

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: September 12, 2011

Metropolitan Council meeting: September 28, 2011

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	August 31, 2011
Subject:	Authorization to Apply for Section 5311 Non-urbanized Area Formula Program Funds
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Federal Transit Administration Section 5311
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, Director of MTS (651)602-1754 Gerri Sutton, Ass't Director Contract Transit Services (651)602-1672 John Harper, Manager Contracted Transit Services (651)602-1744 Sheila Williams, Project Administrator (651)602-1709
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve Resolution 2011-26 authorizing the Regional Administrator to apply for Section 5311 Non-urbanized Area Formula Program funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT).

Background

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) apportions the funds appropriated annually to the Chief Executive Officer of each state for public transportation projects in non-urbanized areas. Within Minnesota, these funds are administered by MNDOT. Eighty percent of the statutory allocation is based on the non-urbanized population within the state and 20% is based on land area. Based on 2000 census data, the seven county metro area accounts for 11% of the state's non-urbanized area population and 2.4% of the state's non-urbanized geographic area.

MNDOT oversees a competitive process to disburse Section 5311 funds, which may be used to fund capital projects at up to 80% reimbursement or operating costs at 50% reimbursement. Projects funded through this program must serve residents in non-urbanized areas. For 2011, the Council was awarded a \$700,000 grant for Transit Link dial-a-ride operations.

Rationale

MNDOT receives over \$12.75 million dollars annually from the FTA to fund transit services in the non-urbanized areas throughout the state of Minnesota. Non-urbanized population and geographic area within the Council's jurisdiction are included in the federal funding formula. Approval of this resolution will enable Council staff to apply for Section 5311 funds to support Transit Link dial-a-ride service in the non-urban portion of the seven county metropolitan area.

Funding

MTS has included \$609,000 in 5311 formula funds in its proposed 2012 operating budget. The final budget will reflect the actual 5311 funding award which will be known by late October. The funding will be used to support Transit Link dial-a-ride service in the non-urban portions of the seven counties.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to the Metropolitan Council applying for these funds.

Metropolitan Council
390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, MN 55101-1634
Phone (651)602-1000 TDD (651)291-0904 FAX (651)602-1550 Metro Info (651)602-1888

RESOLUTION 2011-26
Resolution Authorizing the Metropolitan Council to
Apply for 2012 Section 5311 (Non-urbanized Area Formula Program) Funding
from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT)

Resolved, that the Metropolitan Council enter into an Agreement with the State of Minnesota to receive a Section 5311 (Non-urbanized Area Formula Program) grant to provide public transportation service in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.

Further resolved, that the Metropolitan Council agrees to provide a local share of 20% of net capital costs and 50% of net operating costs.

Further resolved, that the Metropolitan Council authorizes the Regional Administrator to execute the aforementioned Agreement and any amendments thereto.

Adopted this 28th day of September, 2011.

Susan Haigh, Chair

Laurie Nistl, Council Recording Secretary

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of the resolution presented to and adopted by the Metropolitan Council at a duly authorized meeting held on the 28th day of September, 2011, as shown by the minutes of the meeting in my possession.

Laurie Nistl, Council Recording Secretary