



MEMORANDUM
Physical Development Department
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Executive Summary For Action

Golden Valley City Council Meeting

September 16, 2015

Agenda Item

METRO Blue Line Extension Update

Prepared By

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Project Summary

At the September Issue Resolution Team (IRT) meetings with the Project Office, discussion centered around two topics. First, negotiations with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad have revealed the potential for the light rail project to be required to reconstruct all four bridges over the railroad tracks (three are located within Golden Valley).

Based on this information, the Project Office will be evaluating the cost to rebuild these bridges, or to provide monetary compensation to the railroad that could cover future reconstruction. These costs were not part of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and would be an increase in the project budget. The Project Office is continuing to negotiate with BNSF about this topic.

Second, the Project Office recently met with Park and Recreation staff from Golden Valley and Robbinsdale, as well as Three Rivers, to discuss the evolving potential to use portions of Sochacki Park for staging during construction of the rail tracks in the Grimes Pond area. Due to the topography and single family homes surrounding the park, there are few good options for access. Conversations will continue with stakeholders to discuss potential limitations, safety provisions, and restoration commitments should use of the park become necessary.

Representatives from the Project Office will attend the October Council/Manager meeting to discuss the municipal consent process and how it will dovetail with the release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). A public open house at City Hall is being planned for late October to discuss environmental issues associated with the light rail line. More details regarding the date and time will be provided by early October.

Recommended Action

Receive and file METRO Blue Line Extension Update.