

T Transportation Committee
Meeting date: August 8, 2011
Council Meeting: August 24, 2011

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	August 2, 2011
Subject:	\$20 million 2011 Transit Capital Improvement State G.O. Bonds Allocation
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	2011 Capital Investment Bonding Bill
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Arlene McCarthy, MTS Director (651-602-1754) Amy Vennewitz, Deputy Director MTS (651-602-1058) Judd Schetnan, Director Legislative Affairs (651-602-1142)
Division/Department:	Metropolitan Transportation Services (MTS)

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Allocate \$20 million in 2011 Transit Capital Improvement Program state G.O. bonds as follows, conditional upon CTIB providing a \$3.0M capital grant to the Cedar Avenue BRT in 2012:

\$11.0 M	Minneapolis Interchange
\$4.0 M	Northstar Ramsey Station
\$0.5 M	Newport Park-and-Ride
\$1.0 M	Cedar Avenue BRT
\$1.25 M	Gateway (I-94 East) Corridor
\$0.25 M	Robert Street Corridor
\$2.0 M	Rush Line Corridor Maplewood Mall Park-and-Ride Expansion

2. Approve, if requested by Washington County, the reallocation of \$1.25 M in Gateway (I-94 East) Corridor funds to the Newport Park-and-Ride conditional upon the county concurrently allocating \$1.25 M in its CTIB funding to the Gateway (I-94 East) Corridor.

Background

The 2011 Capital Investment Bonding Bill appropriated \$20 million in state G.O. bonds to a Transit Capital Improvement Program to the Metropolitan Council. Eligible projects are Northstar Ramsey station, Gateway (I-94 East) corridor, Minneapolis Interchange facility, Red Rock corridor, Newport park-and-ride, Rush Line corridor, Robert Street corridor, 35W South BRT corridor and Cedar Avenue BRT corridor. Eligible activities are environmental studies, preliminary engineering, property acquisition, design and construction. The Council is responsible for allocating the funding to projects.

Rationale

The recommended allocation reflects the Governor's recommendations and legislative discussions during development of the bonding bill as well as preliminary input from CTIB. The Governor's earlier recommendation for bonding projects included \$8.0 M for the Minneapolis Interchange, \$4.0 M for the Northstar Ramsey station and \$0.5 M for the Newport park-and-ride. The preliminary allocation proposal included the \$8.0 M for the Minneapolis Interchange and \$4.0 M for Cedar Avenue BRT. The CTIB Executive Committee reviewed the preliminary allocation proposal on July 27, 2011. The

Committee supported allocating \$11.0 M to the Minneapolis Interchange and \$1.0 M to Cedar Avenue BRT with the understanding that CTIB would grant the Cedar Avenue BRT project \$3.0 M in 2012.

Washington County anticipates using the \$1.25 M for Gateway Corridor draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) work. Because this early phase environmental work may not be an eligible use of state G.O. bond funds, the requested action allows for a potential swap of funding sources between the Newport and Gateway projects, both being led by the county.

Applications for 2012 CTIB grants are due September 9, 2011. Allocation of this \$20 M state G.O. bond appropriation will influence and inform the applications made by project sponsors.

Funding

The funds are appropriated by the State of Minnesota.

Known Support / Opposition

The CTIB Executive Committee generally supported the preliminary proposal with the Minneapolis Interchange and Cedar Avenue BRT funding swap as previously described. The recommended allocation will be presented to CTIB at its August 17 meeting for review and comment. Any CTIB comments will be provided to the Transportation Committee and the Council at their respective August 22 and August 24 meetings.