding agreements with the Metropolitan Council. On December 17, 2019 Ramsey County approved Resolution B2019-184 dissolving the Gateway Corridor Commission/Gold Line Partners Joint Powers Agreement and transferring its remaining funds to the Gold Line Joint Powers Board.

The Gold Line Joint Powers Board has worked since 2019 to secure liability insurance. The board directed staff to solicit quotes for insurance in 2020. The Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust responded to the solicitation, stating its interest in providing the insurance and noting areas where language clarifications were needed to the joint powers agreement. Staff worked with the Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust to remedy most of these clarifications within the existing joint powers agreement language, however language changes related to liability are required by Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust prior to their extension of an offer of coverage. Article XII, part 1 of the Joint Powers Agreement provides that "[t]his Agreement may be amended by unanimous agreement of the Parties as evidenced by resolutions adopted by the respective governing bodies."

The Amended and Restated Gold Line Joint Powers Agreement Establishing the Gold Line Joint Powers Board and its attachment reflect amendments to Article XI of the original Joint Powers Agreement required by the Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust.

These changes were presented to the Gold Line Joint Powers Board at its April 28, 2021 meeting

and the joint powers board passed Resolution GLJPB #2021-07 recommending approval of the Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement Establishing the Gold Line Joint Powers Board.

Recommendation:

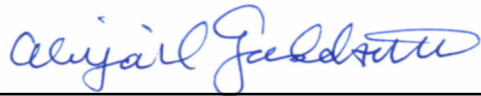
The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve the Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement Establishing the Gold Line Joint Powers Board with Washington County, Washington County Regional Railroad Authority and Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority for the Gold Line Joint Powers Board.
2. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the document.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner MatasCastillo, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt.

Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

By: 
Abby Goldsmith, Interim Chief Clerk - County Board