

**T** Transportation Committee  
Meeting date: November 22, 2010

Metropolitan Council: December 8, 2010

**ADVISORY INFORMATION**

<b>Date:</b>	November 17, 2010
<b>Subject:</b>	Council Subsidized Vanpool Program Changes
<b>District(s), Member(s):</b>	All
<b>Policy/Legal Reference:</b>	Mn Statute 473.375 Subd. 11, BI 2010-129, BI 2010-342
<b>Staff Prepared/Presented:</b>	Arlene McCarthy, Director MTS (651)602-1754 Gerri Sutton, Asst. Director MTS (651)602-1672 John Harper, Supv. Contracted Transit Service (651)602-1744 Randy Rosvold, Sr. Project Administrator (651)602-1710
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

**Proposed Action**

That the Metropolitan Council authorize the Regional Administrator to:

1. discontinue subsidizing vanpools, effective January 1, 2011, that originate or terminate in Wisconsin absent a Joint Powers Agreement between the Metropolitan Council and the State of Wisconsin as of December 1, 2010; and,
2. continue to pursue a Joint Powers Agreement with the State of Wisconsin. When an agreement is reached with the State of Wisconsin the Council will provide a subsidized vanpool program for pools that originate or terminate in Wisconsin.

**Background**

When the Council's subsidized van pool program, Van *GO!*, was created geographical boundaries were not considered because the program was fully funded with federal dollars. The Office of General Counsel recently advised MTS staff that the Council does not have the authority to operate service outside of the seven county metropolitan area.

**Rationale**

The Council approved changes to the subsidized vanpool program on April 28, 2010. The action stated that the Council would pursue a Joint Powers Agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation by September 1, 2010.

There is a desire to establish the necessary authority to continue providing Van *GO!* to Wisconsin commuters given they travel on congested metro area roads. This agreement would establish a joint vanpool program between the Council and the State of Wisconsin providing the necessary authority to operate across state lines.

Without the necessary authority in place Council staff recommends that any vanpool that originates or terminates in Wisconsin will no longer be eligible to participate in the Council's vanpool program. However, Council staff continues to work with State of Wisconsin staff and is hopeful that an agreement can be reached.

**Funding**

No funding implications.

### **Known Support / Opposition**

Wisconsin vanpoolers have the option to vanpool through a non-subsidized private vanpool program. It is anticipated that current Van *GO!* riders would oppose termination of their eligibility in Van *GO!*.