

T Transportation Committee

For the Metropolitan Council meeting of February 11, 2009

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date Prepared: January 27, 2009

Subject: Approval of the 2008 Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Solicitation Project Recommendation

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Approve the list of projects recommended for federal funding for up to \$1,777,343 under the Jobs Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program and for up to \$582,267 under the New Freedom program as listed in Attachment A; and a list of recommended contingency projects for up to \$717,563 under the JARC program as listed in Attachment A.
- Authorize the Regional Administrator to apply for and accept grants from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the JARC program and the New Freedom program to fund the recommended projects and the contingency list of JARC projects.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Haas Steffen asked whether Council sponsored projects would have an affect on the transit budget deficit.

Hiniker stated that all Council sponsored projects in this solicitation received previous JARC funding.

Peterson asked what would happen to a vehicle purchased under the Prior Lake project if the proposed service was eliminated. McCarthy responded that all vehicles are part of the regional fleet and would remain as such even if their originally designated purpose changes.

Motion made by McFarlin, seconded by Aguilar and passed unanimously.

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 26, 2009

Council meeting: February 11, 2009

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	January 20, 2009
Subject:	Approval of the 2008 Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Solicitation Project Recommendation
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	FTA Circular "C 9045.1" and FTA Circular "C 9050.1," Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Coordination Action Plan
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS (651-602-1754) Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director, Finance & Planning (651-602-1058) Cole Hiniker, Planner (651-602-1748)
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

- Approve the list of projects recommended for federal funding for up to \$1,777,343 under the Jobs Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program and for up to \$582,267 under the New Freedom program as listed in Attachment A; and a list of recommended contingency projects for up to \$717,563 under the JARC program as listed in Attachment A.
- Authorize the Regional Administrator to apply for and accept grants from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for the JARC program and the New Freedom program to fund the recommended projects and the contingency list of JARC projects.

Background

The 2008-2009 JARC and New Freedom solicitation received 14 applications, ten for JARC and four for New Freedom. The New Freedom project applications totaled less than the money available under the solicitation and thus, after the project eligibility was verified, all projects have been recommended for funding. The JARC applications were reviewed and scored by a committee of six stakeholders. The top six projects (including three new projects) were recommended for awards given the estimated amount of funding available. Two projects were recommended for a contingency list in the event that additional funds become available or other proposals are withdrawn. The contingency list of projects is ranked in the order recommended by the scoring committee. Attachment A summarizes the list of recommended projects for JARC and New Freedom and the contingency list of projects for JARC.

Rationale

The FTA requires projects funded under the JARC and New Freedom program to be selected using a competitive process.

Funding

Federal funding will be provided by FTA grants with local match support from the project sponsors.

Federal fiscal year 2009 funding is still undetermined and thus, the total available funding for projects is based on an estimate. As a result, the approved amounts are estimates and a contingency list of projects will be submitted to the FTA for approval in the event that additional funds become available.

A project selected in the previous solicitation process has been approved for an additional year of funding within the previous solicitation timeline. Since FFY 2007 funds remain, these funds will be used to fund a second year of the Emerge Community Development proposal from the previous solicitation.

Known Support / Opposition

Southwest Transit submitted a formal petition, per the solicitation rules, to their ranking as a contingency project and not a project recommended for funding. Their application was reviewed with some clarification provided by the applicant and Council staff and the ranking was not changed. Southwest Transit has been notified of this action.

Attachment A

New Freedom

Agency	Project	Award Amount
City of St. Paul	Accessible Pedestrian Signals	\$160,000
City of Minneapolis	Accessible Pedestrian Signals	\$150,000
Human Services Inc.	HSI Transporter Expansion	\$31,767
Scott and Carver Counties	Scott and Carver County Merger	\$240,500
New Freedom Total		\$582,267

JARC

Agency	Project	Award Amount
Emerge Inc. (2007 Project)	Transportation Services for FFY 2009	\$196,831
Rise, Inc.	“Rides for Work” Transportation Program	\$96,153
Prior Lake	BlueXpress Reverse Commute and Bus	\$436,000
Emerge Inc.	Transportation Services	\$415,400
Metropolitan Council	Route 721	\$63,871
Metropolitan Council	Route 219	\$402,338
Minnesota Valley Transit Auth.	Route 436	\$166,750
JARC Total		\$1,777,343

JARC Contingency List (In Ranked Order)

Agency	Project	Award Amount
1. Metro Transit	Route 14	\$386,563
2. Southwest Transit	Reverse Commute Service	\$331,000
JARC Contingency Total		\$717,563