

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: January 12, 2009

For Metropolitan Council meeting: January 14, 2009

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	January 5, 2009
Subject:	2009 - 2010 Transportation Management Organizations (TMO) Subgrant Agreements
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Transportation Policy Plan policies 6c, 10a, 10b
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Bruce Howard, Director of Marketing, 612-349-7694
Division/Department:	Metro Transit/Marketing

Proposed Action

To authorize the Regional Administrator to execute contracts with the four regional Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs) for the pass through of federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for the period of April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$2,044,479.

Background

- The current contracts with the TMOs expire March 31, 2009.
- The Metropolitan Council is the authorized recipient of 2009-2010 federal CMAQ funds of \$5.5 million to be used for Travel Demand Management (TDM) activities. Metropolitan Council policies and the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) direct that a portion of these funds be allocated to support the operations of the four TMOs in the region.
- The TMOs receive reimbursement of up to 80% for most allowable operating expenses while supplying 20% local match. A few expenses are 100% reimbursable through CMAQ.

Rationale

The federal CMAQ grant supports TDM programs and strategies aimed at reducing single occupant vehicle miles traveled in the region for the purpose of reducing congestion and air pollution. Activities include carpool and vanpool ridematching, employer education and outreach, transit marketing, incentive programs, biking and pedestrian activities and demonstrations of transportation alternatives. TDM will be even more critical in the years ahead as the region tries to accommodate growing travel demand with little highway expansion.

The TMOs represent a local level of involvement and coordination with the Metropolitan Council and Metro Transit's marketing and outreach efforts. TMOs have been promoting regional programs such as ridematching, VanGo, Metropass, Transitworks, U-Pass, Go-To College Pass and others for the past 17 years, as well as local initiatives tailored to their service area.

Funding

Each contract will include performance expectations and individual work plans and goals corresponding to the allocation of CMAQ funds to each TMO for the two-year contract period. A potential 5% increase in funding, assuming there are qualifying expenses, is also available the second year of the contract for meeting or exceeding sales and outreach goals. The maximum two-year allocations are:

Downtown Minneapolis TMO	\$661,797
I-494 Corridor Commission	\$563,750
Anoka County TMO	\$328,000
St. Paul Smart Trips	<u>\$490,932</u>
Total	\$2,044,479

Known Support / Opposition

Each TMO expressed an interest in receiving more CMAQ funding for 2009-2010. However, the federal CMAQ funds allocated by the Transportation Advisory Board and approved by the Metropolitan Council for TDM activities in the region has remained flat between 2007 and 2010. Therefore each TMO, Metro Transit, and the Metropolitan Council's Metropolitan Transportation Systems division will receive the same portion of the regional CMAQ grant as they did for the 2007-2008 funding cycle.