Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Department of Public Works

Date: April 16th, 2013

To: Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

Referral: Honorable Betsy Hodges, Chair Ways and Means Committee

Subject: **2013 Northern Lights Express Fees**

Recommendation:

Authorize $12,500 to be expended from fund (00100 6000200) to allow 2013 City of Minneapolis participation in the Minneapolis-Duluth/Superior Passenger Rail Alliance Board for the development of the Northern Lights Express. No additional appropriation is required.

Previous Directives:

- February 28, 2012: Authorize $30,875 to be expended from fund (00100 6000200) to allow 2012 City of Minneapolis participation in the Minneapolis-Duluth/Superior Passenger Rail Alliance Board for the development of the Northern Lights Express.
- November 4, 2011: Authorize $38,000 to be expended from fund (04100-600100-507007) to allow 2011 City of Minneapolis participation in the Minneapolis-Duluth/Superior Passenger Rail Alliance Board for the development of the Northern Lights Express.
- November 4, 2011: Authorize the appropriate city officials to amend the Minneapolis-Duluth/Superior Passenger Rail Alliance Joint Powers Agreement to allow for payment of these funds in 2011 and for subsequent years (2012 to 2016) when funding has been budgeted.
- June 22nd, 2010: Authorize $48,000 to be expended from fund (04100-600100-507007) to allow 2011 City of Minneapolis participation in the Minneapolis-Duluth/Superior Passenger Rail Alliance Board for the development of the Northern Lights Express.
- April 28th, 2009: Authorize $50,000 to be expended from fund (04100-600100-507007) to allow 2009 City of Minneapolis participation in the Minneapolis-Duluth/Superior Passenger Rail Alliance Board for the development of the Northern Lights Express.
- January 22nd, 2008: Authorize city officials to enter into the Minneapolis-Duluth/Superior Passenger Rail Alliance Joint Powers Agreement.
- January 22nd, 2008: Approved funding for the city's portion of the rail study in the amount of $57,750.

Prepared by: Donald Pflaum, P.E., P.T.O.E., PW Transportation Planner 673-2129

Approved by:

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Steven A. Kotke, P.E., City Engineer, Director of Public Works

Presenters: Donald Pflaum, Transportation Planner 673-2129

Reviews:

Permanent Review Committee (PRC):	Not Applicable
Civil Rights Affirmative Action Plan:	Not Applicable
Policy Review Group (PRG):	Not Applicable

Financial Impact:

Action is within current department budget

Community Impact:

Neighborhood Notification: NA
City Goals: Supports City Transportation Goals
Comprehensive Plan: Supports Comprehensive Plan Goals
Zoning Code: NA

Background/Supporting Information

History

In January 2008 the City Council authorized the City of Minneapolis to enter into the Minneapolis-Duluth/Superior Passenger Rail Alliance., this action is needed to continue membership on the Joint Powers Board. There is sufficient funding in the Public Works operating budget (00100 6000200) to cover this expense.

The 2013 contribution has been calculated to be $12,500. In 2012 the Alliance chose to budget some of its reserve funding to pay for 2013 expenses, therefore reducing 2013 membership fees for local communities.

Project Status

The development of the Northern Lights Express (NLX) project from Minneapolis to Duluth continues to move forward. Preliminary survey work is now complete and baseline corridor mapping has been done. The Environmental Assessment document is currently out for public review. Preliminary engineering will continue into 2013 and 2014 using federal and state funds that have already been secured. MNDOT is scheduled to take over the project upon completion of preliminary engineering. Additional federal and state funds will need to be appropriated before final engineering and construction can take place. Based on the experience of other passenger rail projects throughout the nation, this project will take 3-4 years after funding has been granted to complete construction and begin service.

Cc: CM Lilligren – NLX Board Member
CM Quincy – NLX Board Alternate