

T Transportation Committee
For the Metropolitan Council meeting of December 14,
2011

Item: 2011-343
Consent

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: November 30, 2011
Prepared:
Subject: Authorization to Execute a Capital Grant Agreement with MVTA

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an agreement with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) for \$3,500,000 for the purchase of seven (7) vehicles for Cedar Avenue BRT station-to-station operations.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

Staff Cole Hiniker gave a brief introductory presentation on the work of the Cedar BRT vehicle selection process, including an overview of the Nova vehicle recommended by the technical committee. He also distributed a resolution by the Dakota County Regional Railroad Authority supporting the Nova bus for the Cedar Avenue BRT station-to-station service.

Hiniker answered questions about the vehicles and the Cedar BRT project. In response to Council member Munt's question, Hiniker explained that the Nova bus could be the bus used on 35W BRT when station-to-station service starts up in 4 to 5 years. However, bus technology and options will likely change by then so a different bus may be purchased. Chair Elkins recommended that a more thorough information presentation on the Cedar BRT project be scheduled for a future Transportation Committee meeting. Hiniker then presented the business item.

The item was moved and seconded and passed unanimously.

Hearing no objection, Chair Elkins stated that this item could move to the full Council as a consent item.

T Transportation Committee

Business Item
Item: 2011-343
Consent

Meeting date: November 28, 2011

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	November 21, 2011
Subject:	Authorization to Execute a Capital Grant Agreement with MVTA
District(s), Member(s):	4 – Gary Van Eyll, 15 – Steven T. Chávez, 16 – Wendy Wulff
Policy/Legal Reference:	2011 Capital Program and Business Item 2010-261
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, MTS Director (651-602-1754) Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director (651-602-1058) Sean Pfeiffer (651-602-1887)
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute an agreement with Minnesota Valley Transit Authority (MVTA) for \$3,500,000 for the purchase of seven (7) vehicles for Cedar Avenue BRT station-to-station operations.

Background

This authorization will allow MVTA to purchase seven (7) forty foot buses for station-to-station service on the Cedar Avenue BRT corridor.

During the 2005 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) solicitation MVTA applied for and was awarded a grant for the purchase of vehicles and ITS components for station-to-station service on Cedar Avenue. This item authorizes the Council to enter into an agreement with MVTA to purchase seven (7) station-to-station BRT vehicles. These vehicles represent only a portion of the CMAQ award with \$1,753,700 remaining in federal and local funds to be distributed to MVTA in a future agreement.

Rationale

This agreement will allow MVTA to purchase 7 BRT style buses for station-to-station operations along the Cedar Avenue BRT corridor.

Funding

The project will be funded with \$2,800,000 (80%) of CMAQ funds and \$700,000 (20%) of Regional Transit Capital funds. This funding was previously authorized and brought into the authorized capital program on September 10, 2008, with Business Item 2008-211.

Known Support / Opposition

MVTA supports this requested action.