



City Council Report

Date: December 12, 2016
To: City Council
Through: Kari Kent, Assistant City Manager
From: Beth Huning, City Engineer
Rob Kidder, Assistant City Engineer
Subject: Metro Light Rail Transit System
Operations and Maintenance Agreement
Council District 3
Council District 4

Strategic Initiatives



Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to provide information to the City Council to review and allow the City Manager to enter into an Operation and Maintenance Agreement (“Agreement”) between the Valley Metro Rail, Inc. (“METRO”) and the City of Mesa (“City”) for the Metro Light Rail Transit System. This Agreement amends an existing Operation and Maintenance Agreement (“2013 Agreement”) between METRO and the City. The 2013 Agreement defined the Operations and Maintenance actions of the City and METRO for the operation and maintenance of a light rail passenger system (“LRT System”). This Agreement covers all portions of the LRT System in the City that are in Revenue Operations. Refer to Exhibit “A” for a map showing the limits of the Agreement.

Staff recommends Council approve the Operations and Maintenance Agreement Resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign the Agreement.

Background

In June 2013, METRO and the City entered into an amended and restated Operation and Maintenance Agreement for the Central Mesa Extension Project. The 2013 Agreement updated the roles and responsibilities of METRO and the City for items of work related to the operation and maintenance of the LRT System. The 2013 Agreement discussed the operation and maintenance of City infrastructure adjacent to or directly affecting the LRT System. The location and extent of the 2013 Agreement included all real property in Mesa along Main Street from the Western boundary line of the City to the end of the line at Mesa Drive (approximately 4.0 miles). Similar but

separate Operation and Maintenance Agreements were entered into with the Cities of Phoenix and Tempe.

The 2013 Agreement did not address the Mesa Drive Park and Ride and Morris Plaza. These facilities have now been included in this amended Agreement. Additionally, maintenance responsibilities at the Sycamore Transit Center have been further defined.

Discussion

The purpose of this amended Agreement is to update the roles and responsibilities of METRO and the City as it pertains to the operation and maintenance of the LRT System and the CME Project. METRO is responsible for the operations of the LRT System. The City is responsible for the operations of City facilities including but not limited to roadways, traffic signals, street lights, signage, and all other facilities owned by the City (i.e. gas, electric, sewer) that are not within the LRT Guideway. Per the Agreement, the "LRT Guideway" is defined as the area in which the light rail vehicles will operate. The area of operation is defined by the limits of a curb, curb and gutter, or rumble strip and the adjacent roadway or sidewalk.

METRO's maintenance responsibilities shall include the maintenance of all facilities within the LRT Guideway and facilities in direct support of METRO's operations as defined in the Agreement. The City is responsible for maintaining facilities unrelated to the System unless defined otherwise within the Agreement. These facilities include, but are not limited to, City owned utilities, pavement adjacent to the LRT System, certain elements of the transit centers, landscaping within occupied City property, etc.

Alternatives

The Council could choose not to enter into the Agreement with METRO. This alternative is not recommended as the 2013 Agreement does not cover operation and maintenance responsibilities for Morris Plaza and the Mesa Drive Park and Ride. Also, it does not fully clarify responsibilities at the Sycamore Transit Center. As a result, these facilities may not be properly maintained due to ambiguity in responsibilities.

Fiscal Impact

The City and METRO are both fiscally responsible for their respective operational and maintenance activities identified in the Agreement. Funding for System Maintenance and System Operations will be provided in accordance with the terms of the LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT OPERATIONS MASTER COOPERATIVE FUNDING AGREEMENT between the City and METRO and subsequent Annual Operations Funding Agreements between the City and METRO which follow the annual Board approval of the METRO Annual Operating and Capital Budget.

Coordinated With

The Transit Services Department, Transportation Department, and City Attorney's Office have reviewed and approved the content of the Agreement.