

C Community Development Committee
Meeting date: June 20, 2011

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	June 9, 2011
Subject:	2011 Unified Operating Budget Amendment
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	MN Statutes section 473.13, sub. 1 -- Council Budget Requirements
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Beth Reetz, Director, Housing and Livable Communities (651-602-1060) Allison Brummel, SCRPG Project Manager (651-602-1363)
Division/Department:	Community Development

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council amend the 2011 Unified Operating Budget to increase revenues and expenditures by \$1,800,000 for projects indicated below:

Background

In late Spring 2010, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) made funding available for a Sustainable Communities Initiative to improve regional planning efforts that integrate housing and transportation decisions and increase the capacity to improve land use and zoning. In August 2010 the Metropolitan Council applied for the program on behalf of a regional consortium that includes Minnesota Housing, the Counties Transit Improvement Board, Hennepin and Ramsey counties, the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul and the McKnight Foundation. This consortium is governed by a Policy Board comprised of representatives from the organizations that are not only partnering on the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant (SCRPG) but also on the implementation of the Living Cities initiative, which is also funded from 2011 through 2013. In the SCRPG application to HUD, funding allocations and project components were the product of decisions by this Policy Board.

In the fall of 2010, the Metropolitan Council was awarded a \$5 million grant which, with the help of local leveraging resources, will support planning along the region's network of transit corridors. In December 2010 the Metropolitan Council authorized the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a Grant Agreement with HUD for the \$5 million grant. The Regional Administrator and HUD signed the fully negotiated agreement with an effective date of February 1, 2011. The SCRPG will run for three years, ending in January 2014. It will enable the Council, the consortium and its local partners to support voluntary comprehensive development strategies for five transitway corridors –Southwest LRT, Bottineau Transitway, Cedar Avenue BRT, Northstar Commuter Rail, and Gateway Corridor—and support local communities to implement corridor strategies. The grant will address economic/workforce development, alternative energy systems, housing energy efficiency/affordability, stormwater and green infrastructure in the Central Corridor. The grant will also support technical studies and data collection in the corridors. In all, the SCRPG includes 21 separate but integrated projects intended to serve as models for use throughout the region.

Based on work plans and timelines developed for each project over the three year grant term, it is projected that \$1,800,000 will be expended in 2011.

Rationale

The new federal grant revenue and expected expenditures must be amended into the Council's 2011 Unified Operating Budget.

Funding

Funding is provided through the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant award.

Known Support / Opposition

None.