



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

**Date:** November 5, 2009  
**To:** Honorable Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee  
**Subject:** **Hiawatha LRT Operations and Maintenance Agreement**

**Recommendation:**

- a. Authorize proper City officers to enter into an agreement with the Metropolitan Council related to the operations and maintenance of the Hiawatha Corridor Light Rail Transit Project in the City of Minneapolis.

**Previous Directives:**

- Master Project Cooperation Agreement among State of Minnesota, Metropolitan Airports Commission, Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, Cities of Bloomington and Minneapolis.
- Supplementary Project Cooperation Agreement between the State, Metropolitan Council and the City
- Construction Cooperation Agreement between the State, Metropolitan Council and the City

**Prepared by:** Jon Wertjes, Director Traffic and Parking Services 673-2614

**Approved by:**

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

**Presenters:** Jon Wertjes, Director Traffic and Parking Services

**Reviews:**

Permanent Review Committee (PRC)	Approval	NA	Date
Civil Rights Affirmative Action Plan	Approval	NA	Date
Policy Review Group (PRG):	Approval	NA	Date

**Financial Impact**

No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget

**Community Impact**

Neighborhood Notification: Not Applicable.

City Goals:

**A SAFE PLACE TO CALL HOME:** the city's infrastructure will be well-maintained, people will feel safe in the city.

**CONNECTED COMMUNITIES:** a connected network of transportation options

Comprehensive Plan: Not Applicable  
Zoning Code: Not Applicable

## **Background/Supporting Information**

### History

The Hiawatha Avenue Light Rail line connects downtown Minneapolis to south Minneapolis, Veterans Hospital, Fort Snelling area, the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, Bloomington, and the Mall of America. The first day of operation for the Hiawatha Light Rail line in the City of Minneapolis occurred June 26, 2004 with operations to the airport and mall coming on line in December 2004.

The Light Rail line has increased the transit options available to commuters in the metro area and each trainload of passengers translates to fewer buses and cars on the streets and cleaner air quality. The Hiawatha Light Rail line is operated by Metro Transit, which also runs the Twin Cities bus public transit system and is under the control of the Metropolitan Council.

The 12-mile Hiawatha line provided 10 million rides in 2008, an average of 30,500 per weekday. Ridership on the line already has exceeded the pre-construction estimate for the year 2020.

### Northstar Commuter Rail Project

The Northstar Commuter Rail Project is mostly complete and testing is occurring. As part of that project the Hiawatha LRT line was extended westerly for four blocks in downtown. Full operations of both Northstar commuter rail and the LRT extension will begin on November 16, 2009.

### Operations and Maintenance Agreement

An agreement for LRT operations and maintenance is needed to meet:

- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirements
- Consistency with State of Minnesota statutes
- Functional needs of the original LRT project and the pending extension to Northstar
- Provide clarity to both parties regarding roles and responsibilities

The agreement includes operations and maintenance related to the following key elements:

- LRT system operations within City streets
- LRT Work zone procedures
- Traffic signals, LRT signals and EVP system operations and interaction that includes provisions for both downtown and outside of downtown
- City Infrastructure Emergencies – provisions for LRT stoppage
- Maintenance related to bike path, berm and wood wall, fence, lighting and joint use poles, signs, signals, pavement markings, bridges and tunnels, graffiti removal, sewers
- Coordination of Routine Track and Roadway Maintenance to minimize disruption
- Payment of Electrical Power Costs

This agreement does not result in any monetary payments between the two parties.

As such, Metro Transit and Public Works have been discussing the agreement components and working in cooperation to define and sort out issues to be addressed. At this time both parties have concluded we are substantial complete and the Agreement is ready for approvals.

Therefore, Public Works, in concurrence with City Attorney office, is recommending that the City Council enter into the Hiawatha Corridor Light Rail Transit Project Operations and Maintenance Agreement with the Metropolitan Council.

Cc: Corey Conover, Don Sobania