

T Transportation Committee
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 9,
2009

Item: 2009-431

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date November 24, 2009
Prepared:
Subject: Authorization for Maple Plain Transit Service Expansion Agreement

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an agreement with the City of Maple Plain for potential transit service and the extension of the Council's transit levy to the City of Maple Plain.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

MTS Director Arlene McCarthy presented the item. George Bentley, consultant to Maple Plain, was also available to answer questions.

Councilmember Haas Steffen spoke to the need for a Council policy discussion regarding expectations and conditions for communities joining the transit taxing district.

Councilmember Peterson expressed concern that demonstration service should be operated from a temporary location prior to committing a capital investment in a permanent park-and-ride facility. Ms. McCarthy and Mr. Lamb explained that a park-and-ride facility in this general location was supported by the park-and-ride facility planning analysis conducted by Council staff and recently updated. Mr. Lamb offered that staff will present to the Transportation Committee in January explaining the park-and-ride facility planning methodology and results.

In response to questions, Ms. McCarthy explained that Maple Plain was aware that with the exception of the CMAQ grant being awarded, there is no service guarantee for Maple Plain and the agreement will clearly state that. Mr. Bentley affirmed that Maple Plain has this same understanding.

Councilmember McFarlin noted that Maple Plain is in Councilmember Scherer's district, not his as noted on the business item. Ms. McCarthy advised that would be corrected for the Council action on December 9.

Motion made by Steffen, seconded by McFarlin. Motion passed with Councilmember Peterson voting against.

Business Item

T Transportation Committee

Item: 2009-431

Meeting date: November 23, 2009

Council Meeting: December 9, 2009

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	November 18, 2009
Subject:	Authorization for Maple Plain Transit Service Expansion Agreement
District(s), Member(s):	3-McFarlin -1- Scherer
Policy/Legal Reference:	Minnesota Statutes, section 473.66
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS (651-602-1754) Brian Lamb, Metro Transit General Manager (612-349-7510)
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an agreement with the City of Maple Plain for potential transit service and the extension of the Council's transit levy to the City of Maple Plain.

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. Maple Plain 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.

In June 2009, the City submitted a federal CMAQ funding application to the Transit Advisory Board (TAB) for a \$3.3 million project to develop a Maple Plain park-and-ride at Baker Park Road and Highway 12, and provide buses and new demonstration service. The TAB will take action in early 2010 to select projects to receive federal funds in program years 2013 and 2014. Metro Transit has agreed to provide the service if the grant is awarded. However, based upon the final ranking of submitted projects, it is not anticipated that this CMAQ request will be funded.

Rationale

The City requested this agreement to begin paying the regional transit capital levy in 2011 to meet a requirement of another grant. In September 2009, the Hennepin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HCHRA) awarded \$460,000 to the City for monetary assistance for site acquisition of two parcels for a future Maple Plain park-and-ride. The HCHRA grant agreement requires the City to join the Transit Taxing District administered by the Metropolitan Council prior to presenting a claim for reimbursement. The City will be seeking reimbursement from the HCHRA for the two parcel acquisitions in early 2010.

If the TAB does not select the Maple Plain park-and-ride for funding, the Council and City agree that the facility, when constructed, can be initially utilized as a park-and-pool lot. Both parties agree to pursue funding with the understanding that Maple Plain service will not be granted special priority and must compete with all other regional transit existing

services and expansion requests. The City agrees that the Council has no obligation to provide expansion transit services to Maple Plain unless the CMAQ grant is awarded, which will fund service for three years.

Funding

There is no impact to the Council's 2010 capital and operating budgets. In the event the CMAQ grant is awarded to Maple Plain by TAB, it will be for 2013 or 2014. Maple Plain would pay approximately \$31,000 in regional transit capital annually starting in 2011.

Known Support / Opposition

The City of Maple Plain requested this agreement.