

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of May 21, 2008

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date Prepared: May 15, 2008

Subject: Authorization for Lakeville Transit Service Expansion Agreement

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an agreement with the City of Lakeville providing for new transportation facilities and transit service, and the extension of the Council's transit levy to the City of Lakeville.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS, presented this item. She gave a background of the item, history of the legislation, description of UPA projects and explained where the funds and operating dollars will be derived. McCarthy answered questions from committee members concerning applications for grants from the County Transit Improvement Board (CTIB). Steve Mielke, Lakeville City Administrator was also present to answer questions, and he thanked Metro Council staff for their work on this project. Motion by McDaniel, seconded by Wolter and passed.

T Transportation Committee

Business Item

Item: 2008-136

Meeting date: May 12, 2008

For Council meeting May 21, 2008

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	May 6, 2008
Subject:	Authorization for Lakeville Transit Service Expansion Agreement
District(s), Member(s):	16-Brian McDaniel
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minnesota Statutes, section 473.446
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS (651) 602-1754 Beth Widstrom-Anderson, CFO (651) 602-1567 Judd Schetnan, Director Legislative Affairs (651) 602-1142
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services, Finance, Legislative Affairs

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an agreement with the City of Lakeville providing for new transportation facilities and transit service, and the extension of the Council's transit levy to the City of Lakeville.

Background

Minnesota Statutes, section 473.446 defines the transit taxing district and that the Council may not levy a tax in any city not included in the transit taxing district as it existed on January 1, 2001 unless the Council and the governing body of that city have agreed on a transit service expansion plan. Lakeville was not included in the transit taxing district in 2001 and subsequently the Council has not levied a transit tax in that city since then. Current ridership data in communities adjacent to Lakeville demonstrate high transit usage by Lakeville residents.

Rationale

Both the Cedar Avenue BRT and 35W BRT corridors are Tier I transitways in the Council's 2030 Transportation Policy Plan, each having planned park-ride facilities in Lakeville. The Council and MnDOT received federal Urban Partnership Agreement (UPA) funds to accelerate components of the Cedar Avenue and 35W BRT corridors. The two Lakeville park-rides are proposed to be constructed in part with UPA funds. Given the UPA implementation deadline of September 30, 2009 and the increasing demand for transit services in Lakeville, the Council (in consultation with MnDOT on highway components) and Lakeville negotiated an agreement for new transportation facilities and service and implementing the transit levy in Lakeville.

The components of the agreement as summarized as follows:

- I-35 Park and Ride facility
- I-35 BRT Transitway Express BRT Service
- Cedar Avenue Park and Ride facility
- Cedar Avenue BRT Transitway Express Bus Service
- Extension of northbound HOT Lane from Burnsville Parkway to the I-35 East/West split
- Extension of northbound Auxiliary Lane down to County Road 50
- Extension of Council transit levy in 2008 (payable in 2009) with a limitation on the first year levy to \$370,000 and expected 2010 levy approximately \$800,000.

Funding

Final assembly of the transit capital funds for the I-35 park-and-ride and transit operating funds for the I-35 express service must be completed by the Council by December 4, 2008. The capital funding is anticipated to be 80% UPA funds and 20% local match. The local match remains to be finalized with staff pursuing options. The Council will apply to the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for the transit operating funds for service expansion to both the I-35 and Cedar Avenue park-rides in Lakeville.

Known Support / Opposition

The Lakeville City Council unanimously approved this action on May 5, 2008.