

T Transportation Committee

Executive Summary

Item: 2007-107 SW

Meeting date: March 26, 2007

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	Monday, March 19, 2007
Subject:	Adoption of the Metro Area Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Action Plan
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	SAFETEA-LU, Federal Transit Administration Docket No. FTA-2006-24037
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS (651-602-1754) Amy Vennewitz, Dep. Dir. Finance & Planning, MTS (651-602-1058) Cole Hiniker, Financial Planning Technician, MTS (651-602-1748)
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action/Motion

That the Council adopt the Twin Cities Metro Area Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Action Plan as the coordinated public transit-human services plan for the region. The plan will be available Thursday afternoon, March 22, 2007:

<http://www.metrocouncil.org/planning/transportation/CoordinationPlanAdoption.pdf>

Issue(s)

- The Council, as the designated recipient for federal 5316 Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and 5317 New Freedom funds, must have a coordinated plan in place in order to administer a regional solicitation for these funds. This requirement was established in the 2005 SAFETEA-LU legislation.
- The schedule for Mn/DOT's 5310 (Elderly and Disabled transportation vehicles) solicitation is also dependent of the adoption of this plan. The FTA requires that this plan be in place prior to the 5310 solicitation.

Overview and Funding

The Twin Cities Metro Area Public Transit-Human Services Coordination Action Plan is meant to coordinate human service transportation and provide the basis for the solicitation of federal transit funds. The plan has been presented to the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), Transportation Providers Advisory Committee (TPAC) and Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC) for comment and was released to the public for comment. A public meeting was held on February 27, 2007 during the public comment period, which lasted from February 12, 2007 to March 9, 2007. Formal comments have been received from TAB and a record of the public meeting has been created. The comments received in regards to this plan include:

- The Metropolitan Council should be mindful of the high cost for project sponsor to report and administer the federal funds and set a logical minimum award amount.
- The Metropolitan Council should allow repeat applications from project sponsors to continue services funded through previous solicitations.
- The data in some of the maps does not adequately represent the existing transit conditions, especially with regard to how it serves targeted populations.
- The inventory of transit services had a few incorrect or confusing statements about existing services.

The adoption of this plan will allow Council staff to proceed with the further development of the solicitation for federal funding, to be released later this year.