

T Transportation Committee
Meeting date: January 25, 2010

For Metropolitan Council: January 27, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: January 19, 2010
Subject: Authorization to Submit Grant Application for Federal Transit Administration 5309 Livability Funds
District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference: Council Policy 3-2-2 Income Grants
Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager (612)349-7510
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Division/Department: Metro Transit Engineering & Facilities

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to submit a grant application for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities Livability Initiative Program Grants in the amount of \$6,000,000.

Background

In December 2009, FTA announced the availability of \$150 million in unallocated discretionary Bus and Bus facilities program funds. Funding is available to organizations engaged in public transportation for capital projects that can be constructed or procured expediently, that enhance livability, and that increase environmental sustainability. Grant applications are due to FTA on February 8, 2010.

Metro Transit and Metropolitan Council staff evaluated many candidate projects based on FTA program selection criteria, construction expediency, and minimal operating cost impacts. Staff determined the most feasible project would broaden recent technology investments that benefit customers and transit operations.

Staff is developing an application with projects identified to:

- Expand Transit Signal Priority equipment on regional bus fleet.
- Equip traffic signal controllers with Transit Signal Priority equipment, along transit corridors and "spot" applications such as park-and-ride locations.
- Install Real Time Signage (RTS) at high-volume bus facilities and transit centers.

Rationale

Expansion of technology projects to benefit customers and transit operations are consistent with the *2030 Transportation Policy Plan*. The funding would increase available funds for transit capital projects in the region without greatly impacting operating cost.

Funding

The grant program requires a 20 percent local match. Technology expansion projects in the adopted 2010-2015 Capital Improvement Plan can provide the expected \$1.2 million of matching funds for a total project cost of \$7.2 million.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.