

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: November 22nd, 2010

Metropolitan Council Meeting: December 8, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	November 8, 2010
Subject:	Central Corridor Light Rail Transit: 2011 Counties Transit Improvement Board Capital Grant
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Met Council Policy 3-2-2 and 2008 MN Session Laws, Chapter 152, Article 4, Sec 2, Subd. 5
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Mark W. Fuhrmann, Deputy Gen. Mgr., 651-602-1942
Division/Department:	Metro Transit/Central Corridor Project Office

Propose Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a CY2011 capital grant agreement for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) project for Final Design, right-of-way acquisition, construction and purchase of Light Rail Vehicles in the amount of \$106,681,526.

Background

Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) was created in 2008 by enabling state legislation and the concurrence of five counties in the region (Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington) to levy a one-quarter percent sales tax. Its purpose is to provide a dedicated revenue source for capital and operating funds for transitway projects serving the five participating counties. CTIB previously approved grants for the Central Corridor LRT project in the amounts of \$13,362,366 for CY2009 and \$66,026,475 for CY 2010.

On August 25, 2010, the Council approved Business Item 2010-277 authorizing the Regional Administrator to submit the Central Corridor LRT grant application to CTIB on Sept. 10, 2010. On Oct. 13, 2010 the Council approved Business Item 2010-343 finding the grant application consistent with the adopted 2030 Transportation Policy Plan.

Rationale

CTIB capital grant funds for the Central Corridor LRT project will contribute to the successful implementation of the Council's 2030 Transportation Policy Plan, which lists Central Corridor LRT as a Tier I transitway. CTIB grant funding allows the Council to take advantage of a new funding source and reduces the need to secure additional capital funds from other local funding sources.

Funding

CTIB requires that capital projects maximize the use and availability of federal funds and have a 10% local contribution from the state. CTIB grant funds will provide 30% (\$284 million) of overall capital funding and will be used in conjunction with other local sources of funding available to the Central Corridor LRT Project, including funding from the State of Minnesota (10%), the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (7%), and the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (3%).

Known Support / Opposition

On November 17, 2010 CTIB authorized award of a capital grant to the Central Corridor LRT Project in an amount of \$106,681,526.