

T Transportation Committee

Meeting date: August 9, 2010

Metropolitan Council Meeting date: August 25, 2010

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	August 9, 2010
Subject:	2011 Capital and Operating Grant Applications to Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB)
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Metropolitan Council Policy 3-2-2 and 2008 MN Session Laws, Chapter 152, Article 4, Sec. 2, Subd. 5
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS, 651-602-1754 Brian J. Lamb, Metro Transit General Manager, 612-349-7510 Mark W. Fuhrmann, Metro Transit Deputy Gen Mgr, 651-602-1942 Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director MTS, 651-602-1058
Division/Department:	Metro Transit and Metropolitan Transportation Services

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to apply for 2011 grants from the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) for the following capital and operating projects:

1. Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) Capital for Final Design, Right of Way Acquisition, Light Rail Vehicles and Construction: Est. \$107 million
2. Cedar Avenue BRT Operating to continue Lakeville, Apple Valley and Eagan (Cedar Grove) express bus service: Est. \$350,000
3. Hiawatha LRT Operating: Est. \$7.3 million
4. Northstar Commuter Rail Operating: Est. \$5.7 million
5. Southwest Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) Capital for a portion of the Preliminary Engineering (PE) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) phases: Est. \$12.2 million
6. I-35W BRT Operating to continue Express Service to Kenrick Park & Ride in Lakeville (Route 467): Est. \$150,000

Background

CTIB was created in 2008 by enabling state legislation and the concurrence of five counties in the region (Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington). Its purpose is to provide a dedicated source for capital and operating funds for transitway projects serving the five participating counties. CTIB first awarded grants in 2009 and will work with its Grant Evaluation and Ranking System Committee (GEARS) to evaluate grants and make funding recommendations. The applications for the current grant round were released on July 16, 2010 and are due September 10, 2010.

Council action is a prerequisite for all grant applications in excess of \$250,000 or for applications that staff deem appropriate to bring before the Council.

Rationale

CTIB capital grant funds will contribute to capital projects identified in the Metropolitan Council's Transportation Policy Plan and assist in reaching the regional goal of doubling

transit ridership by 2030. CTIB grant funds for operations will allow the Council to take advantage of this relatively new funding source and reduce the need to secure operating funds from other funding sources. In addition, state law limits state contributions to rail operations to 50 percent of the net subsidy with the assumption that CTIB funds will be used to pay the remaining 50 percent of the net subsidy.

Funding

The six funding requests listed above total an estimated \$132.7 million, with \$119.2 million requested for capital and \$13.5 million requested for operating. The listed grant amounts are estimates and will be finalized prior to the September 10 application deadline. CTIB requires that capital projects maximize the use and availability of federal funds and have a 10 percent non-federal contribution from the state or Metropolitan Council.

Known Support / Opposition

No known opposition.