

T Transportation Committee
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of September 22,
2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date September 14, 2010
Prepared:
Subject: Authorization to Execute Grant Agreement with SouthWest Transit

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a grant with SouthWest Transit (SWT) for up to \$800,000 for the purchase of one double-decker bus.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Chair McFarlin asked what operating measures would be used to identify a successful launch of the region's first double-decker bus. Staff requested Len Simich, Chief Executive Officer of SouthWest Transit to respond to Chair McFarlin's inquiry. Mr. Simich replied that the first indicator of success would be the realization of operations savings by requiring one less bus to perform during certain peak services. This savings would be realized throughout the first year of operation. He also stated that it would take several years monitoring the vehicle's maintenance history to determine the costs involved with running the new vehicle and to set up appropriate measures for maintenance.

Arlene McCarthy added that it would be appropriate that after a full year of operations, SWT put together its own analysis in conjunction with the Council to determine the vehicles operating effectiveness.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Leppik and passed unanimously.

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: September 13, 2010

Council Meeting: September 22, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	September 9, 2010
Subject:	Authorization to Execute Grant Agreement with SouthWest Transit
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	2010 Capital Program
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, MTS Director (651-602-1754) Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director (651-602-1058) Sean Pfeiffer, Financial Analyst (651-602-1887)
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a grant with SouthWest Transit (SWT) for up to \$800,000 for the purchase of one double-decker bus.

Background

SouthWest Transit will be opening the Market Street Station in Chanhassen in 2011. As part of the expanded service to and from this location, it is necessary to expand SWT's fleet. SouthWest has requested to purchase a double-decker bus which will be used to run peak service to and from downtown Minneapolis and the University of Minnesota.

See attached September 7, 2010 letter from SouthWest Transit responding to questions asked at the August 23, 2010 Transportation Committee.

Rationale

This grant allows regional transit providers and transit capital sponsor agencies to fund transit capital projects using Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Regional Transit Capital (RTC) funds distributed by the Metropolitan Council.

Funding

The funding for this grant includes \$640,000 (80%) of CMAQ funds designated for regional fleet expansion and \$160,000 (20%) of RTC match funds which are already included in the 2010 Authorized Capital Program.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.