

T Transportation Committee
Meeting date: August 9, 2010
Council meeting: August 25, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: July 26, 2010
Subject: 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Revision: Vehicle Mode Reassignment Request for Metropolitan Council CMAQ Award SP#TRS-TCMT-10C and SouthWest Transit CMAQ Award SP#TRS-SMTC-10A, Bus Purchases, to provide four LRT vehicles (TAB Action 2010-44)
District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference: TAB Action
Staff Prepared/Presented: Arlene McCarthy, Director (651-602-1754)
Amy Vennewitz, Dep. Dir. Finance & Planning (651-602-1058)
Carl Ohrn, Planning Analyst (651-602-1719)
Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council concur with the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) action to revise the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to reflect the vehicle mode reassignment request from the Metropolitan Council that MTS CMAQ award SP#TRS-TCMT-10C: Purchase 15 buses for fleet expansion and SouthWest Transit CMAQ award SP#TRS-SMTC-10A: Purchase 10 buses for fleet expansion both be used to purchase four LRT vehicles, with the stipulation that the TAB develop new regional policy on the reallocation of federal funds from local projects that are dropped from the TIP, by October 2010.

Background

Metro Council and Southwest Transit were awarded CMAQ funds for bus purchases for fleet expansion as part of the 2005 regional solicitation. The Metro Council, with SouthWest Transit support, requested TAB to reassign these federal funds to purchase four LRT vehicles to support the Hiawatha 3-car train project. These grants are no longer needed due to other grants which were utilized for bus purchases and also due to the lack of operating funds for bus service expansion.

Rationale

In order to spend Federal Transportation Funds, the project must be accurately reflected in the TIP.

Funding

The federal funds will be matched with regional transit capital (RTC) bond funds.

Known Support / Opposition

There was lengthy discussion at TAC and TAB about the reassignment. The TAB will consider new policies to address similar issues in the future.

Transportation Advisory Board
of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

ACTION TRANSMITTAL

No. 2010-44

DATE: August 4, 2010
TO: Metropolitan Council
FROM: Transportation Advisory Board
SUBJECT: Vehicle Mode Reassignment Request for Metropolitan Council CMAQ Award SP#TRS-TCMT-10C: Purchase 15 Buses for Fleet Expansion and Southwest Transit CMAQ Award SP#TRS-SMTC-10A: Purchase 10 Buses for Fleet Expansion.

MOTION: The Transportation Advisory Board approved the vehicle mode reassignment request for Metropolitan Council CMAQ award SP# TRS-TCMT-10C: Purchase 15 buses for fleet expansion and Southwest Transit CMAQ award SP# TRS-SMTC-10A: purchase 10 buses for fleet expansion and amend the 2010-2013 TIP to include the purchase of four light rail vehicles with the stipulation that the TAB develop new regional policy on the reallocation of federal funds from local projects that are dropped from the TIP, by October 2010.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ACTION: The transit buses to be purchased in the two projects identified above are no longer needed due to lower than expected available operating funds. The proposed change is supported by Southwest Transit.

The TAB reviewed four options prepared by the TAB Coordinator in a July 19, 2010 memo, and a letter from Metro Council Chair Peter Bell dated July 15, 2010, as supplemental information to the action. Discussion followed expressing concern with wavering from existing policy, exceptions to the policies in place, and the timeliness of receipt of Bell's letter.

ROUTING

TO	ACTION REQUESTED	DATE COMPLETED
TAC Funding & Programming Committee	Review & Forward	June 17, 2010
Technical Advisory Committee	Review & Forward	July 7, 2010
TAB Programming Committee	Review & Recommend	July 21, 2010
Transportation Advisory Board	Review & Adopt	July 21, 2010
Metropolitan Council	Concurrence	



July 15, 2010

Mayor Bill Hargis, Chair
Transportation Advisory Board
390 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Mayor Hargis,

I am writing to request that the TAB approve the Council's request to reassign two CMAQ bus expansion grants to light rail vehicle (LRV) expansion. The Council recognizes that this approval would be an exception and policy deviation to TAB's funding allocation process.

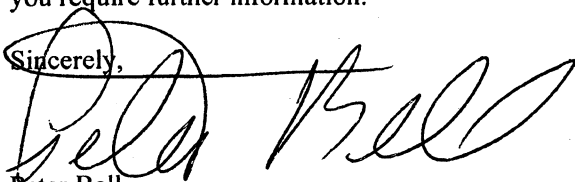
One exception is that the reassignment would allocate two grants from the 2005 Regional Solicitation to one corridor, Hiawatha LRT. The second is that the total amount of the two grants (\$10.25M in federal funds) exceeds the 2005 Regional Solicitation's \$5.5M federal cap per project. For both exceptions, I would appreciate TAB's consideration of the broad beneficial impact on regional transit that this reassignment would provide. Today, on average daily, one in every eight transit riders in the region is on Hiawatha LRT. This 12% transit rider share is partially reflected in the Hiawatha park-and-ride user origins map which demonstrates that those riders would otherwise use several regional transportation corridors for their trip if not on LRT.

I appreciate that process exceptions must be carefully weighed and that they are more of a policy matter than technical in nature. Given the increasing uncertainty in transit funding and opportunities, as well as changing priorities due to positive and negative factors beyond the control of both the Council and TAB, it may be appropriate to work toward establishing a policy for exceptions.

The Council does not see this vehicle reassignment request as a change to the original scope which was to provide transit service expansion in the region. Neither CMAQ application was specific to a certain route or corridor. Rather, each proposed improving transit service in the metro area, with one focused on the southwest metro. The reassignment is consistent with the original grant requests in that it will provide a transit service expansion in the region. The difference is that the vehicle is an LRV rather than a bus, but the end result remains increasing transit capacity where demand warrants.

TAB's action would also allow for more cost-effective prices on LRVs for both Central and Hiawatha as well as take advantage of the CCLRT procurement opportunity. The Council will take action on awarding that LRV procurement on August 25, 2010 for a September notice-to-proceed.

Again, I appreciate TAB's willingness to consider the Council's request. Do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Sincerely,

Peter Bell
Chair

www.metrocouncil.org

390 Robert Street North • St. Paul, MN 55101-1805 • (651) 602-1000 • Fax (651) 602-1550 • TTY (651) 291-0904

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June 30, 2010

Tim Mayasich, Chair
TAB Technical Advisory Committee
390 North Robert Street
St. Paul MN 55101

Re: Vehicle Mode Reassignment of Two 2010 CMAQ Grant Award Projects
State Project Numbers: TRS-SMTC-10A, TRS-TCMT-10C

Dear Mr. Mayasich:

In response to the discussion and questions at the June 17, 2010 TAC Funding and Programming Committee, we are sending you an updated letter (superceding the June 11, 2010 letter to Karl Keel) which provides additional information.

Please consider this request from the Metropolitan Council to reassign the vehicle mode from buses to light rail vehicles for two Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grants awarded in the 2005 Regional Solicitation for funding in Federal Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010. The affected projects are the two fleet expansion projects detailed below. The result of the reassignment would be a purchase of four light rail vehicles (LRVs) instead of 25 buses.

Project	Project Number	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
SouthWest Transit Fleet Expansion- 10 buses	TRS-SMTC-10A	\$4,365,600	\$1,091,400	\$5,457,000
MTS Fleet Expansion- 15 Buses	TRS-TCMT-10C	\$5,885,000	\$1,471,250	\$7,356,250
Total		\$10,250,600	\$2,562,650	\$12,813,250

A separate request letter has been submitted for the related TIP Amendment.

Background

2007-2008 Bus Fleet Funding Opportunities

The original intent of the two fleet expansion CMAQ grants was to expand transit services in the seven-county metro area. As fuel costs and congestion increased in 2004 and 2005, several transit providers faced crowded buses and sought CMAQ funding in the 2005 Regional Solicitation. In the intervening years, several new and unexpected funding opportunities provided new resources to expand bus fleets across the region. These included emergency relief funds associated with the I-35W bridge and the region's successful bid for transit expansion through the Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA).

In particular, the Urban Partnership Agreement provided funding for 27 expansion buses, with 13 new coach buses and 14 new 40-foot buses now in service across the region, serving the corridors identified for fleet acquisition through the 2005 CMAQ Solicitation for 2009-2010 funding. This previously unforeseen funding source filled relevant transit fleet needs.

Other CMAQ Grants

Both the Metropolitan Council and SouthWest Transit have enjoyed success with the CMAQ solicitation process in recent years. The transit providers have collaborated on use of multiple CMAQ grants to meet transit fleet expansion needs. Recently, the Metropolitan Council tapped a 2005-2006 CMAQ grant to provide expansion buses to SouthWest Transit and Shakopee. Additional regional CMAQ fleet grants from previous solicitations remain ready for use by the Metropolitan Council as demand warrants. With these other funds available, the 2010 CMAQ grants requested for this reassignment (from the 2005 solicitation) are not needed for bus expansion and would be best spent on Hiawatha LRVs.

Demand

In 2005, at the time of the applications, it was anticipated that the demand would be for bus expansion rather than light rail expansion. However, the demand for Hiawatha LRT services remains high and nearing maximum capacity during the peak hours while bus ridership has declined slightly with the recent economic downturn. During special events such as a Twins game, all 27 LRVs are put in service to create three-car trains with no spares available. Even with this approach, the vehicles are over capacity before and after events with regular service difficult to maintain. In anticipation of this growing demand, in 2009 the Council expanded all Hiawatha station platforms to accommodate three-car trains.

Market Area

The travel-shed area for Hiawatha LRT is much larger than for a typical park-and-ride served by buses. The Hiawatha Line attracts a significant share of total regional ridership. Of almost 93 million annual regular route transit rides in 2008, over 10 million were on Hiawatha trains¹. The current 27 LRVs carry 11 percent of the region's daily ridership. In addition, these users are widely distributed on several corridors. As shown on the attached map of Hiawatha park-and-ride users, weekday users come from a very large area, often bypassing park-and-ride facilities served by buses. For special events such as Vikings and Twins games, anecdotal evidence indicates that the travel-shed area grows significantly. In effect, the Hiawatha Line serves the transit needs of multiple major regional corridors, including I-35W, TH 55 (in Hennepin and Dakota Counties), TH62, TH77, and TH110. In turn, the requested fleet expansion on Hiawatha would match the intent of the original grant applications – to flexibly allocate expansion fleet to corridors with high demand. Additional Hiawatha LRVs would better serve all these corridors.

Operating Funds

The operating funding situation today is also different than anticipated in 2005. The motor vehicle sales tax (MVST), which is the largest transit operating revenue source, has continued to decline (see attached chart). This fact coupled with reductions in the state general fund allocation for transit operations in the last several years, results in a lack of operating funds to put more buses on the street. Unlike buses, light rail capacity can be added by increasing the two-car trains to three-car trains with very minimal operating cost impact. Given the inability to fund the operating cost of expansion bus service, this reassignment request allows for the expansion of transit service as intended.

Procurement Opportunity

Another important factor in this request is the procurement opportunity. Opportunities to purchase light rail vehicles are limited. Unlike bus manufacturers that provide standard bus models, rail vehicle manufacture requires significant retooling to meet customer specifications. To meet this need, manufacturers incentivize large orders with decreased unit costs. Moreover, manufacturers are unable to fill small (3-4 LRV) orders without a larger procurement in place.

¹ <http://www.metrocouncil.org/planning/transportation/Evaluation2009/Chapter4.pdf>

The Central Corridor LRV procurement process is nearing a close, with Metropolitan Council approval expected August 25, 2010. During this procurement period, the region has an opportunity to purchase additional vehicles for the Hiawatha Line. Given limited funding available for both Hiawatha and Central Corridor, the Metropolitan Council seeks to minimize the price of all LRVs to be purchased. Reassigning the mode of these two CMAQ grants from bus to rail vehicles will allow the opportunity to purchase LRV vehicles at a lower unit cost for both Central Corridor and Hiawatha. All funds for potential Hiawatha LRVs must be identified before the August 25 approval by the Metropolitan Council so the full notice to proceed may be issued in September 2010. Any delay in funding, such as applying in a new Regional Solicitation cycle in 2011, would not allow these funds to leverage the Central Corridor procurement process and the region will miss this opportunity.

For the reasons mentioned above, the Council is also examining how it might advance or cashflow the 2013/2014 CMAQ grant for three Hiawatha LRVs.

CMAQ Benefits

While the intent of the MTS and SouthWest grants was to purchase and operate buses, this is now unrealistic given the intervening funding opportunities, demand, and operating funding challenges described above. If these funds were turned back to the regional process, it would be difficult to reprogram the CMAQ funds for several years. In addition, it is most likely that Metro Transit would be awarded at least a part of these funds for Hiawatha LRVs given that the two 2009 light rail CMAQ applications for 2013/2014 funding – one for Central Corridor LRT operations and one for three Hiawatha LRVs – scored significantly higher than the other applications. By reassigning the funds to LRT vehicles now, the air quality benefits will accrue much sooner and the region will save money.

Given this background, the Council respectfully requests the following actions.

SouthWest Transit Fleet Expansion (TRS-SMTC-10A)

Request: Reassign funds associated with this project to the light rail vehicle acquisition project described below.

The buses requested by SouthWest Transit are no longer needed due to lower than expected available operating funds for service expansion and recent ridership declines. The proposed reassignment is supported by SouthWest Transit as demonstrated by SWT Board action taken on May 27th to approve transfer of the SWT 2010 CMAQ grant to the Council for purchase of LRVs.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Fleet Expansion (TRS-TCMT-10C)

Request: Reassign funds associated with this project to the light rail vehicle acquisition project described below.

The buses requested by Metropolitan Transportation Services are no longer needed due to lower than expected available operating funds for service expansion and recent ridership declines.

Proposed Revised Project - Four Light Rail Vehicles (\$13,600,000 total project)

Request: Allocate project federal CMAQ funding (\$10,250,600) to purchase four light rail vehicles.

The proposed purchase of light rail transit vehicles is consistent with these projects' initial intent to expand regional transit fleet in the seven-county region and provide more transit capacity. Reassigning the mode from bus to light rail aligns fleet expansion with current needs and opportunities and meets CMAQ goals and criteria as described below.

The proposed reassignment is consistent with the original CMAQ grant award.

These two projects, awarded in the 2005 Regional Solicitation, were submitted and awarded to allow for flexible expansion of transit fleet in the region. Bus ridership has grown considerably since 2005 but has leveled off given the economic downturn. Hiawatha light rail ridership is expected to continue growing and will soon reach capacity in the peak hour. Special event traffic continues to exceed capacity, particularly as Target Field event ridership has grown to over 10,000 per game (April-May 2010).

The proposed vehicle-type reassignment is timely for rail vehicle acquisition.

As described above, this requested reassignment will allow the region to purchase LRVs for two corridors at a better price.

The proposed reassignment advances the goals of CMAQ and would continue to score well.

Hiawatha LRT capacity expansion will provide considerable air quality and congestion mitigation benefits. Metro Transit staff evaluated the proposed project against 2005 Regional Solicitation criteria, using the successful 2009 solicitation application (for 2013-2014) of Hiawatha LRVs as a baseline. That application's benefits were also re-evaluated to ensure it would continue to score well if the requested four LRVs were purchased in the 2005 Regional Solicitation.

The proposed change would generate significant new transit ridership. By 2016 (the third year of project benefit), the four requested LRVs would carry over 300,000 new annual rides, the equivalent of 1,200 new rides per weekday. This builds upon other new LRVs' benefits for a total of 534,000 new annual rides, a considerable increase that is not possible without the requested fleet expansion change due to observed and anticipated capacity constraints on the existing system.

The project would score well within CMAQ criteria of 2005 and 2009 Solicitations. Comparing the recalculated benefits and costs of the proposed project and the 2009 Hiawatha LRV application, Metro Transit staff finds the proposed project would score as follows:

- Many criteria would score identically to the 2009 solicitation Hiawatha LRV application, as they reflect the Regional Framework, existing congestion levels, project readiness, and other factors not impacted by total ridership or cost.
- The 2009 Hiawatha LRV application led scoring in many criteria, and this position would be unaffected by a slight decrease in ridership per vehicle. These factors include congestion throughput, service efficiency and productivity, and other factors.
- The 2009 Hiawatha LRV application did not lead all applicants in emissions reduction criteria. Staff obtained the scoring criteria and recalculated projected benefits for these criteria. Total scores drop slightly, but remain as the top projects of both the 2005 and 2009 solicitations.

The estimated score for the 2009 Hiawatha application is 1,252 points, down from 1,316 points awarded in 2009. It remains the second highest project in the 2009 project list. The estimated score for the proposed project change is 1,286 points. This compares to 1,370 points and 1,264 points for the two original grant applications in the 2005 solicitation. The proposed project would replace the MTS grant as the top scoring project in 2005.

Hiawatha LRVs would score well in a future Regional Solicitation, but filling this need will depend on the timing of a future large LRV procurement for the region. This timing is uncertain, and costs will likely increase over time. Hiawatha LRVs would likely be successful in a future CMAQ application, so the region should reassign the requested funds to provide these benefits sooner and at a lower cost.

Additional detail on the estimation of project benefits and recalculation and comparison of key prioritizing criteria supporting the requested project change are attached. A brief presentation detailing

our request for this amendment, including the applicability of the criteria to this project, will be given at the July 7 meeting.

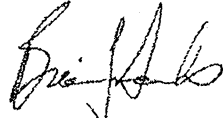
We are requesting approval of this project change at this time. If you have any questions, please call me at (651) 602-1754.

Sincerely,



Arlene McCarthy
Director, Metropolitan Transportation Services

Sincerely,



Brian Lamb
General Manager, Metro Transit

cc: Pat Bursaw, MN/DOT
Marv Lunceford, MN/DOT
Sherry Narusiewicz, MN/DOT
John Levin, Metro Transit
Mary Gustafson, Metro Transit
Tom Weaver, Metropolitan Council

Attachments

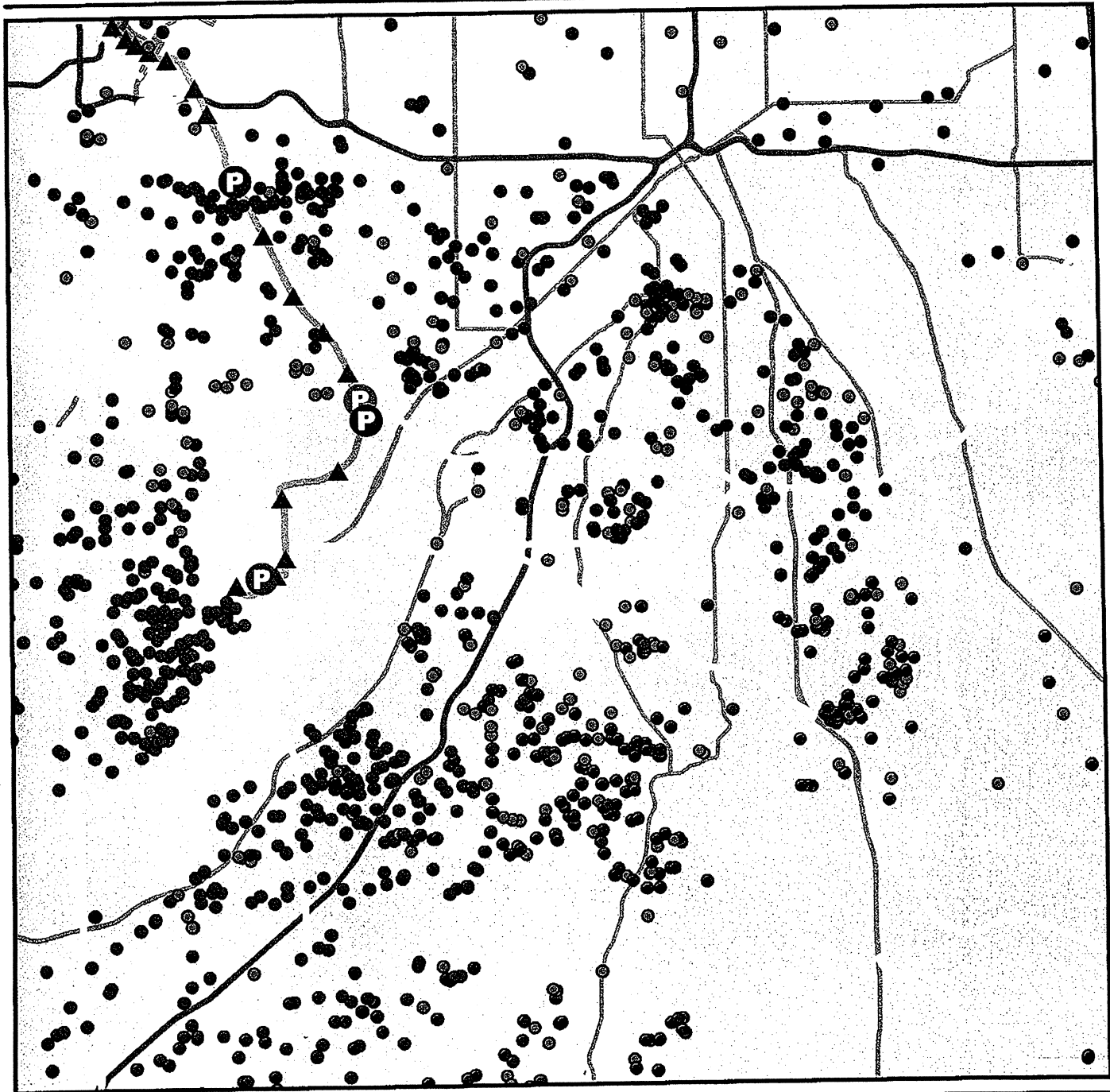
Prioritizing Criteria Recalculation & Comparison
Hiawatha Park and Ride Users Map
MVST Forecast and Actuals Chart

Project Scoring Evaluation- Estimated Revised CMAQ Scoring

CMAQ Solicitation Scoring Results										
Scoring Category	2005 Criterion	Point Value	2009 Criterion	Point Value	Summary of Changes Between 2005-2009 Solicitations	Transfer Score or Recalculate	Reasoning for Transfer or Recalculate	CMAQ Solicitation Scoring Results		
								Actual 2009 Application	Estimated Recalculated 2009 Application	Estimated Expected Score (2005)
Project Scope/Description								3 Light Rail Vehicles	3 Light Rail Vehicles	4 Light Rail Vehicles
Capital Cost (Project Total)								\$10,500,000	\$10,500,000	\$13,600,000
Ridership (Weekday Equivalent)								1,212	897	1,196
Emission Reduction and Trip Reduction (prove benefit exists)	A1	75	4A	175	Combined to new 175 point total, based on SOV and VMT trip reduction. Largely unchanged in application due to overlap of scoring criteria.			113	84	111
Quantify Emission Reduction	A2	100				Recalculate	SOV trip reductions change, scoring was not substantially higher than other applications	126.2 kgd	based on 93.4 kgd	based on 124.5 kgd
Cost Effectiveness of Emission Reduction	A3	300	4B	300	Unchanged from 2005 to 2009	Recalculate	Same reason as above, plus cost changes	243	218	220
Congestion Mitigation	B1	100	3A	50	Split to 2 subcategories in 2009, one to address congested roadways and one to score reduction in SOV trips	Transfer Score	Roadway has identical congestion level	38	38	38
Congestion Throughput Increase	B2	100	3C	100	Small changes only	Recalculate	Reduced, estimated from project scoring	40	30	35
Service Efficiency- Operating/Passenger	C1	125	2A	125	Unchanged	Transfer Score	2009 application throughput much higher than next alternative, any added cars increase throughput in peak hour. MnDOT calculated scores and provided methodology.	100	100	100
Service Productivity- Capital Cost	C2	125	2B	125	Unchanged	Transfer Score	2009 application score much higher than next alternative due to high ridership and small operating cost increase.	125	125	125
Regional Priorities- Corridor Priority	D1	100	1A	200	Combined to single category with multiple subcriteria in total score. This approach evened out facility/service/feet applications	Transfer Score	2009 application score much higher than next alternative due to high ridership and small operating cost increase. Long vehicle life span and high ridership attain top score in solicitation, unchanged by slight reduction per vehicle.	125	125	125
Expected Market Area	D2	100				Transfer Score	2005 "corridor priority" for transitway is "high". TPP status and "Unmet need" same			
Integration w/Existing Infrastructure	D3	100	1B	100	Unchanged	Transfer Score	2009 combined approach scores comparably due to TPP status, "unmet need", and ridership (ridership still 50% above next project w/300 vicky equity new rides)	150	150	150
Development Framework Implementation	E	200	6ABCD	200	Small changes, not of significant effect on project proposed	Transfer Score	Projects score equally due to geography/service type	92	92	92
Project Readiness/Maturity of Concept	F	100	5	100	Small changes only	Transfer Score	Projects score equally due to geography/service type	190	190	190
Anticipated Score (Estimated)								100	100	100
Resulting Rank in Solicitation Year Scoring								1,316	1,252	1,286
								2nd	2nd (Unchanged)	1st (replaces others)

2008 Annual Regional Park-and-Ride System Survey

Hiawatha Corridor and Park-and-Ride Facilities



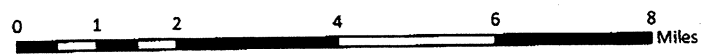
Park-and-Ride Name (Users)

- P** 28th Ave Station (778)
- P** Fort Snelling North (361)
- P** Fort Snelling South (618)
- P** Lake St/Midtown Station West (231)

- Hiawatha LRT
- Highway Corridors Benefitted by Hiawatha LRT
- Interstate Highway
- Non Interstate Highways

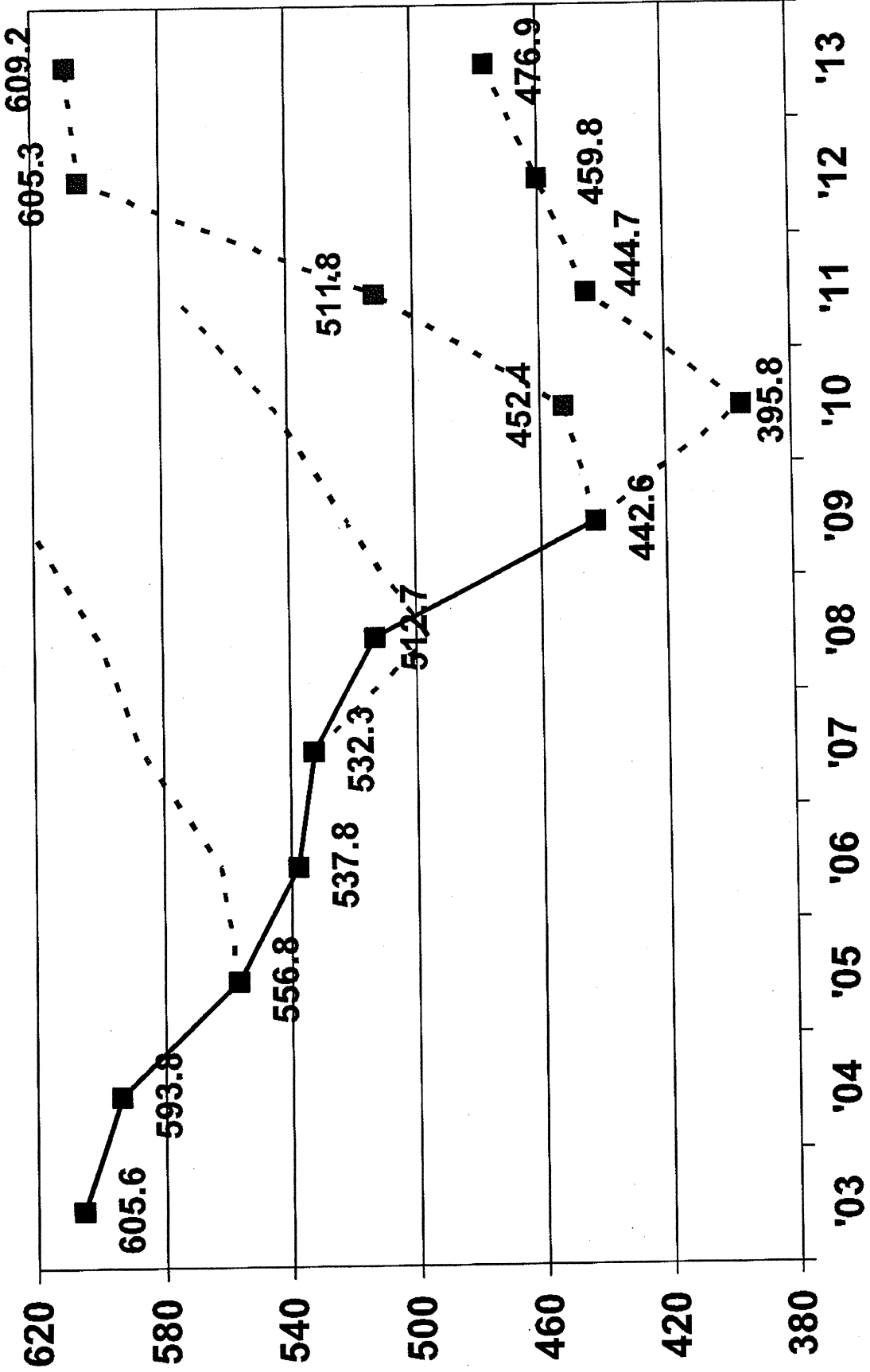
Transit Capital Levy Communities

- 7-County Metro Area
- 19-County Metro Area



N

Forecasted Statewide MVST Revenues

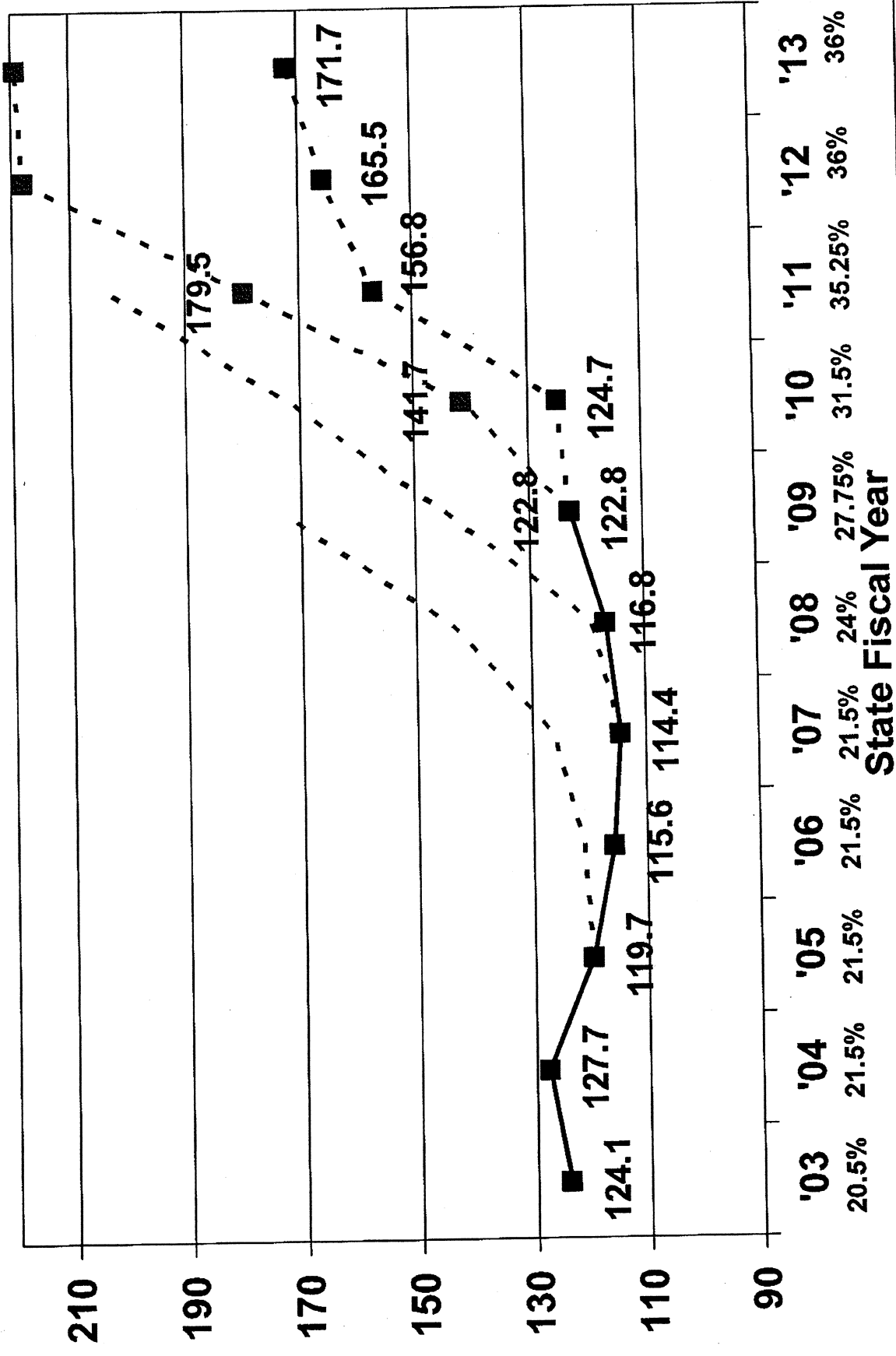


State Fiscal Year



Forecasted Met Council MVST Revenues

217.9 219.3



- - - '2/05 - - - '2/07 - ■ - '2/09 - ■ - '2/10 - ■ - Actual

June 30, 2010

Tim Mayasich, Chair
 TAB Technical Advisory Committee
 390 North Robert Street
 St. Paul MN 55101

Re: TIP Amendment for Two 2010 CMAQ Grant Award Projects
 State Project Numbers: TRS-SMTC-10A, TRS-TCMT-10C

Dear Mr. Mayasich:

In response to the discussion and questions at the June 17, 2010 TAC Funding and Programming Committee, we are sending you an updated letter (superceding the June 11, 2010 letter to Karl Keel) which provides additional information.

Please consider this request from Metro Transit to amend the Minnesota 2011 – 2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Twin Cities Minnesota to include the following 2010 projects in 2011 and to modify the corresponding vehicle purchase projects to delete expanded bus vehicles and add expanded light rail vehicles. The projects are being submitted with the following information:

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION:

STATE FISCAL YEAR	ATP	DIST	ROUTE SYSTEM	PROJECT NUMBER(S.P. #)	AGENCY	DESCRIPTION	MILES
2010	M	M	CMAQ	TRS-SMTC-10A	SMTC	Purchase of 10 buses for service expansion	0
2010	M	M	CMAQ	TRS-TCMT-10C	Met Council-MT	Purchase of 15 buses to support express service routes	0

PROG	TYPE OF WORK	PROP FUNDS	TOTAL \$	FHWA \$	AC \$	FTA \$	TH \$	OTHER \$
TR	Purchase Bus	CMAQ	\$5,457,000	\$4,365,600	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,091,400
TR	Purchase Bus	CMAQ	\$7,356,250	\$5,885,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,471,250

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

1. Briefly describe why amendment is needed (e.g., project in previous TIP but not completed; illustrative project and funds now available; discretionary funds received; inadvertently not included in TIP).

The projects were in the previous TIP but were not completed in 2010. The projects are requested to be reassigned to shift fleet expansion purchase from 25 buses to four (4) light rail vehicles (LRVs).

Southwest Transit Fleet Expansion (TRS-SMTC-10A)

Request: Reassign funds associated with project to light rail vehicle acquisition project described below.

The buses requested by SouthWest Transit are no longer needed due to lower than expected available operating funds for service expansion. The proposed change is supported by SouthWest Transit.

Metropolitan Transportation Services Fleet Expansion (TRS-TCMT-10C)

Request: Reassign funds associated with project to light rail vehicle acquisition project described below.

The buses requested by Metropolitan Transportation Services are no longer needed due to lower than expected available operating funds for service expansion.

Proposed Revised Project Scope- Four Light Rail Vehicles (\$13,600,000 total project)

Request: Allocate project federal CMAQ funding (\$10,250,600) to purchase four light rail vehicles. Local match will be provided by "Other" funding in the amount of \$3,349,400. This represents an increase of \$786,750 above the previous identified match total.

The proposed purchase of light rail transit vehicles is consistent with these projects' initial scope to expand regional transit fleet in the 7-County region. The request reassigns the fleet expansion mode from bus to light rail.

2. How is Fiscal Constraint Maintained as required by 23 CFR 450.216 (check all that apply)?

- New Money _____
- Anticipated Advance Construction _____
- ATP or MPO or Mn/DOT Adjustment by deferral of X other projects¹

DATE OF ATP CONCURRENCE OR N/A: N/A

DATE OF MPO ADOPTION OR N/A: N/A

AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY:

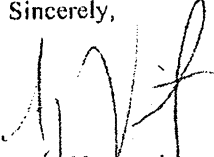
- Subject to conformity determination _____
- Exempt from regional level analysis* X
- Exempt from project level analysis* _____
- Exempt by virtue of interagency consultation* _____
- N/A (not in a nonattainment or maintenance area) _____

*Exempt Project Category # T-10 (Vehicle Purchase)
Per Section 93.126 of the Conformity Rules

¹ Change to the scope, and therefore the cost, of a previously approved project.

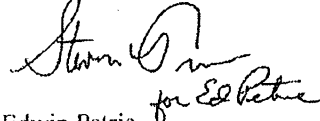
We are requesting approval of these TIP amendments at this time. If you have any questions, please call me at (612) 349-7624. Metro Transit staff will be available for questions at your July 7th meeting.

Sincerely,



Amy Vennewitz
Deputy Director, MTS

Sincerely,



Edwin Petrie
Director of Finance, Metro Transit

cc: Pat Bursaw, Mn/DOT
Marv Lunceford, Mn/DOT
Sherry Narusiewicz, Mn/DOT
Brian Lamb, Metro Transit
Mary Gustafson, Metro Transit
John Levin, Metro Transit
Arlene McCarthy, Metropolitan Council
Tom Weaver, Metropolitan Council

Transportation Advisory Board

of the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities

TO: Transportation Advisory Board

FROM: Kevin Roggenbuck, Transportation Coordinator

DATE: July 19, 2010

RE: TAB Action Transmittal 2010-44 - Vehicle Mode Reassignment Request: Options for TAB consideration.

This memo and the attached letter from Metropolitan Council Chair Peter Bell are provided as supplemental information to TAB Action Transmittal 2010-44, which is on the agenda for both the TAB Programming Committee and full TAB meetings on July 21, 2010.

On July 14, TAB Executive Committee members Bill Hargis, Jim Hovland and Russ Stark met with Metropolitan Council Chair Peter Bell, Metropolitan Council Regional Administrator Tom Weaver and Metropolitan Transportation Services Director Arlene McCarthy. The group discussed the Metropolitan Council's request to reassign CMAQ funding awarded to two transit bus purchases in the 2005 regional solicitation to the purchase of LRT vehicles for Hiawatha next year. Chair Bell made some important points at the meeting that the group agreed should be drafted into a letter and provided to the TAB for discussion at their July 21 meetings. Chair Bell's letter is attached to this memo.

In deciding how to reallocate these CMAQ funds, the TAB can follow established policy and not reallocate these funds as requested by the Met Council or it can decide to reallocate the funds through a new policy or a one-time policy exception. The group asked staff to provide options for the TAB to consider. Four options are listed below, although the Board is not limited to just these four.

Options.

1. Continue to apply the adopted policy of reallocating federal funds from dropped local projects in the following regional solicitation. The CMAQ funding for the two bus purchase projects would be dropped from the TIP and the CMAQ funds would be added to the 2011 regional solicitation.
2. Treat the request like a project scope change and allow the CMAQ award to MTS (\$5.885 M) to be changed to Hiawatha LRT vehicle purchase. The other bus purchase (\$4.365 M) would be dropped from the TIP and the CMAQ funds would be added to the 2011 regional solicitation.
3. Develop a new regional policy on the reallocation of federal funds from local projects that are dropped from the TIP. The new policy would allow the CMAQ funds from the two bus purchases to be reallocated to the Hiawatha LRT vehicle purchase or any other CMAQ-eligible transit project that can be ready for authorization in program year 2011.
4. Allow reallocation of the CMAQ funds from the two bus purchases for Hiawatha LRT vehicle purchase and develop new regional policy on the reallocation of federal funds from local projects that are dropped from the TIP.