

Council Agenda Item 26-0621R



MEETING DATE: July 13, 2026

SUBJECT/TITLE: 26-0621R; A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT FROM THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MNDOT) IN AN AMOUNT OF \$465,830 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT OF COMMUNITY LIAISON WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE BLATNIK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2031.

SUBMITTED BY: Mallory Dalquist, Duluth Workforce Development, Information Technician

RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: This will be the third round of funding Duluth Workforce Development has received from MNDOT in support of providing coordination and oversight of community liaisons for highway-heavy roadway construction projects. The initial round of funding ran from March 23, 2021 through January 21, 2024 in support of the Twin Ports Interchange project for \$218,680 (21-0157R). The second round of funding was an amendment to that initial agreement expanding the term of the agreement to March 22, 2026 and increasing the funding amount by \$185,603 (23-0807R).

BACKGROUND:

MNDOT is in need of assistance establishing a network of community liaisons within the Duluth-Superior area to recommend and facilitate engagement activities with youth and adults. Community liaisons will conduct outreach to youth and adults, particularly those not traditionally engaged in the construction industry, to identify individuals with aptitude for trade work and connect them to careers and employment opportunities associated with the Blatnik Bridge replacement project. MNDOT's goals through this agreement are to ensure strong representation of Minnesota and Wisconsin workers on the Blatnik Bridge replacement and other regional projects, expand training construction pathways, engage communities, and help people understand and access careers in highway heavy construction.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT: Execution of this joint powers contract for professional and technical services will result in the collection of not more than \$465,830 for the provision of deliverables.

OPTIONS: Approve the contract to establish a network of community liaisons within the Duluth-Superior area in support of the Blatnik Bridge replacement and other regional projects for a total not to exceed \$465,830 or forego authorization declining to provide the designated deliverables for the corresponding budgeted funds.

NECESSARY ACTION: Authorize the joint powers contract

MNDOT Community Liaisons Contract 1061742 Cover Memo

ATTACHMENTS: Exhibit A - MNDOT Community Liaisons Contract 1061742