

Business Item

Metropolitan Council



Committee meeting date: n/a

For the Metropolitan Council: May 27, 2026

Business Item: 2026-105

Northstar Equipment Lease Agreement with Sound Transit, Contract 26M055

District(s), member(s):	All
Policy/legal reference:	Minn. Stat. Section 473.129, Subd. 7.
Staff prepared/presented:	Lesley Kandasas – General Manager 612-349-7513 Brian Funk – Chief Operating Officer 612-349-7514 Bruce Cardon – Deputy COO – Maintenance 612-349-7516 Anthony Hebert – Commuter Rail Director 612-349-7083
Division/department:	Metro Transit – Northstar

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council (Council) authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute lease agreement 26M055 with Sound Transit to lease a Northstar locomotive.

Background

Sound Transit has requested to lease a locomotive from Metro Transit to support its commuter rail service during the 2026 FIFA World Cup (with Seattle serving as a host city). The equipment will be used in response to a catastrophic failure in one of their locomotives, which cannot be repaired in time. The anticipated lease term is June to August 2026, with ability to extend through the end of 2026. Concurrence has been received from MNDOT and the FTA for the lease term of June to August 2026. Additional concurrence from MNDOT and the FTA would be required to extend the lease term to the end of 2026. Sound Transit has indicated it will pay for the leased equipment utilizing local funding.

Rationale

This action will allow the Metropolitan Council and Metro Transit to support events of national significance with under-utilized fleet resources.

Thrive lens analysis

On Feb. 12, 2025, the Council adopted Imagine 2050, which builds on policy direction in Thrive MSP 2040. Under the Thrive lens, this resolution is responsive to external requests to help with national interests and supports the Thrive outcome of Stewardship by ensuring we balance stakeholder needs and long-term priorities for Metro Transit.

Funding

The cost to the Council is \$0. Sound Transit will be making lease payments to the Council using their local funding.

Small business inclusion

There are no direct impacts to small business with this action.

