

T Transportation Committee
Meeting date: October 10, 2011
Metropolitan Council Meeting: October 26, 2011

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	September 29, 2011
Subject:	Transportation Management Organizations (TMOs) Sub grant Agreement Amendments for 2012
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 Bruce Howard, Director of Marketing and Customer Service 612-349-7694 Theresa Cain, Supervisor, Transportation Demand Mgmt Programs , 612-349-7538
Division/Department:	Metro Transit/ Marketing and Customer Service

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 January 1, 2012 – October 31, 2012 in an amount not to exceed \$849,710.

Background

The current sub grant agreements with the TMOs expire December 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 expenses while supplying a 20% local match. A few expenses are 100% reimbursable through CMAQ.

Rationale

The amendments will extend the term of the current TMO sub grants to October 31, 2012. This allows the sub grant agreements to be better aligned 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, 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 funding source for this extension is Federal grant number MN-95-X004-04. The amendments will extend the term of the sub grant agreements for 10 months and increase the total dollar value of each TMO sub grant as follows.

Amendment Amount

Downtown Minneapolis TMO (Commuter Connection)	\$275,748
I-494 Corridor Commission (Commuter Services)	\$231,916
Saint Paul TMO (St. Paul Smart Trips)	\$204,555
Anoka County TMO (Commuter Solutions)	<u>\$137,491</u>
Total	\$849,710

Known Support / Opposition

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