



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

Date: August 15, 2002  
To: Transportation and Public Works Committee  
Referral to: Ways and Means/Budget Committee

**Subject:** Hiawatha Light Rail Transit - Project Funding Agreement #8 with Metropolitan Council for redesign of 46<sup>th</sup> Street west of Trunk Highway 55

### Recommendation:

That the proper City Officers be authorized to execute a Project Funding Agreement #8 with the Metropolitan Council providing for payment by the City to the Metropolitan Council of \$104,858.04 reimbursable from Municipal State Aid funds, as the City share of the cost for widening East 46<sup>th</sup> Street west of TH55; increase the appropriation in the Public Works Paving Construction Capital Agency in the Permanent Improvement Project Fund (4100-937-9372) by \$104,858.04 and increasing the Revenue Source (4100-937-9372 Source 3215) by \$104,858.04.

### Previous Directives:

Council Action April 6, 2001 – That the proper City officers be authorized to enter into an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan Council to furnish the Hiawatha LRT Project with funding in the amount of \$2,740,000 to be applied against the City's share of the redesign of Minnehaha Avenue/54<sup>th</sup> Street, redesign of 46<sup>th</sup> Street/Hiawatha Avenue, conversion of the retained fill section to a bridge section and other items that may be subsequently directed by the City Council.

Prepared or Submitted by: Heidi Hamilton, Engineer III – LRT \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: 612/673-3439

Approved: David J. Sonnenberg, City Engineer/Director of Public Works

Presenters in Committee: Heidi Hamilton

### Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Other financial impact (Explain):
- Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

## Background/Supporting Information

Traffic operations at the intersection of TH55 and East 46<sup>th</sup> Street, which carries over 40,000 vehicles per day, have been a concern for several years. Construction of the LRT crossing of 46<sup>th</sup> Street and the LRT station at this location will further complicate the operation of the intersection. Therefore, City staff have worked with Council Member Colvin Roy and the Hiawatha Project Office to determine the modifications to 46<sup>th</sup> Street west of TH55 that should be constructed prior to LRT beginning operation to improve traffic flow on 46<sup>th</sup> Street.

The attached drawing illustrates the layout that was developed to address traffic concerns. This plan includes widening 46<sup>th</sup> Street to add a right-turn lane into the LRT station on west-bound 46<sup>th</sup> Street and a left turn lane into the LRT station on east bound 46<sup>th</sup> Street. The turn lanes will permit vehicles that are turning into the LRT station, including the eight bus routes that are currently planned to stop at the station, to get out of the way of through traffic on 46<sup>th</sup> Street. Maintaining through traffic on 46<sup>th</sup> Street is critical since a light rail vehicle (LRV) crossing the road will stop 46<sup>th</sup> Street traffic every 3.5 minutes on average during peak periods.

The cost to implement the proposed change to the Hiawatha Light Rail Transit project is \$116,434.04. HPO has worked with City staff to accomplish this change based on the understanding that funding in the amount of \$104,858 would be provided by the City. The City's share of the funding is available from the funds appropriated in April 6, 2001 Council Action for LRT related projects, of which the 46<sup>th</sup> Street widening was specifically cited for funding. The Metropolitan Council or LRT project budget will pay the remainder of the cost.

MetroTransit has indicated that they plan to fund the installation of a signal at the intersection of 46<sup>th</sup> Street and the entrance into the LRT station (36<sup>th</sup> Avenue) as part of their 2003 capital budget for installation prior to LRT beginning revenue operation. The signal will be designed and installed by the City with MetroTransit funding rather than being added to the LRT contractor's scope of work.

City staff therefore recommend that the proper City Officers be authorized to execute Project Funding Agreement #8 with the Metropolitan Council providing for payment by the City to the Metropolitan Council of \$104,858.04 reimbursable from Municipal State Aid funds, as the City share of the cost for widening East 46<sup>th</sup> Street west of TH55; increase the appropriation in the Public Works Paving Construction Capital Agency in the Permanent Improvement Project Fund (4100-937-9372) by \$104,858.04 and increasing the Revenue Source (4100-937-9372 Source 3215) by \$104,858.04.

cc: Council Member Colvin Roy  
Robert Morgan  
Ed Hunter, Hiawatha Project Office  
John McCormack, Hiawatha Project Office  
Corey Conover  
Bernie Maciej

T&PW – Your Committee recommends that the proper City Officers be authorized to execute a Project Funding Agreement #8 with the Metropolitan Council providing for payment by the City to the Metropolitan Council of \$104,858.04 reimbursable from Municipal State Aid funds, as the City share of the cost for widening East 46<sup>th</sup> Street west of TH55; increase the appropriation in the Public Works Paving Construction Capital Agency in the Permanent Improvement Project Fund (4100-937-9372) by \$104,858.04 and increasing the Revenue Source (4100-937-9372 Source 3215) by \$104,858.04.