

**T** Transportation Committee  
Meeting date: November 22, 2010  
Metropolitan Council Meeting: December 8, 2010

<b>ADVISORY INFORMATION</b>	
Date:	November 15, 2010
Subject:	Southwest Light Rail Transit: CY2011 Counties Transit Improvement Board Capital Grant Agreement
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Met Council Policy 3-2-2 and 2008 MN Session Laws, Chapter 152, Article 4, Sec 2, Subd. 5
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian J. Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510 Mark W. Fuhrmann, Program Director, 651-602-1942 Chris Weyer, Project Director, 651-602-1932
Division/Department:	Metro Transit / Southwest Project Office

**Proposed Action**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to execute a CY2011 capital grant agreement for the Southwest Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) project for Preliminary Engineering (PE) in the amount of \$12,200,000 contingent upon approval of a corresponding action by the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB).

**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) to levy a one-quarter percent sales tax. Its purpose is to provide a dedicated revenue source for capital and operating funds for transitway projects serving the five participating counties. On August 25, 2010, the Council approved Business Item 2010-277 authorizing the Regional Administrator to submit the SWLRT grant application to CTIB on September 10, 2010. With the approval of Business Item 2010-343 on October 13, 2010, the Council found the grant application consistent with the adopted 2030 Transportation Policy Plan.

**Rationale**

CTIB grant funds for the SWLRT capital project will contribute to the successful implementation of the Council's 2030 Transportation Policy Plan, which lists SWLRT as a Corridor under Study or Development. CTIB grant funding will enable the Council to solicit and award contracts for engineering and environmental consulting services upon FTA approval to enter Preliminary Engineering.

**Funding**

CTIB requires that capital projects maximize the use and availability of federal funds and have a 10% local contribution from the state. CTIB grant funds will provide 30% of overall capital funding and will be used in conjunction with other local sources of funding available to the SWLRT Project, including funding from the State of Minnesota (10%), and the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority (10%).

**Known Support / Opposition**

Scheduled for action on December 15, 2010, CTIB will be asked to award a capital grant to the Council for the SWLRT Project in an amount of \$12,200,000.