

Transportation Committee

Meeting date: December 14, 2009

Metropolitan Council meeting: January 13, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: December 4, 2009

Subject: Authorization to Accept Federal 5311 Operating Funds from MnDOT

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Council Policy 3-2-2 Income/Grants, Federal Transit Administration Section 5311, Council Resolution 2009-13

Staff Prepared/Presented: Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS (651) 602-1754
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Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to accept an award of \$1,028,000 in 5311 Non-Urbanized Area formula funds for 2010 and enter into a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to receive those funds.

Background

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) apportions the funds appropriated annually to the chief executive officer of each State for public transportation projects in nonurbanized areas. Within Minnesota, these funds are administered by MnDOT. Eighty percent of the statutory formula is based on the nonurbanized population of the state and twenty percent is based on land area. Based on 2000 census data, the seven county metro area accounts for 11% of the population and 2.4% of the geographic area of the total Minnesota nonurbanized area.

MnDOT oversees a competitive process to disburse Section 5311 funds, which may be used to fund capital projects, at 80 percent reimbursement, or operating costs, at 50 percent reimbursement. Projects funded through this program must serve residents of nonurbanized areas. The Council authorized staff to apply for these funds under Resolution 2009-13.

Rationale

MnDOT receives just over \$12 million annually from the Federal Transit Administration to fund transit services in nonurbanized areas throughout the state of Minnesota. The Council will implement Transit Link service in 2010 and identified 5311 funds as a viable funding source to support services in the non-urbanized portion of the seven counties. A competitive application was submitted in August and the Council was notified of its award in November.

Funding

Metropolitan Transportation Services has included \$1 million in nonurbanized formula funds in its proposed 2010 operating budget.

Known Support / Opposition

There is no known opposition to the Metropolitan Council accepting 5311 operating funds.