

Community Development Committee

Meeting date: May 17, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: May 14, 2010
Subject: Small Business Disruption Loan Program and 2010 Unified Operating Budget Amendment
District(s), Member(s): Districts 7, 8, 13, and 14
Policy/Legal Reference: MN Statutes sections 473.3999, 473.13, subd. 1, 471.59
Staff Prepared/Presented: Guy Peterson, Director, Community Development Division (651-602-1418)
Division/Department: Community Development

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council: (1) authorize the Chair to execute and the Regional Administrator to negotiate a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement with the City of St. Paul to help implement a loan program for small businesses that may experience disruptions from construction activities associated with the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (CCLRT) Project; and (2) amend the 2010 Unified Operating Budget by authorizing an increase of \$1,000,000 in expenditure authority in Community Development.

Background

The City of St. Paul is collaboratively implementing a business support program to provide incentives for small businesses along the CCLRT corridor to plan and prepare in advance for the potential disruptions that might occur during construction. The support program is intended to help provide a modest "safety net" for small businesses that undertake advance business planning for the CCLRT Project but still experience significant loss of sales due to more limited customer access.

The Central Corridor Funders Collaborative, comprised of several private foundations, will contribute \$500,000 to the support the program. In its current form, the proposed joint powers agreement anticipates that interest-free loans made with Council-provided funds will be repayable on a deferred basis for a loan period developed by the parties to the joint powers agreement, but will become payable on sale of the property or relocation from the CCLRT corridor. The proposed joint powers agreement would require Council action to consider making any portion of the Council-funded loans forgivable or available for reinvestment. The proposed joint powers agreement and the availability of Council funds would be contingent upon execution of a Full Funding Grant Agreement for the CCLRT Project.

While the proposed joint powers agreement is between the City of St. Paul and the Council, the proposed agreement would allow the City of St. Paul to make a reasonable portion of the Council funds available for loans to small businesses located along the CCLRT corridor in the City of Minneapolis.

Rationale

The joint powers agreement is necessary because the City of St. Paul, through its Housing and Redevelopment Authority or otherwise, has statutory authority to undertake and implement a small business disruption loan program. Minnesota Statutes section 471.59, subdivision 10 authorizes governmental units to enter into agreements with

other governmental unit to perform on behalf of that unit any service or function which the governmental unit providing the service or function is authorized to provide for itself.

Funding

Funding is provided by the use of General Fund Reserves. This action will not reduce the General Fund Reserves below Council Target.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition. The Cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis support this request.