

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: May 12, 2008

For Metropolitan Council meeting: May 21, 2008

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: May 5, 2008

Subject: Saint Paul Transportation Management Organization (TMO)
Subrecipient Grant Agreement

District(s), Member(s): District 13, Richard Aguilar
District 14, Kirstin Sersland Beach

Policy/Legal Reference: Transportation Policy Plan Policies 6c, 10a and 10b

Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510
Julie Johanson, Assistant General Manager- Admin, 612-349-7514
Bruce Howard, Director of Marketing, 612-349-7694

Division/Department: Metro Transit/Marketing

Proposed Action/Motion

To authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a subrecipient grant agreement with the Saint Paul Transportation Management Organization (TMO) for the pass-through of federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for Transportation Demand Management activities for the period of May 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009 in an amount not to exceed \$297,971.

Issue(s)

- The Downtown Saint Paul and Midway area TMOs have combined administrative offices and expanded their service area to cover the entire city of Saint Paul. This will provide for more efficient use of CMAQ funds and more consistent outreach in the city of Saint Paul.
- Each TMO receives reimbursement of up to 80 percent for most allowable operating expenses while supplying 20 percent local match. Some expenses are 100 percent reimbursable.
- The Metropolitan Council is the authorized recipient of 2007-2009 federal CMAQ funds of \$5.5 million. Under Metropolitan Council policies as noted above and as approved by the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), a portion of these funds is allocated to support the operations of TMOs in the region.

Overview and Funding

The federal CMAQ grant funds a variety of Transportation Demand Management programs and strategies aimed at reducing the number of single occupant vehicle miles traveled in the region and thus reducing traffic congestion and air pollution. Activities include carpool and vanpool ride matching, employer education and outreach, transit marketing, incentive programs, biking and pedestrian activities and demonstrations of transportation alternatives.

TMOs provide a local level of involvement and coordination with the Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit's bus, train and rideshare marketing efforts. TMOs have been promoting regional programs such as ride matching, VanGo, Metropass, Transitworks, U-Pass and others for the past 15 years, as well as local initiatives tailored to their service area.