

Transportation Committee

Executive Summary

Item: 2007-150

Consent

Meeting date: May 14, 2007

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	May 8, 2007
Subject:	Approval of Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom FFY 2006/2007 Solicitation Package
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	FTA Circular "C 9045.1" and FTA Circular "C 9050.1," Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Coordination Action Plan
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, Director, MTS, 651-602-1754 Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director, Finance & Planning, 651-602-1508 Cole Hiniker, Financial Planning Technician, 651-602-1748
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action/Motion

That the Metropolitan Council approve the Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Solicitation Packages and their release to the public for solicitation of project applications.

Issue(s)

- Comments on the solicitation packages were provided by the Funding and Programming Committee of the TAC on April 19, 2007 and subsequently approved on May 2, 2007 by the TAC. The TAC had minimal comments on the solicitation packages (attached). The comments are expected to be adopted by the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) on Wednesday, May 16, 2007.
- The solicitation packages were presented to the Transportation Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC) on Wednesday, May 2, 2007 and the Transportation Providers Advisory Committee (TPAC) on Thursday, May 10, 2007 for comment.

Overview and Funding

This is the first regional solicitation for JARC and New Freedom funds in the 7-county metro area. The solicitation packages were developed under Federal requirements to conduct a regional solicitation for these programs. The Council reviewed and approved the *Public Transit and Human Services Transportation Coordination Action Plan* on March 28, 2007 and that plan is the basis for these solicitation packages.

The solicitation packages include detailed instructions and a timeline for proposal submittals. The packages are scheduled to be released officially on June 1, 2007. There will be information sessions for potential applicants during the month of June and the application deadline will be August 20, 2007. The project selection criteria reflect measures identified in the coordination action plan.

A selection committee, consisting of identified stakeholders, will be formed to prepare a project selection recommendation for the Council.

Memorandum

DATE: 04/19/07

TO: Technical Advisory Committee

FROM: Cole Hiniker (651.602.1748)

SUBJECT: Jobs Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Draft Solicitation

The goal of the JARC program is to improve access to employment and employment related activities for welfare recipients and low-income individuals. The goal of the New Freedom program is to provide additional tools for Americans with disabilities trying to overcome barriers in their integration into the work force and their full participation in society.

This solicitation is new for the Twin Cities region. Together, the funding programs include about \$1.2 million in federal funding annually for the region. The Metropolitan Council will administer the solicitation process. Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) members were presented with the Twin Cities Metro Area Public Transit and Human Services Coordination Action Plan previously and the solicitation process was discussed at that time. Metropolitan Council staff solicited comments on the plan and solicitation process from TAB and it was suggested that this solicitation be presented to Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) and TAB for comments.

The Draft Solicitation is attached for your review. The Metropolitan Council would like to receive comments on this solicitation from TAC and TAB. The Funding & Programming Committee made the following recommendations to Council staff on these the solicitation for these two programs:

- Consider assigning points or some sort of ranking system to communicate to applicants the relative importance of different criteria.
- Have a thorough review of the process and the outcome of the solicitation once work has been completed and analyze whether the criteria adequately addressed the objectives of the program.
- Make sure that there is a good mix of people involved in the selection process and consider including some people that are not directly involved in the kinds of programs that this solicitation is for. This would provide some independence in judgment and it will make it easier to support the decisions that come out of the process, particularly if there are not points attached to the criteria.