

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 ARRA Capital funds from MnDOT

District(s), Member(s): All

Policy/Legal Reference: Council Policy 3-2-2 Income/Grants; American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Staff Prepared/Presented: Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS (651) 602-1754
Gerri Sutton, Asst. Director MTS (651) 602-1672
Alex Curtiss, MTS Fleet Manager (651) 602-1487

Division/Department: Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to accept an award of \$1,600,000 in 5311 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to purchase twenty-two replacement buses and to enter into a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to receive those funds.

Background

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) apportions 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. MnDOT oversees a competitive process to disburse Section 5311 funds. Projects funded through this program must serve residents of nonurbanized areas.

The Council applied for and received 5311 formula funds to provide dial-a-ride service through the Transit Link program in nonurbanized parts of the seven county metropolitan area. The award of 5311 operating funds also triggered eligibility for 5311 capital funding.

Rationale

MnDOT was awarded just over \$19 million in 5311 ARRA funds in early 2009. Fifty percent was obligated prior to 9/1/09 and the balance must be obligated by 3/5/10. Based on the Council's need, MnDOT has awarded a grant to purchase 22 small and medium-sized buses eligible for replacement in 2010. These buses will be used to deliver Transit Link service in the nonurbanized areas. There is no local match required on ARRA grants.

Funding

Metropolitan Transportation Services included replacement of these vehicles in the 2010-2015 CIP. Acceptance of 5311 ARRA funds from MnDOT will allow RTC funds to be used for otherwise unfunded projects.

Known Support / Opposition

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