

T Transportation Committee

Item: 2012-339

Metropolitan Council meeting: December 12, 2012

CONSENT

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date

Prepared: November 27, 2012

Subject: Southwest Light Rail Transit (Green Line Extension): Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Grant Agreement

Proposed Action:

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) for the state funding share in the amount of \$2,000,000.

Summary of Committee Discussion / Questions:

The item was included on the consent agenda. A motion was made by Councilmember Commers, seconded by Councilmember Schreiber and unanimously approved to go to the full Council as consent.

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Transportation Committee

Business Item
Item: 2012-339
CONSENT

Meeting date: November 26, 2012

Metropolitan Council Meeting: December 12, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: October 26, 2012

Subject: Southwest Light Rail Transit Project (Green Line Extension): Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Grant Agreement

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Met Council Policy 3-2-2

Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager 612-349-7510
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Chris Weyer, SWLRT Project Director 612-373-3820
Nani Jacobson, SWLRT Assistant Director
612-373-3808

Division/Department: Metro Transit/Southwest Project Office (SPO)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to negotiate and execute a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) for the state funding share in the amount of \$2,000,000.

Background

In May 2012, the Legislature passed and Governor Dayton signed a \$496 million bonding bill. Within this bill, \$47.5 million was appropriated to DEED, which opened the application process for the Business Development through Capital Projects grant program. The applications were evaluated on such criteria as full-time jobs created or retained, increase in the local tax base, ability to attract private investment, health and safety benefits, and evidence of a strong return on investment and cost-benefit ratio.

On June 13, 2012, the Metropolitan Council authorized (2012-188 SW) the Regional Administrator to apply for grant funding from DEED.

On July 2, 2012, the Metropolitan Council submitted an application for up to \$14 million to assemble preliminary plans to initially locate stations, track and the maintenance facility for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) Project.

On September 13, 2012, Governor Dayton announced that he would grant the SWLRT Project \$2 million out of the \$47.5 million available.

Rationale

Agreements that exceed \$250,000 require Metropolitan Council action.

Funding

Funding sources for the SWLRT Project are 50 percent Federal, 30 percent Counties Transit Improvement Board, 10 percent Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, and 10 percent State of Minnesota. The DEED grant of \$2 million, in addition to a previous state appropriation of \$5 million, counts towards the 10 percent state contribution.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.