

Business Item

Transportation Committee



Committee meeting date: September 28, 2026

for the Metropolitan Council: October 14, 2026

Business Item: 2026-162

METRO Blue Line Extension - Kimley-Horn Amendment 2, Contract 22P103A

District(s), member(s):	District 2 (Chamblis), District 7 (Osman), District 8 (Cameron)
Policy/legal reference:	FM 14-2 – Expenditures for the Procurement of Goods, Services, and Real Estate Policy
Staff prepared/presented:	Lesley Kandaras, General Manager, 612-349-7513 Nick Thompson, Deputy General Manager, 612-349-7507 Alicia Vap, Blue Line Ext. Project Director, 612-349-7070 Ryan Kronzer, Blue Line Ext, Asst Design Dir, 612-373-3826
Division/department:	Metro Transit – Blue Line Extension Project Office (BPO)

Proposed action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute amendment 2 for contract 22P103A with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to increase the contract value by \$36,677,854 for a total contract not to exceed amount of \$175,953,302.

Background

Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. was awarded Contract 22P103A in 2023 to conduct design and engineering services for the METRO Blue Line Extension Light Rail Transit (LRT) project (Project). The proposed amendment 2 will continue to advance the design and engineering services to reach the bidding phase for the Project's Civil and Systems construction procurement process in 2027 and continue to advance other design elements for the Project. The Project will need a future contract amendment to design the operations and maintenance facility and to support design and engineering services through construction.

Several factors have led to the need for this contract amendment. As the Project has progressed, certain scope adjustments were identified to support continued advancement of the design and engineering work. Examples include preparing business access exhibits resulting from constructability reviews between 60% and 90% design, stormwater redesign based on roadway owner requested modifications, updates associated with changes in watershed district stormwater requirements, and incorporation of the Operations and Maintenance Facility (OMF) Yard into the Civil/Systems design. In addition, some previously defined scope elements became more complex than anticipated, such as responding to a significantly higher volume of stakeholder review comments, which required additional coordination and iterative design review.

The Project Decisions Board approved the proposed contract amendment at its September 16, 2026, meeting.

Rationale

Council Policy requires amendments exceeding 10% of the original authorized contract value be approved by the Council if the cumulative value exceeds \$2,000,000. Amendments to contracts that exceed 10% of the original value constitute sole source procurements.

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, investment in high-quality transportation options will advance the Thrive outcome of prosperity by making the region more economically competitive through increased workers' access to employment, and support to employers by increasing available workforce with affordable, convenient transportation.

The Project advances the Equity outcome by distributing transit resources throughout the region and improving access to jobs, educational opportunities, and health services to diverse communities.

Advancing the Project addresses the Livability outcome by increasing access to transit connections to the greater METRO system, including current and planned light rail and bus rapid transit lines, for communities in the region.

Funding

Local funding is fully provided through the executed Capital Grant Agreement #22I068 with Hennepin County and the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority and incorporated into the Council's Authorized Capital Budget under Project #61403.

Small business inclusion

The Office of Civil Rights and Small Business Programs (OCR SB) established a DBE goal of 19% on the 22P103A - Engineering and Project Management Services contract. As of July 31, 2026, the achievement was 12.1%. The OCR SB will continue to monitor the project to ensure applicable DBE requirements are met, inclusive of all amendments.

