

Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting June 25, 2008

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date Prepared: June 10, 2008

Subject: Right of Way Acquisition Loan Fund (RALF) 2008 Annual Program Plan

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council approve the 2008 Annual RALF Program Plan.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Ann Braden, Metropolitan Transportation Services, presented this item to the committee. There were no questions from committee members. Motion by Hilker, seconded by Steffen, and passed.

Transportation Committee

Business Item

Item: 2008-157

Meeting date: June 9, 2008

Council meeting June 25, 2008

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: May 30, 2008
Subject: Right of Way Acquisition Loan Fund (RALF) 2008 Annual Program Plan
District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference: Council's Grant/Loan Policy
Staff Prepared/Presented: Arlene McCarthy, Director, 651-602-1754
Amy Vennewitz, Dep. Director, Finance and Planning 651-602-1058
Connie Kozlak, Manager, Systems Planning 651-602-1720
Ann Braden, Senior Planner, 651-602-1705
Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the 2008 Annual RALF Program Plan.

Background

The RALF program enables the Council to make loans to cities to purchase highway right-of-way needed in advance of development. The current program plan allows loans to be made to acquire officially mapped segments of the following roadways: TH 10 in Ramsey and Anoka, TH 52/CSAH 42 in Rosemount, TH 610 in Maple Grove, I-35W/I-494 in Bloomington, CR J/I-35W in Blaine and TH 169 in Belle Plaine. The program plan may be amended from time to time to include additional officially-mapped corridors. The Council last approved the RALF Program Plan in March, 2007.

Rationale

The Council's 1998 grant/loan policy directs loan managers to take grant/loan program plans to the Council for approval on an annual basis. The Regional Administrator or designee may then execute grants and loans awarded within the guidelines of the annual program.

Funding

Since last year's RALF program plan was approved the Council has approved six loans totaling over \$3.3 million to acquire highway right-of-way in several cities. They have included one loan to the city of Anoka (\$820,000); one loan to the city of Belle Plaine (\$240,384); two loans to the city of Ramsey (totaling \$1,760,000) and two loans to the city of Bloomington (totaling \$520,000). There have been no loan repayments during the past year.

As of June 1, 2008, the balance of the RALF fund is over \$3.58 million. This does not include the 2008 RALF levy revenue of \$3.25 million, which is paid in two installments at the end of June and the end of December. No loan repayments are expected this year.

Anoka, Ramsey, and Bloomington have made preliminary inquiries about additional loans. Since these would be for right of way acquisition in currently approved highway corridors, it would not be necessary to amend the current program plan to continue with these loan requests.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to the RALF program.