

T Transportation Committee

**Business Item
Item: 2011-116
Consent**

Meeting date: April 25, 2011

Council Meeting: May 11, 2011

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	April 18, 2011
Subject:	Authorization to Execute Grant Agreements with Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority, City of Minneapolis, and Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	2011 Authorized Capital Program
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, MTS Director, 651-602-1754 Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director, 651-602-1058 Sean Pfeiffer, Financial Analyst, 651-602-1887 Steven Elmer, Planning Analyst, 651-602-1756 Cole Hiniker, Planner, 651-602-1748
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute pass-through agreements with Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority (DCRRA), the City of Minneapolis, and Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority (RCRRA) for the following projects and amounts:

Agency:	Project:	Agreement Amount:
DCRRA	Robert Street Transitway - Alternatives Analysis (AA) Study	\$1,180,000
City of Minneapolis	Red Rock State Bonds – Nicollet-Central Urban Circulator AA Study	\$900,000
RCRRA	Newport Intermodal Bus Facility	\$475,000

Background

As the designated recipient of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds for the region, the Council often applies for federal funds on behalf of other agencies that have received FTA grants. In order to pass these funds through, the Council must enter into agreements with the subrecipient agencies.

DCRRA was awarded, through a federal competitive process, an Alternatives Analysis grant to study transit options in the Robert Street Transitway. The award is for \$1,180,000 in FTA funding with the required local match being provided by DCRRA.

The City of Minneapolis was awarded, through a federal competitive process, an Alternatives Analysis grant to study transit options on Nicollet and Central Avenues in Minneapolis, including bus and streetcar options. The award is for \$900,000 in FTA funding with the required local match being provided by the City of Minneapolis.

RCRRA was awarded a federal earmark to construct a park-and-ride facility in the City of Newport. The intermodal facility will consist of a paved surface lot with approximately 200 spaces and an enclosed, heated shelter with benches. The parcel currently contains several buildings to be demolished and a large impervious surface that will be removed as part of this project. The intermodal facility is intended to increase the convenience of transit service between Newport, St. Paul and throughout the region. The award is for \$475,000 in FTA funding with the required local match being provided by RCRRA.

Rationale

These agreements allow the Council to pass through FTA funds to agencies other than the Council in order to complete the work identified in the federal awards or earmarks.

Funding

The funding for these grants is provided entirely by the FTA through project-specific awards with matching funds provided by the pass-through subrecipients. The FTA funds will be amended into the Council's 2011 Authorized Capital Program through Business Item 2011-065 on April 27, 2011.

Known Support / Opposition

These funds were requested by the pass-through recipients.