

T Transportation Committee

Metropolitan Council meeting: December 8, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date November 23, 2010
Prepared:
Subject: Authorization to Execute Grant Agreement with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a grant agreement in an amount not to exceed \$3,550,000 with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) to provide supplemental transit operating funding during CY2011.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Amy Vennewitz, MTS Deputy Director presented this item. Councilmember McFarlin questioned whether all Suburban Transit Providers (STPs) were eligible to receive Regionally Allocated MVST (RA-MVST) funding. Ms. Vennewitz responded that yes, all STPs are eligible but only MVTA required funding to preserve its existing level of transit operations. Councilmember Peterson asked what the current policy reserve level is for suburban providers. Ms. Vennewitz responded that under the adopted Regional Transit Revenue Allocation Procedure, the current minimum policy reserve level for STPs is 25% and if RA-MVST funding is available after providing for this minimum reserve level and preserving current operations levels, reserves are then funded up to a maximum of 35%.

Motion by Scherer, seconded by Beach and passed unanimously.

Hearing no objection from committee members, Chair McFarlin stated that this item could proceed to the full Council as a Consent Item.

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: November 22, 2010

Metropolitan Council meeting: December 8, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	November 16, 2010
Subject:	Authorization to Execute Grant Agreement with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority
District(s), Member(s):	4-Craig Peterson, 15-Dan Wolter, 16-Wendy Wulff
Policy/Legal Reference:	2011 Operating Budget
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:	Transportation - Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a grant agreement in an amount not to exceed \$3,550,000 with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) to provide supplemental transit operating funding during CY2011.

Background

During preparation of the CY2011 transit operating budget, Council staff calculated the amount of Regionally Allocated MVST (MVST above the base 21.5%) that would be needed by the Suburban Transit Providers (STPs) to preserve their existing service levels and maintain target fund balance levels in 2011. The \$3.55M amount was calculated for MVTA as part of the draft preparation of the Transportation Budget this summer. MVTA has since submitted changes to its proposed 2011 budget and MTS is currently working with MVTA to determine the appropriate level of funding required to both preserve their existing level of service in 2011 and maintain a 25% target fund balance. In order for MVTA to begin receiving Regionally Allocated MVST funds in January 2011 the contract needs to be initiated now.

Rationale

The region's projected transit operating revenues currently allow only for funding preservation of existing transit service levels. This request is necessary for MVTA to preserve their existing service in CY2011.

Funding

The funding for these grants will be Regionally Allocated MVST. Regionally Allocated MVST funds are MVST funds received by the Council above the base 21.5% due to the 2006 constitutional amendment. The necessary contract amount is included in MTS's draft 2011 Operating Budget.

Known Support / Opposition

MVTA supports receiving these funds.