

T Transportation Committee
Meeting date: January 31, 2011
Metropolitan Council Meeting: February 9, 2011

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date: January 11, 2011
Subject: Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs) Sub grant Agreement Amendments
District(s), Member(s): All
Policy/Legal Reference: Transportation Policy Plan policies 3d and 3f
Staff Prepared/Presented: Brian Lamb, General Manager, 612-349-7510
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Division/Department: Metro Transit/Marketing

Proposed Action

To authorize the Regional Administrator to execute amendments to four sub grant agreements with the regional Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs) for the pass through of federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for the period of April 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$809,297.

Background

- The current two-year sub grant agreements with the TMOs expire March 31, 2011.
- The Metropolitan Council is the authorized recipient of federal CMAQ funds to be used for Transportation Demand Management (TDM) activities. Metropolitan Council policies and the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) direct that a portion of these funds be allocated to support the operations of the four TMOs in the region.
- The TMOs receive reimbursement of up to 80% for most allowable operating expenses while supplying 20% local match. A few expenses are 100% reimbursable through CMAQ.

Rationale

The amendments will extend the term of the current TMO sub grant agreements nine months to the end of 2011. This will allow for the new sub grant agreements to be administered on a calendar year basis starting in 2012 and better align them with the receipt of federal CMAQ dollars going forward.

The federal CMAQ grant supports TDM programs and strategies aimed at reducing single occupant vehicle miles traveled in the region for the purpose of reducing congestion and air pollution. Activities include carpool and vanpool ridematching, employer education and outreach, transit marketing, incentive programs, biking and pedestrian activities and demonstrations of transportation alternatives. TDM will be even more critical in the years ahead as the region tries to accommodate growing travel demand with little planned highway expansion.

The TMOs represent a local level of involvement and coordination with the Metropolitan Council and Metro Transit's marketing and outreach efforts. TMOs have been promoting regional programs such as ridematching, VanGo, Metropass, Transitworks, U-Pass, Go-To College Pass and others for the past 17 years, as well as local initiatives tailored to their service area.

Funding

The amendments will extend the term of the sub grant agreements nine months and will increase the total dollar value of each TMO sub grant agreement as follows:

Amendment Amount	
Downtown Minneapolis TMO	\$264,148
I-494 Corridor Commission	\$214,500
Anoka County TMO	\$126,000
St. Paul Smart Trips	<u>\$204,649</u>
Total	\$809,297

These amendments will allow the four TMOs to continue to provide the current levels of service through the end of calendar year 2011. The amendments will increase the total CMAQ dollars passed through to the TMOs from April 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011 to \$3,275,459.

Known Support / Opposition

The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) has approved up to \$7 million in 2011 and 2012 federal CMAQ funds be available for TDM activities in the region.