

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: August 24, 2009

Metropolitan Council Meeting date: September 9, 2009

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: August 17, 2009
Subject: 2010 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: Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS, 651-602-1754
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Division/Department: Metro Transit and Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to apply for 2010 grants from the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for the following capital and operating projects:

1. Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) Capital for Advanced Preliminary Engineering, Final Design, and Construction: Est. \$66 million
2. Cedar Avenue BRT Operating for BRT Express Service to Cedar Grove (Eagan) and Lakeville Park-and-Rides: Est. \$150,000
3. Hiawatha LRT Operating: Est. \$7.4 million
4. Northstar Commuter Rail Operating: Est. \$5.7 million
5. I-35W BRT Capital for offline station improvements and station-to-station service buses: Est. \$2.75 million
6. I-35W BRT Operating for Lakeville BRT Express service: Est. \$131,000

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 first awarded grants in 2009 and will work with its Grant Evaluation and Ranking System Committee (GEARS) to evaluate grants and make funding recommendations. CTIB adopted a resolution for 2010 grants allowing only Central Corridor, I-35W, and Cedar Avenue BRT to apply for capital grants and Northstar, Hiawatha, I-35W BRT, and Cedar Avenue BRT to apply for operating grants. The applications for the current grant round were released on August 10, 2009 and are due September 11, 2009.

Council action is a prerequisite for all grant applications in excess of \$250,000 or for applications that staff deem appropriate to bring before the Council.

Rationale

CTIB capital grant funds will contribute to capital projects identified in the Metropolitan Council's Transportation Policy Plan and assist in reaching the regional goal of doubling transit ridership by 2030. CTIB grant funds for operations will allow the Council to take advantage of a new funding source and reduce the need to secure operating funds from other funding sources. In addition, state law limits state contributions to rail operations to 50 percent of the net subsidy with the assumption that CTIB funds will be used to pay the remaining 50 percent of the net subsidy.

Funding

The six funding requests listed above total and estimated \$82.131 million, with \$68.75 million requested for capital and \$13.381 million requested for operating. The listed grant amounts are estimates and will be finalized prior to the September 11 application deadline. CTIB requires that capital projects maximize the use and availability of federal funds and have a 10 percent non-federal contribution from the state or Metropolitan Council. For the Central Corridor LRT, the State of Minnesota will provide the local match. For the I-35W BRT, the local match will be RTC funds.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.