

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: September 22, 2008

For Metropolitan Council meeting date: September 24, 2008

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	September 15, 2008
Subject:	2009 Capital and Operating Grant Applications to Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB)
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Metropolitan Council Policy 3-2-2 and 2008 MN Session Laws, Chapter 152, Article 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 5
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian J. Lamb, Metro Transit General Manager, 612-349-7510 Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS, 651-602-1754 Mark W. Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy Gen Mgr, 651-602-1942 Amy Vennewitz, MTS Dep. Dir. Finance & Planning, 651-602-1058
Division/Department:	Metro Transit and Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to apply for grants from the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for the following capital and operating projects:

1. Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) capital for Preliminary Engineering and Final Design: \$10.232 million (January-June 2009; subsequent capital funding applications required)
2. Cedar Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) capital for Apple Valley Transit Station: \$6.95 million (CY09; one-time)
3. Hiawatha LRT operating: \$7.5 million (CY09; on-going)
4. Northstar Commuter Rail operating: \$3.5 million (CY09; on-going)
5. I-35W Lakeville BRT operating: \$62.5 thousand (October-December 09; on-going)
6. Cedar Avenue Lakeville BRT operating: \$22.5 thousand (October-December 09; on-going)
7. Metropolitan Council transit operating assistance: \$30.783 million (CY09; one-time)

Background

CTIB was created in 2008 by enabling state legislation and the concurrence of five counties in the region (Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington). Its purpose is to provide a dedicated source for capital and operating funds for transitway projects serving the five participating counties. CTIB's Grant Evaluation and Ranking System Committee (GEARS) evaluates grants and makes recommendations to CTIB. The criteria for grant awards include: (1) being consistent with Metropolitan Council's Transportation Policy Plan (TPP); (2) adhering to transitway purposes; and (3) granting each of its County members at least 1% of total Sales Tax proceeds for FY 2009-11. The applications for the current grant round were released on September 8, 2008 and are due October 1, 2008.

Council action should not be considered a prerequisite for all future CTIB grant applications. Staff determined that the Council should authorize the grants listed above given their importance and magnitude.

Rationale

CTIB grant funds for capital projects would contribute to the successful implementation of Metropolitan Council's Transportation Policy Plan. CTIB grant funds for supporting BRT, LRT, and commuter rail operations would allow the Metropolitan Council to take advantage of a new funding source and reduce the need to secure operating funds from other funding sources. Legislation provides a one-time grant to Metropolitan Council for transit operating assistance in State Fiscal Year 2009.

Funding

The seven funding requests listed above total \$59.05 million. CTIB requires that capital projects maximize the use and availability of federal funds and have a 10% local contribution from the state. For Central Corridor LRT and Cedar Avenue BRT capital requests, the State of Minnesota will provide the local match.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.