

T Transportation Committee
Meeting date: July 12, 2010
Council meeting July 28, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: July 6, 2010
Subject: Rush Line Express Coach Bus Service Agreement
District(s), Member(s): 11-Hilker, 12-Broeker, 13-Aguilar
Policy/Legal Reference: Council Policy 3-2-2 Income/Grants
Staff Prepared/Presented: Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS (651) 602-1754
Gerri Sutton, Asst. Director Contracted Transit Services (651)602-1672
John Harper, Supervisor Contracted Transit Services (651) 602-1744
Bruce Dreier, Project Administrator (651) 602-1708
Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to enter into an agreement with the Rush Line Task Force to contract and administer the Rush Line Express coach bus service demonstration route on behalf of the task force beginning in September 2010.

Background

The Rush Line Task Force, a joint powers board, was organized to develop public transit services in an area that includes Anoka, Ramsey, and Washington counties. The task force desires to provide and fund express coach bus service between the northeast metro and downtown St. Paul.

Under the proposed agreement, the Council will contract for express coach bus service in the corridor on behalf of the Rush Line Task Force for a period of twelve months, with the option to extend the contract for up to two additional twelve month periods. The Council will issue the service RFP, contract with the vendor, and provide contract oversight and regional ancillary support services. The task force will reimburse the Council for the service contract costs and Council administrative costs.

Rationale

In a previous action, 2009-393, the Council authorized passing through to the Ramsey County Regional Rail authority \$422,219 in Federal Sec. 5307 funds to support this service. Since that authorization, the scope of the proposed agreement was expanded to include Council oversight of the service contract at the request of the task force. The total service contract cost and administrative fees are estimated at \$610,000 for the first year. The Council is required to approve revenue contracts in excess of \$500,000.

Funding

The third quarter budget amendment, scheduled to go before the Council in early September, will include the expenses and offsetting revenues associated with the Rush Line Express coach service through the end of 2010. There is no financial impact to the Council.

Known Support / Opposition

No opposition to this action is known.